

Expansion of CSI's Nuclear Screening Center Anticipates Industry's Renaissance

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Since establishing itself in the mid-1980s as a preferred background screening vendor for the highly regulated nuclear industry, CSI has steadily increased the percentage of its clientele in that sector. CSI's prominence in the nuclear screening arena was greatly enhanced by the appointment of an industry expert as Director of Nuclear Operations in October 2003 and the establishment of its Nuclear Screening Operations Center in Chapin, South Carolina in August 2004. As a result of tremendous growth in just the past three years, CSI is pleased to report the expansion of both the office space and staff of its SC Nuclear Screening Operations Center, which was initiated earlier this year.

The primary impetus behind opening a dedicated nuclear screening facility in Chapin was to better process the progressively specialized industry investigations in a more centralized and geographically convenient location for many of CSI's nuclear clients. The recent expansion both continues to fulfill this commitment and also favorably positions CSI to meet the future demand anticipated by the current resurgence of government and corporate interest in developing this power source.

With the signing into law of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the federal government has committed \$6 billion in research and construction subsidies and \$6 billion in tax credits for companies building new plants. The US Department of Energy has also earmarked \$260 million to offset plant design and application costs. Dozens of energy companies have already indicated their interest in building as many as 31 new reactors, a 30% increase over the 104 reactors currently in service in the US. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has approved standardized plant designs incorporating newer technology and has revamped licensing procedures. The government sponsored Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) proposes to bring nuclear energy to developing nations in return for their promise not to develop their own technology for weapons proliferation. Another \$16 million in study grants has been set aside by the DOE to determine suitable sites for GNEP nuclear reprocessing facilities.

After cost overruns and accidents at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl stalled reactor construction in the US since the late 1970s, nuclear energy is being reconsidered as a stable source of emissions-free power in light of escalating oil and gas prices and global warming concerns. With improvements in plant design and efficiency, and some environmentalists' support, nuclear plant construction is also being viewed as a source of economic development. While the US receives only 20% of its electricity from nuclear reactors, France receives nearly 80% and 10 other nations receive more than 40%. Though nuclear plant construction in the US has been limited to those ordered prior to 1979, of the 322 reactors outside of the US, the majority began operation in the 1980s and active construction continues today.

With safety and security at the core of any discussion of nuclear expansion, CSI recognizes its responsibility to provide the most accurate, comprehensive and timely background investigations related to Access Authorization and Fitness For Duty. With 30 years of experience in investigation and security consulting, and over 20 years servicing the nuclear industry, CSI is fully versed on NRC regulations and adept at adapting the changing requirements of this sensitive sector. CSI's Director of Nuclear Operations, Janet Thiel, is ideally suited to manage and grow the nuclear screening division, with over 20 years of hands-on experience at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station in Jenkinsville, SC in such positions as Security Training Instructor, Security Shift Leader, and Access Control Coordinator, and as a member of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). "Janet's credibility within the industry complements our existing operational philosophy and practices, and instills confidence in our nuclear clientele," says CSI President, Alan T. Sklar. "We look forward to not only meeting the needs but exceeding the expectations created by this emerging opportunity."

As testament to CSI's increasing proficiency in this specialized market, its revenue from nuclear screening has more than tripled in the past three years, doubling in the past year alone. CSI currently services roughly one-third of the US nuclear industry purveyors: 22 of 65 nuclear plants (34%), 33 of 104 nuclear plant units (32%), and 8 of 26 nuclear plant operators (31%). Long-term clients cite CSI's exacting attention to detail, exceptional responsiveness and client service, timeliness, industry knowledge, and ability to meet regulatory requirements as evidenced by CSI's positive performance during annual audits. CSI's corporate office also performs criminal record checks for several power plants in Canada, in compliance with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). While plant operators in that country conduct standard screening internally, the CNSC requires more comprehensive criminal information for persons seeking access with residential history outside of Canada.

CSI's expanded Nuclear Screening Operations Center is located at 103A Beaufort Street, Chapin, SC 29036. To learn more about CSI's nuclear screening services, please contact us at 800-605-1307 or on our web site, www.creativeservices.com.