My career steps in R&D

Heli Kangas Valmet Technologies



Becoming a researcher

- KCL, Keskuslaboratorio
 - Research Engineer 2000-2009
 - D.Sc. (Tech.) 2007
 - Researcher, later Project Manager in internal, jointly funded and customer projects.
 - Research topics: fiber surface chemistry, mechanical and chemical pulping, surface interactions in printing
- VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland
 - Research / Senior Scientist 2010-2017
 - Project Manager in jointly funded and customer projects
 - Part of Research Area sales network
 - Preparation of national and EU-level funding applications
 - Research topics: fibers, biorefinery processes, biomass fractions, cellulose nanomaterials



More leadership, management & Coordination

VTT 2017-2022

- Research Team Leader, Project Manager 2017-2019
 - High performance fiber products team, ~30 scientists and technical staff
- Technology Manager, Biomass processing and Products, 2019-2022
 - Technology and business development, management of related IPR and investments
- Coordination and management of demanding projects (EU)





In the industry now

- Development Manager, Stock Preparation & Recycled Fiber, 2023
 - Textile concept development, internal R&D and customer projects
 - MFC related projects

My advice

- Have a rough plan for your next steps, but leave space for chance.
- Be active use every opportunity to meet new people.
- NO should not be your first reaction to everything.
- If it does not feel good, it probably isn't.
- Don't be afraid to take the leap.

