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GUSS, DAYKIN, BAKER EARN NNSS DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST/ENGINEER POSITIONS

LAS VEGAS – The Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) has just selected two senior principal scientists and one senior principal engineer to be recognized as “Distinguished” in their elevated positions:

- Paul Guss, formerly senior principal scientist now Distinguished Scientist, Innovative Technologies, Remote Sensing Laboratory
- Ed Daykin, formerly senior principal scientist now Distinguished Scientist, Diagnostic Research & Materials Studies, Defense Experimentation & Stockpile Stewardship (DESS)
- Stuart Baker, formerly senior principal engineer now Distinguished Engineer, Diagnostic Instrumentation, DESS

The Distinguished Scientist and Distinguished Engineer positions signify an exceptional role in the scientific or engineering community. At NNSS, these employees are honored for defining cutting-edge projects that have impact on the Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration’s mission at the Site. Their requirements include conceiving, planning and conducting pioneering work in otherwise unexplored areas; exercising technical leadership creativeness and judgment to prove or disprove the feasibility of ideas and devices; and developing, defining and modifying strategic research objectives in the course of planning and conducting innovative work.

Further, these employees serve as expert advisors and consultants to internal and external senior management, and develop and communicate long-range technical positions and strategies within defined corporate goals.

“This new recognition program honors employees who represent the elite technical contributors of our organizations. In their jobs, they are working on our future” said Raffi Papazian, National Security Technologies vice president for Program Integration. “What we looked for in the nomination phase were candidates who are delivering the next generational deliverables supporting their projects. They’re ahead of the curve, working beyond state-of-the-art on projects that are real-world and support national security needs.”

MORE

DISTINGUISHED..... Page 2

Dr. Paul Guss has more than 25 years of scientific and management experience with the U.S. Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Nevada Field Office contractors. His prior experience includes several leadership and technical positions, including operating the Andrews Air Force Base Office of the Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL), and leading several operational and research projects. Recently, he successfully executed the Global Security End to End Warhead Monitoring Campaign project (for which he won a Project Excellence Award last year), and is working on the unmanned aerial system at RSL and the Site.

Ed Daykin is responsible for the innovation and development of the MPDV (Multiplexed Photon Doppler Velocimeter) as well as contributing to deploying this diagnostic on integrated stockpile stewardship experimentation for the first time. He is the lead physicist responsible for adapting a highly complex Fabry-Perot electro-optic velocimetry diagnostic method into a remotely controlled, fieldable system at U1a. These experiments defined a strategic path for the National Security Laboratories to conduct future experiments at the NNSA. He also co-developed a time-of-arrival electro-optic diagnostic, which was applied to explosively driven pulsed power flux compression generators in order to evaluate this platform for future isentropic compression experiments at the NNSA, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Los Alamos National Laboratory. His work has won the R&D 100 Award in 2012, an NSTec President's Award, and several times, NNSA Defense Programs Awards of Excellence.

Stuart Baker's current activities positioned his imaging team as corporate leaders in high-speed imaging and developmental radiographic systems. His special passion is directed toward multi-laboratory collaborations and identifying new activities. Emphasis is placed on operational system performance with application of system models, and experimental data analysis in preparation for system review and deployment. "Bringing my position to this next level will enable corporate growth of our core radiographic and imaging capability," he says. His work includes dynamic stereo surface imaging for subcritical experiments at U1a, double pulse radiographic imaging at LLNL, FXR (Flash X-ray), and supporting development of the four-shooter soft X-ray imaging system at the Los Alamos Office.

MORE

DISTINGUISHED... Page 3

The Nevada National Security Site and its related facilities help ensure the security of the United States and its allies by: supporting the stewardship of the nation’s nuclear deterrent; providing nuclear and radiological emergency response capabilities and training; contributing to key nonproliferation and arms control initiatives; executing national-level experiments in support of the National Laboratories; working with national security customers and other federal agencies on important national security activities; and providing long-term environmental stewardship of the NNSS’s Cold War legacy.

The NNSS falls under the jurisdiction of the National Nuclear Security Administration, a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The Site’s operations are government-controlled and contractor-operated. They are overseen by DOE’s Nevada Field Office, headquartered in North Las Vegas.

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