Expansion of Nuclear Industry Programs at Aiken Technical College

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Program: General Scientific Infrastructure

ABSTRACT:

Project Objectives: To increase the value and effectiveness of the College's Nuclear Quality Systems and Radiation Protection Technician programs, and to enable full implementation of a college program in nuclear welding technology leading to a Nuclear Welding Certification Program.

Project Description: Aiken Technical College (ATC) offers a wide variety of certificate and degree programs, including programs specifically to address the workforce needs of the surrounding area's nuclear power industry. Those programs include certificates and degrees in Nuclear Quality Systems (with emphasis areas in Quality Control and Quality Assurance) and in Radiation Protection Technology. In addition, the College has for many years offered degrees and certificates in welding technology, and has completed planning to implement a program leading the a specialized Nuclear Welding Certification. In order to maximize the effectiveness of its existing nuclear training programs, and to fully implement the Nuclear Welding Certification Program, ATC needs to acquire specialized training equipment appropriate for the unique needs of the nuclear power industry. This one-year project will allow for the acquisition by the College of the following items:

1) Orbital Welder appropriate for nuclear power industry training needs -- $85,000
2) Bevelmaster beveling machine to produce the high quality weld preparations and joints required for use with the Orbital Welder -- $10,000

Potential Impact of the Project: This project will impact more than 1,000 students over the effective life of the equipment requested. In addition, it will produce better trained employees for area nuclear industry employers, and address forecast shortages for worker specialties in nuclear quality, radiation protection, and nuclear welding.

Total Budget for the Project: $95,000