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For Immediate Release

New SRS training facility strengthens national security missions

AIKEN, S.C., (August 15, 2024) – Operators at the Savannah River Site (SRS) will have the opportunity to gain valuable skills and proficiencies in a new on-site training facility, with the recent official opening of the Machining Training Center (MTC).

The MTC will be used for teaching critical skills and developing competency in various machining tool operations for training in an unclassified, non-nuclear setting. These skills may be used in a variety of capacities on-site, including National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) national security missions.

“The MTC is the first stop on the path to teaching the critical skills and developing the proficiencies future operators will need,” said Jason Burkhardt, NNSA Director for SRS Plutonium Modernization. “Investing in this facility demonstrates NNSA’s commitment to partnering with SRS to cultivate a workforce capable of positively impacting the local, national and global security landscape.”

Developed to build personnel competency in the operation and maintenance of high-precision machining equipment, the MTC will be an important training platform for future SRS personnel. Once operators have established proficiency, they will transfer to other areas of the Site for further job-specific training and development.

“The Machining Training Center will play a key role in expanding SRS national security missions,” said Dennis Carr, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) President and Chief Executive Officer. “Bringing this facility online is an important investment in the science and technology required to maintain a safe, reliable, effective nuclear stockpile. SRS remains committed to making the world safer.”

The training experience initiated at the MTC through SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs is expected to help reduce the time required to achieve operator proficiency by developing skills in a dedicated training setting rather than a traditional operations environment.

“The Savannah River Site has a long history of producing both tritium and plutonium,” said Dr. Marvin Adams, NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs. “Now, SRS is being called on to deliver components that contain tritium and plutonium into the future as far as we can foresee. NNSA, the Department of Defense and the Nation will continue to depend on SRS to consistently deliver on these high-priority missions.”



Jason Burkhardt, NNSA Director for SRS Plutonium Modernization, cuts the ribbon to officially open the Machining Training Center at SRS. Also pictured from left to right: Patrick Schneider, Pit Production Operations – Area Operations Director; Rick Nash, MTC Operations; Dennis Carr, SRNS President and CEO; and Dr. Marvin Adams, NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs.

Established by Congress in 2000, NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear science. NNSA maintains and enhances the safety, security, and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile; works to reduce the global danger from weapons of mass destruction; provides the U.S. Navy with safe and militarily effective nuclear propulsion; and responds to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the U.S. and abroad.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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