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UK nuclear expansion like a second North Sea oil boom
Nuclear power will provide the kind of economic stimulus to the UK economy not seen since the advent of the North Sea oil and gas industry, says John Hutton, Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.
27 March 2008

Fluor's LDK Solar project achieves major safety milestone
Fluor Corporation has announced that its polysilicon project in China for LDK Solar, the world-class solar wafer manufacturer, logged more than 2 million craft hours without a single safety incident effective through to the end of April 2008.
26 June 2008

Power and energy engineers say UK is second rate
The UK has just been ranked near the bottom of an international league of the most attractive places to work. Engineering staffing specialist EPCglobal questioned 1,695 engineers worldwide to help employers understand their chances of plugging skills gaps with overseas talent.
25 June 2008

Rotork launches naval version of market-leading electric valve actuator

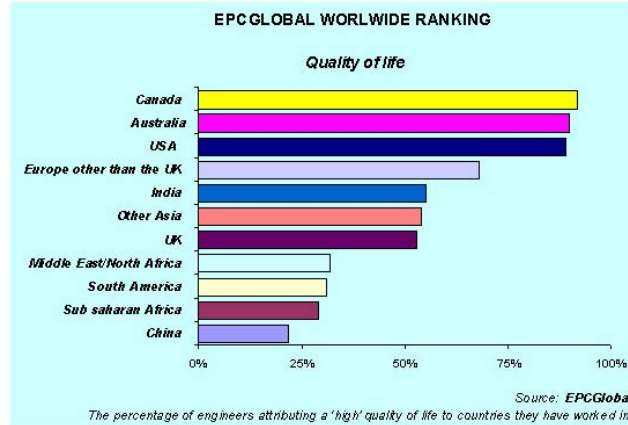
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Power and energy engineers say UK is second rate



The UK has just been ranked near the bottom of an international league of the most attractive places to work. Engineering staffing specialist EPCglobal questioned 1,695 engineers worldwide to help employers understand their chances of plugging skills gaps with overseas talent. 53% of overseas engineers who had worked in the UK rated its quality of life as high, unexpectedly low relative to other locations: overseas power and energy were slightly more likely than average to rate the UK with a high quality of life.

The UK was also surprisingly unlikely to be recommended as a place to work, with 64% doing so. Australia came out top, with 90% and sub saharan Africa bottom (47%). Overseas national engineers who'd worked in the UK were least satisfied with work benefits and hours, the weather, accommodation, affordability and healthcare provision.

Tobias Read, CEO at engineering staffing specialist EPCglobal said: "Several large engineering projects are in the pipeline in the UK. The number of those studying engineering remains flat so the hope expressed to us by employers is that envisaged shortfalls might be plugged by overseas talent in the short to medium term. However, many other countries, regarded by engineers as more appealing than the UK, also hope to attract skilled engineers."

"The results also indicate that holding on to British-trained engineers will also be a challenge, which could compound the problem. Our engineers were the most likely to approve of their experience of working overseas and of those who hadn't, were the keenest to go. Streamlining the immigration process for non-EU engineers in 2008 won't in itself be enough to attract overseas talent. We need to think about other measures to make the UK an attractive place to come to work, or stay working in, weather permitting."

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, the largest of its kind and clients include Bechtel, KBR and Network Rail. EPCglobal, which is headquartered in London UK, has offices worldwide in locations such as Houston, Denver, Abu Dhabi and Delhi.

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