

from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC

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**For Immediate Release**

## SRNS Suggestion Program Saves Millions, Improves Employee Safety Performance

AIKEN, S.C. – (Sept. 20, 2011) – Since Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS) took over management and operations responsibilities at the Savannah River Site on Aug. 1, 2008, their employee suggestion program has accrued over \$51 million in “soft dollar savings.”

According to Brenda Kelly, manager of the SRNS employee suggestion system known as the “IDEAS” program, the vast majority of this money is considered soft dollar savings because nearly all of the IDEAS received relate to safety and productivity improvements. “For example, an IDEA may improve the efficiency of a production process to the point where only two workers are needed



*Med Allen (left), Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), Glovebox Design Authority, is shown working with David Nowak, SRNL Chemical Analysis Technician, with a new mass-produced industrial glovebox that has been specially and safely configured by the vendor to meet or exceed nuclear regulatory requirements versus buying custom designed and fabricated gloveboxes, saving approximately \$220,000 per glovebox.*

on a day-to-day basis instead of five,” said Kelly. “The other three employees can be re-assigned to help where there’s a need for additional workers, possibly in a completely different process or geographical area on site. These suggestions help SRNS to complete additional or unplanned work without spending more money.”

Kelly added that most people are surprised to find out that more than 40 percent of the suggestions relate to safety.

*The Savannah River Site is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy and is managed and operated by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.*

“Our first priority is to always consider how to perform a task, either at the administrative level or out in the production areas, as safely as possible,” said Garry Flowers, SRNS President & CEO. “The IDEAS program is certainly an important contributing factor as to why SRS continues to be one of the safest sites in the Department of Energy’s (DOE) weapons complex.”

During 2010 alone, over 850 safety-related suggestions were submitted.

“There are a number of award processes available at SRNS,” said Brad Davy, Director, Office of Worker Safety and Health Assistance, U.S. Department of Energy. “However, the IDEAS Program is absolutely one of the most valued best practices on site.”

Due to the innovation, creativity and success associated with the SRS IDEAS program, it was named one of the top ten suggestion programs in the country, two years in a row, by the Center for Suggestion System Development (CSSD). CSSD’s mission is to utilize the latest methods and practical tools available to provide quality suggestion system consulting and training. A few of their more noted clients include American Express, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Coca-Cola, Honda of America and Northwest Airlines.

In addition, the SRS IDEAS Program was recently awarded a “SEER Performance Excellence Award” from Ideas America. This award was received for best overall program performance improvement in all categories from one year to the next. During the Ideas America competition, numerous suggestion programs compete against one another from companies located throughout the world, including Germany, Arabia and India. Ideas America was established in 1942 as a nonprofit, service organization dedicated to optimizing the effectiveness of organizations through the employee involvement processes.

“We have dedicated employees with the imagination and vision to improve safety and productivity, further safeguarding our employees’ health while creating cost-savings or cost avoidance opportunities,” said Flowers.

According to Kelly, though the majority of the IDEAS submitted account for modest savings, occasionally a highly valuable IDEA comes along. For example, recently an SRNS IDEA was approved that has an estimated soft savings of more than \$220,000.

SRNS employee and Savannah River National Laboratory Glovebox Design Authority Med Allen, recently suggested purchasing mass-produced industrial gloveboxes that have been specifically redesigned, safely reconfigured and thoroughly tested by the vendor to meet or exceed nuclear regulatory requirements versus buying custom gloveboxes. The idea will save approximately \$220,000 per glovebox.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-Daniel Partnership comprised of Fluor, 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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