

# business edge

the magazine for **sussexchamberof commerce** members

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**Employment and Skills**

**Women In Engineering at HMD Kontro Sealless Pumps**

**Sussex Chamber of Commerce**

**Sundyne**  
HMD Kontro  
SEALLESS PUMPS

**Timeline:**

- 1937: Achieved BS5750 quality standard
- 1938: 250HP mag pumps design manufactured
- 1939: Introduced ISO 9001 quality standard
- 1940: First sealless pump delivered by HMD for military submarines
- 1955: Introduction of ANSI B73.1 specification pumps up to 100 HP
- 1956: API610 standard introduced and pumps launched
- 1957: HMD Kontro appointed European reseller for Anisi-Mag pumps
- 1959: 1997 Acquisition of HMD Kontro by the Sundyne Corporation of America
- 1999: High pump
- 2000: AP in a
- 2002: me 1 launch
- 2005: Secondary control gas seal introduced for API685 pumps
- 2006: HPGSA and HPGS Frame 2 launch
- 2007: HMD Kontro celebrates 60 years since introducing their first sealless pump

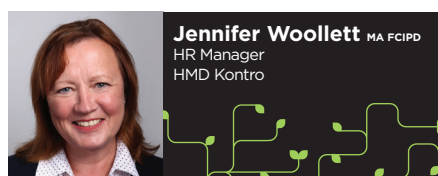
**60 YEARS OF SEALLESS PUMPS 1947-2007**

AS A CHAMBER MEMBER YOU'RE WELL CONNECTED



# HMD Kontro encouraging more women into engineering roles

HMD Kontro Sealless Pumps is proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer and to this end is a keen advocate of encouraging women to take on engineering roles within the company. Career progression is actively encouraged within the company which produces high quality magnetic drive pumps and is a globally recognised brand.



**Jennifer Woollett** MA FCIPD  
HR Manager  
HMD Kontro

## Women in engineering bring a diversity of skills and approaches

Engineering has historically been a male dominated industry but HMD Kontro is changing this with more women choosing it as their career path having joined HMD from a variety of backgrounds bringing a diversity of skills, approaches and opinions.

## HMD Kontro is a member of Women in Engineering Society (WES)

In 2019 HMD Kontro became a member of the Women in Engineering Society (WES). This is a professional network of women engineers, scientists and technologists, which offers inspiration, support and professional development. It helps women to achieve as engineers, scientists and as leaders and actively encourages the education of engineering. Several employees from the company have been given annual individual WES membership so that they can reap as much as possible from this prestigious society that boasts the largest network of women engineers in the UK. It highlights that HMD Kontro is fully committed to supporting WES in its campaign for gender diversity in engineering. One other benefit of membership is for staff to engage with the Society on their volunteer programme of activities and for representatives to attend the Women's Engineering Society annual conference.

## A well-balanced work and home life

Two female engineers at HMD Kontro perfectly highlight the increasing role that women are playing in engineering, namely Hannah Verrall, Aftermarket Manager and Jo Whitling, Technical Support Engineer. Both are pursuing their love of



**Hannah Verrall**

engineering although their paths to this career have been quite different. They have been working for the company for nine and thirteen years respectively and are testament to HMD Kontro's supportive and encouraging role. Both attest to having a well-balanced work and home life having young families.

## Hannah Verrall training to be a Chartered Engineer (CEng)

Hannah came by the more conventional route having studied engineering at Cardiff University. She joined as a postgraduate with two years experience and now manages a team of six. She is currently working towards becoming a Chartered Engineer (CEng) with full support from HMD Kontro and expects to achieve this

within the next six months. Hannah is excited about attaining this internationally recognised qualification, which will emphasise her professional competence and commitment as an engineer. Areas of competence assessed include responsibility, management and leadership as well as the design and development of processes, systems, services and products. She will also be assessed on her commitment including managing and applying safe systems in the workplace and undertaking engineering activities that contribute to sustainable development. Attaining this status will place her in a very select group. Current \*statistics suggest that less than 13% of all engineers are women with only 5% of registered engineers and technicians being female, which includes those having achieved Chartered (CEng) status.



Jo Whitling

### A real sense of community and an inclusive atmosphere

Hannah emphasises that her progression has been swift and that the company is very supportive of training needs and requests. She has a young daughter and finds HMD Kontro's flexibility of offering homeworking as an option if necessary, even in normal times, very useful. She stresses that there is a real sense of community and an inclusive atmosphere and irrespective of gender, everyone is part of the team.

### Jo Whitling becomes an Engineering Technician (EngTech)

Growing up as a farmer's daughter, Jo wasn't sure what she wanted to do but it was always going to be something technical. Jo was taken on as an Applications Engineer with her enthusiasm and ability to learn immediately recognised. She can't praise HMD Kontro enough having received training throughout her thirteen years with the company. Five years ago, an opportunity came along to train as an EngTech and Jo jumped at this. This qualification is a formal recognition of engineering skills and competence and a vital stepping stone towards becoming an Incorporated Chartered Engineer. HMD Kontro released Jo from work for 1 day per week so that she could achieve this. In September 2020, she started an Electrical Installation course, which she hopes to complete soon.

### A community project to get young people thinking about engineering

Just before the pandemic, Jo went into Hastings College to talk about Women in Engineering. It was an initiative set up by Culture Shift, an organisation established in 2011 and predominantly working in Sussex and Surrey. It was running a project to get more young people thinking about

various careers and to increase diversity. The half-day event was aimed at young people meeting professionals to find out more about their work and HMD Kontro was delighted to be involved in a local community project. Feedback from the event was very positive and was well received by the students. Jo and Hannah plan on doing more talks in schools and colleges when restrictions are lifted. If you feel talks and workshops about opportunities for women in engineering would be interesting for your students and pupils, please contact HMD Kontro.

### Magnetic attraction

For over 70 years, sealless pumps have been manufactured in Eastbourne for use in industrial and chemical installations throughout the world. It was here in the seaside town that Geoffrey and Charles Howard first pioneered and invented this

type of pump way back in 1946. It broke new ground in fluid handling technology because the pumped liquid is completely contained within the rotating assembly, the impeller being driven by magnets.

### Zero leaks and emissions

The pumps manufactured in Sussex are the first choice for a wide range of applications and particularly for industries that work with toxic substances as well as with corrosive, aggressive and volatile liquids. Here it is vital that the risk of emissions or leaks is completely eliminated and that there is zero chance of fluids or liquids escaping.

### Reduced risks to the environment

Sealless pumps have numerous benefits including increased safety for employees and operators, as they will not then be exposed to the dangers of hazardous, flammable and explosive fluids or toxic chemicals. The risks to the environment are also greatly reduced as the pumps totally comply with appropriate regulations, which are becoming increasingly stringent.

### HMD Kontro is continuing to innovate

Today, HMD Kontro continues to innovate and is part of the American based Sundyne LLC, who acquired HMD along with their sister company Kontro in the US. In March 2020, Warburg Pincus acquired Sundyne with the aim of increasing market leadership, building the brand, accelerating growth and enhancing opportunities.

### Opportunities for female engineers with HMD Kontro

HMD Kontro is always looking towards recruiting more women in the roles of apprentices and engineers. For more details and a current list of vacancies at HMD Kontro and to register your interest if an opportunity becomes available, please get in touch with the HR department on + 44 (0) 323 452148 or email [jwoollett@sundyne.com](mailto:jwoollett@sundyne.com) or visit <https://hmdkontro.com/recruitment/>

*\*<https://www.wes.org.uk/content/wesstatistics>*

