

## Women of reference: Meeting Andrea García Gilmet



Andrea García Gilmet, technician in the Mechanical Installations Unit of COMSA Industrial's Technical department.

Andrea García Gilmet is a member of the Mechanical Installations Unit of COMSA Industrial's Technical department. She began her career in the company in June 2005 as a site manager, a role she held until 2012. During that time, she not only supervised and managed projects, but also faced the crisis in the construction sector. After a maternity leave, Andrea found her way to the Technical Area, where she has continued until today, performing the functions of technical advice to the other departments, making technical proposals to optimise the costs of the works,

and monitoring documentation for obtaining licenses, among others.

Throughout her years in the company, Andrea has learned the importance of listening to and collaborating with her colleagues, whom she thanks for the help she has received throughout this time. She recognises the value of knowledge gained through experience and the importance of humility in the work environment. Andrea has worked with almost every department in the company, which has allowed her to develop empathy and a comprehensive understanding of how the company works, which is essential for her daily work.

What motivates her most in her work is the diversity of challenges she faces every day. Problem solving, innovation and the implementation of new technologies in projects mean that her work is never monotonous. "In this job you never get bored!" she says. From a young age, Andrea showed an interest in the world of construction and engineering, influenced by her interest in fixing things at home, taking things apart and putting them back together again.

In terms of references, Andrea remembers Rosalind Franklin as an example of the terrible injustice suffered by many women who have dedicated themselves to science throughout history. "Franklin

contributed enormously to the discovery of the double helix structure of the DNA molecule. Her colleagues Crick, Watson and Wilkins used some of her work to complete the study and received the 1962 Nobel Prize in Medicine for it, but because Franklin had died of ovarian cancer in 1954, she was not included as a co-author," she explains. "The treatment of our women scientists at that time was appalling, and in this case, in my view, there was a profound lack of professional ethics," she says.

Although Andrea has not faced complex situations as a woman, she has experienced the loneliness of being one of the few women in a predominantly male-dominated sector. She has had to constantly prove herself and face practical challenges, such as the lack of adequate on-site facilities during her pregnancies and the difficulty of reconciling work and family life. Despite these obstacles, her passion and dedication have never wavered.

Andrea stresses the need for female role models in engineering to inspire new generations. "In my personal case, my children see it as something very normalised that their mother is an engineer. In fact, at home, if something needs to be fixed, they always come to me. But it's not the norm," she says. She herself serves as an example to her children and

**"The presence of women in the engineering sector is important, because they can contribute points of view that are unthinkable for men".**

colleagues, demonstrating that women can and should be involved in technical areas. Andrea advocates equal opportunities for women at all levels of the company and strongly believes in the importance of diversity of perspectives in engineering.