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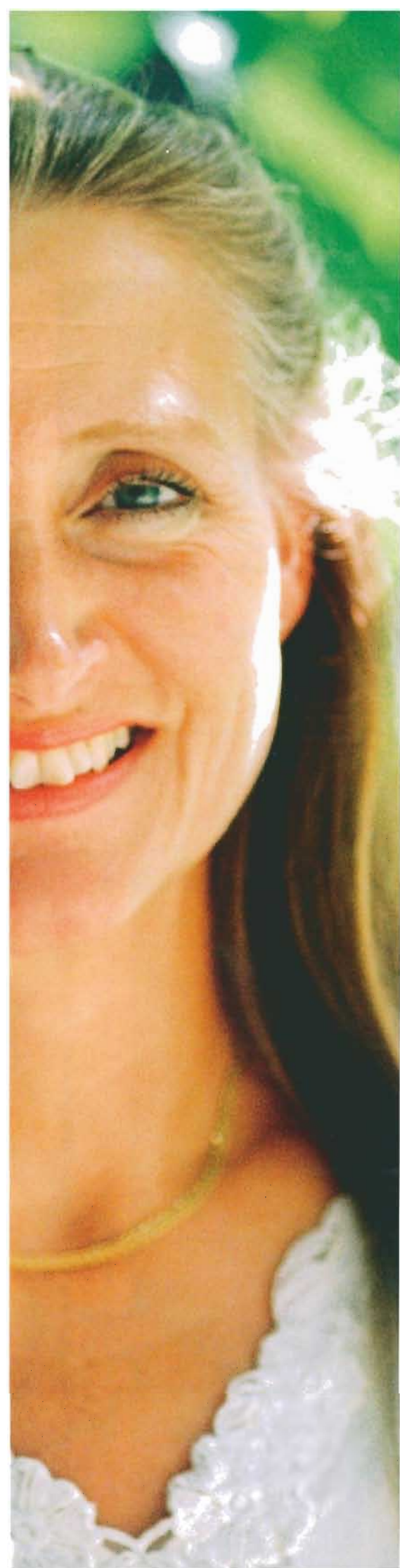
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FEMALE ENGINEERING STARS

Meet Agneta Rising from
Vattenfall AB, Sweden
and her colleagues from
WIN Global

The software of the
future is on its way

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A woman break

It has never been a problem for Agneta Rising working in a male dominated industry. Even whilst at university she choose courses that few women had considered before.

– During my professional life I have felt that I am perceived to be ‘invisible’ just because I am a woman by men, but I have never felt that it is a big problem. I just repeat my message louder and with more clarity the next time, says Agneta Rising, Head of Corporate Environment Department at Vattenfall AB, Sweden.

By: **Gunilla von Feilitzen**

Agneta was not only the first woman, but also the first Swede elected president for the World Nuclear Association in 2001. Furthermore, she is one of the founders of the first international female-network, the worldwide organisation Women In Nuclear (WIN), and was elected its President in 1996.

Agneta was working disseminating facts about nuclear already back in the early eighties when the energy issue generated a super-heated debate in Sweden. Throughout her career she has received a series of impressive appointments in Sweden as well as internationally.

– My job title is not important. What matters to me is to make a difference in what I do, says Agneta Rising.

– The advantages of nuclear power with regard to the environment are outstanding. Even if my present position, Head of Corporate Environment Department, includes a number of other alternative energy sources, nuclear power is an important part of Vattenfall and my favourite when it comes to environmental issues.

My job is never a matter of routine

In every step in Agneta’s professional career she has had the same attitude:

– The job I have today is the most fascinating in the world.

What happens next year or the year after does not concern her. Even if her calendar is full of scheduled meetings and appointments, and the business trips around the world sometimes are too frequent, she is full of passion.

– I never felt a vocation for anything in particular when I was young; I was

interested in many different things. I studied Russian for a while which was unusual back then, and I had the idea of becoming a translator of Russian literature because of the great number of Russian authors. I was also fascinated by analytical and logical thinking, and that became the foundation of my exams in radiation physics at the University of Stockholm.

Radiation physics can be applied in many scientific fields, such as physics and medicine. Radiation can be used for curing and examining people and that part caught Agneta’s attention.

– During my studies in radio physics other than me and another fellow female classmate, all the others were male. This gave me an insight into how my future surrounding would be.

Twenty three years ago, Agneta graduated and started working at Vattenfall AB. For many years Agneta was the company’s expert on questions about radiation and nuclear power. She soon became well-known within the organisation and often the only woman consulted in every nuclear issue.

Agneta travels a lot and meets many colleagues from the nuclear industry. It was on one of these trips that she and a group of women decided to start WIN, a special network for Women in Nuclear.

– We realised that there is a gap between how the nuclear industry presents its business and what women in general want to know and learn about it.

Now there are professional members from 57 different countries involved in the Global WIN organisation. Read more about the organisation in the article on page 6-7.



ing Glass Ceilings

Few female students choose a professional life in the field of nuclear power. The number of students applying to nuclear oriented programs at universities shows a declining trend. Have you any good advice for a young woman who wants to enter this male dominated environment?

–I believe mixed working groups are more dynamic than homogenous working groups and I think we have lots to learn from each other; man and woman. If you are criticised and perhaps misunderstood, try not to take it personally, do your best and follow your

– My husband and I decided in the beginning of our careers to share the responsibility for our three children equally. We each have two days every week when we can concentrate solely on our job; if we need to travel or have to work late there is no problem.

– We do not have disagreements about who makes the most money or which job is the more important in case we have to stay home with sick children. The agreement helps me a lot and I can meet every new challenge with a clear conscience regarding the welfare of my family.

“The job I have today is the most fascinating in the world”

conviction. Of course, it helps to learn how to speak and understand 'male' talk.

– Training in giving oral presentations during the early years in my career helped me get my opinions respected. If you really feel strong about something, do your best and don't be afraid to seize the opportunity when given to you, says Agneta.

The differences fascinate me

When Agneta got the opportunity to take the step from being a nuclear expert to Head of Corporate Environment Department at Vattenfall, a job which requires more responsibility and sometimes longer working days, she discussed it thoroughly with her family before accepting it.

Agneta is the executive board's watching eyes and ears at Vattenfall. A position she truly enjoys. The executive board expresses high ambitions: Vattenfall is and will continue to be number one regarding ecological issues.

Agneta says she feels no pressure only a terrific challenge.

– It is of great interest that a company dealing with energy has the ambition to be number one in these issues.

I had a head start from my early experience as a nuclear environment expert.

– All countries, where Vattenfall has interests, have their own environmental legislation. They also have their own history, geography and culture. I deal with questions regarding coalmines to mobile phone operations, power lines to nuclear and hydro power. Don't forget that the European Commission influence environmental issues a great deal nowadays, says Agneta Rising, Head of Corporate Environment Department at Vattenfall. ●



Name: Agneta Rising
Current position: Vice president of Vattenfall AB, Sweden, and Head of Corporate Environmental Department, Vattenfall Group.
Former positions: Employed at Vattenfall AB since 1980; worked with radiation protection issues related to the nuclear fuel cycle, Corporate Senior Advisor at Vattenfall AB specialising in the area of nuclear energy and the environment, Head of the Department of Radiological Safety. Agneta has had a position at the Swedish National Institute of Radiation Protection at the University of Stockholm.
Other associations: Chairman of World Nuclear Association
 Chairman of Uranium Institute
 President of European Nuclear Society
 President and co-founder of Women in Nuclear organisation (WIN)
 President of the Swedish Nuclear Society

● Agneta has been appointed by the Swedish Minister of Industry and Trade as an advisor to the government's programme analysing and reporting on the development of new reactors in the world.

● She lectures widely to groups such as teachers, politicians, students and operating personnel, and is also involved in training nuclear industry employees in environmental and radiological protection.

Education: MSc degree in radiation physics at the University of Stockholm and is health physicist.

Family: Husband, two daughters and one son

Sports: Skiing and snorkelling

The most important question in the area of environment: To balance the energy demand of today (especially in the developing countries) with the future generations needs.

Personal outlook of life: A person who has the capability to think different one day to another separates the vice man from the stubborn one.

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<p>VATTENFALL AB generates and delivers electricity and heat, to approximately 6 million consumers in Northern Europe. Vattenfalls largest electricity customers are industrial and energy companies.</p> <p>VATTENFALL IS wholly owned by the Swedish state and is the fifth largest energy company in Europe. Its main energy markets are in Sweden, Finland, Germany, and Poland. Vattenfall AB employs 35,300</p>	<p>full time employees around the world. 24 percent of the employees are women of whom 17 percent have a leading position* . One of Vattenfall's goals is to have an equal assignment of women in leading positions in the near future. For this reason, cooperation with representatives from the non-profit association Carpe Competencia has been initiated with the aim to influence women at University</p>	<p>to choose a career within Vattenfall AB. Web site: www.vattenfall.com</p> <p>CARPE COMPETENCIA is run by women students from The Royal University of Technology in Stockholm. The goal of the organisation is to motivate, inspire and educate women for a future in management/leadership and entrepreneurship. For more information, visit: www.carpecompetencia.se</p>
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