



“ Innovation in the transmission and distribution world will be key to accelerating the energy transition. GE's Grid Solutions engineers around the world are hard at work designing and developing the technologies and solutions for the grid of the future. It is my experience that research, and development is more reliable when both genders are involved. I truly believe that viewing a problem from different perspectives is one of the most effective ways of dealing with it.

Vera Silva

Chief Technology Officer (CTO)
of GE Renewable Energy's Grid Solutions



.What is your current job title and responsibilities?



I am Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of GE Renewable Energy's Grid Solutions business, with the privilege to lead a talented team of 3,400 engineers in more than 40 countries around the world. The engineering team is responsible for researching, designing, producing, and delivering world-class products and projects for customers around the globe. Last year, I was honored to be appointed to represent GE as vice-president of innovation at T&D Europe, making me the first woman on T&D Europe's executive committee.

What initially interested you, and lead you to this industry?



When I was 12 years old, my grandfather took me to visit a large power plant where we toured the turbines and generators. The plant leader explained the engineering behind it all. I came away with the feeling that electricity was like magic, transforming water into light and movement by using something so mysterious as electromagnetics. I credit that original spark of curiosity for launching my long career pursuing electrical and electronic engineering.

Do you have any insights or advice for other women who may not know this industry as a potential sector for them?



As a woman in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), I believe we need to do a better job of showing women how crucial STEM fields are for tackling the world's most pressing issues such as climate change and cybersecurity. It's not enough to say that STEM offers excellent career opportunities. We must take it a step further and show young women how STEM can make a difference. Energy and engineering are seeing an enormous diversity in technology combined with a real need for transformation, to enable the energy transition. This can be done better if we have diverse talent among the teams, engineering this transformation.

International Women's Day 2021

Do you have any insights into what could be done to encourage more women into this sector?



For years women have been underrepresented in STEM university courses and occupations. By participating in practical and fun engineering, programming, and scientific activities from an early age, girls can get a clearer understanding of what they could do as an engineering or programmer. It's all about making STEM feel more accessible, welcoming and exciting.

What do you as a woman bring to the industry?



As an engineer and being a minority in the engineering community, I am keenly aware of the importance of inclusive diversity. Creating awareness and actively reaching out to students, the next generation of STEM professionals, can help pave the way toward equality. Fortunately for me, my family has always been my biggest supporter, encouraging my curiosity to learn. It's also important to lead by example, to show how different women thrive in this field and take on roles with increasing responsibility. Role models are important to demonstrate that women can succeed in this field.

Where do you see yourself in five years? What is the big goal?



My big goal is to continue to explore and learn, that is my life's passion. I would like to pursue what I am doing in technical leadership roles, expanding into areas within renewable energy and the future of energy. While I have enjoyed being in the role of trailblazer for most of my career, I am determined to continue to encourage girls to realise that they can be just as successful as boys in STEM fields.
