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You can find your passion by accident if you keep your eyes open and are not afraid to say yes. Even if no one like you is at that place right now, it does not mean that it's not for you to grab. And when you do, share what you have learned and make sure you pass it forward.

Laura Pulkki

Technical Support at Danfoss



What is your current job title and responsibilities?



I am a Technical Support in Danfoss Climate Solutions in Finland. I find the right products and best solutions for our clients for their applications, bringing the component manufacturers expertise to customer R&D, and coaching our clients and other stakeholders in refrigeration. I have previously worked as a refrigeration engineer, heat pump R&D manager, industrial refrigeration engineer and project manager. Now I get to combine all I have learned, and continue learning, while working in the frontline of the everchanging refrigeration business.

What initially interested you, and lead you to this industry?



To be honest, it was a very lucky accident. I was studying energy technology in Technical University and ended up in refrigeration class when trying to find something so that I did not have to take more flow dynamics classes. My first summer trainee position at a transport refrigeration manufacturer sealed the deal. It was a perfect combination of theory, technology, building from scratch and solving customers problems with smart and efficient solutions.

Do you have any insights or advice for other women who may not know this industry as a potential sector for them?



Refrigeration business is versatile, challenging, growing and will always be a necessary industry. You can be a people person or looking to focus on machinery, a technical problem solver or a customer-oriented team leader, there is a place and need for all different talents. Refrigeration is solving everyday needs and adding comfort while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions and making sure we have a green future too. You might get to visit top secret locations, like a presidential palace, data centres, and research labs, because they too need cooling. In this work, the playing field is anything from your own area in your country to a global operation.



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Do you have any insights into what could be done to encourage more women into this sector?



Refrigeration business has been too long as the everyday but hidden technology. For example, did you know that ultra-cold refrigeration is the solution when moving rapidly developed vaccines from manufacturing plants to countries where it's needed? The different possibilities in refrigeration technology need to be promoted. While the first steps have been taken and women are rising into higher positions in companies, more women are needed in different positions to show the way for future talents.

What do you as a woman bring to the industry?



Diversity and questions that maybe the others did not dare to ask. I have been in many sites as the only woman and hopefully I have made my part in making it a more 'normal' thing and smoother for others to join too. Overall, people with different ages, backgrounds, education, gender, and other properties are crucial in bringing different views and solutions to the table in addition to the old working ones. Diverse working environments and teams keep the spirit innovative and exiting.

Where do you see yourself in five years? What is the big goal?



Problem solving has always been the common thread in my work. How can this be done better? How this can be done at all? In the search for answers, I have made more horizontal moves that push directly up towards higher positions and that has worked well for me. In 5 years from now I want to be working in a global refrigeration team at an expert or manager level with varying and challenging tasks concerning technology, customer relations and training.
