



Meet

## Dr. Marika Torbacke

**Co-author**, *Lubricants: Introduction to Properties and Performance*

**Marika Torbacke** is Project Manager at HEAD Engineering AB and Former Adjunct Professor in Tribochemistry at Luleå University of Technology.

She has extensive experience from her previous position at Statoil Lubricants where she worked with industrial and automotive lubricants with a focus on environmentally adapted lubricants (EALs).

Areas of research comprise EAL related research, elastomer interaction with lubricants, soft metal corrosion, and fatty acid methyl ester effect on engine oil ageing.

### We asked Marika

#### How or why did you choose Engineering as a career path / area of study?

*My main interest at school was science and particularly Mathematics. Therefore, it was natural for me to choose Engineering. My father always supported my interest in science by showing me real examples with engines and gear boxes. He spent many hours together with me explaining the theory of chemistry and physics.*

#### What inspires you about Engineering?

*Engineering gives the **possibility to improve life** for many people. It offers opportunities for people to travel to different countries to learn about other cultures, meet new people... It gives the possibility for people to communicate across nations all over the world.*

#### What challenges do women face in the Engineering professions /acadmeia?

*Challenges range from socializing on a day-to-day basis to promotion.*

#### What is the most exciting thing about your job?

*The **variety**. Every day is different from the other with a **diversity in problems** to solve. There is a good balance between working individually and on a team.*

#### What does a typical day in your job involve?

*A typical day could start with a meeting to discuss customer needs either at the office or at a client site. After the meeting there may be brainstorming in the multidisciplinary team to find possible technical ways to solve the customer needs. There is always individual work to conclude upon the tasks that were delegated to me. At the end of the day we may sit together either at the office or at the client 's site to summarize the work done during the day and point out the direction for tomorrow.*

#### What would you say to girls in school / college who may be considering Engineering as a career choice / study option?

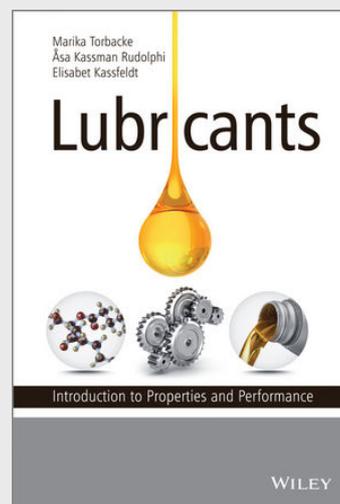
*Engineering is **broader** than you first think. There are many different fields of engineering suiting people with different interests. [There] is a diversity in positions available for graduate Engineers – ranging from being a specialist to a manager*

#### Do you think the perception of Engineering as a male-dominated career can be changed, and if so, how?

*The perception of Engineering can be further changed. This can be done by **introducing girls early on in life to engineering** related things in their daily life – e.g. show them the engine of the car, carry out experiments at home, bring them to technical fairs etc. Introducing new areas of study such as product design and environmental technology will change the perception of Engineering as being male-dominated.*

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