



Jocelyn's current position:

Jocelyn's role is to offer specialised support and consultancy advice to the different divisions of Thales, a global company working in the aerospace, defence and IT markets worldwide.

Jocelyn's work: 'I advise on system engineering methods and processes. System engineering is a critical part of building so many different products, ranging from huge aircraft carriers, to satellites, to small communication systems. In each case you have to analyse what the client wants, write the specification, design, develop, build, test and deliver the systems. To do this, you always have to look at the "bigger picture". Working in air traffic control, for instance, you have to consider not only the software and the hardware, but also the people who will use them and the wider environment, such as the airspace. Then there are all the parts that need to be put together to function as a whole, such as the computers, radar, and radios. Working as a system engineer, you are an important part of a massive undertaking.

'Recently I have progressed from an operational role, managing a department and working on projects, to a corporate one, where I support and advise other system engineers. My new job includes consultancy, training, arranging workshops and lots of travel. One of the things I enjoy most is working with people from other countries.'

Her route to success: At school, Jocelyn was good at maths and she went on to do a BSc in numerical mathematics at the University of Liverpool. She points out: 'The skills and techniques learnt studying mathematics can be applied in many different and interesting engineering businesses.'

After university Jocelyn joined the aerospace industry and started working on satellites: 'I lived and worked in several European countries which I found really stimulating. It was also exciting travelling to places I would not otherwise have visited, such as the rocket launch site in French Guyana. Studying mathematics can certainly open up many interesting careers.'

More about Jocelyn: 'I love my work but I also love my holidays! The Greek islands are one of my favourite places, with their relaxing pace of life and that delightful mix of beaches to laze on and cultural sites to visit, not to mention the great food!'

What next? 'I have only been in my current job for 18 months and part of my brief is to develop this new role in the UK. The immediate challenge is to expand our community of system engineers, so that we can network and share knowledge, skills and experience. I want to achieve that before I start thinking about the next stage.'

