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NNSA, SMALL BUSINESS HELP RESHAPE Y-12

Oak Ridge, Tenn. -- While the National Nuclear Security Administration's focus on modernizing the Y-12 National Security Complex has not wavered, a recent construction project has yielded what can only be described as a historic replica.

When plans were made to create the Technical Support Facility, a 13,500 sq. ft. office building that will house a portion of Y-12's Engineering and Maintenance organizations, NNSA's Y-12 Site Office decided to incorporate their ongoing historic preservation efforts into the building's design.

The façade of the Technical Support Facility was modeled after the Alpha and Beta buildings that surround it. The Alpha and Beta buildings originally housed the calutrons used to enrich the uranium for "Little Boy," the first atomic weapon, during the Manhattan Project. The design incorporated key architectural features of the larger buildings, including the layout of the brickwork and the types of windows used.

Keeping in line with history again, NNSA employed the services of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who were the original overseers of Y-12's construction in 1943, to procure and manage the construction efforts. In order to utilize the talents of a small business, the Corps awarded the construction work to STEP, Inc., a local minority-owned small business, while the design was performed by Jacobs Engineering.

NNSA Program Manager Bob Edlund said the project, completed on time and under budget was a success because of the cooperation of all the parties involved, especially BWXT Y-12, who provided support throughout the project, including design and safety reviews, inspections for code compliance, and utility services assistance. BWXT Y-12 is the contractor who operates the Y-12 National Security Complex for NNSA

"BWXT Y-12 really stepped up to the plate to make this project succeed," he said. "This is the largest project to date through the Y-12 Site Office's Small Business Initiative. By being able to tap BWXT Y-12's experience and expertise working with multiple-party projects like this, Y-12 now has a modern facility that pays homage to our historic past."

Construction of the Technical Support Facility was funded through the NNSA's Facilities and Infrastructure Recapitalization Program. The mission of the NNSA's Y-12 Site Office is to ensure the safe, secure and cost-effective operation of the Y-12 National Security Complex -- a unique manufacturing facility that plays a key role in the United

States Nuclear Weapons Complex. YSO employees perform program oversight, contract management and evaluation to meet national security missions, while ensuring the health and safety of employees and the public.

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