

● JULY 2025

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

SRNS Today



This is a drill!

Site Emergency Response Organization successfully completes annual exercise



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

SRTE conducts significant maintenance • ACP cleanup success • Celebrity Waiter raises \$75K



Jeff Griffin
SRNS President and CEO

On the cover

The SRS Fire Department makes preparations to transport a 'contaminated patient' during the simulated emergency exercise, demonstrating preparedness and response protocols for hazardous situations.

Welcome

to the July 2025 edition of

SRNS Today

As we move into another month, I want to take a moment to recognize the remarkable work being done across our organization and the positive impact it has on the missions we support.

Recently, the SRNS Emergency Response Organization completed its annual sitewide exercise, engaging over 550 employees and 50 off-site partners. This year's scenario simulated a mock radiological release following an earthquake that impacted multiple facilities, and it also included multiple simulated emergencies.

The Area Completion Projects (ACP) team continues to demonstrate excellence in environmental stewardship. In the first half of fiscal year 2025, the team achieved all Federal Facility Agreement and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act milestones on, or ahead of, schedule. The ACP has demolished over 317 buildings, cutting maintenance costs and reducing the Site's footprint. Additionally, 415 of 515 waste unit projects have been completed, contributing to more than 3,400 safely met cleanup milestones.

On the operations side, SRTE completed significant maintenance activities to support upcoming tritium extraction operations. This included critical upgrades to the Target Rod Prep Gripper and glovebox systems. A new control room simulator was also installed to enhance operator training and mission readiness.

Thank you for your dedication, professionalism and hard work. Your contributions drive our missions forward—safely and efficiently.



Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONSSM

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. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our employees and other stakeholders of the company's operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

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COMMON ACRONYMS

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS) • Department of Energy (DOE)
National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) • Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF)
Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) • science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)



The SRNS Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE), managed by the NNSA, recently conducted significant and complex maintenance activities to support upcoming tritium extraction operations.

Located within the 29 acres of H Area, the SRTE Tritium Extraction Facility (TEF) houses the necessary operations for extracting this radioactive isotope of hydrogen. Due to the nature of the work, the machinery required for extraction is subject to substantial wear and tear. Additionally, the controlled radioactive environments pose design and maintenance challenges.

The Target Rod Prep Gripper—a critical component involved in the extraction process—recently underwent four months of maintenance before returning to service. This component is crucial for clamping irradiated Tritium-Producing Burnable Absorption Rods and placing them into the Target Rod Prep Cutter Head to be breached. Bringing this component back in service marked a significant achievement by TEF operations, maintenance and engineering teams.

In addition, corrective maintenance in a glovebox (GB)—referred to as GB-500—was required to ensure the redundancy and reliability of the furnace extraction system, which is designed to pull tritium from the irradiated rods during high temperature heating processes. Due to the positioning of the glovebox, one side was inaccessible via glove ports and required open glovebox maintenance.

Given the significant safety controls, the potential high-hazard work required a custom containment structure to be built around the open glovebox area. In addition, personnel were required to wear air-fed plastic suits; and temporary glovebox ventilation was installed for contamination control.

In support of the nation's nuclear deterrent, SRTE is scheduled to perform six tritium extraction operations by the end of fiscal year 2025, to supply gas required for loading limited life components for the Department of Defense.



Improving spent nuclear fuel processing

SRNS employees have implemented a newly created carrier to transport spent nuclear fuel (SNF), reducing the time needed to process the material for permanent disposal.

SNF from the High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee is sent to SRS to be processed. SRS dissolves the fuel in H Canyon and sends it through the Site's liquid waste program to be vitrified and safely stored on-site until a federal repository is identified. As part of that process, SNF is placed in casks using the specially designed carriers and sent by rail to H Canyon for processing.

HFIR fuel is shaped differently than other types of SNF; it's formed as a cylindrical core rather than a long tube, or bundle, according to SRNS Spent Fuel Project Operations Manager Tristan Downey.

"To use our existing rigging and cranes to remove it from the basin water, the cores are placed on special carriers," Downey said. "The carrier has a bail on top that allows us to pick up the whole unit and transport it underwater to the waiting train cars while maintaining the proper operator shielding."

Once the fuel arrives in H Canyon, operators use remote cranes to transfer it from the train cars to a dissolver for dissolution, which involves lowering the fuel into a nitric acid solution to produce a liquid. To ensure all material is dissolved completely, operators use a specialized probe to "feel" for remaining solids.

Operators found that the HFIR fuel wasn't dissolving completely, requiring additional dissolution time. They determined this issue was with the carrier bail—not the fuel itself.

"When the canyon [operators] told us the issue, engineering looked at how the carrier was made to find a way to reduce dissolution time," said Downey. "The end result was changing aluminum alloy used on the bail to a slightly thinner, more readily dissolvable alloy."



The new style HFIR carriers have a slightly thinner bail made of a more easily dissolvable alloy than the previous version.



As a direct result of their attention to safety, the Portable Equipment Commodity Management Center has not had an at fault injury in more than 14 years, despite the large number of work orders they receive and the weight of the equipment they service.

Preserving a tradition of safety

The SRNS Portable Equipment Commodity Management Center (PECMC), along with Fleet and Fuel Services, were recently recognized for having reached 100% monthly Behavior Based Safety (BBS) participation for 10 consecutive years.

BBS observations are a key Site safety initiative designed to promote continuous improvement and hazard awareness. Through this process, one worker observes another performing a task to assess whether it is being executed correctly and safely, while also identifying opportunities for improvement. This proactive approach to peer-to-peer engagement has been instrumental in helping SRS uphold its 75-year legacy as a leader in safety.

PECMC is responsible for all the on-site portable equipment that supports SRNS and operates like an equipment rental store. Approximately 30 mechanics carefully maintain a fleet of nearly 1,200 pieces, ranging from small suitcase generators to a locomotive fleet to a 250-ton crane. They also maintain all the Site's emergency vehicles.

"Safety is at the forefront of everything we do as an organization," said PECMC Manager Shawna McGrady. "While BBS participation is entirely voluntary, these dedicated workers have consistently demonstrated that safety is not just a priority—it's a core value. They've achieved an incredible milestone: 100% participation for 10 consecutive years. I couldn't be more proud of their efforts."

As a direct result of their attention to safety, PECMC has not had an at fault injury in more than 14 years, despite the large number of work orders they receive and the weight of the equipment they service.

Mike Swain, Senior Vice President and Nuclear Operations Officer at SRNS said, "This 10-year record is much more than an observation milestone for this amazing team. They genuinely care for the well-being of their coworkers—and you can sense it when you're around them."

SRNS proudly upholds the distinguished safety culture that was first established at SRS in the early 1950s.

ACP achieves early success in cleanup

DOE-Environmental Management and Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects personnel walkdown the R Reactor Seepage Basin, as part of regulatory required post-remediation maintenance. The R Reactor seen in the background was decommissioned in 2011.

The SRNS Area Completion Projects (ACP) team has completed all Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) milestones and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act commitments on or ahead of schedule in the first half of fiscal year 2025.

Tasked with performing extensive cleanup and closure work, ACP continues decommissioning excess facilities and performs soil and groundwater remediation as needed to help protect the environment for future generations. To date, over 317 buildings—covering more than 2.5 million square feet—have been demolished. This has significantly reduced the Site's footprint while eliminating expensive maintenance costs. Additionally, 415 of the Site's 515 waste unit projects have been completed, with more than 3,400 cleanup milestones safely met.

Since 1993, the program has successfully completed over 4,232 projects—all on, or ahead of, schedule. “The ACP team has demonstrated exceptional dedication and efficiency in achieving 30 critical milestones and regulatory commitments so far this fiscal year,” said ACP Manager Kelsey Holcomb. “Their success reflects not only strong project management but also a deep commitment to environmental stewardship and regulatory excellence.”

Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects Director Chris Bergren said, “I’m incredibly proud of the ACP team for the dedication and disciplined performance. Their ability to consistently deliver ahead of schedule reflects the critical role they play in meeting our regulatory obligations and driving our mission forward. The work they do is foundational—not just to the success of our organization but to our broader commitment to national security and environmental protection.”

Expanding the Roof Asset Management Program

SRNS' Infrastructure Planning team is enhancing roofing capabilities at SRS by expanding the DOE-NNSA Roof Asset Management Program (RAMP).

RAMP, a key component of NNSA's Asset Management Programs, employs system engineering and supply chain strategies to address infrastructure challenges swiftly and economically. Since 2003, RAMP has funded the repair and replacement of major building systems within the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE)—streamlining roofing repairs and replacements under a single contract.

“Utilizing programs like RAMP allows us to safely operate and modernize SRS to meet current and future mission demands,” said Gerald Levi, SRNS Infrastructure Manager. “We are increasing our average roof life expectancy, improving facility reliability and reducing deferred maintenance costs.”

Each roofing project is coordinated by the Kansas City National Security Campus (KCNSC), which oversees funding through a prioritized list of roofing needs. Before RAMP, roofing issues were tackled only when critical operations were disrupted by leaks, leading to premature replacements and higher costs.

“This strategic, proactive approach extends the life of our roofs and ensures their reliable performance,” said Richard Sullivan,

SRNS RAMP Program Manager. “KCNSC analyzes our roofs, prioritizes repairs and identifies opportunities for planning, quality improvement and savings. This resource is invaluable for maintaining critical roofing structures and supporting our missions with alternative funding sources.”

For over eight years, the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise has utilized RAMP, completing 11 roofing projects to date. Recently, the program has been expanded to support SRPPF and the K Area Complex (KAC), both of which piloted the program in 2024. SRPPF has completed three buildings so far, with six additional projects scheduled for SRPPF and KAC in fiscal year 2025. In total, SRNS has replaced over 300,000 square feet of roofing through the program, with an additional 250,000 scheduled for replacement in FY26.

“These replacements have added significant value to our roofing portfolio through life-extending repairs, resulting in substantial savings in construction costs and increased average remaining roof life,” continued Sullivan.

John Ducey, Field Subcontractor Technical Representative, added, “The success of RAMP in recent years reflects the government's commitment to proactive infrastructure stewardship. By extending the life of public assets through smart maintenance and data-driven planning, this program has set a new standard for cost-effective, sustainable facility management.”



Los Alamos National Laboratory visitors and SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs personnel take an Augmented Reality facility tour.

Advancing two-site pit production mission

For more than 70 years, Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) has helped to maintain the U.S. nuclear stockpile, becoming the standard in 24/7 operations across the Nuclear Security Enterprise. As both SRS and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) continue advancing the NNSA's two-site pit production strategy, SRTE recently opened its doors to LANL personnel for benchmarking their production environment.

According to Tim Bolen, LANL's Chief Operations Officer for Weapons Production, "The path to maturity of the pit production mission at LANL requires some change in how shift operations are managed. One proven model in the NNSA production environment is SRTE. The SRTE model has consistently delivered on-time delivery of products to NNSA over many decades."

Bolen's team recently came from New Mexico to observe various SRTE processes, including turnover and overall shift and facility management operations.

"We had the opportunity to showcase the dedication and structure within our facility," said Kyle Davis, SRTE H Area New Manufacturing Facility Manager. "The LANL team observed our thorough approach to both long-term and short-term maintenance, project planning and mission execution. My hope is that they understand the disciplined and formal processes we follow, our meticulous approach to scheduling and communication, and how these elements ensure our success in fulfilling commitments to the warfighter."

The benchmarking effort also included an overview of recent SRPPF progress and current state of the Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) organization, as well as a briefing and Augmented Reality tour of the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center, which will be used for training future SRPPF operators in a non-nuclear, controlled environment.

"Our goal is to share our longstanding history as a Site of outstanding safe, secure performance and consistency in meeting customer demand," said PPOP Deputy Vice President Erika Baeza-Wisdom. "Both SRS and LANL are working together in close collaboration through various benchmarking activities and sharing of lessons learned. We will continue leveraging SRS' many decades of 24/7 operations experience to mature pit production operations at both sites."

Apprenticeship pipeline sets the standard

SRS recently hosted representatives from the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) to showcase its acclaimed SRS Apprenticeship School. Since its inception, the program has gained national recognition for its success in workforce development.

Launched in 2020 by SRNS, the Registered Apprenticeship Program was designed to address attrition and establish a robust pipeline for a skilled workforce. Since expanding sitewide, the SRS Apprenticeship School has graduated over 800 apprentices to date, with 90% accepting full-time positions at the Site.

"To meet the growing workforce demands, SRNS plans to hire 2,000 additional employees over the next five years," said Booboo Roberts, SRNS Program Manager, Apprenticeship School and Pipeline Programs. "The SRS Apprenticeship Program offers three pathways—Youth, Key Skilled Technician, and Professional/Degree-Based—to create a pipeline of skilled employees supporting critical missions for DOE and NNSA."

WIPP sought to benchmark the SRS model to create a similar program for electricians and nuclear operators in southeastern New Mexico.

"We struggle to fill critical positions due to our remote location and competition with oil and gas companies," said Denis Asay, Deputy Vice President of Performance Improvement at Salado Isolation Mining Contractors. "We aim to launch our apprenticeship program within a year, using this program as a guide. SRNS' hospitality made the visit worthwhile, and their top-notch program has inspired us to adopt and implement similar strategies at WIPP. The collaboration and example set by this team demonstrates what the entire DOE complex should strive for, making us stronger through such partnerships."

The two-day visit featured a Site tour, with a briefing on the 766-H training facility. It also highlighted community partnerships that offer apprentices paid, on-the-job training and networking opportunities.

"The tour offered a firsthand look at the training and infrastructure that supports our apprentices," said Kevin Whitt, SRNS Director of Operational Excellence and Quality Assurance. "We are proud to share our lessons learned to benefit others across the Complex."



Angela Carrejo, WIPP HR Generalist and Denis Asay, WIPP Deputy Vice President inspect radiological containment areas during a tour of the 766-H Training Facility.

Historic valve replacement achieved



SRNS Utility Maintenance Mechanics Josh Howell and Ray Youngblood tighten flange fasteners on the newly replaced H7 Valve.

SRS recently achieved a historic milestone by replacing one of the main isolation valves on the River Water System (RWS) for the first time since its installation in 1952.

Initially designed to provide cooling water to the Site's five production reactors through three pumphouses off the Savannah River and Par Pond, the RWS' original mission ended with the reactors' shutdown in 1991. Today, the system continues operations to supply river water to the Biomass Cogeneration Facility (BCF), L Lake, K Area and L Area, ensuring an uninterrupted flow of boiler feedwater and serving as a secondary water source for Par Pond during drought conditions. The BCF relies on this water source for boiler feedwater to produce steam, electricity and firewater.

The H7 Valve, located near D Area on what is called the "Ellenton" header, is a crucial component of the RWS, providing isolation capability on the distribution header. This massive valve—weighing over 15,000 pounds and measuring 48 inches in diameter—had a broken stem, rendering the valve inoperable and 50% closed. Repairing the stem was not feasible due to the valve stem's diameter and the Site's welding procedure restrictions, leaving only one viable option of replacing the valve.

"This 1950s-era valve had never been replaced before," said Andrew Ellsworth, SRNS Utility Commodity Group Manager. "Extensive planning was required to determine the best course of action. Restoring its functionality provides a credible isolation point and enhances the operability of our River Water System."

Randy Keenan, SRNS Director of Site Services, said, "Updating infrastructure that has been in service since the 1950s is no small feat. This project not only restored isolation capability of our River Water System but also demonstrated our commitment to safety, innovation and operational excellence. The successful outcome is a testament to the meticulous planning and teamwork across various departments. It's an exciting milestone for SRS, completing a job that everyone knew would be difficult."

SRS has spent several years preparing for the valve replacement.

"When initial attempts to remove the valve didn't go as planned, the team adapted and worked cohesively, completing the task safely without damaging adjoining pipes," said Richard Brown, SRNS Design Authority Engineer. "We took timeouts when needed, reconvened as a team, modified the plan and got the job done."

Billy Vowell, SRNS Water Operations, added, "Extensive planning, performing task readiness reviews, and ensuring safety in the valve pit allowed us to successfully replace the valve without injury. The teamwork was remarkable. We had to remove a valve with gasket material so tight that we needed 100-ton jacks to free it. Additionally, fabricating a spacer for the new valve to fit perfectly was a significant achievement."

Replacement of the H7 Valve marks a pivotal accomplishment in maintaining the integrity and efficiency of the RWS, underscoring the dedication and collaboration of the SRNS Site Services teams.

Completing the drill

Simulated exercise tests SRS emergency response

The Site's Emergency Response Organization (ERO) recently conducted its annual sitewide emergency preparedness exercise, which involved nearly 550 employees and 50 off-site personnel. This year's scenario involved a mock radiological release from multiple facilities in the Site's H Area, parts of which oversee material disposition.

This event led to various simulated emergencies, starting with a heart attack in H Canyon, followed by two mercury uptakes in H Tank Farm and concluding with an earthquake. The mock earthquake caused a telephone pole to fall onto a trailer, rendering a ground guide unconscious. A subsurface void in Tritium led to a partial building collapse—resulting in one trapped individual and one simulated fatality. SRNS personnel swiftly responded, activating the Site ERO and sending the SRS Fire Department (SRSFD) to conduct search and rescue. Mock patients were transferred to off-site medical facilities.

Hundreds of hours were spent meticulously planning the exercise starting over a year ago to ensure the scenario was as realistic as possible and to effectively test all participants for an actual emergency.

"This year's exercise was the most complex the Site has performed," said Amber Rodriguez, Site Drills and Exercises Manager. "There were many factors and capabilities tested this year that went above and beyond the five-year DOE order requirement of a severe event."

"I am proud of SRS for taking on such a complex exercise and opening ourselves up to determine where our vulnerabilities are. As the Site, we learned a lot, and we will be better prepared if an actual emergency were to occur. This exercise

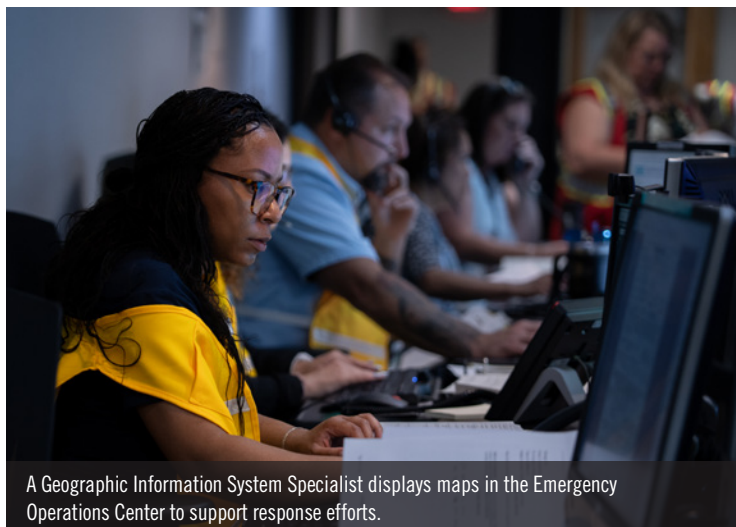
displayed how our many contractors came together to respond and worked well together."

SRS personnel included the ERO, Site Medical, Protective Force, Law Enforcement, Health Physics Services, Field Monitoring, Radiological Protection and SRSFD. Off-site participants included the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, Aiken County Emergency Management, Aiken County Coroner's office, Doctor's Hospital, DOE Headquarters and the Augusta (Georgia) Fire Department to help make the exercise feel as real as possible.

This year's exercise was evaluated by the DOE Office of Enterprise Assessments and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. Ensuring the scenario's realism was paramount to effectively test all participants' readiness for an actual emergency.

"As a safety-driven organization, we take pride in the depth of our annual emergency preparedness exercises," said SRNS Senior Vice President, Environmental, Safety, Health and Quality Duane McLane. "This year's scenario showcased the Site's commitment and partnerships to utilize our planning, teamwork, training, procedures, and emergency facilities to protect our workforce and the surrounding communities. These rigorous drills ensure we're ready for real-world challenges, and I'm proud of the dedication and professionalism displayed by everyone involved."

Each year, SRS performs one graded Site-level emergency preparedness drill, three ERO activation drills, over 40 facility level drills and several tabletop drills. The type and location of each scenario are determined by a five-year plan that cycles through all areas and potential hazards at the Site.



A Geographic Information System Specialist displays maps in the Emergency Operations Center to support response efforts.

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“As the Site, we learned a lot and will be better prepared if an actual emergency were to occur.”

Amber Rodriguez,
Site Drills and
Exercises Manager

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Firefighters assist a “wounded” employee to safety.



Expanding industrial supply base to meet NNSA missions

SRNS is enhancing its industrial supply base through the Supplier Technical Assessment and Validation (STAV) Program and partnerships with the state Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). This initiative aims to increase the capability and capacity of SRNS suppliers and manufacturers to meet and perform critical mission scopes for the DOE and NNSA.

“The STAV Program is a significant benefit for our suppliers and manufacturers, bridging the gap between part requirements, manufacturing capabilities and demonstrated execution,” said Wayne Potter, SRNS Supplier Relationship Development (SRD) Manager for NNSA Capital Projects, Supply Chain Management. “Participating in a STAV helps suppliers better align procurement requests with core competencies, highlights additional capabilities and creates proactive risk mitigation strategies.”

Established at SRNS in 2023, this program was adapted from the HII Navy Shipbuilding Sector to ensure that manufacturers could meet the critical schedule requirements for SRPPF’s pit production mission, initially focusing on glovebox manufacturers.

Today, STAVs have expanded to include engineering and balance-of-plant equipment and aim to scale up across SRNS’ manufacturing supply base to enhance DOE’s project and mission success. To date, SRNS has completed 25 STAVs and 18 MEP Lean assessments and



“Participating in a STAV helps suppliers better align procurement requests with core competencies, highlights additional capabilities and creates proactive risk mitigation strategies.”

Wayne Potter,
SRNS Supplier Relationship
Development Manager



The team performs a Supplier Technical Assessment and Validation manufacturing facility review at a large equipment fabrication company.

work scopes. These efforts align with recent executive orders linked to manufacturing, ensuring SRNS can vet suppliers to meet national security needs.

“STAVs are like a business health assessment, reviewing things like facilities, expansion capability, staffing, technical rigor, machines and manufacturing flow,” said Candice Kitchens, SRNS SRD Lead. “After the STAV is performed, state MEPs develop Lean/Sigma work scopes that are focused on any weaknesses and risks identified to improve overall business operations.”

STAVs help build strong relationships with key manufacturers and suppliers, verify their capabilities, and provide MEP resources if needed. This process reduces cycle-time, defects and delays while increasing overall assembly capacity. State MEPs can access grants for process improvements, aiding business growth and new supplier development at no cost to SRNS. Typically conducted over several days, these assessments offer an in-depth review of the supplier’s people, processes and equipment.

The SRD team recently identified two suppliers to participate in a STAV event to meet increased production demands in support of DOE/NNSA customers.

“SRNS helped us identify several needs within our organization to meet increasing demands,” said Patrick Halligan, Carolina Fabricators Sales Manager. “The SRD team then connected us with the South Carolina MEP, where we completed staff and management training to enhance our current Nuclear Quality program and our readiness to provide materials for our customers. SRNS is genuinely interested in helping us improve our overall business and manufacturing operations.”

Douglas Henderson, Westerman’s Director of Government Services, added, “Our NQA-1 system, skilled workforce, and U.S.-based manufacturing capabilities make us a strong partner to support development initiatives at SRS. With support from the STAV and Ohio MEP teams, we are now advancing projects in IT security and talent acquisition to strengthen our supplier readiness.”

SRNS plans to expand the program across the DOE Complex, including joint STAV opportunities. This initiative will help shared suppliers become more agile, preventing DOE sites from competing for limited supplier capacity.

Recognizing Small Business subcontractor

A subcontractor for SRNS was recently named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2025 Southeast Region Small Business Subcontractor of the Year. This award celebrates the invaluable role that subcontractors play in driving forward America's critical missions and highlights the contributions of Diversified Supply, Inc. (DSI).

Since 1993, DSI has partnered with SRS to supply essential items like electrical instrumentation, batteries, personal protective equipment, micro-fuel cells, oxygen sensors and Grainger catalog items. Originally based in Chattanooga, Tennessee, DSI opened a warehouse in Augusta, Georgia, in 1996 to ensure faster deliveries. In 1998, they further committed to Just in Time (JIT) orders by establishing a facility in Aiken, South Carolina, thereby reducing delivery times and expenses.

"DSI's unwavering support and adaptability truly set them apart," said Pamela Boyd, SRNS Manager of Strategic Sourcing and Material Planning. "They continually strengthen ties with manufacturers and authorized distributors, achieving an impressive on-time delivery rate of 95% or higher for nine months in 2024."

DSI President Dan Anderson, said, "This is one of the most notable awards we have received in our 37 years of business. After 30 years of collaboration with SRS, our journey proves that perseverance and hard work lead to great outcomes for small businesses."



Matthew Fail, SRNS Senior Material Processor demonstrates the use of scannable labels now piloted in receiving warehouses at SRS.

SRNS Procurement has mentored DSI to enhance their value propositions, focusing on JIT delivery, improved scorecards and faster delivery times. Recently, DSI piloted scannable labels at SRS warehouses and transitioned a catalog agreement for order verification, minimizing receiving issues and improving customer service. They also secured nine new agreements with SRNS by strengthening ties with specific manufacturers.

"From the beginning, DSI has been a vital partner in addressing some of our most complex operational challenges," said Lisa Tanner, SRNS Small Business Liaison Officer. "Their expertise and proactive approaches have consistently surpassed expectations, advancing key initiatives in nuclear security and environmental stewardship. We seek suppliers who evolve to match our changing mission scopes—those who enhance our efficiency, ensure timely delivery of goods and further DOE missions."

Small Business brings home fifth award

A program manager at SRNS was recently named the Facility Management Contractor Small Business Program Manager of the Year by the DOE Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU). This accolade is part of the Annual Small Business Awards Program and marks the fifth award received by the SRNS Small Business Programs (SBP) team in fiscal year 2025.

The award recognized SRNS Small Business Liaison Officer Lisa Tanner's energetic and forward-thinking efforts in working with and advocating for small businesses. In FY24, through her strategic initiatives and advocacy, the team strengthened SRNS' commitment to small business utilization. SRNS achieved \$798 million in small business commitments, representing 66.4% of total procurements and surpassing DOE's 50% goal.

"Lisa continues to exhibit the highest degree of dedication and commitment to the small business community since the Site's landlord transition from EM to NNSA," said Gary Lyttek, Senior Business Source Manager, NNSA Office of Partnership and Acquisition Services. "She is an asset to herself, SRS and NNSA's Small Business Programs."

Under Tanner's leadership, the SBP team achieved a 9% increase in small business utilization, redirecting \$65 million from large businesses. Additional accomplishments include increasing the



The SRNS Service Procurement and Small Business teams

number of small businesses in the DOE Mentor-Protégé Program from five to 12, implementing a supplier portal to foster a diverse supplier base and developing a real-time small business reporting dashboard.

In FY25, the team received multiple awards, including the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence, SBA's Southeast Region Small Business Subcontractor of the Year award, the Top Supply Chain Project Award from Food Logistics and Supply and Demand Chain Executive, and the DOE OSDBU's Mentor of the Year award.

"At SRNS, we are passionate about supporting the growth of small businesses," said Tanner. "I'm immensely proud of our team's efforts to help small businesses navigate the procurement process and drive economic and innovative advancements."

Workforce collaboration with FIU

SRNS continues to advance innovation and strengthen research partnerships that deliver solutions for DOE's critical missions. In that spirit, SRNS recently invited two representatives from Florida International University's (FIU) Applied Research Center (ARC) to visit SRS.

The collaboration was formalized with the signing of a memorandum of understanding, outlining shared goals of identifying pathways, increasing the number of interns transitioning into full-service positions, strengthening technical capabilities and raising ARC's visibility.

"One of our primary goals is to build strong talent pipelines," said Bryan Ortnier, Senior Vice President, SRNS Workforce Services and Talent Management. "Partners like this allow us to solve complex technical problems that support both NNSA and DOE's Environmental Management missions. By investing in students today, we're building the workforce of tomorrow."

During their visit, FIU representatives toured key SRS facilities, including H Canyon. They also visited the SRPPF High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center.

"We want to create a clear pipeline for FIU to join SRNS in multiple disciplines," said Leonel Lagos, FIU Associate Professor and Director of Research at FIU's ARC. "We're working with SRNS to identify research topics and develop technologies that can directly support Site operations; for example, robotics systems designed by FIU staff and students that could one day inspect and repair facilities such as H Canyon."

ARC's works under the DOE-FIU Cooperative Agreement, which focuses on environmental remediation and workforce



Rich Zaharek, SRNS Senior Vice President, Chief Engineer and Nuclear Safety Officer; Leonel Lagos, FIU Associate Professor and Director of Research; and Sean Alford, SRNS Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer met during the visit.

development. In 2007, DOE-EM and FIU created the Science and Technology Workforce Development Initiative, aimed at developing future talent by fostering collaboration between academic, government and DOE contractor organizations.

"This partnership allows SRNS to tap into a proven source of talent," added Sean Alford, Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. "FIU students are well-trained, and with our growing missions, we want to give them the best opportunities to contribute. Beyond engineering, we see potential for students to support supply chain, construction management and other critical areas. Together, SRNS and FIU are committed to advancing applied research and technology development to support DOE's critical missions while developing a highly skilled future workforce."

A step in the right direction

SRNS provides shoes to Greendale Elementary students

SRNS recently partnered with Greendale Elementary School and the nonprofit organization Shoes That Fit, to provide new shoes to children in need.

Through a donation made by SRNS, 83 Greendale Elementary School students received new pairs of shoes. The support from SRNS allowed Greendale to exceed their initial goal of 75 students making a positive impact on their self-image and confidence.

"The school and students have been eager to get these shoes," said Martha Ruthven, Senior Community Relations Specialist. "It's an honor for us at SRNS to help these students feel comfortable and confident, so they can perform well in school."

Meagan Hildebrand, a school counselor at Greendale Elementary School stressed the importance of providing children the resources they need for success in and outside of the classroom.

"Ultimately, it's crucial that we, as a community, come together to support all our children. As the saying goes, 'it takes a village' to raise them," said Hildebrand.

"I'm delighted that SRNS supported this project and look forward to continuing our collaboration."

"Supporting our children is supporting our future," Ruthven said. "SRNS is deeply invested in community outreach and contributing to leaders of the future."

Shoes That Fit is a national nonprofit organization that helps provide new shoes to children in need. Organizers are hopeful to continue the partnership with SRNS and continue to make a positive impact.





SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs Intern Luke Nagy leads an intern tour of the Material Characterization Lab in the Manufacturing Technology Center at the Site on June 26.

SRNS offers interns cross-site networking

Eight interns from the 2025 cohort at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) visited SRS June 25-26 to learn how the Site is contributing to NNSA defense programs. Leveraging existing partnerships with The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Montana State University (MSU) and The University of Texas at El Paso and with the assistance of TechSource Inc and the Weapons Production-Technology and Nuclear Training Program, both LANL and SRNS are developing technology and personnel pipelines to advance the NNSA's two-site pit production mission in support of nuclear deterrence.

During the visit, LANL students met and networked with current SRNS interns supporting the Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) organization, creating opportunities for mutual learning and professional growth. Additionally, all interns toured both the newly renamed Manufacturing Technology Center (MTC) and the Material Characterization (MC) Lab. PPOP interns assigned to the MC Lab led that portion of the tour, presenting their work and showcasing current projects.

According to PPOP Intern Jason Manzanares, a sophomore at the University of South Carolina Aiken majoring in mechanical engineering, "The LANL meet and greet was a great opportunity to connect with fellow interns. Being able to collaborate with peers from different colleges with unique DOE experiences gave insight on the similarities and differences we all share. Learning more about the different missions each site has prioritized for the next decade makes this a really exciting time, and I am thrilled to be a part of it."

Matt Biasiny, PPOP Mission Development Director, said the goal of the visit was two-fold. "By providing opportunities for LANL and SRNS students to interact and network, we can not only enrich the overall intern experience but also strengthen ties between both groups of students, paving the way for additional collaborations and building a future pipeline for pit production at both sites."

LANL Intern Abigail Ross, a rising senior mechanical engineering major at MSU, was most impacted by the MTC tour and overall information exchange. "Being able to tour the facilities and really understand the background and the history of the projects has been very valuable and informative in helping me understand all my options at both sites," she said. "We're all learning from each other."

From classroom to containment

Brooks Jenison, SRNS Radiological Operations Support Center Intern, and sophomore in Business Administration at the University of South Carolina Aiken, is gaining invaluable experience in the layout, assembly and testing of containment huts and glove bags at the SRS Containment Fabrication Facility (CFF) this summer.

Jenison is currently focused on the fabrication of dip sample bags for H Tank Farm and glove bags for the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) during Pressure Safety Valve (PSV) replacements. The CFF team specializes in designing and assembling unique containment huts and glove bags not only for SRS but also for other government-owned contract facilities. Containment huts and glove bags are enclosures used to prevent the spread of hazardous contamination, with containment huts providing large, tented areas and glove bags offering smaller, flexible spaces that allow work through sealed sleeves and gloves.

"Our team stands as the final defense between our workers and potential hazards, ensuring their safety," said James Barnes, SRNS Radiological Operations Support Center Manager. "Despite being a business major, Brooks exemplifies how interns can transcend their major and use this experience as a pivotal stepping stone. Whether he becomes a buyer or estimator for SRNS in the future, this experience provides critical background knowledge about containments."

"Learning how to maintain and create effective and safe environments has been a highlight of my internship experience," said Jenison.

The SRNS Internship Program serves as a pipeline and knowledge transfer tool, offering students like Jenison practical work experience to seamlessly transition from their educational programs to full-time employment.

Lee Schifer, SRNS Senior Vice President, Infrastructure Modernization and Sustainment and Deputy Nuclear Operations Officer, said, "We strive to give our interns exciting and meaningful work. Thanks to the exceptional efforts of his leadership team, Brooks has this opportunity at the CFF, where he learns about the business of safe containments through hands-on experience both in the shop and in the field."



Containment Fabrication Facility employee Janice Love and Intern Brooks Jenison perform a leak test on a glove bag. Inflating the glove bag ensures no holes, leaks or malfunctions are present.

Celebrity soiree

SRNS serves for a cause

SNRNS employees recently gathered at Newberry Hall in Aiken, South Carolina for Children's Place, Inc.'s 30th annual Celebrity Waiter Night. This year's theme, Atomic Outlaws, brought a wild west flair to an evening of rounding up donations to support the community.

Children's Place, Inc. is a local nonprofit child and family development center dedicated to protecting, healing and strengthening children and families from the impact of trauma and other adverse experiences. Since 1968, they have been a beacon of hope and healing for Aiken County's most vulnerable populations.

Celebrity Waiter Night is a signature fundraiser that allows Children's Place, Inc. to continue running their Therapeutic Child Care (TCC) program, which is one of only two in South Carolina and the sole provider in the CSRA. It specifically serves children under the age of six who have been exposed to trauma and other adverse experiences, providing vital mental health counseling and rehabilitative therapies.

As a diamond sponsor, SRNS donated \$10,000 to support the Celebrity Waiter Night event. In addition, SRNS raised \$65,000 through sponsorships, online donations, silent and live auctions, and tips for the waiters. This event was successful, exceeding the \$55,000 goal resulting in a total of \$75,000 donation to Children's Place, Inc.

"As a company rooted in safety and security, we believe our responsibility extends beyond our site boundary; it includes supporting our community," said Janice Lawson, SRNS Senior Vice President of Environmental Management Operations. "We strive



SRNS employees present a check to Children's Place, Inc.

to be a trusted neighbor, investing not only in a safer environment but also in the future of our communities. By supporting causes that uplift children and families, we aim to foster a culture of compassion, connection and care—values we cherish deeply."

SRNS employees Tori Slate, Sarah Brunson and Khaki Byers served as co-chairs for the event once again, collectively putting in months of hard work to plan this annual fundraising event.

"SRNS has always seen itself as more than just a Site operator," said Slate, who is an SRNS Senior Emergency Preparedness Specialist. "Supporting Children's Place, Inc. has been one of the ways that we can directly impact the lives of the vulnerable children and families in our region. For SRNS, the partnership also aligns with its broader mission to promote safety, stability and goodwill in the region."

SRNS Director of Operational Excellence and Quality Assurance Kevin Whitt said, "SRNS has partnered with Children's Place Inc. for 16 years. The company's continued involvement in charitable efforts reflects its deep commitment to giving back and making a positive difference in the lives of those around us."

Celebrity Waiter Night activities included fundraising auctions. Through sponsorships, auctions, donations and waitstaff tips, the event raised a total donation of \$75,000.





Amber Rodriguez

AT SRNS: Site Drills and Exercises Manager

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

Site Drills and Exercise Manager Amber Rodriguez has worked with the Emergency Response Organization (ERO) for over five years, helping ensure the Site is prepared to respond in the event of emergencies. In this role, she creates various scenarios each year for personnel to respond to, testing the effectiveness of Site emergency plans and procedures.

Rodriguez graduated from Walden University with a Master of Science in Emergency Management. Before SRNS, she was a Recovery Manager with the South Carolina Emergency Management Division for three years and a member of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Corps, assisting communities nationwide before, during and after disasters.

The devastating earthquakes in Haiti sparked her interest in disaster relief, leading her to discover the Emergency Management field. She said, "Knowing that these drills and exercises directly influence the Site's response capabilities during actual emergencies motivates me, as it can make a difference between life and death. Hurricane Helene exemplifies this; the ERO's annual hurricane tabletops significantly contributed to our effective response. These exercises are pivotal in ensuring our preparedness."

Aside from work, Rodriguez serves as the Exercise Design Chair for the Emergency Management Institute—Special Interest Group, a complex-wide organization that gathers Emergency Management personnel around the country to discuss significant issues relating to managing emergencies effectively.

Rodriguez enjoys attending local trivia nights and festivals, watching the Green Bay Packers, reading psychological thrillers and fantasy novels, and anything related to Taylor Swift.

Employee receives ESGR Patriot Award

SRNS' Terry Willoner, a manager within the Engineering organization, was recently honored with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Patriot Award.

The ESGR Patriot Award is given to the supervisor of a Reservist or Guardsman who has supported a Service member during their time of service. The award is intended to reflect the efforts made by "citizen warriors" to allow flexible schedules, time off before and after deployment, family care and leaves of absence.

Overtime Process Control Engineer William James nominated Willoner for the award and stated, "When Terry hired me as an engineer in his group in 2020, I was initially concerned about continuing to serve in the military while working at the Site, but I quickly realized that my team would make sure I was successful in both careers."

James joined the Army National Guard in 2011. This led to more time away from home and from his work as an engineer at SRNS. His manager, Willoner, always ensured he was prepared and that workloads were appropriately covered.

"It's an honor to receive this award; however, it's not me, but our company policies here, at SRNS, that help make supporting our troops the right thing to do," Willoner said. "William is a very hard



William James (left) nominated Terry Willoner (center) to receive the Patriot Award from Retired Colonel David Gayle (right).

working, productive employee who deserves all the support we can give him at the Site."

SRNS supports team-focused dynamics that make employees like James feel at home, just like his time in the military. He believes that this leads to continued success, not only in his team but across the Site's missions supporting national security.

"I've learned I can't do great things alone in life, in the military, or on-site," said James. "It takes other people around me to learn, accomplish and build great things."

FEATURE FRIDAY

The following employees were highlighted as part of the SRNS Feature Friday series on social media.



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media



Latishia Harrison
Business Analyst-Cost
Controls



Andrew Kline
K Area Operations
Manager



Rebecca Thomas
Senior Fellow Scientist with
the Pit Production Laboratory



Amber Rodriquez
Site Drills and
Exercises Manager

SRNS

**Supplying products and services necessary
to maintain the nation's nuclear deterrent**

**Securing nuclear materials to prevent
unwanted proliferation**

**Developing innovative approaches to deliver
on our environmental commitments and
nuclear materials challenges**

**Transforming nuclear materials into assets
and stable wasteforms**



Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONSSM