



### **AS THE MECHANICAL ENGINEERING MANAGER, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES?**

I oversee a team of highly skilled engineers who work on complex projects that require unique and innovative solutions tailored to our clients' unique needs. And like other managers at Vista, I provide leadership focused on three major areas of responsibility: clients, employees, and the organization.

First and foremost, I am responsible to our clients. That means ensuring they receive efficient delivery of mechanical engineering services and successful project execution at every stage. My second responsibility is to lead the employees who work with me as a team to deliver successful engineering solutions. And third, I am responsible for ensuring that we deliver projects in a consistent manner at the high standard we are known in the industry for.

### **WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?**

What brings me to work every morning is the thought of working hands-on with our talented group of engineers, designers, and experts—I learn something new every day.

I enjoy how Vista focuses on people and their performance. We're unique in that we staff our projects with key people who have the opportunity to own shares within the company. The unique combination of empowered owners and highly skilled people allows Vista to be very effective in delivering quality solutions that meet and even exceed our clients' expectations.

### **YOUR SPECIALTY IS IN PRODUCED WATER HANDLING AND TREATMENT FROM THERMAL OIL PRODUCTION. WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST CHALLENGING PROJECT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS?**

I have always kept up with my technical work, specifically my passion for water treatment and water balances. The water balance has evolved from its simplistic original format and content to a very complex and detailed methodology. With each project that I do, it only gets better.

Much more than engineering, however, my biggest challenge these days is maintaining a healthy work-life balance. I have two sons who are now six and four. I know that everything I do in my professional life may influence the behaviour of my children—I don't want them growing up remembering that their mother was always at work, and at the same time, I want them to understand and appreciate the values of hard work and commitment. That, to me, is my water balance equation in my personal life.



**NAME:**  
Jennifer Gray

**AGE:**  
36 years

**JOB TITLE:**  
Mechanical  
Engineering  
Manager

**COMPANY NAME:**  
Vista Projects  
Limited

**EDUCATION:**  
Bachelor of Science  
in Mechanical  
Engineering,  
University of Alberta  
(1995)

**YEARS  
IN POSITION:**  
Manager for  
the last five  
years, with  
Vista since 2001

### **WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM COMPLETING THAT PROJECT?**

This project, being one of those megaprojects, is scheduled to go on for the next few years.

What I learned from all this is to not sweat the small stuff but rather enjoy every moment. This motivates me to do much more for my family, and for my work, than what I could have normally done. I do not have "hard" work schedules and have learned to be spontaneous to be able to manage everything.

### **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO SOMEONE CONTEMPLATING A CAREER IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING?**

To be successful in engineering at university, you will need dedication, an excellent work ethic, and the intrinsic motivation to "get it done right." Once you graduate, you will quickly see that university only lays the groundwork for your learning. No matter how much you know, there is always more to learn, if you want to. ■