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Women in energy profile: Specialist Project Manager Emma Smith

The UK, Germany, France and Japan – these are just some of the countries Emma Smith has worked in as a project manager coordinating maintenance, service and warranties for turbines in the power generation sector.

Now, she is bringing her experience to the major overhaul underway at CS Energy's Kogan Creek Power Station near Chinchilla.

Since joining CS Energy in 2015, Emma and her team have been preparing for the 56-day overhaul of Kogan Creek, which commenced on 8 April.

As the Specialist Project Manager, Emma leads the CS Energy team that oversees the overhaul major contractors – Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems, Siemens and Australian Laboratory Services – as well as CS Energy employees involved in the works.

At the overhaul's peak later this month, there is expected to be approximately 500 contractors on site, which includes more than 400 contractors and the power station's permanent workforce of 72 people.

Emma has previously managed maintenance and service on gas turbines when she worked for Siemens in Europe and Australia. Siemens also manufactured the turbine at Kogan Creek Power Station, which is coal-fired, and at 750 megawatts is the largest single generating unit in Australia.

"Turbines are like most equipment and machinery; they need regular service and maintenance to keep them operating safely and reliably," Emma said.

"What appealed to me about joining CS Energy was the opportunity to work on more complex projects. The Kogan Creek major overhaul includes both the turbine and the 'balance of plant', which is essentially the other major components of the power station such as the boiler.

"I like the pressure and excitement of a project and working with people at different levels of a business. It's rewarding when everything comes together."

Emma is originally from Lincoln in the UK and moved to Australia with her husband in 2011. Prior to her roles at CS Energy and Siemens, she worked in BMW UK's service department.

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About CS Energy

CS Energy is a Queensland energy company that has more than 400 employees, operates three power stations and has a trading portfolio of 4,035 megawatts.

CS Energy operates the 1,510 megawatt Callide Power Station near Biloela in Central Queensland, the 750 megawatt coal-fired Kogan Creek Power Station, near Chinchilla in South West Queensland and the 500 megawatt pumped storage hydroelectric Wivenhoe Power Station, near Esk in South East Queensland. CS Energy's coal resources include the Kogan Creek Mine.

The company is also party to the Interconnection and Power Pooling Agreement that entitles the company to trade the output of the Gladstone Power Station in excess of the requirements of the Boyne Aluminium Smelter.