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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SRNS Employees “Bring Home the Gold” for Innovative Programs

*SRNS wins three out of ten prestigious awards at an international conference*

AIKEN, S.C. (October 2, 2014) – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS) employees won three first place awards at the 72nd annual “IdeasAmerica Training Summit” in Denver, Colo. The awards, presented by IdeasAmerica (IA), recognized different facets of the SRNS incentive-based employee suggestion program, Individuals Developing Effective Alternative Solutions (IDEAS).

“We have the challenge of reaching and engaging nearly 5,000 employees in more than a dozen locations across 310 square miles,” said Cynthia Boler-Melton, Manager, SRNS Enterprise System Solutions. “The real measure of your program is when you compare it to others. We not only competed with people locally in our industry, but we also competed with finalists from Switzerland and Dubai. The awards provide external validation that our Continuous Improvement culture is strong.”

The IDEAS and Continuous Improvement (CI) programs won gold in the “Communication Excellence” category. In 2013, the combined cost savings for CI and IDEAS was \$54.2 million. The strategies for reaching the SRNS workforce through a quarterly newsletter, user-friendly website, videos and creatively themed IDEAS competitions merited the top award. Overall, the IDEAS program has accumulated savings and cost avoidances totaling more than \$225 million since it was established in 1998, according to Brenda Kelly, SRNS IDEAS Program Administrator.



SRNS employees Julius Nguyen (left), Raine Weimortz, Herbert Newton, Brenda Kelly, David Hart and Cynthia Boler-Melton receive awards at the IdeasAmerica Training Summit in Denver, Colo.

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H Canyon Maintenance Manager David Hart won the Advocate of the Year award for being a “walking advertisement” of employee involvement activities. Hart encourages his coworkers and employees to submit employee suggestions to the IDEAS program, and his maintenance group in H Area has swept the IDEAS top award for the past five years because of their consistent participation and high-quality employee suggestions.

“It’s important to encourage others to become more involved with submitting their ideas through the IDEAS program. The IDEAS program captures innovative thinking and drives improvements that are key to continuous improvement, cost effectiveness and safety excellence. Employees have a chance to be rewarded with gift cards and prizes when they submit their idea. These ideas also have the potential to improve their work processes for themselves and others,” said Hart.

Fred Dohse, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, won gold in the Executive Leadership category for his support as the executive sponsor of the CI program and his leadership within SRNS integrated safety management.

“These awards from IdeasAmerica represent that employees are actively listening to their fellow coworkers about how to make processes safer, more efficient and cost-effective,” said Dohse. “Prudent use of the taxpayers’ dollars is a high priority for Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, and the Continuous Improvement program works aggressively at removing non-value added steps in processes not only to make an operator’s job easier, for example, but also to achieve long-term cost savings for the Site.”

SRNS facility operator Herbert Newton also received an honorable mention in the Team Idea of the Year award category for his team’s plan to remove abandoned railroad tracks, steam lines and trailers, which saved the company \$6.8 million. More than 100 entries were submitted in this category.

For over 70 years, IdeasAmerica (IA) has served managers and administrators of employee ideas all over the world. This is the second consecutive year that SRNS was recognized on the world stage by IA.

*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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