



Engineering  
our future

**Name:** Roisin Quinn

**Age:** 28

**Job Role:** Future Requirements Manager Balancing Services (Energy Operations, Network Operations)

**What does your job involve?**

Electricity supply and demand must be balanced minute by minute. To achieve this National Grid procures a suite of services known as Balancing Services from generators and large demand consumers, enabling the Control Room to manage plant losses and demand forecast errors. In the Future Requirements department, we assess the requirements for these products for the next two years and out to 2020/2030. The group has two teams: Future Balancing Services Incentive Scheme (BSIS) and Future Services.

The Future BSIS forecasts costs and requirements for 2010/11/12. We work closely with colleagues in the Commercial team to agree an incentive scheme target and structure with Ofgem.

The Future Services team is focused on more long-term issues, considering the impact of the changes the electricity industry is facing over the coming years. We are working to understand the impact of increased wind penetration, more interconnection and changes to demand profiles on the system balancing. We will assess changes needed to the current suite of services and are looking to develop new services to ensure management of the transmission system is still possible, and possible at optimal cost.

**How long have you been working at National Grid?**

Five years

**What inspired you to study engineering?**

I liked Maths and science subjects but wasn't sure which field I wanted to pursue. I wanted to study an applied science, as I enjoyed seeing the practical application of sciences.

I chose to study engineering at University College Dublin, where the first year was a year of general engineering subjects. This allowed me to get a taste of various disciplines. I choose Electrical Engineering as I could see the value this profession added to society and the requirement for the skills of this profession in the future.



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**Detail your career path so far**

*(This is taken from the submissions for Times Top 50 Where Women Want to Work)*

I joined the National Grid graduate programme in September 2004 having graduated with a first class honours degree in Electrical Engineering. The Graduate Programme gave me the opportunity to work in a wide range of areas – gas distribution, transmission asset management and electricity control strategy. In one of my placements I was given the challenge to test emergency communications between National Grid and Scottish Power.

On completion of the graduate programme I was appointed as a Power Systems Engineer for the National Delivery Team. This role involved carrying out power system studies to simulate pre and post fault flows on the transmission system. I was active in managing the system during the storms of January 2007 and the Yorkshire floods in July 2007.

In January 2008 I was given the opportunity to get involved in a strategic project to develop a new analysis tool for use in planning, design and control. This role enabled me to develop skills in project management as well as the opportunity to lead a virtual team.

I returned to my old team in November 2008 but this time as a Team Leader.

In April 2009 I was promoted to my current role as Future Requirements Manager. My teams are responsible for forecasting the costs of system balancing and assessing the impact of significant changes to the electricity industry and transmission system over the coming years.

Throughout my career I has been actively involved in Imagineering, an educational programme designed to encourage school children to be excited about careers in engineering. I represented National Grid on the All Party Parliamentary Engineering and Information Technology Group, a group chaired by Lord Broers and focused on encouraging training, recruitment and retention of engineers.

**Would you encourage others to consider an engineering career?**

Absolutely. Engineering is key in all aspects of life, from roads to lighting operating theatres. It provides a challenging and rewarding career.

**How would you sum up your job in three words?**

Challenging, interesting and rewarding.