

Shaping Sealing Solutions: Women Engineers at EagleBurgmann

Julia Wutte and Stefanie Kreft discuss their careers in sealing technology – and why more women should consider a future in engineering.

What brought you into engineering?

Julia Wutte, Senior Director Order Execution Engineering: I've always enjoyed solving mechanical problems and working hands-on. When I was a teenager, I spent hours modifying parts and redesigning the frame of my motorcycle. That fascination with mechanics naturally led me to study mechatronics – combined with a parallel training as an industrial mechanic. Later, I worked in research and development in Japan, which deepened my technical perspective and introduced me to global collaboration.

Stefanie Kreft, Senior Director Engineering Pump Seals: I originally studied physics and started out in the lab as a development scientist. EagleBurgmann came into the picture when they were building a new department for sensor development, which matched my background. I didn't plan to go into mechanical seals – but once I started working in this field, I quickly realized how exciting and impactful it is. Over the years, I gradually moved into engineering leadership.

What do you enjoy most about your current roles?

Kreft: The variety. No two days are the same, and I enjoy the mix of technical problem-solving, project work, and collaboration across departments. Being able to support my team and help move developments forward makes it very rewarding.

Wutte: I appreciate that technological progress never stops. New generations of equipment bring fresh challenges, and we're constantly adapting to improve sealing performance. I also enjoy thinking beyond my own department and working on cross-functional improvements. It's a role that combines creativity, technical depth, and responsibility – and that's exactly what I was looking for.

What industry trends do you see?

Wutte: In many applications, processes are becoming more efficient – but that often means higher temperatures and more complex system requirements. This puts new demands on our seals, so we invest significant time in analysis and close dialogue with customers to develop tailored solutions.

Kreft: I've seen a growing interest in digitalization – not only in monitoring equipment, but also in supporting design and maintenance with digital twins and data-based insights. It's an exciting evolution, and it changes how we think about product life cycles and service.

What advice would you give to young women entering the field?

Kreft: Don't be discouraged if you find yourself in a room with few or no other women. If technology and problem-solving excite you, this is absolutely a place where you can grow and contribute. And don't hesitate to reach out – Julia and I are both happy to share experiences or offer guidance.

Wutte: Exactly. I also want to highlight that at EagleBurgmann, we have an open, respectful culture that gives people space to bring in their ideas and shape their careers. Every woman brings a unique skillset – and we need those different viewpoints in engineering teams.

What still needs to change?

Wutte: We need more women choosing STEM careers in the first place. That starts with education: schools and universities should make clear how many exciting and diverse opportunities a technical background offers. And we, as women in the field, need to be visible, approachable, and act as role models – whether through mentoring, talks, or just being open to questions.

Kreft: We won't close the gender gap in engineering unless more women enter the profession. The more visible we are, the more likely young women will see this as a real and rewarding path.