

CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS

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SRMC's new president shares mission progress, innovation at CNTA breakfast event

AIKEN, S.C. (June 26, 2025) — Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC) President and Program Manager Dr. Thomas Burns, Jr. explained at a recent CNTA breakfast that utilizing innovation is key to safely accomplishing SRMC's mission.

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) sponsors the Up & Atom breakfasts, where Burns spoke, as a platform for CNTA to engage with the community and discuss nuclear technology.

Since taking over the liquid waste contract at the Savannah River Site in 2022, SRMC has made considerable progress in its liquid waste mission, and according to Burns, innovation has been integral to the process.

“By valuing and driving innovation in our workforce, SRMC has been able to continually develop and apply new technologies and strategies,” said Burns. “It’s these forward-thinking solutions that will keep our mission moving safely and successfully.”

In his presentation, Burns highlighted new developments being used across the workforce.

Digital transformations, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and [enhanced training simulators](#) have been deployed to support facilities and improve proficiency – ultimately saving significant engineering hours.

There have been replacement parts and other technological additions in all the liquid waste facilities – one of the most notable being new cross flow filters at the Salt Waste Processing Facility, a change that will increase the overall production rate.

The use of drones was recently implemented in SRMC's tank farms, where radioactive liquid waste is stored in large underground waste tanks. Last year, the [first piloted drone](#) was used for annulus inspection and will now be used for taking samples of waste. By putting drones where they have never gone before, SRMC has been able to safely and swiftly receive data from tanks.

Burns said SRMC has “set the table” during the first three years, laying the groundwork for the future of its operations.

“We’ve prepared everything needed for what comes next,” said Burns. “Now, it’s all about sustained, safe execution to get there. I appreciate the support that CNTA and our community members provide for our critical environmental clean-up mission.”

CNTA’s Executive Director Dr. Allison Hamilton Molnar said the talk by Burns opened the eyes of attendees.

“Dr. Burns exemplified in his presentation CNTA’s mission– to explain how nuclear work is being performed safely at every level of an organization,” she said. “The liquid waste mission is being handled superbly by SRMC, and the results speak for themselves.”

CNTA is an Aiken-based charitable educational organization dedicated to providing factual information about nuclear topics and educating the public on nuclear issues. For more information, contact CNTA at CNTA@bellsouth.net or visit www.cntaware.org.



Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC) President and Program Manager Dr. Thomas Burns, Jr. presents at the recent CNTA breakfast, expanding on the role innovation plays in safely completing SRMC's mission.