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November/December 2009 - Issue 140 A publication for all members of the NNSA/NSO family

#### **U.S., Russian Teams Work Toward Global Threat Reduction**

Before President Obama proposed his plan to decrease the dangers of nuclear terrorism and globally secure at-risk nuclear materials, the Remote Sensing Laboratory personnel already had several decades of experience detecting and handling nuclear materials and sealed sources. They had also teamed with Russian scientists more than 10 years ago to help reduce lethal levels of uranium for productive use stateside (see "**HEU Transparency Program in Russia**" sidebar).

Millions of radioactive sealed sources are used around the world for legitimate and beneficial applications. Some of these applications include cancer treatment, remote electricity generation, food and blood sterilization, and scientific research. However, many of these sources are poorly guarded or have become abandoned, thus making them attractive targets for theft or sabotage. According to the 9/11 Commission Report, radiological materials have been sought by the al-Qaeda terrorist network to use in a radiological dispersal device, or "dirty bomb."

To counter this threat, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) established the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) in 2004. GTRI works to convert research reactors from the use of highly enriched uranium, or HEU, to low-enriched uranium, or LEU. This removes and disposes excess nuclear and radiological materials, and protects high priority nuclear and radiological materials from theft and sabotage. Of the 130 countries in which GTRI operates, the Russian Federation remains a top priority because of the country's vast quantities of high-risk radiological materials.

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Published for all members of the NNSA/Nevada Site Office family Stephen A. Mellington, Manager, NNSA/Nevada Site Office Darwin Morgan, Office of Public Affairs Submit articles or ideas to NSTec Public Affairs at <u>donaldjw@nv.doe.gov</u>.



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#### **U.S., Russian Teams Work Toward Global Threat Reduction**

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A project within the GTRI seeks to identify and secure abandoned nuclear material sources that terrorists could use to create dirty bombs. This identify-and-secure project is known as the Orphan Source Recoveries, or OSR. Decades ago, when Russia was part of the Soviet Union, the Soviets used sealed radioactive sources for a variety of industrial, agricultural, research and medical applications. After the fall of the Soviet Union, many facilities that used these radioactive sources either lost their funding, went out of business or were forced to change their business model. Some enterprises simply closed down, leaving their sources "orphaned" in their radioactive source units.

The GTRI worked with Rosatom, a Russian nuclear assets agency, to recover and dispose of these vulnerable sources no longer used at sites throughout Russia. The first orphan source recovery occurred in an abandoned office in an occupied building, not far from the Radisson Hotel in Moscow. Since then, there have been more recoveries in more than a dozen Russian cities, as well as a bombed-out chemical factory in Grozny, Chechnya. (Five Chechen separatists died of radiation exposure years earlier after attempting to steal the radioactive sources twice at this chemical factory. Through the GTRI efforts, this threat was eliminated.)

The OSR Global Threat Reduction (GTR) program, worth \$53 million, benefits the Nevada Test Site and its operational contractor, National Security Technologies (NSTec) in numerous ways. Because it's directly funded, the GTR project allowed NSTec to hire two employees to monitor the collection and disposition of these orphan sources. Their efforts have helped the NTS begin or reestablish relationships with foreign governments, which is beneficial for the future of United States.

"RSL's ongoing involvement in the GTR project continues to address the global terrorist threat by reducing their chances of having access to radiological materials or sources that can potentially hurt the entire world," says Carson Riland, chief science officer at RSL's Office of Science. "RSL's continuing involvement also provides an important aspect for the health and safety of the Russian population by securing the orphan sources and disposing of them before they become an environmental/ health hazard."



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#### **HEU Transparency Program in Russia**



In the "closed" cities of Seversk and Zelenogorsk in Siberia, and Novouralsk in the Ural's region, four NSTec employees from RSL-Nellis and RSL-Andrews monitor the Russian uranium processing facilities to deenrich their highly enriched uranium.

Senior Technical Staff Bob Richmond is the project manager for the Department of Energy's highly enriched uranium (HEU) transparency program in Russia. With Bob, Senior Scientist Bill Beal, Principal Operations Specialist Ed Roberts and Senior Engineer Ken Braithwaite are among 80 special monitors approved by American and Russian governments to work side by side with Russian scientists to monitor the down-blending of HEU to low-enriched uranium, or LEU. The LEU is then sent to the United States to manufacture fuel for commercial nuclear power reactors. For the United States, this transparency with the Russians provides confidence that the LEU being purchased by the United States is not newly produced in Russia's enrichment plants, but is derived from weapon components.

All of the RSL monitors are trained in operating and maintaining the Blend-Down Monitoring System (BDMS) at the sites visited by the HEU program. The BDMS monitors uranium mass flow rates and uranium enrichment when monitors are not present (less than 20 percent of the monitors are trained on this equipment). All RSL monitors are trained to use specialized non-destructive assay equipment to perform spectral analysis to determine the enrichment of the HEU and LEU. Additionally, RSL personnel assist in developing BDMS training courses and teaching BDMS classes to U.S. and Russian technical experts. RSL supports, on average, eight-to-10 one-week monitoring trips per year.

"Things have changed a lot since my first trip in 2000," says Ken Braithwaite (RSL has been involved in the HEU program since 1998). "Early on, things were stricter, with the way the U.S. presence was perceived. It was a novelty because those cities didn't have a lot of foreign visitors (which is why they're 'closed'). We were escorted everywhere we went. But as the program matured, the more people saw us and we them, trust was built, and there was more openness. We're still escorted, but there's not nearly the novelty of having foreigners in their cities anymore." The team includes an American interpreter during their trips to Russia, where there are more interpreters to work with. "Many of the Russians speak English anyway," adds Ken.

In 1993, the U.S. and Russia signed a 20-year agreement to dispose of 500 metric tons of HEU from dismantled Russian nuclear weapons. In 2008, the program celebrated its 15th year of existence.

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Navarro Nevada Environmental Services: Same Faces, Sharpened Vision

The environmental cleanup contract at the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office recently underwent a changing of the guard. On October 1, 2009, Navarro Nevada Environmental Services, LLC (NNES) officially succeeded the Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture (SNJV) in taking responsibility for environmental characterization and remediation at contaminated sites on the Nevada Test Site and portions of the Nevada Test and Training Range, to include the Tonopah Test Range.

NNES is comprised of two companies, Navarro Research and Engineering and INTERA Incorporated, both of which were a part of the SNJV contract. "We are very grateful to the Nevada Site Office for the opportunity to see the work through and to keep looking for ways to work smarter and add more value to the site's missions," said Dave Taylor, NNES program manager. Since the work force remained intact, NNES management and staff have an opportunity with the new contract to sharpen the vision of successfully completing major portions of environmental management work at the test site.

"The NNES vision, *To be the company and employer of choice for environmental services to the Nevada Site Office*, is possible thanks to the dedicated professionals who we are so very fortunate are part of this program. Our commitment to each other is to hold ourselves accountable for delivering excellence in everything we do," Taylor said.



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### NNSA Reveals Quiet Contributions of Cygnus: A Dual Beam X-Ray Source for Radiography

Success provided significant benefits to the science-based stockpile stewardship mission focused on validating new 3-D ASC Models that will ultimately assess the reliability and performance of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile without nuclear testing.



The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) recently celebrated a milestone quietly achieved at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). The dual beam Cygnus X-Ray source system completed its 1000th shot during the Barolo and Bacchus Subcritical Experiments (SCE). These are the latest in a series of experiments at NTS initiated in 1997 to gain data on the dynamic properties of plutonium and sample other special nuclear material.

Although a moratorium ended nuclear testing at the NTS in 1992, underground experiments still are conducted using highly-scientific equipment to measure reactions to weapons-grade plutonium as part of the nation's Stockpile Stewardship program. The design intent of Cygnus was to provide the dual beam pulse powered penetrating flash x-ray source required to radiograph the Armando Subcritical Experiment in 2004. The radiographic results of the dynamic test were stunning, and it became clear to scientists that the dual Cygnus sources could prove very useful to the science-based stockpile stewardship mission.

As early as 2001, the need for a penetrating dual x-ray source came to

the forefront, and NNSA teamed with Sandia National Laboratory, Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), NTS, and L-3 Pulse Sciences (L-3) to acquire Cygnus. These collaborators accomplished the design, fabrication, and testing of Cygnus-1 and 2 respectively at LANL and L-3. After proving sufficient dose and refining spot size, each x-ray source was relocated and integrated into the U1a Complex at NTS.

Initially, Cygnus was designed assuming a life cycle of only a couple hundred shots. But the collaborators developed a meticulous maintenance and operations protocol to sustain x-ray source integrity for future experimenters, leading to the successful milestone of 1,000 shots.

The difficulty of maintaining source integrity becomes clear with an outline of the architecture of Cygnus. Cygnus begins with state-of-the-art Process Controls allowing operation, monitoring, and cycling of the several subsystems; such capability requires highly-experienced operators and staff. The Data Acquisition and Triggering system requires dozens of specialized voltage/current monitors that feed into four racks of digitizers and digital trigger generators.

Cygnus has become an essential element to a long list of successful experiments i.e., Armando, Step Wedge, Thermos, Odyssey, and now Barolo and Bacchus, with even more experiments being planned. "Cygnus is a great NNSA investment and multi-agency success story highlighting the working relationships between NNSA, National Laboratories, the NTS M&O – National Security Technologies (NSTec), and private industry," said Raffi Papazian, Missions and Projects Division manager for NSTec.

The Cygnus Dual Beam Radiography System remains quite viable and available for future experiments and research. The system continues to be the subject of published research on pulsed power, x-ray source characterization, and radiography. Cygnus is named after the famous xray emitting binary star formation in the constellation of the Swan. With proper attention the Cygnus swan song can be significantly delayed. Cygnus has potential to become a National User Facility.



The Cygnus team: **Front Row** – Gene Ormond (Sandia), Mark Hanson (NSTec), Doug Good (NSTec), Dale Cain (LLNL), Dan Nelson (Sandia), John Smith (LLNL), David Henderson (NSTec); **Back Row**, Gilbert Peralta Jr. (NSTec), Monty Larson (NSTec), Vance Mitton (NSTec), Isidro Molina (Sandia), Michael Burke (Sandia).

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**RSL Extends Expertise in South America, Asia** 





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The United States has cooperated with the global community in nuclear emergency management for a number of years. As part of this cooperation, the National Nuclear Security Administration's International Emergency Management and Cooperation (NNSA-IEMC) has been sharing information and exchanging data to strengthen regional and worldwide capabilities to ensure that effective programs are in place to prepare and respond to radiological and nuclear incidents and emergencies. IEMC provides cooperation through two focus areas, International Outreach and the Global Initiative to Combat



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(Left) During a recent workshop in Singapore, James Butler (right) of RSL-Andrews instructs a Navy Special Boarding Team trainee how to use a radiation mapper on a cargo ship. Photo: Alex Chin, Defense Science Organization National Laboratories, Singapore.



In Buenos Aires, Argentina, RSL-Nellis' Craig Marianno (left) demonstrates a Spectral Aerial Radiation Computer System to Nuclear Terrorism.

members of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority. Photo: Rick Maurer

#### IEMC International Outreach

In June 2009, the Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL) at Nellis provided and installed a video wall display and conferencing system, Geographic Information System and a Spectral Airborne Radiation Computer System at the Comissao Nacional de Energia Nuclear Instituto de Radioprotecao e Dosimetria (IRD) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. NNSA donated the equipment to IRD, with approval from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, to strengthen international programs. Similar systems have been provided to the Nuclear Regulatory Authority in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, and various U.S. embassies and consulates.

The U.S. has been cooperating with the global community on nuclear emergency management for years. Sharing information and exchanging data helps strengthen regional and worldwide capabilities to ensure that effective programs are in place to prepare for and respond to nuclear and radiological incidents and emergencies.

RSL employees who contributed to these projects were: Kevin Marah, Ben Sher, Ron Guise, Ken Braithwaite, Vince Wolf, Bob Fisher, James Essex, Joe Kneidel, Mike Lukens, Paul Ainsworth and John Istle. Other work in Brazil included a product demonstration of the International Radiological Information Exchange system at IRD.

#### IEMC Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism

Through the International Emergency Management and Cooperation Program at the NNSA, RSL-Andrews has been participating in workshops to assist member nation's of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism share best practices for radiological emergency response. For the past two years, the information sharing has been accomplished through numerous multi-national workshops conducted in China, Morocco, Belgium, Spain, Denmark, Russia and Singapore. In May 2009, RSL conducted a three-day workshop on Maritime Radiological Search in Singapore. The team deployed five subject matter experts and a suite of detection equipment for classroom presentations, hands-on training and practical exercises.

"These workshops give RSL technical experts the opportunity to use their experience to assist partner nations in enhancing radiological emergency response programs worldwide," said Rick Maurer, RSL-Andrews deputy chief science officer.

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#### Calling All Facebook and YouTube Fans

The U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office is now sharing information via popular social networking sites, Facebook and YouTube.

Fans of *NNSA Nevada Site Office* on Facebook receive the latest information on Nevada Site Office activities, including press releases, photos and videos. Recent updates include activities related to the permit application for a new mixed waste disposal cell at the Nevada Test Site and the availability of resources in the Public Reading Room next to the Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas, Nev.

"Our goal is to streamline department news and make information about projects readily available to the public," said Darwin Morgan, Nevada Site Office director of public affairs. "These social media websites are a great place for building relationships and raising department visibility. By promoting current and upcoming outreach activities on our page, we hope to increase interaction with the public and reach new demographic groups."

In addition to the videos posted on Facebook, more than 100 others are available on YouTube. In fact, a portion of the Project Sedan video on YouTube is shown at the end of *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery*.

Anyone can begin receiving information from the Nevada Site Office's Facebook page by becoming a fan of *NNSA Nevada Site Office*. To subscribe to the Nevada Site Office's YouTube video updates, visit <u>www.</u> youtube.com/user/NNSANevada.



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The Nevada Test Site Transuranic (TRU) Project team has been awarded the President's Award from Northrop Grumman for its successful completion of a highrisk radioactive waste repackaging project.



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NSTec Chief Operating Officer Mike Butchko (far left) and Environmental Management Project Manager Teri Browdy (female, center) join the TRU Project Team (from left to right): Patrick Arnold, Robert Stueckrath, Stefan Duke, Rick Wagner and John Ciucci. Not pictured: Mike McCullough.

Northrop Grumman Technical Services President Jim Cameron presented the TRU team the award in October for safely processing 162 highly radioactive waste containers, one month ahead of schedule. The project solved a 35-year-old legacy waste problem. Northrop Grumman is the managing partner for National Security Technologies (NSTec), the management and operating contractor for the Nevada Test Site.

"The project team constructed and started up a nuclear facility and safely completed processing of highly radioactive waste generated at a national weapons laboratory, in under two years. Meeting this highly aggressive schedule is a first in the DOE complex, " said NSTec President Steve Younger.

The TRU project, which the U.S. Department of Energy called on NSTec to perform in 2007, involved building a new facility, creating a new method for processing highly radioactive waste, and repackaging hundreds of boxes of materials – all within a strict set of guidelines and deadlines set by the State of Nevada. The TRU Project team saved millions of dollars on the project by upgrading an existing facility and met those deadlines while still maintaining a safety record unparalleled in the National Nuclear Security Administration complex.

The TRU team received one of six President's Awards presented by Northrop Grumman, and Cameron hailed the achievement as an example of the outstanding work done by all its partners every day.

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NSTec employees hosting the NSTec booth, L-R, Fletcher Goldin, Shaun Hampton, Michael Haugh, Zaheer Ali, Susan Cyr.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) recently co-

chaired one of the landmark conferences for fusion scientists, the 6th International Inertial Fusion Sciences and Applications Conference (IFSA), in San Francisco. LLNL was joined by the French Laser and Plasma Institute and the Japanese Institute of Laser Engineering in hosting the event.

Some 600 attendees traveled from all over the world to connect with colleagues and share the latest in Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) sciences and High Energy Density Physics (HEDP). Fifteen engineers and scientists from National Security Technologies (NSTec) attended, with five of them presenting oral papers or posters.

NSTec also hosted an exhibit booth featuring work in High Energy Density Physics for LLNL's National Ignition Facility (NIF), Z, and Omega. "Participation in events such as IFSA, and the High Temperature Plasma Diagnostics conference in early 2010, provides great opportunities to show off our technical prowess in areas that add value to the HEDP and ICF community," said Chris Silbernagel, NSTec HEDP Diagnostics project manager.

Many curious visitors expressed interest in those accomplishments, along with the Livermore Operations calibration capability; especially when they learned of the office's proximity to LLNL and NIF. Opportunities to do work for others, as well as collaboration, became especially evident in discussions with scientists from Japan, France, the Czech Republic, as well as the United States.

"At IFSA '09, we showcased our successful support of NIF, our HED Physics capabilities, and our scientific and engineering innovations," said Zaheer Ali, an NSTec scientist. "Beyond NIF and LLNL, we also interfaced with International Fusion Energy institutions from across the globe, forging relationships that will lead to new collaborations and new business."

The conference is also the forum for awarding the Edward Teller Medal, which recognizes pioneering research and leadership in the use of laser and ion-particle beams to product unique high-temperature and highdensity matter for scientific research and for controlled thermonuclear fusion. Award recipients at this year's conference were Riccardo Betti, director of the Fusion Science Center at the Laboratory for Laser Energetics, and Ed Moses, director of NIF at LLNL.

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#### Wade Becomes New AMEM for NSO

The U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) Environmental Management Program welcomes Scott A. Wade as the new Assistant Manager for Environmental Management (AMEM). In his capacity as the AMEM, Scott is responsible for managing the cleanup of contaminated areas/facilities and radioactive waste disposal at the Nevada Test Site.

Prior to joining the Environmental Management team, Scott was the Acting Director of the Yucca Mountain Site Office as well as the Director of the Office of Facility Operations. In these positions, he had responsibility for management and operation of the Yucca Mountain site, field engineering, environment, safety and health compliance, property management, and fleet operations.

Wade also served as the Acting Director of the Infrastructure Management Office, with responsibility for construction planning and execution of repository and rail assets.

Wade has worked in various technical staff positions for government contractors; including those that support the Nevada Test Site and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. According to Stephen Mellington, NNSA/NSO manager, "Scott possesses the unique combination of experience and entrepreneurship that we look for in every assistant manager."

Wade is a native of Las Vegas, and has a Bachelor's in chemistry from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is a Certified Environmental Manager and a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager. "My education and experience provide for a fresh perspective and opportunity to enhance Environmental Management activities at the Nevada Test Site," Wade said.

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Acronyms

#### The following acronyms appear frequently in SiteLines:

BEEF	Big Explosives Experimental Facility
стоѕ	Counter Terrorism Operations Support
DAF	Device Assembly Facility
DOE	Department of Energy
EM	Emergency Management
EM	Environmental Management
ES&H	Environment, Safety, and Health
FRMAC	Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center
JASPER	Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (gas gun)
LANL	Los Alamos National Laboratory
LLNL	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
NNSA	National Nuclear Security Administration
NSO	Nevada Site Office
NSTec	National Security Technologies, LLC
NTS	Nevada Test Site
ΡΙΡ	Process Improvement Project
R-MAD	Reactor Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly Facility
RSL-A	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Andrews
RSL-N	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Nellis
SC	NNSA Service Center
SCE	Subcritical Experiment
SNJV	Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture
SNL	Sandia National Laboratories
STL	Special Technologies Laboratory
WSI	Wackenhut Services Inc.



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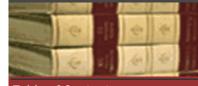
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#### Masthead

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