

News from the Savannah River Site

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SRNS and USCA Sponsor 2014 Future City Regional Competition

After more than a decade, South Carolina and Augusta middle schools continue to vie for a trip to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

AIKEN, S.C. (Jan. 27, 2014) – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS) and the Ruth Patrick Science Center held the 11th annual Regional Future City Competition this past weekend, at the University of South Carolina Aiken (USCA).

Thirty-four teams from 16 middle schools located throughout South Carolina and as well as Augusta, Ga., competed – head-to-head during the final phase of the competition.

The winners of this year's competition are:

1st Place – Aiken Area Home Educators, Aiken.
City name: *Veloreno*
Jill Potvin (Educator), Larry Morris (Engineer Mentor), John Potvin, Ryan Hoyle and Sophie King

2nd Place – Paul Knox Middle School, North Augusta.
City name: *Magnicity*
Amanda Davis (Educator), Matt Bodine (Engineer Mentor), Abbi Fralick, Duncan Crowder and Eddie Burch

3rd Place – St. Mary on Hill , Augusta.
City name: *Chromalopolis*



From left: First place winners, the Aiken Area Home Educators Team, John Potvin, Jill Potvin (educator), Sophie King, Larry Morris (Engineer Mentor) and Ryan Hoyle.

John Allen (Educator), Harvey Hayes (Engineer Mentor), Stephanie Hayes, Kate Monahan and Mervin Jijika

4th – Honorable Mention, St. Mary on the Hill, Augusta. City name: *Fremtiden*

John Allen (Educator), Jim Merz (Engineer Mentor), Catherine Merz, Maisy Welsh and Elizabeth Baney

5th – Honorable Mention, Langley Bath Clearwater Middle, Warrenton. City name: *iPhopolis*

Gabrielle Morgan (Educator and Mentor), Bryson Chapman, Hannah Primrose and Kaitlyn Wall

“These students are highly dedicated and incredibly innovative,” said Dwayne Wilson, SRNS President and CEO. “The attention to detail and level of sophistication that goes into these projects is remarkable. Without a doubt, many important life lessons are learned during the months of hard work that is required to create a city of the future for this unique competition.”

The students have been working closely in teams since the start of the school year planning, designing and building a virtual city of the future. Future City teams typically consist of three students from the same school, plus a teacher and an engineer mentor.

“My students’ decisions about the rest of their lives have been influenced by their experiences with this competition,” said Vicki Boyd, teacher of last year’s winning team, Aiken Area Home Educators. “They have already become better thinkers and communicators, which means they have been more successful at reaching their short-term goals, ensuring long-term success. Knowing that each year thousands of other students have the same experience honestly gives me hope that we can stay competitive as a nation.”

The Future City organization provides a theme to each year’s teams that highlights a current issue and asks participating students to investigate and come up with viable solutions. Teams start with a research essay describing their proposed city and then use SimCity™ 4 software to create an electronic version. Next, each team builds a three-dimensional, table-top model using recycled materials costing no more than \$100, which is presented to a panel of judges during the regional competition.

This year’s theme, “Tomorrow’s Transit: Design A Way To Move People In And Around Your City,” asked the students to review transportation options and needs, creating viable ideas that consider safety, accessibility, intermodality and sustainability in an effort to reimagine a better and more efficient city.

Sponsored by SRNS and the Ruth Patrick Science Center, the winning team, representing South Carolina and the City of Augusta, Ga., will travel to Washington, D.C. and compete against 37 other regional winners.

The day-long, regional event was held at the USCA campus and is dependent on more than 100 volunteers from the Savannah River Site and USCA to act as judges and help coordinate the event.

The Regional Future City Competition has received widespread recognition for its role towards encouraging students to develop their interest in science, technology, engineering and math. Through hands-on applications, Future City participants discover by doing how engineering is both accessible and can make a difference in the world.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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