



Meet Priti Patel

Principal Process Engineer

Aker Solutions

Image courtesy of AkerBP

BCECA members provide engineering, design, project management and construction services for the process and energy industries. Aker Solutions solves global energy challenges for future generations. Priti Patel talks about her role in making sure that things go to plan, even in the most difficult locations.

A plan isn't a plan unless it's written down. The need for detailed project planning takes on an entirely new significance when the end goal is to ensure that over 50,000 tonnes of precision engineered equipment is safely and securely installed in the North Sea. Priti is currently working on the 'Hugin A' project, an offshore platform, which forms a key element in the Yggdrasil oilfield complex located on the Norwegian Continental Shelf.

Smooth project execution

"I'm a Chartered Chemical Engineer responsible for creating the process datasheets that are a critical step in ensuring smooth project execution. Without this essential engineering information, the mechanical engineers working on the detailed design would find it impossible to engineer, specify and procure the equipment needed to deliver the project in line with the client's expectations. I am also responsible for ensuring that design safety standards are met at all times."

Empowered to speak out

"We don't stop thinking about safety when a design is signed off. You have to keep your eyes open right up until the project is handed over. Things can sometimes go awry during the construction phase and when on site, I won't hesitate to intervene if I spot unsafe working practices. I've stopped jobs in the past and I'll do it again if needed. Here at Aker Solutions, all staff are empowered to speak out if they spot something that compromises safe working practices."

Rarely a dull moment

"After 25 years in process engineering, it's still fair to say that nothing stays the same for long. I've worked on a wide variety of energy projects, including liquified natural gas installations, gas to liquids technology and oil refining. My involvement has ranged from initial feasibility studies, through front end engineering design (FEED) to delivering projects for different clients in line with the requirements of engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contracts. There's rarely a dull moment."

Deliver solutions

"The energy transition is a massive undertaking that requires working across industries and working in partnerships to succeed. Nonetheless, I'm still motivated to deliver solutions that will provide the safe, affordable, stable energy people and society need today. That's what gets me up in the morning and this is the spirit that I seek to instil in the young engineers that I mentor here at Aker Solutions."

For more information about career prospects in the engineering contracting sector, contact BCECA at 10th Floor, Camelford House, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP

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