



## **Y-12 Site Office News Release**

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# **MAJOR MILESTONE ACHIEVED IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS STOCKPILE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM AT Y-12**

**Oak Ridge, Tenn.** – The Y-12 National Security Complex has completed a major milestone in efforts to refurbish components for a strategic nuclear weapons system. Y-12 is a key facility in the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Complex and is responsible for ensuring the safety and reliability of the nation’s nuclear weapons stockpile.

In ceremonies held today at Y-12, Tom D’Agostino, deputy administrator for Defense Programs for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), expressed his thanks for the team effort by both Y-12 and other key facilities in the complex. “This is truly a complex wide team, and the milestone achieved by Y-12 is the culmination of several years of cooperative planning, development, engineering and testing by the national laboratories and Y-12. Los Alamos and Sandia National laboratories and Pantex, Kansas City, Savannah River and Y-12 all play a key role in the B61 Life Extension Program.”

In late March, employees at Y-12 completed their portion of work on the first production unit for the B61 Life Extension Program (LEP). Y-12’s role involves the manufacture of the canned subassembly or secondary -- the second stage of modern thermonuclear weapons. The canned subassembly is shipped from Y-12 to Pantex for final assembly. Delivery of the B61 LEP first production unit from Pantex is planned for June 2006

The B61 is a nuclear bomb and can be carried on several types of military aircraft. The B61 LEP will extend the life of this strategic bomb for an additional 20 years.

The Y-12 work is a key part of the National Nuclear Security Administration’s Stockpile Stewardship Program that emphasizes development and application of greatly improved technical capabilities to assess the safety, security and reliability of existing nuclear warheads without the use of nuclear testing.

Doug Dearolph, acting site manager for the NNSA Y-12 Site Office, said, “This would not be possible without the work of the Y-12 employees who provided the skills necessary to produce a quality product. Standing behind that work and making it

possible are multiple teams and individuals across Y-12 who planned and devised manufacturing processes and solved tough technical problems.”

George Dials, president and general manager of BWXT Y-12, said “We are on schedule with this milestone and moving forward in the B61 LEP. Y-12 is proud of this achievement and we congratulate the employees who have worked hard to make this happen.”

Y-12’s Stockpile Life Extension Programs are directed toward the production of refurbished and or replaced weapons components. Activities include production of materials and parts, activities supporting direct manufacturing specifications and procedures, and training people needed to meet steady-state production rates.

Production ramp-up activities associated with this program will continue this year, with full production to begin in FY 2007. The B61 refurbishment program at Y-12 is scheduled to be completed by the end of FY 2008.

The Y-12 National Security Complex, managed and operated by BWXT Y-12 for the National Nuclear Security Administration, manufactures nuclear weapons components and subassemblies for the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration. BWXT Y-12 is a limited liability enterprise of BWX Technologies and Bechtel National, Inc.

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