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Mission Support Alliance

The Hanford cleanup mission is an undertaking of monumental proportions resulting from more than four decades of plutonium production. What you might not be aware of is the scope and scale of the infrastructure that is critical to successfully supporting cleanup.

Hanford is a very large and complex city in and of itself. There are over 500 miles of road that require year-round maintenance and repair. Hundreds of buildings and structures totaling 2.4 million square feet require up-keep and utility services such as electricity, sewer, and water from its own water treatment plant. And, communications systems that serve as the backbone for all business communications and emergency response across the 586-square-mile site to include its own elite security force and fire department that responded to 32 fires this past year alone.

The Mission Support Alliance (MSA) is responsible for managing and operating this expansive infrastructure and the support services associated with it for the Department of Energy (DOE). In fact, it is the first contract of its kind—dedicated solely to infrastructure management—across the DOE complex.

Add to this what I like to refer to as the ‘new reality’—a time of unprecedented budget challenges and unemployment nationwide and you might say we are bracing for the perfect storm. I prefer to view it as a silver lining by looking at this new reality as a time of new opportunity for Hanford and the Tri-Cities.

As integrator of site services, we approach the mission with innovation and work closely with DOE and Hanford cleanup contractors to understand their pain points, coordinate their individual project requirements and offer solutions that make a difference in cleanup performance and productivity.

Our approach is paying dividends. In 2010, MSA generated over \$21 million in cost savings as a result of its Lean Six Sigma business practices and the application of technologies in infrastructure operations. These efficiencies were returned to cleanup in the form of rate reductions or re-invested in previously unfunded critical infrastructure projects. MSA also invested over \$4 million of its own funds on infrastructure improvements and innovation to include the new Portfolio Analysis Center of Excellence, or PACE. This world-class technological collaboration and conference space, for the first time, gives Site managers a holistic view of cleanup progress across contractor boundaries, work scope and budgets.

Other examples include expanding Wi-Fi availability nearly ten-fold across the Site. This increased wireless coverage from 41 to 359 square miles, making information access available in even the most remote areas

without the need for physical infrastructure. MSA was able to mobilize more than 3,000 Recovery Act new hires accelerating the time it took to get them on the job site from weeks to a matter of hours.

Green is good! MSA reduced its own CO2 emissions 36% by using alternative fuels and introduced hybrid vehicles to our fleet. MSA is also expanding the green approach consolidating buildings and servers to reduce its own footprint by over 50% and power consumption by over 65%. This not only helps conserve precious natural resources, it also positions our community for potential expansion in the attractive and rapidly growing clean energy market.

Looking ahead, MSA is structured to seamlessly support DOE's 2015 Vision for cleanup and footprint reduction.. Achieving the 2015 Vision is not the end point but rather the beginning of the next phase. MSA will play a critical role in this new phase and infrastructure innovations will be key to success. Specifically, this means infrastructure modernization to support future operations such as the Waste Treatment Plant and its pre-treatment predecessor, continued implementation of 'green' technologies and practices to help minimize environmental impact and enhance sustainability, and where possible, elimination or re-direction of assets or services due to demolition and removal.

With an eye toward a post-cleanup future, MSA is partnering with DOE, Site contractors and the community to support Hanford's long-term mission transformation. From implementation of future land use planning to workforce re-training and transition, MSA is prepared to once again turn new realities into new opportunities.

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