

# BWXT announces new medical isotope manufacturing process

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Although BWX Technologies, Inc. (BWXT) is best known in the Aiken area for its work at the Savannah River Site, the company is also involved in diverse nuclear operations and initiatives in North America and overseas. One of its newest projects relates to the critical medical isotopes industry.

In May of this year, BWXT announced that it had developed an innovative and unique process to manufacture molybdenum-99 (Mo-99) that will enable a stable, North American supply of this diagnostic imaging radionuclide.

Mo-99 is the parent radioisotope of technetium-99m (Tc-99m), which is used globally in more than 30 million medical procedures every year.

The heart of the new proprietary technology features a patent-pending radiochemistry process developed by BWXT scientists and engineers.

The process will use molybdenum rather than uranium targets, which will mitigate radioactive waste streams, eliminate nuclear proliferation concerns and lead to a significant reduction in production and waste costs.

This new medical isotope technology is expected to provide a reliable domestic supply of Mo-99 and Tc-99m for North America, which supports the U.S. Department of Energy / National Nuclear Security Administration's initiative to derive Tc-99m from sources not requiring highly enriched uranium.

Rex D. Geveden, BWXT's president and chief executive officer, said the announcement "demonstrates our company's ability to leverage a traditional competency – radiochemical manufacturing in this case – to pivot into an exciting and growing adjacent market with an immediate competitive advantage."

He continued, "This new capability will greatly increase the accessibility of vital



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

medical diagnostic tools and satisfy important national security non-proliferation objectives."

BWXT plans to introduce the Mo-99

product line by the end of 2019, subject to regulatory approvals, and intends to apply its expertise to a variety of other medical and industrial isotopes.

**SAVANNAH RIVER SAFETY SUMMIT**  
October 16, 2018  
Savannah Rapids Pavilion

Join safety professionals, operations managers and other community leaders in exploring the paths to safer work environments. Hear about the latest research and trends in industrial and radiation safety from educators and professionals. Share lessons learned with colleagues who are focused on improving safety in their activities.

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM - Network/Registration  
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM - Program

Event is free to anyone who registers.  
To register, visit: [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) for "Savannah River Safety Summit."

Savannah Rapids Pavilion  
1350 Evans to Locks Road  
Martinez, GA 30907

Partners

ETEBA  
CNTA

For more information contact ETEBA at [tempeba.org](http://tempeba.org).

## More than 200 expected to attend Savannah River Safety Summit

Event will be held Oct. 16 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Savannah Rapids Pavilion

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One of the many area activities planned during Nuclear Science Week is the Savannah River Safety Summit. On Tuesday, Oct. 16, more than 200 area safety professionals, technicians, managers and others from commercial and government organizations are expected to attend the summit to learn more about the safety culture at Savannah River and other nuclear facilities in the region.

The day-long summit is being held at Savannah Rapids Pavilion in Martinez, Georgia, and will feature a keynote speaker, four sessions focused on nuclear safety, a safety expo and more.

The event has been organized by members of the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) community.

Partners for the event include the U.S. Department of Energy-Savannah River (DOE-SR); the Energy, Technology, and Environmental Business Association (ETEBA); and Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA).

"This is a great way for the CSRA community to become more aware of safety practices at Savannah River, learn how area nuclear facilities maintain a healthy safety culture, and enjoy learning about some of our local companies that provide safety products and services," said Tim Griffin, ETEBA Executive Director and a member of the summit's planning committee.

The event's organizers plan is to develop this summit into an annual event.