Thomas L. Sanders, PhD

Associate Laboratory Director for Clean Energy Initiatives,
Savannah River National Laboratory

EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin
PhD, Nuclear/Mechanical Engineering

University of Texas at Austin
Master of Science in Nuclear/Mechanical Engineering

University of Texas at Austin
Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering

EXPERIENCE

Dr. Thomas (Tom) L. Sanders is the Associate Laboratory Director for Clean Energy Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), operated by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), LLC. In this position, he is responsible for developing new opportunities for the Lab in energy technology development.

Dr. Sanders was elected to a three year term as Vice President and President and Board Executive of the American Nuclear Society in 2008. Made rebuilding U.S. nuclear export industry through the development of Small Modular Reactors as his ANS executive initiative. Testified to Congress, Blue Ribbon Commission, and Secretarial Officers from DOE, DOS, DoD, NRC, and other agencies. Recently appointed to a second term on the Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee (CINTAC), which serves the Secretary of Commerce on trade issues facing the U.S. civil nuclear industry. Recently elected to the International Nuclear Energy Academy (INEA). Chosen as a U.S. member of Russian President Medvedev's Global Energy Prize Committee. Co-founder and former Vice President of the American Council on Global Nuclear Competitiveness. Retired from Sandia National Laboratories after almost 27 years of service. Managed major Sandia initiatives related to the Global Nuclear Future from 1997 to 2011. Organized numerous focus meetings with senior government policy officials on the need for a second nuclear era, from a national security perspective. As the leader of the Global Nuclear Futures vision, led the development of topical meetings, policy papers, news articles, partnership events with other countries and non-government organizations, and caucus events on Capitol Hill to articulate that a healthy and thriving U.S. nuclear energy infrastructure (from education to labs, suppliers, operators, and NGOs) is key to global proliferation risk management in the future. Developed a complementary partnership initiative between 7 U.S. and 9 Russian Lab Directors. This message has been delivered at Presidential summits, White House and Congressional briefings, and to numerous champions throughout government, industry, labor, and academia. Contributed to and managed several technical groups and programs at Sandia since joining in 1984. Authored over one-hundred journal articles, conference papers, magazine articles, and white papers covering all aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle, from fusion and fast fission breeder reactor systems to criticality safety of spent fuel transport, storage, and disposal systems. Completed Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy Degrees in Mechanical/Nuclear Engineering at the University of Texas (UT) in Austin, Texas. While at UT, licensed as a Senior Reactor Operator by the NRC. Also served as a nuclear operator and supervisor on U.S. Navy Nuclear Submarines for several years, completing several patrols on the USS Kamehameha, and the USS Shark. Also qualified as a journeyman shipyard electrician. Member of ANS, ASME, ACGNC, and INMM.