

"It's an exciting time to work in the space industry!"

Introduction

I work as Business Development and Training Manager at Goonhilly Earth Station Ltd. I work on pretty much anything that helps make the business more successful, that might be through events, funding applications, collaborative projects with other companies or universities, networking, and more. I also manage training courses that we offer, including education and outreach initiatives.



Image: **Kat Hickey**, Business Development & Training Manager, Goonhilly Earth Station Ltd

How did you get started in your career?

I spent 10 years studying and working at universities as a researcher in geoscience. When I moved to Cornwall I was looking for a role with lots of exciting projects and tangible outcomes. I have always loved science and technology, but wanted to work with lots of different people and maybe even a company who cares about children and young people in education. Goonhilly provides all of those, and my geoscience background helps to understand some of the technology, although there is still lots to learn.

Can you outline a typical work day?

I do so many different things, no day is the same. All of my days typically contain some time spent on email, telephone and face-to-face meetings. I facilitate events on our site, attend events for networking, help with technical proposals, do project management, and lots more.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love how varied my days are, and that I get to interact with lots of different people doing really exciting projects – many of which evolve around science and technology.

What skills are important for anyone wishing to start in your profession?

In the space sector in general it's useful to have a good understanding of anything STEM related. In a small company like ours it also helps if everyone has basic commercial knowledge. In terms of soft skills, my project work requires good organisational skills, and having people and communication skills is useful in any job!

What main personal attributes do you think is important for your type of job?

Being open minded, being able to think outside of the box, and being friendly and enthusiastic all help greatly.

Do you have any tips or suggestions on how young people and adults can enter your industry?

Good English and Maths skills are a must, and additional STEM subject knowledge is even better. There are some opportunities for work experience around, so make sure you take advantage of those so that you know what you're getting into.

What career progression opportunities are available in your business/sector?

The sky is the limit. If you start with an apprenticeship there are always opportunities to go onto further education, but also to move onto permanent, possibly more senior roles after your apprenticeship. If you've gone to university you might start out in a junior role, but eventually go into team management or maybe you'll have an idea for a company of your own!

Why is it important for your sector to attract and train young people and new entrants?

The space industry is undergoing rapid growth in the UK, and having young people with a variety of skills will help tremendously in achieving the country's ambitious goals.

What trends do you predict for your industry within the next 10 years? E.g. is it a growing market requiring more young entrants

Space is being pushed as a growth area by regional and national governments, so there will definitely be a lot of growth – and with that growth comes recruitment!

General words of advice

Keep in mind that career paths aren't fixed – you might start out as a young person doing one job, and retire many years later from something completely different, having undergone a series of changes of career. Be open minded when trying something out, and try to be confident to allow yourself to change your path if something isn't working!

Further contact/information

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