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New Independent Report Commissioned by the United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) and Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) Shows Greater Value of Union Labor on Construction Projects

In a new report conducted by the independent international construction project engineering and research firm Independent Project Analysis (IPA), ***union mechanical contractors were found to be 15% more productive*** than non-union contractors with a ***more than 40% reduction in risks of cost and schedule overruns*** compared to non-union contractors.

A crucial finding of the study, which was based on an analysis of 1,550 capital projects on industrial facilities across the United States over the past 20 years, was that the total cost of union projects was ***4% less than non-union***. Simply put, this study found that union contractors complete projects on-time and under budget at much higher rates than non-union contractors.

“The members of the United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters are the best trained and most highly skilled craftspeople in the industry, and we are committed to partnering with our employers to maintain that level of skilled training. It is no surprise that an independent industry firm confirmed what we already know to be true: union training and apprenticeships lead to better outcomes for our members, our employers, and the end users,” **said Mark McManus, General President of the United Association.** “Our investment in training and apprenticeship programs – more than \$270 million in private funding annually – gives our members the edge to consistently provide superior performance at the jobsite. We are proud of our partnership with the MCAA and our signatory contractors and we will continue to deliver the highest quality final product for our end users.”

The IPA project data base study and analysis also found a separate 3% cost advantage premium in subcontracting the craft labor performance as opposed to project owner direct hire of the craft labor.



“MCAA members deploy capital, manage risk, and invest in construction craft and management workforce training to a much greater degree than the non-union sector. Those investments pay dividends for owners in big ways on their union-only projects,” **MCAA President Bob Bolton commented.** “Union-signatory mechanical contractors are substantially more productive and significantly more cost effective, which makes them a more prudent choice for project owners who want to avoid all the attendant risk factors involved in slower and more attenuated non-union projects. Our projects come online quicker, and the owner gets the cost benefits and overall ancillary advantages when their completed facilities go online more quickly.”

The IPA study, “**Quantifying the Value of Union Labor in Construction Projects,**” was commissioned by the Mechanical Industry Advancement Fund (MIAF), a national labor-management cooperative committee with trustees appointed by the UA and the MCAA. IPA is an international consulting firm whose focus is the study of capital projects and what makes them successful. With a database of roughly 21,000 capital projects developed and maintained for international construction project owners across the world, IPA’s engineering professionals track large industrial projects of all types, utilizing some 2,000 specific performance metrics to isolate numerous variables to allow effective measurement of core performance factors, such as labor productivity.

You can download the full report, including methodology, at the [link here](#).

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Robert M. Bolton, President, MCAA

Mark McManus, General President, UA