NICK IRVIN

Director, Research Strategy, Next-Generation Nuclear and Cross-Cutting R&D
Southern Company

Nick Irvin is the director of research strategy, next-generation nuclear and cross-cutting research and development (R&D) for Southern Company. In this capacity, he is responsible for the evaluation, development, demonstration and innovative technologies to support Southern Company's operations in the areas of advanced nuclear technology, hydrogen and alternative energy carriers, technology scouting, and R&D strategy. He also leads Southern Company's engagement in energy R&D collaborative programs with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), as well as an internal portfolio of cross-cutting R&D programs

From 2003 to 2013, Irvin served as a research engineer leading efforts in environmental control technologies, including mercury, acid gas, carbon dioxide and particulate matter control, water treatment, and carbon sequestration. In this role, he delivered many strategic projects including Gulf Power's Mercury Research Center and the 25-megwatt carbon capture and storage demonstration at Alabama Power's Plant Barry conducted in partnership with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. These projects became focal points for the industry's effort to better understand their respective technology, and were widely recognized both nationally and internationally for their contribution to the industry.

Under Irvin's leadership, Southern Company was selected in 2015 by the U.S. Department of Energy to develop an advanced molten salt reactor concept in partnership with TerraPower Inc., a Seattle-based startup.

Irvin began his professional career with Southern Company in the engineering and construction services division as a design engineer supporting the Hatch Nuclear Plant. He later transitioned to construction and startup engineer for the installation of two full-scale selective catalytic reduction units at Alabama Power's Plant Miller, before transitioning to R&D in 2003.

Irvin has represented Southern Company in many external alliances, including as chairman of the Utility Air Regulatory Group's Control Technology Committee and a representative to the Policy Committee of the Generation IV Nuclear International Forum on behalf of the U.S. nuclear industry. A recipient of three Technology Transfer Awards from EPRI, Irvin has demonstrated the ability to lead change through technology innovation throughout his career.

A registered professional engineer, Irvin holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Alabama and a master's degree in chemical engineering from Auburn University.