

## Women of reference: Meet Elena Barros Villar



Elena Barros Villar, head of COMSA Service's North Central Operations department.

Elena Barros began her professional career in the company in April 2010 in the Technical Office department, where she was in charge of preparing and submitting bids for maintenance tenders, and carrying out visits to potential customers. After this stage, in which she got to know the company in depth, she held the position of technical manager of Maintenance in the Operations department, managing various contracts of the delegation. Later, within the same department, she was promoted to Operations Manager, where she was in charge of supervising the work and economic teams of the delegation.

Since January, Elena has been the head of the North Central Operations department and has been responsible for securing the client portfolio, managing the delegation's human team and controlling the margin and production, as well as being the link between the client and the company, establishing relations with the various suppliers and ensuring compliance with Occupational Health and Safety regulations.

During her professional career, Elena has had **the opportunity to get to know the company from different departments**, which has allowed her to obtain a comprehensive vision of the company and to establish relationships with numerous colleagues. Through these experiences, she has acquired many skills, both in communication and in operational and economic areas. However, she highlights her learning in personnel management, both internally and with clients, as it has **enriched her personally, helping her not only to get to know herself better, but also to learn how to react to different situations**.

For Elena, dealing with people is her motivation. She says that every day is a new lesson and a continuous learning process, and she stresses how lucky she is to be able to count on her team, which is the basis of her work: **'We are a team and that's what I like most,**

**being able to work in coordination with other people with the same objectives and to get a good job done'**.

Her entry into the maintenance sector was the result of chance. Previously, Elena worked in an architecture and engineering firm, where she was in charge of designing installations and projects, a less dynamic area than maintenance, she says. When she moved to Madrid, the opportunity arose to enter this sector, and she decided to take the step towards a new professional stage.

Although women are a minority in this sector, Elena has had the **confidence of her managers and colleagues from the very beginning**, which has allowed her to feel supported in this respect. However, she has had to face many challenges on a professional level, as **there are still gender-related situations and behaviours in the world of work that, although considered 'normal', must disappear, she stresses**. According to Elena, although raising awareness of these behaviours and education in this area contributes to eradicating inequalities, there is still a long way to go.

Elena stresses the importance of increasing the presence of women in the sector and her commitment to professional growth: **'The sector**

**'The sector already has brilliant women, but we are a minority and there should be many more'**.

**already has brilliant women, but there should be many more as we are still a minority. It is a field in which you can learn a lot, both technically and in management and decision-making, so you can acquire many skills and competencies. I think it is a very complete profession in which it is worth developing and in which I hope to continue to grow'**.