

Energy policy is prime election priority for engineers

~ research amongst 1,000 engineers suggests McCain's emphasis responsible for his lead in this key policy area ~

Energy policy is the most important consideration for the US's 1.5 million engineers in deciding how to vote for president, according to research by EPCglobal.

The engineering staffing specialist surveyed 1,013 US engineers this week on their policy priorities and found that it is 'very' or 'quite' important for 99% of respondents, just in front of economy / jobs, at number two.

The principal issue within energy that requires a policy response from the candidates is: 'Meeting our future need for more power' (85% believe this issue of primary importance). 'Opportunities presented by 'green collar job' creation' are least likely to be seen as of primary importance (33%).

45% of all respondents believe John McCain has the most effective suite of policies to address the chief long and short term energy-related priorities for the US, but his support falls to 31% amongst female engineers. 27% of all respondents choose Obama but candidate preference is reversed among engineers under 45 years of age (McCain with 33%, Obama with 37%). Significantly, almost one fifth of engineers think neither candidate has the solution.

Respondents were also questioned about their approval of each of the candidates' key energy policies without being told which policy belonged to which candidate. The average approval rating for Obama's 16 key energy pledges is 49%, almost identical to McCain's 19 key energy pledges, at 51%. Obama's most approved is 'Promote the Responsible Domestic Production of Oil and Natural Gas' (75%). The most disapproved pledge is: 'Swap Oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to Cut Prices' (47% disapprove). McCain's most popular policy is 'Promoting And Expanding The Use Of Our

Domestic Supplies Of Natural Gas' (75%), his most disapproved is 'A \$5,000 tax credit for each and every customer who buys a zero carbon emission car' (25% disapprove).

Richard Spragg, VP at staffing company EPCglobal said: "Engineers have been giving us their opinions about the elections and energy appeared to be a salient issue. We wanted to establish just how important the issue is to this large constituency which is exceptionally well equipped to assess the candidates' policies in this area. Both sets of energy policies are broadly similar and are rated almost equally when considered on their own merits. However, the research suggests McCain's emphasis on issues such as energy supply security issues gives him a distinct lead with engineers."

Please visit www.epcglobal.com for the full set of results.

Notes to editors

Research

Carried out between October 22 and October 27 online. 1,013 respondents replied from EPCglobal's candidate database in the US, broadly demographically representative of the US engineering population.

About Modern Professional Services – acquired EPCglobal in October 2008

Modern Professional Services, headquartered in Troy, Michigan, and with offices in Georgia, Ohio and Tennessee, has been offering human resource solutions to the manufacturing marketplace for more than 62 years. For more information, visit its website at www.modprof.com.

About Quality Technical Services

Quality Technical Services, headquartered in Mobile, Alabama, and with offices in Birmingham, Alabama; Greenville, South Carolina; Houston, TX; and New Orleans, Louisiana; has been providing technical staffing services to the engineering & construction management and process industries for over 10 years. For more information, visit its website at www.quality-technical.com.

About MPS Global Training Academy

MPSG Training Academy, headquartered in Troy, Michigan, was formed to provide retraining and job placement opportunities to engineering and design professionals across the United States.

About MPSG Outsourced Staffing Solutions

MPSG Outsourced Staffing Solutions, headquartered in Troy, Michigan, offers creative solutions to industry skill shortages including cross industry talent migration and remote workforce management.

About EPCglobal

EPCglobal specialises in the supply of professionals to engineering and construction

employers around the world. It maintains a 100,000+ strong database of job-seeking engineers and clients include Bechtel, KBR and Network Rail. EPCglobal has offices worldwide in locations such as Houston, Denver, Abu Dhabi and Delhi.
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