



## News from the Savannah River National Laboratory

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **TEST PROGRAM HONORED BY DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

AIKEN, S.C. (Nov. 20, 2008) – The Domestic Nuclear Detection Office’s (DNDO) Crawdad Test and Evaluation Program, carried out at the Savannah River National Laboratory this summer, has been awarded the Secretary’s DHS Team Award by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

In support of the DHS Small Vessel Security Strategy, SRNL hosted the program, called Crawdad, to test commercially available boat-mounted radiation detectors. The testing program was conducted by the DNDO, an office within DHS, and supported by SRNL as part of the DHS strategy to minimize the vulnerability of small marine craft from being used to transport illicit radiological and nuclear materials into the United States.

DNDO had four objectives for the Crawdad test campaign:

- 1) Characterize radiation detection performance in field-like conditions;
- 2) Characterize the ease of use of the detection systems from the end user perspective;
- 3) Provide technical data needed to support future research and development decisions to enhance boat-mounted radiation detection systems in the maritime environment; and
- 4) Document the system’s physical characteristics and the external support requirements.

DNDO received the award today (Nov. 20) in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Upon learning that the Crawdad team would receive this honor, DNDO Program Manager Matthew Graviss said, “This is an outstanding achievement given the new and diverse team of engineers and scientists assembled, the complexity of the test planned and executed, and the tight schedule we were all operating under. I can’t think of any award better than receiving this TEAM award, which truly highlights the all-for-one attitude and camaraderie that you established among the SRNL Crawdad execution team.”

SRNL is DOE’s applied research and development national laboratory at the Savannah River Site (SRS). SRNL puts science to work to support DOE and the nation in the areas of national and homeland security, energy security and environmental management. The management and operating contractor for SRS and SRNL is Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.

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