

# Update on the Environmental Management National Laboratory

Dr. Terry Michalske  
Laboratory Director

*Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board*

*July 22, 2014*

To Satisfy Strategic and Legacy Management Committee Work Plan by:

- Providing periodic update to CAB on SRNL business status / direction in response to recommendation 316



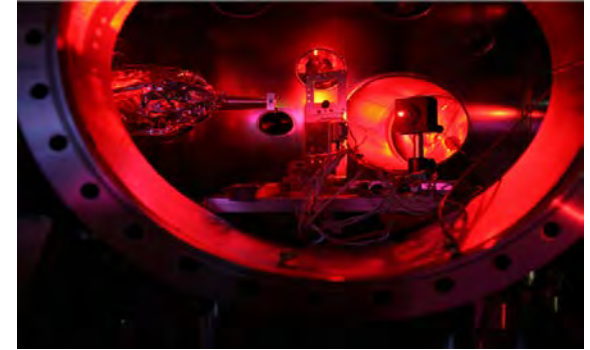
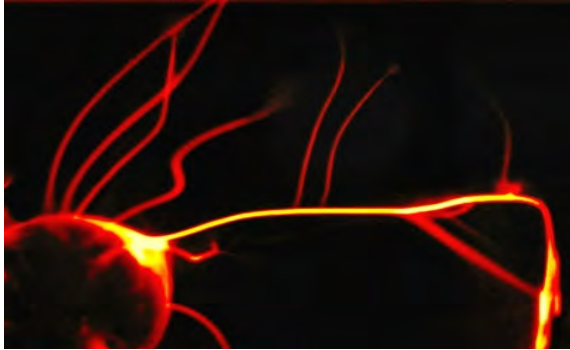
# Celebrating Ten Years as a National Lab



# What is a National Lab?

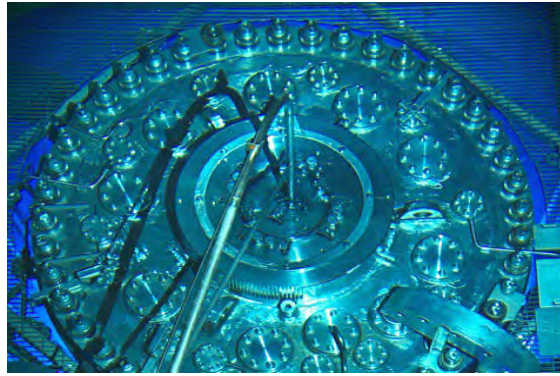
---

- Single purpose facilities
- Smaller staff size
- Budget range of \$30 million and up



# What is a National Lab?

- Multi-program “MegaLabs”
- Annual budgets \$1 billion and up
- Regional economic engines



# SRNL: A Multi-Program Lab Supporting National Needs

*The value of SRNL  
is measured every day  
by the investments  
of its federal clients and  
private sector partners.*



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Environmental Management

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Nuclear Energy

**NNSA**  
National Nuclear Security Administration



**BASF**  
The Chemical Company

**AREVA**

**Berkeley**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

**CLEMSON**  
UNIVERSITY

  
UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**

  
UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
AIKEN



**United Technologies  
Research Center**



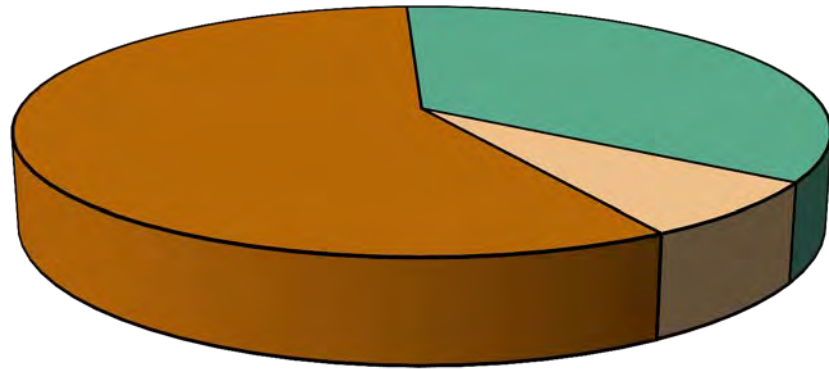
**Savannah River National Laboratory**  
OPERATED BY SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

We put science to work.™

# SRNL at a Glance

- ~ 825 Staff
- ~ \$214M (FY13 work performed)
- ~ 300 Discrete Work Activities
- Multi-Program Laboratory
  - >65% of funding from non-SRS customers

Environmental  
Stewardship, 35%



National Security, 58%

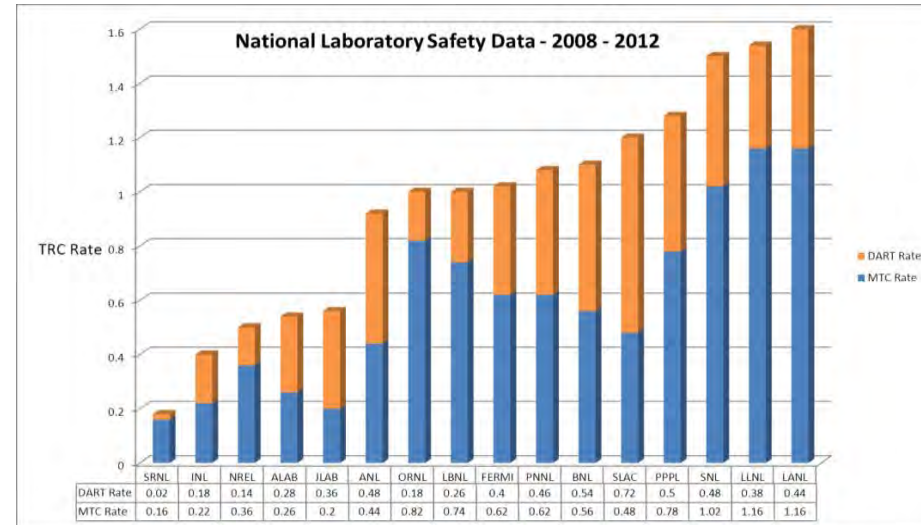
Clean Energy, 7%

## SRNL FY13 Execution

## Core Nuclear Capabilities

- Environmental Remediation and Risk Reduction
- Nuclear Materials Processing and Disposition
- Nuclear Detection, Characterization and Assessments
- Gas Processing, Storage and Transfer Systems

## Safest National Laboratory

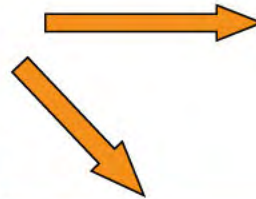


# Some of Our Facilities

Main Campus



Aiken County's  
Savannah River  
Research Campus



Applied Research Center



Aiken County  
Technology Laboratory



# Unique Facilities for Managing Radioactive Materials

---



Intermediate-Level Cells



Shielded Cells



Gloveboxes



Radiological Hoods



# Variety of Facilities for Non-Radioactive Work



Engineering  
Development  
Laboratory



Biotechnology  
Laboratories



Nonradioactive  
Laboratories



Atmospheric Technologies  
Center



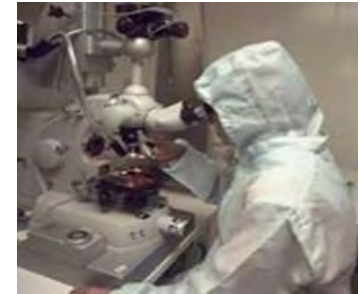
Glass Development  
Laboratory



High Pressure  
Laboratory



Hydrogen Laboratories



Ultra-clean Room



Underground  
Low-level  
Counting Facility



# SRNL is Critical to DOE Success and has a Worldwide Reputation



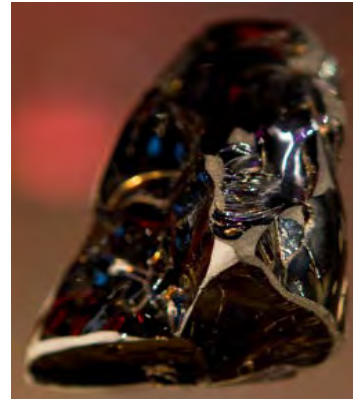
Strategic partner at other DOE Sites



Over \$5 billion in projected savings in past five years



Fukushima support



Technical underpinning for SRS missions



# In National Security, Our Reach Extends Far Beyond SRS



Port Security



Tritium Expertise



FBI Laboratory



Nuclear Security – Mobile Plutonium Facility



# SRNL is Essential to U.S. Nuclear Security Objectives

---



# SRNL Contributes to Regional Clean Energy Initiatives



Hydrogen Research



Safe Nuclear Fuel



Wind Energy



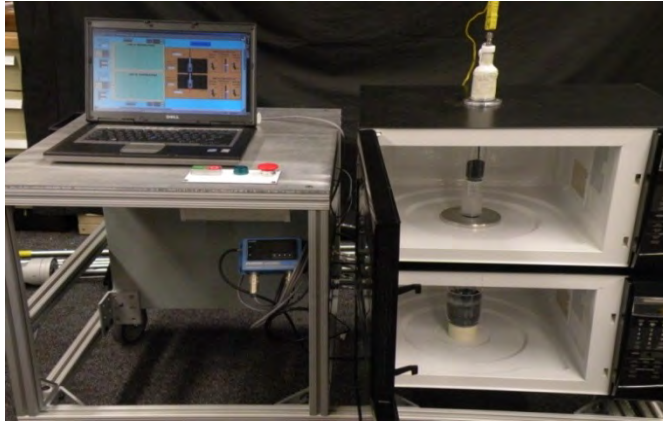
Natural Gas



Solar Research



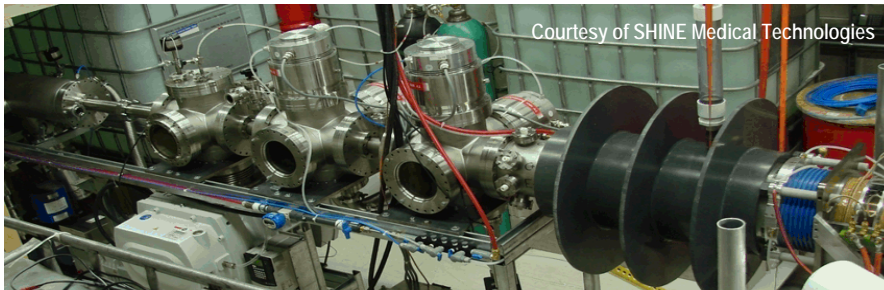
# SRNL Innovation Can Be an Economic Engine for Region



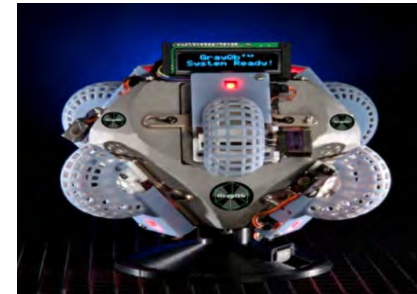
Hybrid Microwave System



SoundAnchor™



Medical Isotope Production



GrayQb™



# SRNL Can Help Drive South Carolina Economic Growth

## SRNL is a Catalyst for Future growth

- National and global outreach
- Innovations that drive new opportunities
- Strong partnerships with regional economic development and universities



Cold War Production

Environmental  
Restoration

Nuclear Security

Public /  
Private  
Partnerships



Savannah River National Laboratory™  
OPERATED BY SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

We put science to work.™

# SRNL Technical Innovations Drive Program Success

## Phased Remediation of Contaminated Soils:

- SRNL determined soil washing inadequate to clean shallow soils and sediments contaminated with depleted uranium at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Site 300
- SRNL recommended alternative phased remediation approach that included radiological surface survey, strategic excavation, and off-site disposal of highly contaminated material.

**Benefit:** This strategy saved \$40 million and reduced impacts to sensitive ecological habitats.



## Remediation of Contaminated Groundwater:

SRNL identified efficiencies in characterization and remediation of industrial solvent contamination and associated large groundwater plume in complex geohydrologic setting at Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, including

- improvements to source zone thermal treatment
- phased remediation to allow changes in strategy where performance is inefficient or ineffective.

**Benefit:** Cost savings are projected at \$18 million with additional savings in the future resulting from natural attenuation science support.



# SRNL Technical Innovations Drive Program Success

## Improved High-level Waste Loading:

SRNL has increased waste loading of the Defense Waste Processing Facility glass high-level waste form by approximately 25% through employment of a tailored approach to frit composition.

**Benefit:** The improvement in waste loading has permanently reduced the number of canisters needed to contain vitrified high-level waste by 25%. Total reduction of approximately 1400 canisters over the life of DWPF.



## Specialized Grout for Tank Closure:

SRNL developed an all-in-one improved zero-bleed, flowable grout/ concrete, enabling the 2012 closure of the second pair of waste tanks in the DOE Complex.

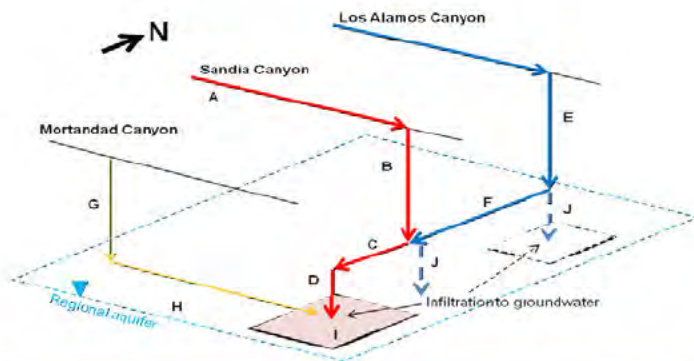
**Benefit:** Largest risk reduction in the state of South Carolina since 1997, when Tanks 17 and 20 were operationally closed using 3 different grouts also developed by SRNL.



# SRNL Technical Innovations Drive Program Success

**Deep Groundwater Plume Contaminated with Metals Impinging the Los Alamos National Laboratory Site Boundary:** SRNL identified technical strategies including treatment and hydraulic control options that provide pathways to address contamination and avoid implementation of costly pump-and-treat remedial strategy at the site boundary.

**Benefit:** Potential cost saving (>\$10M) associated with elimination of large, marginally-effective treatment system at site boundary



**A Better Treatment Option for Mercury Removal from Water:** SRNL innovated a chemical reduction and air stripping technology to remove mercury from water and supported full-scale deployment of a 500 gpm treatment system.

**Benefits:** The operating treatment removes >95% of the mercury and meets emerging-stringent “part-per-trillion” water quality standards. The full-scale process protects the downstream ecosystem, has saved over \$1.5 million in capital costs, and reduced operating and maintenance costs. Nationally the new technology will often be simpler and less expensive than traditional treatment processes.



# SRNL is Demonstrating Leadership Worthy of a National Lab

---

- Expanded visibility at DOE-HQ via Laboratory Policy Council
- SRNL Liaison now established at Environmental Management Headquarters
- Leading vessel testing program for Hanford Waste Treatment Plant
- Leading tank vapor review at request of DOE-Office of River Protection
- Leadership role for WIPP Technical Assistance Team
- Assuming management of national Historically Black Colleges and Universities / Minority Serving Institution program at EM's request
- Providing world-class gas processing and storage competency; coordinating strategic activities for NNSA for Tritium and Gas Transfer systems

# Future Targets

---

- Expanded Environmental Management business role, both in DOE complex and via international opportunities
- Innovative approaches for nuclear materials management
- Application of existing core competencies to targeted clean energy business opportunities (i.e., natural gas)
- Expanded support to national security customer base

