Savannah River Site’s Melter 2, a key component in the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF), is being replaced after nearly 14 years of record-breaking operational performance. A heater inside Melter 2 lost power and is deemed not repairable.

Melter 2 is only the second melter in the 20-year history of DWPF. It has operated approximately 12 years beyond its design life expectancy. Melter 1 ran for about six years.

Melter 2 has poured 2,819 canisters during its life, more than double what Melter 1 produced in its life span, which was 1,339 canisters. Melter 1 was placed into radioactive operation in March 1996, and Melter 2 began operating in 2003. Together, Melters 1 and 2 have poured 4,158 canisters through January 31, 2017. The predicted number of canisters needed to dispose of SRS’ high-level tank waste is 8,170.

The operational concept for DWPF is to use a melter until it is no longer operational and then replace it with a new melter. There are no risks to the public, workers, or the environment due to this outage. The replacement melter, Melter 3, has been ready for years. Work to install it will begin shortly, and will take approximately six months just to replace it.

Savannah River Remediation in the Community

From left, Savannah River Remediation President and Project Manager Tom Foster presents a $5,000 donation to Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (SCA). Accepting the check is SCA Board Member and S.C. Sen. Brad Hutto and SCA President and CEO Danny Black.

SRR and Allen University renewed a Memorandum of Understanding to continue strengthening the ties between SRR and the University to help students prepare for careers, particularly in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM).

Partnering with the Public Education Partners of Aiken County, SRR donated $2,000 to the LEGO Robotics team at Jackson Middle School to help fund the team’s start-up needs for equipment and competition entry fees.
Savannah River Remediation (SRR) LLC is the Savannah River Site’s (SRS) Liquid Waste contractor. SRS is owned by DOE. SRR is composed of personnel from a team of companies led by AECOM with partners Bechtel National, CH2M and BWX Technologies. Critical subcontractors for the contract are AREVA, Atkins, and AECOM Technical Services. For more information, contact the SRR Public Affairs Department: Amy Joslin at 803.208.1956

New Classes of Workers Makes the Future Bright for SRR

Nearly 100 SRR employees hired in the past 11 months strengthens the longevity of the liquid waste contractor workforce at the Savannah River Site (SRS). New classes of laboratory technicians, mechanics, operators, and radiological inspectors have joined the tremendous team over the past year.

Vast amounts of skill and SRS liquid waste operational knowledge will be passed down from generations of SRR workers to the new classes of workers. Thirty Production Operators, 26 Radiological Control Inspectors, 17 Maintenance Mechanics, seven Laboratory Technicians, and 17 Electrical and Instrumentation (E&I) Mechanics were hired in the past year, and all are now in various levels of training at SRS.

Onboarding the new classes of workers will meet the need for providing continued, reliable operations, said Tom Foster, SRR President and Project Manager. The current average age of SRR employees is about 49 years old; down from 52 years old.

“The hiring SRR has done in 2016 and so far in 2017 has been successful in planning for the next generation of workers to continue the liquid waste mission,” Foster said. “As we plan for attrition that will eventually come from long generations of experts in the field, we are counting on these new classes to learn from those who have paved the way.”

The classes of workers will be split between the SRS Tank Farms and the Defense Waste Processing Facility.

With the average age of the hiring classes clocking in at 32 years old, SRR is planning ahead for years of successful operations. Only about one third of these new hires are replacing employees who have retired.

“...We are counting on these new classes to learn from those who have paved the way.”

-Tom Foster, President & Project Manager

SRR Wins Safety Award for Moving Smart

SRR is one of eight global winners of the 2016 Project Merit Award, presented by Strategic Safety Associates (SSA). The award recognizes SRR for innovative training and implementation of MoveSMART® training.

SSA is the company that designed and owns the MoveSMART® process, which equips workers with techniques to avoid sprain and strain and slip, trip, and fall injuries. SRR has been collaborating with SSA, of Portland, Oregon, since 2010.

Roger Staten, who works in SRR Environmental, Safety, and Health (ESH) Programs held several training sessions throughout the SRR facilities, as well as at site-wide safety events, modeling the effective use of MoveSMART® techniques.

“The beauty of MoveSMART is the simplicity of the techniques,” Staten said. “It is amazing that simple changes in the way we step or the way we grip a handrail can increase our degree of balance and safety. I enjoy having the opportunity to share those techniques with my coworkers.”

Foster Gives Update at State of Nuclear

SRR President and Project Manager Tom Foster participated in the annual State of Nuclear in South Carolina, held in Columbia by Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness. The update focused on education investment provided by the nuclear industry in the Palmetto State. Foster discussed the SRS liquid waste project and gave legislators on update on the project.

Since the first canister was double-stacked in August 2016, 100 canisters have been placed in 50 modified positions, stacked one on top of the other, in Glass Waste Storage Building (GWSB) 1 at the Defense Waste Processing Facility. The Double Stack Project will increase the storage capacity of GWSB 1 from 2,254 to 4,508. Canister Double Stack Milestone

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Staten demonstrates MoveSMART® balance techniques at the 2016 SRS Safety Expo.

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