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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SRNL to Help Train the Next Generation of Robotics Engineers

AIKEN, S.C. (March 22, 2016) – The U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) has been selected to help lead a team to provide specialized training for graduate students in robotics to help support environmental remediation. The Robotics Traineeship Program will be based at Carnegie Mellon University and will also partner with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Washington.

The five-year cooperative agreement will train graduate students in specific disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics related to robotics. As part of this effort, SRNL will bring real-world problems and field applications together with academia to help develop the next generation of robotics engineers and the next generation of technology.

"Carnegie Mellon is one of the premier robotics universities in the country," said Luke Reid, Manager of Mechanical Systems and Custom Equipment Development at SRNL. "This partnership, when coupled with the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative, is the first step in establishing SRNL as the 'go-to' robotics lab in support of very real and very challenging environmental cleanup efforts throughout the Department of Energy complex."

SRNL has a rich history in advanced robotics for use in environmental management and high-hazard conditions. SRNL recently deployed robots to successfully inspect the H-Canyon Air exhaust tunnel. These

Robot used for the inspection of an air tunnel at the Savannah River Site's H-Canyon

inspections were necessary to validate the condition of the 60 year old tunnel and ensure that it is safe for continued operations. Remote devices have also been used to inspect reactor tanks and to safely recover and contain contamination sources.

"Teaming with universities to conduct research and development in technologies such as robotics is essential in developing a next generation workforce," said SRNL Laboratory Director Terry Michalske. "The need for new technologies is critical to the Environmental Management mission and to addressing some of the most critical tasks in nuclear chemical manufacturing."

The Savannah River National Laboratory is a multi-program applied research and development laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy. SRNL applies state-of-the-art science and engineering to provide practical, high-value, cost-effective solutions for our nation's environmental cleanup, nuclear security and clean energy challenges. For more information, visit http://srnl.doe.gov

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