



UCOR's Ken Rueter speaks to University of Tennessee students during an engineering colloquium series. (Photo: DOE)

## OAK RIDGE

### UCOR working to fill cleanup worker pipeline

A significant percentage of the workforce at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee is eligible to retire in the next decade, according to the agency. To address the potential for a staffing shortage, UCOR, the DOE's Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management contractor for cleanup activities at the site, is building a consortium with colleges and universities in the region. The collaboration aims to guide more students toward nuclear-applicable careers to build the next generation of workers for Oak Ridge and the nuclear industry at large.

To date, partnerships have been established with the University of Tennessee, Roane State Community College, Pellissippi State Community College, Benedict College, Florida International University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Murray State University, Tennessee State University, and, most recently, Tennessee Tech University.

Through a partnership with the University of Tennessee's nuclear engineering department and Oak Ridge

Associated Universities, UCOR has established the nation's first minor degree in nuclear decommissioning and environmental management. The first students graduated with that focus in 2018. UCOR then partnered with Roane State to support its efforts to create an associate degree in chemical engineering technology.

UCOR supports the consortium schools by offering the expertise of its executives and subject matter experts. These employees serve on the schools' advisory boards and support curriculum development. In some partnerships, UCOR also provides scholarship endowments and support for first-generation students.

"Developing and maintaining a trained workforce is essential to the future of companies like ours," said Ken Rueter, UCOR president and chief executive officer. "Our industry needs the leaders that this program is producing. In Oak Ridge alone, there are jobs for decades to come associated with environmental cleanup."

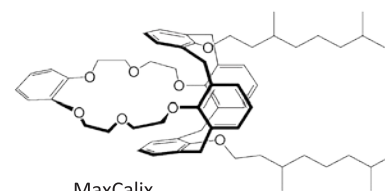
Source Points continues

## Specialty Chemicals for Nuclear Energy Industry

- Nuclear energy is widely accepted as a clean alternative to fossil fuels.
- Further recycling of spent radioactive fuel is an excellent option for minimizing nuclear waste.

### Marshallton Research Laboratories

manufactures specialty chemicals for remediation and recycling of radioactive isotopes in the nuclear energy industry.



MaxCalix

### CESIUM REMOVAL

Calixarene based ligands e.g. MaxCalix are key components for the selective removal of cesium from radioactive waste streams.

### ACTINIDE PARTITIONING AGENTS

Diglycoldiamides, dioxoactanediamides, alkyl phosphonates and diphosphonates can be used to separate actinides, a key step in recycling spent fuel.

### ANALYTICAL REAGENTS

*At Marshallton Research Laboratories, we have decades of experience in synthesis, production and formulation of ligand systems for nuclear applications.*