



Press Release

18 September, 2019

Contact partners with Women in Geothermal (WING) to promote diversity in the geothermal industry.

Contact Energy, one of New Zealand's largest generator/retail energy companies, is excited to partner with Women in Geothermal (WING), to encourage women to join the geothermal community both in New Zealand and around the world.

Women are significantly underrepresented in the geothermal industry, particularly at leadership levels. The geothermal community currently has a female employment level of just over a 15% (ESMAP, 2018).

Contact has entered into an Advance Global Partnership with WING and is one of two Global Partners. The Advance Global Partnership aims to advance women in the geothermal industry and get them ready for more challenging senior roles. By encouraging women into leadership roles WING and Contact expect to see positive benefits for the geothermal community. More women in senior positions provides diversity of decision making which is a benefit for the sector. Diversity of thought leads to better business decisions and more efficient processes.

Jacqui Nelson, General Manager Operations at Contact says "Over the course of my career within the energy industry, I have witnessed industry wide changes which have resulted in more women taking up leadership roles. I am excited to be partnering with WING to see even more women being given the opportunity to make a difference in their chosen field. Here at Contact we recognise the advantage of a diverse and inclusive workforce, which is why we think partnerships such as this one are important.

"Contact believes a truly diverse workforce creates great company performance, providing a rich source of creative ideas from a wider range of perspectives. Diversity fosters creativity, innovation, collaboration and a safe space to be your best self. It's critical to have this kind of diversity in positions of leadership."

Andy Blair, the current Global Chair of WING says, "advancing women in the geothermal community is about overcoming bias in its many forms and being courageous."

The agreed partnership runs for a year, culminating in attendance at the World Geothermal Congress (WGC) to be held in Iceland in April 2020.

Want to touch base with WING?

Abbie Dean - *Global Executive & New Zealand Ambassador*

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WING can be found on the WING website page (www.womeningeothermal.com) Facebook (Women in Geothermal – WING), LinkedIn (Women in Geothermal (WING)) and Twitter.

Want to talk to Contact?

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