

Alana Crossan

Interview with Alana Crossan - AutoCAD Technician at Omexom UK & RoI



What is your job title? How long have you been in that role?

I am an AutoCAD Technician and have been in this role for 6 years. However, I was a Building Surveyor in my previous life and this is where I learnt how to use the AutoCAD software.

In a sentence, what does your job involve?

I aid in development of detailed schematics electrical secondary and primary design through AutoCad design.

I work closely day to day with a team of engineering ensuring that design is developed to a high standard and that drawings standards are maintained throughout.

The quality of the CAD drawings is independently managed by myself and through my input and the design team a professional pack of accurate drawings are ensured on site for every job.

What is your favourite part of your job?

Seeing a project come together. I'm involved in the initial design stages, and oversee the growth of a project right from it's infancy. I recently got out to the Knocknagael-Tomatin site and it's amazing to see what my humble CAD drawings have developed! It's a mammoth project and I'm so proud to have played a small part in making it happen. It brings the work I do to life, and it reinforces the meaningful work that I'm involved in.

What did you study? Where? How did you start your career?

I studied Building Surveying in University of Ulster, Jordanstown. I was a Building Surveyor for 6 years until the recession hit and thought it was time to move on from Construction into the (hopefully) more stable Electrical Industry. So in 2011 I started Omexom as an AutoCAD Technician.

When did you decide you wanted to become an engineer?

I've always had a keen interest in art and design and knew that a career as a Teacher or Social Worker just wasn't for me. When I started off as a Building Surveyor it allowed me to use my design flair to plan extensions and remodel houses and in my current role in as an AutoCAD Technician, even though the drawings have to be electrically accurate, I'm still able to use some of my own ideas when creating the primary and secondary drawings.

There are many different types of engineer. Are women well represented across these different engineering skillsets?

Not as much as they could be. In the company I work for, we have one female Designer, myself in the CAD Team and one female Project Manager so it would be good to see more women in the industry!

Are engineers in the UK regarded with as much respect as, for example, lawyers or doctors?

I think there has been a real societal shift in what it deems as 'respectful' careers – with science backed careers playing a leading role. Engineers are getting a lot more recognition now than ever before, which is great to see.

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