NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Merrick & Company Awarded Project in Ontario, Canada

Aurora, CO - November 11, 2011 – Merrick & Company has been selected to design the new post irradiation examination (PIE) shielded facilities ("hot cells") to be located in the Tandem Accelerator Building 32 at McMaster University, Ontario, CA. The project is in support of the development of the Centre for Advanced Nuclear Systems (CANS). CANS is a regional center unlike any other worldwide as it will provide a unique world class capability to advance research in three focus areas: nuclear materials, nuclear safety thermal hydraulic behavior, and health physics materials. As a multi-institutional resource, CANS is comprised of three facilities including nuclear materials, thermal testing, and health physics.

The PIE facility will be used to conduct materials development and testing characterization and analysis that will investigate the mechanical behavior of existing and newly developed materials (including irradiated in-reactor core components, GEN IV materials and technology), and to conduct isotope material research. Included is a suite of shielded enclosures (hot cells) with in-cell equipment for machining, testing preparation, and examining samples of irradiated materials, as well as enclosures to house transmission electron microscope (TEM) and scattering electron microscope/focused ion beam (SEM/FIB) instruments.

Merrick will design a suite of hot-cells that will be fabricated and installed in an existing building at the university. The design will consist of six hot cells and an adjacent room to house the test equipment and electron microscopes. Since materials that will be examined in the facility will be highly radioactive, the facility will be designed to protect the operators by separating them from the test specimens. This will be accomplished by including shielded walls, shielded windows, and manipulators in the design to allow remote handling of the test materials by the operators.

Merrick & Company is a $125 million engineering, architecture, design-build, surveying, and geospatial solutions firm, serving domestic and international clients in the energy, national security, life sciences, and sustainable infrastructure markets. The firm is committed to sustainable design and construction practices through its 60+ LEED-accredited professionals and is continually expanding its in-house resources to serve tomorrow's needs. The employee-owned company maintains 10 offices in the U.S. as well as offices in Canada and Mexico.

More information about Merrick & Company is located at the Merrick & Company Newsroom.

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