

SkillsforEnergy

CAREER CASE STUDY

NAME: Emily Spearman CEng FEI

JOB: Head of QHSE PMO

COMPANY: Orsted



Can you describe your current role and the skills you use to undertake it?

I head up the Portfolio Management Office (PMO) for QHSE (Quality, Health, Safety and Environment). This means I oversee all the projects across the world which have a QHSE element. For example, projects can include a global safety campaign to reduce the number of incidents we have, working with our suppliers to 'green' our supply chain or setting up electric vehicles charging points.

I need to take complex information and make it easily understandable. In order to succeed in this role I need to be skilled at making sure we have the right information to make decisions, bringing people onboard with better ways of working and helping them to understand how it will make their lives easier.

How did you get to where you are today?

I chose to study Environmental Engineering at University as I have a love of the environment and problem solving. It was a natural fit which played to my strengths. After graduating I went to work on oil rigs in the north sea and in the USA. I then moved back to the UK and followed my dream of making the world a better place undertaking Environmental and Social Impact assessments all over the world for big projects. I got an MBA and moved into a Commercial Manager role for what was then the world's largest offshore windfarm. After a period of working as an Asset Manager for 5 offshore windfarms, I moved into the operational business, Quality and ultimately QHSE which is where I am now.

Is there anything you would do differently?

Absolutely not! I have worked in many different areas which has given me insight into different parts of the business that I would not have normally been introduced to. It ultimate makes me better at my job as I understand many different aspects both technically and culturally.

What do you enjoy about your current role?

There are so many things! I really believe in what we are trying to do as a company and am playing my part in creating a world that runs entirely on green energy. I enjoy setting the direction and strategy for my team and also getting to support people in their careers and help them grow and realise their potential. I work with so many amazing and talented people from who I learn new things every day and I really like the fact that no two days are the same.

If you could give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be and why?

Do what you enjoy, chances are you will be really good at it and work will feel like a hobby.

What challenges/successes have you experienced so far in your career or pathway to your career?

My biggest recent success was being made a Fellow of the Energy Institute. This is the highest level of membership you can have of an engineering body. At present there are not many women that have managed to achieve this so it feels great to be actively part of the change as more women take the same steps. My biggest challenge was being a female working in a male dominated industry and often being the only female at site. This has changed considerably whilst I have been working as more women come into engineering.

What attracted you to the energy industry?

We will always need energy; we just need to find cleaner ways of getting it. I have always taken an active approach to making things happen and want to create a world which is fit for both humans and nature for centuries to come. The energy sector is a great place to be, there are so many elements to it and there are always exciting jobs to explore whoever you are

What does the future look like for females within the energy industry?

The future is bright. In the time I've been working in the sector I've seen many positive changes and many talented women taking up senior roles. Momentum is picking up and it will continue. The more women we have in the sector the greater is the sound of our voices.

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