

SkillsforEnergy

CAREER CASE STUDY



NAME: Nia Mendel

JOB: Deputy Site Manager - Gwynt Y Mor

COMPANY: Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy

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

I am the Deputy Site Manager of Gwynt Y Mor Offshore Windfarm, one of the largest windfarms in the world.

To be successful in this role you need to be extremely organised, display leadership skills, take ownership in everything you do, manage a large team with ease and collaborate with the customer and senior managers on a daily basis. In this role you wear a lot of different hats!

How did you get to where you are today?

I joined the windfarm as an Administrator. 18 months later I was asked to apply to be a Coordinator and was successful, working 7/7 shifts (seven days at work, seven days off), 12 hour days. I then applied for the new role of Deputy Site Manager two years ago.

Is there anything you would do differently?

In the beginning, I was slightly nervous to be working in a predominately male working environment, at times it caught me off guard until I really took control of my confidence. I look back now and wonder why I was so nervous!

What do you enjoy about your current role?

Every day is different! It's fast paced and exciting every day.



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

You can do anything if you put your mind to it! Don't lose confidence just because you're the only woman on site!

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

As a female, I feel like it has been a difficult journey in comparison to that of a male. We are easily targeted as 'weaker' and less confident in certain scenarios. A number of times I have been challenged by males who are senior to me, spoken to in a disrespectful manner, whereby if I were a male I wouldn't have been spoken to like that.

However, I've learnt to talk without fear – to challenge and to stand for what I believe in. I am extremely proud of my career so far within the company, and I thrive to go further.

What attracted you to the energy industry?

Our company is an attractive company to work for, not only for benefits to you, but you are part of the bigger picture in helping the environment and the world be a better place!

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

We see more and more Technician Apprentices coming through our door to work offshore, the number of women in the back office and management roles are slowly rising.



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