

## BCECA members provide engineering, design, procurement, project management and construction services to the process and energy industries. Bechtel's Caroline Metcalf reflects on 35 years in the sector.

Bechtel celebrated 125 years in business in 2023. Founded by Warren A. Bechtel in San Francisco in 1898, Bechtel is one of the world's best-known engineering, construction and project management partners. The company has helped its clients complete more than 25,000 projects in 160 countries on all seven continents. Caroline is a Senior Business Development Manager working on energy transition projects out of Bechtel's UK office in West London.

## **Chemical engineering roots**

"I have always wanted to contribute to the world by building things that make a difference. This mindset can be traced back to my degree in chemical engineering at Bradford University in the 1980s. I first joined Bechtel in 1987, and throughout my career, I've lived and worked in more than ten countries and held roles in every project delivery function, including engineering design, construction and contracts. This includes senior project and construction management roles on multi- billion-dollar projects in places like Abu Dhabi and Oman."

## **Providing opportunities**

"I have been fortunate to have been involved in successfully delivering projects ahead of schedule and withinbudget and which operators find easy to use. I get the biggest satisfaction from making a difference in local communities, for example, when I led the delivery of an aluminium smelter in Oman. I enjoyed training the young Omanis who went on to work in the plant — providing skills and opportunities for the next generation in different parts of the world matters to me. Nowadays, I advocate for our early career hires at Bechtel, using my exposure to every aspect of a project, from concept to commissioning and handover, to support them."

## Where next?

"My enthusiasm for the engineering and construction sector has not diminished. Engineers have always risen to challenges. While the challenges may change, the systematic approach I developed four decades ago endures. We urgently need to address climate change, and we need to deploy all the tools we have at our disposal to deliver a sustainable energy transition. Productive engagement with the UK government and the financial sector is just as important as engineering and construction excellence. My role is to understand project risk as a key step in selecting and winning the work Bechtel can successfully deliver over the next decade. I will continue pursuing energy transition, and in my spare time enjoy sailing, looking after bees and chickens and a delightful rescue dog."

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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