

# Savannah River National Laboratory

**Dr. Terry A. Michalske**  
Laboratory Director  
Savannah River National Laboratory  
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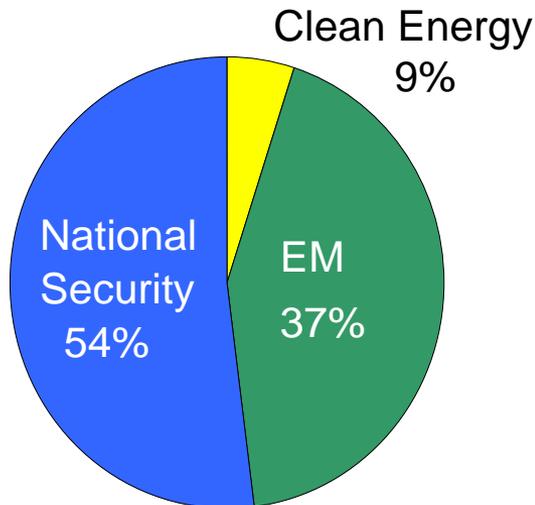
# Purpose

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- To satisfy the request of the Committee to provide an overview of SRNL capabilities and activities.
- To satisfy CAB work plan item to be briefed on SRNL.
- To brief the Committee on SRNL contributions to environmental cleanup of the site, its status as the Environmental Management National Laboratory, and its growth as a National Laboratory to address national needs.

# SRNL at a Glance

- ~1,000 Staff
- ~ \$230M (FY12 Funding Forecast)
- Safest Laboratory – 10 million hours and counting
- Multi-Program Laboratory
  - >65% of funding from non-SRS customers



SRNL FY11 Revenue

## Expertise

- Chemical Processing/Separation
- Materials
- Tritium/Hydrogen
- Environmental Science



*10 Million Safe Hours!  
...and counting.*

# Multi-Program National Laboratory



## Environmental Stewardship

- Waste Treatment
- Materials Stabilization and Disposition
- Remediation and Cleanup
- Assessments and Verification



## National Security

- Nuclear Defense
- Plutonium Technology
- Homeland Security
- Nonproliferation
- Nuclear Forensics



## Clean Energy

- Hydrogen Production and Storage
- Nuclear Fuel Cycle R&D
- Renewable Energy Research
- Small Modular Reactors

# SRNL Organization



Dr. Terry A. Michalske  
Executive Vice President  
& Laboratory Director



David E. Eyler  
Senior Vice President &  
Deputy Laboratory Director



Dr. Thomas (Tom) L. Sanders  
Associate Laboratory Director for  
Clean Energy



Dr. Jeffrey (Jeff) C. Griffin  
Associate Laboratory Director for  
Environmental Stewardship



Richard (Rick) M. Sprague  
Associate Laboratory Director for  
Nuclear Materials Program  
Integration



Dr. Anthony (Tony) E. Burris  
Associate Laboratory Director for  
National Security Programs



Dr. John E. Marra  
Associate Laboratory Director for  
Science & Technology



Wendolyn S. Holland  
Director of Strategic Development  
and Technical Partnerships



Margaret (Peggy) A. Davis  
Business Manager and SRNS CFO



Frederick (Freddie) M. Grimm  
Director, Research Operations

# SRNL Innovation Impacts Broad National Priorities

## Environmental Management

## National and Homeland Security

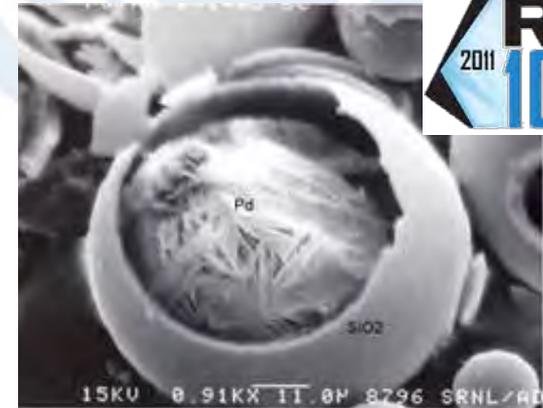
## Energy Security



Solvent Extraction Technology for Salt Waste Processing



FBI Forensics



Porous wall hollow glass microspheres



Rotary Microfilter

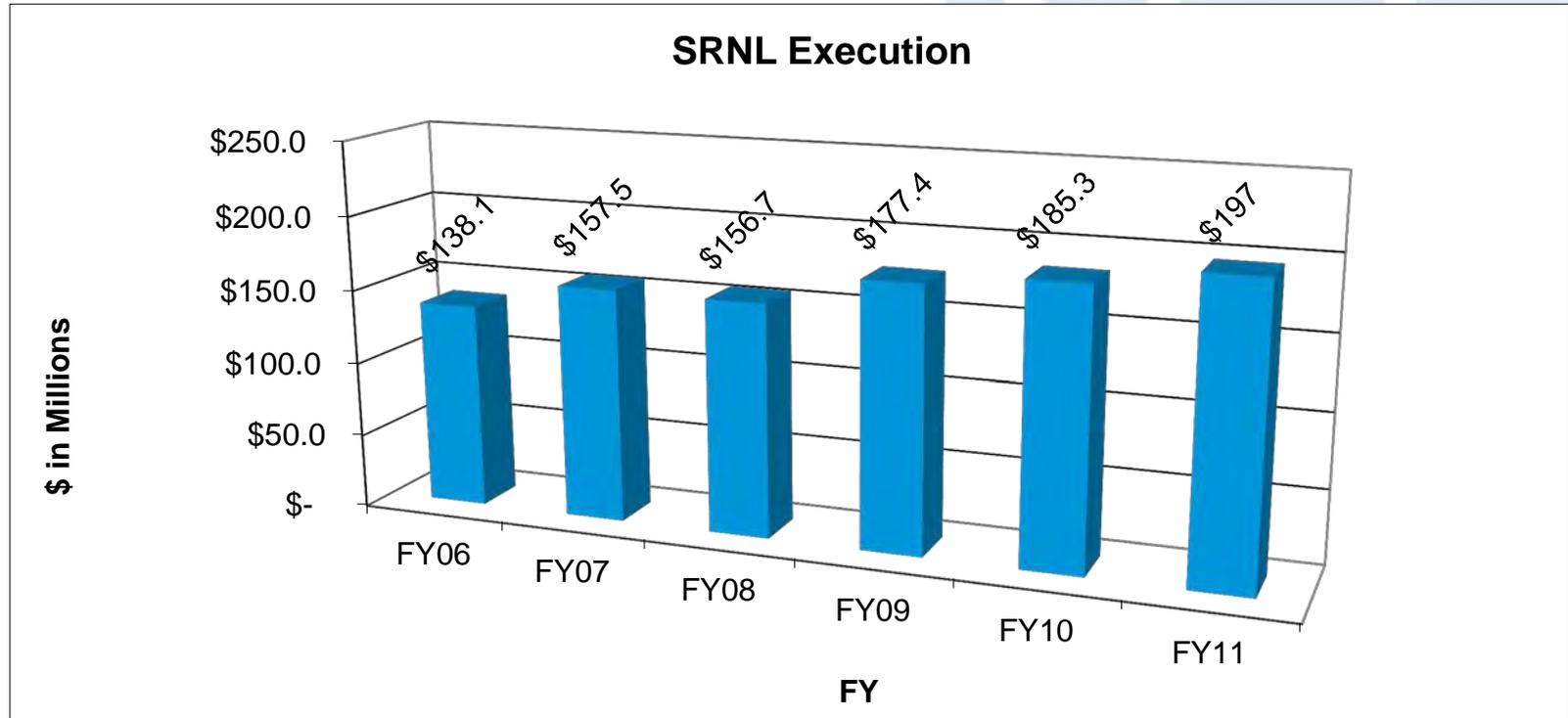


Tracking and locating technology



Testing SODAR to measure off-shore wind

# SRNL: A Track Record of Mission Growth



Demonstrated ability to innovate, bring solutions to customers

# SRNL: DOE's Environmental Management Lab

- SRNL's original mandate was to conduct research and development to enable the Savannah River Site's mission of producing nuclear materials for national defense.
- SRNL continues to lead the development and implementation of all major technologies operated on this site, including those for nuclear waste clean-up and nuclear material disposition.
- Building on its applied research and development history, SRNL has invented or been instrumental in advancing almost every major technical process in use in the US DOE environmental management program.
- Recognizing the breadth of SRNL's environmental management expertise, US DOE designated SRNL as the Environmental Management National Laboratory "to assist sites in meeting cleanup requirements."



# The SRNL Approach to Developing Solutions

- A strong focus on identifying key needs and end-states
  - Longer-term perspective is critically important – must address near-term AND long-term needs
  - Deep technical understanding of issues and viable solutions
  - Commitment to two-way communication
- Detailed planning with national, regional, and local communities and regulators
  - Government and local community leaders, Citizens Advisory Board, regulatory agencies (EPA, South Carolina DHEC)
- A drive for the best implementable technical solutions
  - Science-based
  - Tested and demonstrated
  - Optimized deployment
- Thorough assessment of solutions

# SRNL Led Team Solves Critical Clean-up Problem

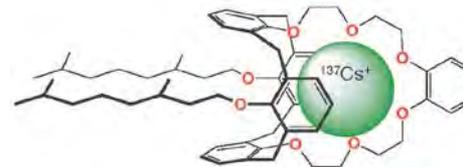
**CHALLENGE:**  
400 million liters of highly radioactive liquid waste require treatment.

**SOLUTION:**  
SRNL collaborated with National Laboratories and industry to develop and improve advanced solvents.



**OUTCOME:**

- Initial solution successfully removed cesium using solvent extraction.
- Solvent was subsequently improved to
  - Increases throughput by 30%
  - Reduce treatment time by 3 years.



# SRNL Summary

- As the Environmental Management National Laboratory, SRNL has developed a comprehensive approach to solving clean-up challenges.
  - Expertise recognized, as exemplified by Deputy Secretary Poneman's recommendation for Tokyo Electric Power Company to collaborate with SRNL on Fukushima cleanup
- This comprehensive approach includes:
  - An overall plan for the clean-up
  - Rigorous development, selection, and deployment of technologies, and
  - Science-based regulatory assessment of outcomes.
- SRNL has grown into a true National Laboratory, with impact in several areas that are critical to the national interest.

# Backup Slides

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# Example – Area Closure Approach to Clean-up of Groundwater Contamination (M Area) *Key SRNL Roles*

## Planning

- Definition of challenges related to chlorinated solvents in groundwater
  - Identified target zones that are suited to different classes of technology solutions
- Development of holistic “area” cleanup and closure approach
  - Assistance in regulatory and stakeholder negotiations
- Identification and analysis of candidate technologies
- Technology selection process
- Development of implementation schedule

## Technology Development & Deployment

- Development and testing of technologies for specific contaminant zones
  - Source Zone
  - Primary Plume
  - Distal Plume
- Development of supplemental technologies
  - Improved subsurface access
  - Removal of co-contaminants
- Field demonstrations and laboratory studies to define operating parameters for each technology
- Transfer technologies to site program organization for implementation

## Assessment

- Evaluation of monitoring data to verify performance
  - Product quality
  - Process performance against permit limit
- Continued enhancement of technologies to maintain efficiency and effectiveness
  - Process optimization
  - Innovative characterization / monitoring
- Support for discussions with regulators and stakeholders

# Example – In Situ Decommissioning for Reactors

## Key SRNL Roles

### Planning

- Definition and understanding of the challenge.
  - Considerations of residual risk, cost of disposal, ability to implement
  - Technical analyses to support option development (residual activities, etc.)
- Identification and analysis of disposal options
  - Conceptual modeling
  - Groundwater & engineering structural modeling
- Disposal option selection process
  - Support for regulatory and public discussions
- Implementation schedule development
  - Technology readiness input
- Development of technical requirements for reactor fill materials
  - Feasibility – constructability
- Rapid prototype modeling

### Technology Development & Deployment

- Development of cementitious fill materials
  - Fill material characteristics tailored for specific applications
  - Placement sequencing / strategies
  - Residual contamination and water management
- Development and deployment of enabling technologies
  - Remote camera system for remote area grout placement.
  - Thermocouple arrays for grout as-placed quality confirmation.
  - Ultrasonic velocity apparatus
  - Thermal transient and hydrogen modeling

### Assessment

- Performance and durability testing on fill materials
  - Validates product quality
  - Validates model assumptions
- Modeling confirmation of conceptual model
- ISD Sensor network test bed array under development for long-term assessments
  - Assess cementitious material durability
  - Assess moisture-fluid flow through cementitious material
  - Assess resulting potential for contaminant mobility in a decommissioned closed nuclear facility

# Example – Development of Vitrification for High Level Waste

## Key SRNL Roles

### Planning

- Definition and understanding of the challenge. Key considerations of stability, transport, production.
- Identification and analysis of candidate waste forms.
- Waste form selection process.
  - Yielded borosilicate glass waste form by vitrification
- Validation of selection.
  - Independent reviews – involving technical experts from SRNL, other laboratories, and academia

### Technology Development & Deployment

- Development of waste form (glass) chemistry.
- Development of the vitrification process operational details.
- Process testing
  - Scaled testing
  - Real waste testing
  - Develop understanding of process operating limits
- Demonstration of product performance
  - Product quality
  - Interface with regulators and stakeholders

### Assessment

- Process feed “batch” development and qualification
  - Required for every batch
  - Assures process safety
  - Ensures product quality
- Validation/verification of process changes
  - Process safety
  - Product quality
  - Process performance
- Process improvements
  - Waste loading
  - Processing rate
  - Results from deep process understanding and close involvement