



Meet Nicola Grieve

Senior Vice President

Aker Solutions

Image courtesy of Aker Solutions

BCECA members provide engineering, design, procurement, project management and construction services to the process and energy industries worldwide. Nicola Grieve talks about how a summer job in a Scottish nuclear power station was the first step towards a senior leadership role at Aker.

With 15,000 employees working in more than 20 countries, Aker Solutions delivers integrated solutions, products, and services to the global energy industry. The Norwegian company, which traces its roots back to 1841, enables low-carbon oil and gas production and develops renewable solutions to meet future energy needs. Nicola has worked for Aker since 2012; she is based at their Chiswick Park office in London.

Early Inspiration

"It all began when I found a summer placement in the maintenance department at the Torness nuclear power station on the east coast of Scotland. This was arranged through a volunteer with the Neighbourhood Engineers programme organised by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE). The people that I worked with proved to be truly inspirational, directly influencing my decision to study mechanical engineering at Edinburgh University. IMechE's role was crucial and an early introduction to the value of professional engineering institutions. I'm now a Chartered Engineer and I've been an IMechE member throughout my career."

International assignments

"After university I joined MW Kellogg (now KBR). I worked on a series of complex projects in the oil and gas industry which took me to site-based assignments in Belgium, Norway, and Japan. I moved to Aker Solutions in 2012, initially in the role of Project Engineering Manager. I was a Platform Manager on the Johan Sverdrup project, one of the largest developments in the North Sea around 160km west of Stavanger. The front-end engineering design (FEED) was executed in 2014, engaging one of the largest FEED teams ever assembled by Aker. It was a successful project and production commenced in 2019, two months ahead of schedule. I'm proud of the part that I played in making sure that a 23,000-tonne structure was delivered as per the project plan. Aker offered a fantastic range of career development opportunities and by 2019 I'd progressed to the post of Head of Strategic Transformations with company-wide responsibility for project resources and materials."

Energy transformation

"Once you've been involved with the delivery of a range of different projects, you realise that whilst they are all different, the core engineering project management principles remain constant. Learning can be transferred and built upon in other applications. Today I'm a Senior Vice President with UK Board accountability for project delivery. This includes leading on the transition to renewables, including responsibility for major offshore wind projects. I have an outstanding team working with me and my job is to empower and enable them to succeed. For me, this is the most fulfilling aspect of my role. They succeed; I succeed; Aker succeeds. We are playing a key role in the energy transformation."

For more information about career prospects in the engineering contracting sector, contact BCECA at 10th Floor, Camelford House, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE17TP

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