INSIDE GDF SUEZ
GDF SUEZ also means unexpected, cutting-edge expertise! Irene, metallurgist and specialist in the evaluation of state-of-the-art materials, talks about her work and career. P3

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FIRST STEPS
Meet Philippe, a young engineer working in Dubai in the Business Development Department of GDF SUEZ’s Energy International business line, after cutting his teeth in various other parts of the Group. P2
**INTERVIEW WITH PHILIPPE WELLSENS**

Philippe is a young engineer from Belgium. He works for GDF SUEZ in Dubai in the International Energy Business Line and works with the South Asia, Middle East and Africa region. How did he join the Group, and what are his plans? He speaks to Human Energies. *Interview.*

**What are your qualifications?**

I trained in mechanical civil engineering at the École Polytechnique of Louvain (Belgium), during which I had the opportunity to spend a year in Sweden at Lunds Tekniska Högskola (Lund University’s Faculty of Engineering) on Erasmus exchange. I loved this international adventure. Once I gained my engineering Masters, I then decided to expand my career horizons with a post-master in Management at the Vlerick Business School (Belgium). The wide variety of subjects taught during this extra year allowed me to get a perspective on my specialised training and broadened my education.

**What has your career path been so far?**

I joined the Group via a programme run by Electrabel (Belgian subsidiary of GDF SUEZ) for young graduates, called the “General Management Traineeship”. This 2-year programme gives each participant the opportunity to work on 4 projects within the subsidiary and/or the Group’s different departments. This was how I took my first steps into the energy world via a project at a nuclear plant in Belgium, followed by 6 months managing the portfolio in Belgium, Holland and Germany, then 6 months within the financial department (AIFA), supporting international investments, and finished up with 6 months in Business Development in Dubai.

I was fortunate at the end of the programme to continue by assuming a role between the Business Development and Strategy departments in Dubai. I have now been in this role for one and a half years.

**Was the “General Management Traineeship” beneficial?**

This programme was extremely useful for several reasons. Leaving education, it is not easy to choose the right company, far less the right department. This programme allows you to assume different roles, which enables you to better understand your skills and preferences. It also enables you to create a network and to get to know the company inside out, in order to become operational much more quickly. The vision of the entire Group and the understanding of its challenges at different levels is really significant and necessary in order to be immediately beneficial.

**Do you work within a team?**

Day to day, I primarily work on “business development” issues, which naturally involves working as a team. The Business Development department handles the coordination of investment and acquisition projects. For each project, the technical, financial and legal elements must be structured into a coherent whole. It therefore frequently happens that I work with the technical, financial and legal members of the team over the course of one day. This guarantees maximum variety in my job – it is one of the aspects I love – and no two days are the same.

**What would you like to do in the future, which direction would you like to move in?**

That’s a question I often ask myself and the answer is constantly changing. The energy market is in a period of dramatic (r)evolution, particularly in the field of renewable and in emerging markets. At the moment I would like to be part of this revolution and to be more involved on solar, wind and geothermic projects, and work on these internationally.
What is your educational and career background?
After completing my Chemical Engineering (Italy) and Materials Engineering (U.K.) studies, I attained my PhD in Metallurgy (U.K.). My PhD research was industrially sponsored by a UK power company in 2000 and focussed on the evaluation of state-of-the-art materials for power generation applications. My career path in industry started in QinetiQ (U.K.) in 2003, where I had the opportunity to take part into a number of challenging and innovative research projects for gas turbine applications. In 2008, I joined in London International Power, which in 2011 became GDF SUEZ Energy International. Working for this company, I feel positively supported towards my own professional development; I have been exposed to many experienced people in different parts of the world.

What is the most interesting and challenging project that you have worked on to date?
Without a doubt, the most interesting and challenging project that I have been involved with to date began four years ago and was completed last year. It was a proof of concept for the manufacturing of advanced gas turbine blades for demonstration purposes, using state-of-the-art casting technology. I was heavily involved with the technical management of the entire supply chain which included different contractors around the world. A number of technical and logistical challenges had to be overcome and it was not easy, but it was truly exciting! I had the unique opportunity to learn a lot about casting technology and to actively contribute towards a very successful project. In the end, we were also awarded an Innovation Trophy by GDF SUEZ in 2013!

What do you see yourself doing within GDF SUEZ in the future?
At present I see myself pursuing my Key Technical Expert career further, as I am currently engaged with some interesting medium-term projects. GDF SUEZ offers a diverse professional environment; I will certainly keep my options open and possibly broaden my horizons, whilst leveraging on my technical expertise.
ADVICE
FROM OUR RECRUITERS

1 Before applying

ON gdfsuez.com, I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GROUP

- Its news
- Its international presence
- Its professions
- Its markets

I GET INFORMATION AT
STUDENT FORUMS

I FOLLOW GDF SUEZ'S NEWS
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

I THINK ABOUT MY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT GDF SUEZ

What career path? What kind of mobility? What training?

I PRACTICE FOR MY INTERVIEW

I UPDATE MY CV
AND COVER LETTER

2 I Apply online

I REFINE MY SEARCH CRITERIA

- Job location, types of activity
- I select relevant experiences for my CV
- If no offer matches my profile, I apply spontaneously

I PREPARE MYSELF FOR AN INTERVIEW

- I smile and remain positive and natural
- I bring copies of my CV and cover letter
- I prepare for the recruiter’s questions

I ATTEND AN INTERVIEW

I ANTICIPATE

Just in case, I arrive 10 minutes early

I THINK ABOUT FOLLOW-UP

I thank the recruiter and ask what’s next

Contact: careers@gdfsuez.com