

News Release

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Science and engineering skills are vital to secure the UK's future energy

Following the publication last week of OFGEM's report on energy security, the Energy Institute (EI) has emphasised the importance of scientific and engineering skills to secure the UK's future energy.

"A major rebuild of Britain's energy system will need large numbers of people with science and engineering skills to get the job done. This spells opportunity for rewarding careers and job satisfaction. It also means we have to close the skills gap fast," said James Smith FEI, Chairman of Shell UK and EI President. "Closing the science and engineering skills gap is a big job for government, industry, schools and universities. The skills needed are diverse so apprenticeships for craft skills matter every bit as much as degrees in design engineering. There are great careers for men and for women and we will need to tap into all this talent to secure the UK's future energy."

"As the professional body for the industry, the EI promotes careers in the energy sector. A recent EI/Ipsos MORI survey revealed a high level of job satisfaction among energy employees, mostly due to finding the industry interesting and fulfilling to work for (see notes to editors)".

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Notes to editor:

- Research on skills issues in the energy sector carried out in 2006 by the EI in partnership with Deloitte and Norman Broadband has shown that there is:
 - a steadily decreasing pool of new entrants to the energy market
 - an accompanying decline in the scientific, engineering and technical (SET) skills of these new entrants
 - increasing competition from other industries for these shortage skills
 - decreasing numbers of Science Engineering and Technology (SET) graduates choosing to enter a SET career
 - rapid strides towards large scale retirement year on year
 - lack of experienced hires for key roles in an expanding industry.

Copies of this report are available from jbias@energyinst.org.

- An EI/Ipsos MORI survey carried out in 2007 revealed that:
 - there is a high level of job satisfaction among the energy industry workforce (84% satisfied, of which 39% very satisfied)
 - energy professionals are highly motivated. 75% believed that they made a significant contribution to society by working in the industry.
 - Women still remain too much of a minority, representing only 9% of the respondents
 - 82% believe the public has a poor understanding of the sector

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- The EI has partnered with the Science, Technology, Engineering (STEM) Ambassadors programme to give EI members the opportunity to pass on their knowledge and enthuse young people about careers in energy. The programme is Government-funded and organizes a range of activities for industry to engage with schools. For more information, visit: www.stemnet.org.uk
- The EI has just been approved by the Privy Council to offer the title of Chartered Energy Manager. This is in addition to the EI being licensed to deliver Chartered Engineer, Chartered Petroleum Engineer, Chartered Scientist and Chartered Environmentalist status to its eligible members.

About the EI

- With a membership of over 14,000 individuals and 300 organisations worldwide, the Energy Institute (EI) is the leading chartered professional membership body for those studying and working in energy.
- The EI promotes the safe, environmentally responsible and efficient supply and use of energy in all its forms and applications. In fulfilling this purpose the EI addresses the depth and breadth of energy and the energy system, from upstream and downstream hydrocarbons and other primary fuels and renewables, to power generation, transmission and distribution to sustainable development, demand side management and energy efficiency.
- Offering learning and networking opportunities to support career development, the EI provides a network to all those working in energy, and a scientific and technical bank of knowledge for industry. For further information, please visit www.energyinst.org