

Women of reference:

Meet Marta Tomasa Itarte



Marta Tomasa Itarte, head of the Department of Prevention, Quality and Environment of Zone I at COMSA.

Marta Tomasa Itarte began her career at COMSA in September 2006 as a prevention, quality and environment technician in the work to extend the apron at Mallorca Airport and held this role until 2010, when she took on the coordination functions of the Civil Works delegation in Catalonia. Subsequently, in 2016, she was promoted to head of the Prevention, Quality and Environment department of Zone I (Catalonia, Aragon and Balearic Islands).

Throughout her years in the company, **Marta has learned that construction teams are small families, and she has**

felt this way in each of the positions she has held. She remembers that, at the beginning, at the age of 22 and with little experience, she landed in Mallorca on a project worth more than 40 million and with a team made up only of men. **‘I felt welcomed and guided, and I acquired much of my knowledge thanks to the collaboration of the site team, who were always by my side’**, she explains.

During her professional career, she has had the pleasure of collaborating with almost all the group’s businesses and most of its departments, which has allowed her to have a global vision of the company, know the needs and expectations of each of them and **understand the importance of having empathy with people.**

She is motivated by the constant challenge of learning things, every day, from her work. After a few years of working at COMSA, Marta remembers a friend asked her, ‘Do you really like this sector, it is not a very masculinised, don’t you work long hours?’ And she replied: ‘It’s a sector where you are constantly acquiring knowledge, and, **in this life, you can lose everything, but you can never lose what you have learned’.** And to the question of whether was a very masculinised sector, her response was: ‘yes, but it is because women don’t know about it’.

Ever since she discovered the construction sector, Marta has always been passionate about it. After doing her final year project on the impact of the water on the construction of the new estuary of the Port of Barcelona, she decided to look for construction companies that needed interns and started working in a small company in Girona, where she was able to learn more about the sector.

Marta explains that **being a woman and playing a role that involves giving guidelines on how things should be done has been a challenge** at times. Even so, she has always felt supported by the site teams. As an anecdote, she recalls, in her early days, the difficulty in finding work clothes in her size, as well as having to wear a belt on her trousers and a jacket that came down to her knees.

Marta stresses the need for female role models in the world of engineering to inspire new generations. ‘The lack of female figures in some sectors, professionals and positions of responsibility means that girls do not consider the possibility of occupying these positions. **Both men and women have the task of making visible female leadership role models for future generations. It is important for girls to get to know current leaders in the sector and discover the opportunities and fun they can have in engineering jobs,’** she says.

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