## International Women's Day Sunita Roy: Finding Strength from Diversity in the Workplace

Celebrated annually, International Women's Day commemorates the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women. Grid Solutions is fortunate to have women across the world who contribute to the success of our company as well the development of their own communities. Engineering Manager for Grid Integration Sunita Roy is one such woman.

When Sunita Roy left Dubai for France for a job with Grid Solutions, she couldn't speak French and she was the only woman on the team. But, she says, that diversity only made her stronger.



Sunita Roy Engineering Manager, GE

That was 15 years ago, and the native of India now manages a team in France, the UK, and India for Grid's HVDC Control System Tendering department, providing innovative technical solutions and attracting new projects for the company. "This diverse experience in different countries and with multiple cultures has made me resilient, flexible, and a woman who considers diversity as a strength that brings a fresh array of perspectives to the table," she said.

Working in different countries and cultures has given Sunita valuable growth experiences. "I have always worked in a cross-cultural team. When I came to France, I brought with me experience in working with different cultures," she said. "It was a symbiotic relationship where I learned the French way of working and brought in my ideas and experience. It always makes me smile when people ask me how I 'managed'. There was nothing to manage. I made my difference my strength."

## Women in the Workforce

Reflecting on International Women's Day, Sunita feels proud—even though she occasionally is the only woman in the room. "My parents always told me I could be whatever I wanted to be in my life, hence I never questioned whether my gender would hold me back," she said. "I am really proud to be a mom, wife, and a professional. If you are confident and proud of who you are and what you do, it doesn't matter if you are a male or a female."

She passes her values on to her daughter and son. "You become what you believe in. If you have self-respect and respect for others, the world and society you live in can only become better."

Sunita is inspired to see more women in the industry, and she also appreciates leading a cross-cultural team. "As a people leader, it is my duty to imbibe this growth mindset in my team, embrace good ideas, best practices from each other and, at the same time, let them be themselves. A rainbow could not look beautiful if it is not made of different colors!"

## **Contributing to a More Sustainable World**

Sunita's work as part of the Grid Integration team and offshore wind and solar projects contributes to a greener world. "Offshore HVDC projects are transforming the electrical industry and challenging our old models," she explained. "We support our customers to take their step toward reliable, sustainable energy by developing cost-efficient technologies and state-of-the-art control systems, playing a role in Grid's mission daily."

In her free time, Sunita enjoys spending time with her family and travelling.

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