

A word from the board

Word from Aleksandra about the NeX SMR conference

In January on behalf of WiN NL I had the great pleasure to participate in the NeX SMR conference. This event put a major focus on the SMR development. The conference allowed meaningful connections to be formed in order to secure the future with SMRs.

The focus of the discussions were on policy, technology, industrial collaboration, and investment opportunities in the Netherlands and beyond. The event was designed to promote cross-sector collaboration and offered a dynamic mix of keynote sessions, panel discussions, and expert dialogues. Personally I found it a very insightful meeting thanks to all the key leaders who are contributing to this developments. [You can find the aftermovie here.](#)



Picture at the NeX SMR conference organized by de Stichting Netherlands Nuclear Society (NNS) en de Stichting Energietransitie & Kernenergie (SEK) in Word Forum the Hague

Fun fact from the industry

NEA x WiN Global WebChat: leadership, retention, and building the workforce we need from Anne Kramer

On 9 February 2026, the NEA hosted a WebChat with WiN Global President Melina Belinco and NEA Director-General William D. Magwood IV about a challenge we all recognise: if we want to expand nuclear, we need people. This means attracting, retaining, and advancing talent across the full population.

Diversity is framed as a strategic capability that influences the quality of decision-making, the capacity to innovate, the ability to attract and retain talent, and the strength of safety culture. In a sector that operates in complexity, manages risk, and depends on trust, the message is clear: inclusive organisations are better positioned to be resilient, credible, and future-ready.

This shifts the conversation from “how do we support women?” to “how do we build workplaces where more people can do their best work—and stay?” Belinco pointed out the role of data: it makes visible what many people have experienced but struggled to prove. What stands out: 70% of women in the global nuclear sector believe management is not truly committed to gender balance and only 36% report having a mentor in their field. Visible leadership commitment is crucial for structural change, and without mentoring and role models, it becomes harder to attract and keep people - especially when they don't see a pathway to grow.

A particularly important part of the dialogue was the warning about the messages we send. The WebChat pointed to a familiar pattern: programmes that implicitly ask women to be more confident, be more leader-like, or prove themselves harder, while leaving the surrounding culture unchanged. Instead, the invitation was to focus on the systems that shape experience: the norms, routines, leadership styles, and career models that have developed over time. Real change does not come from fixing individuals, but from changing the systems that shape their experiences.



Picture of speakers at the NEA WebChat

Magwood highlighted a finding during the related NEA work that made a strong impression on him: Many women described being affected by cultural issues and micro-aggression, but only few of these experiences are discussed openly.

Belinco connected this to a broader transition challenge in the sector: technical experts often move into leadership roles without being taught how to build psychologically safe teams, manage conflict, or navigate emotions. Yet this “people leadership” is exactly what determines whether diverse talent can meaningfully influence decisions and feel a sense of belonging. You can watch the recording of the session on [this NEA webpage.](#)

Important announcements

Women in Nuclear Netherlands -1st Anniversary Webinar | Advancing Nuclear Medicine

On the 6th of March we are celebrating our first anniversary with a special webinar dedicated to the future of nuclear medicine. On this occasion, we will gather with the leading voices of the WiN community and we are honoured to feature two scientists whose work is driving innovation in the field. Celebrate this milestone with us and the global community.

Opening:

- The First Year of Women in Nuclear Netherlands by WiN NL President Aleksandra Kotlewska
- Welcome to the WiN Global network, by WiN Global President Melina Belinco

Keynotes:

- Developing a 16Dy/166Ho generator by Marouscha Puister RID TU Delft
- Development of Ho-166 microspheres for the treatment of liver cancer by Diana Wicks Radboud UMC Nijmegen

Moderation by Haske Reiling Vice-president WiN NL. Let's explore emerging technologies shaping the future of nuclear medicine together! ([Register here](#))

NEXUS-NL consortium

In January, the Ministry of Climate and Green Growth announced that the TSO (technical support organisation) tender has been awarded to the NEXUS-NL consortium: Amentum, Arcadis, Tractebel and NRG PALLAS are part of this consortium. The tender involves supporting NEO NL, the future license holder, in the planning and development of new large nuclear power plants in the Netherlands.

Our WiN NL member [Marieke van Gemert](#) said, 'NRG PALLAS is pleased, that we can contribute our knowledge and experience in nuclear technology to the realization of the new nuclear power plants to be built in the Netherlands. We look forward to further applying our expertise together with the consortium for the realization of the new nuclear power plants in the Netherlands.' [Read more about this here.](#)

Member spotlight

Interview with Lisa van der Werff

Q: What attracted you towards this industry/field of work?

I loved the nuclear physics course during my studies. For my research project, I was involved in guiding and extracting radioactive isotopes from a gas catcher. I enjoyed doing these hands-on, problem-solving experiments and later I was involved in a project for isotope enrichment. From these experiences I decided I wanted to work in the nuclear field.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your work?

As a trainee at EPZ, I enjoy the variety in my work. I get to be involved in different projects, collaborating with multiple teams, which gives me the opportunity to continuously challenge myself and learn from a wide range of colleagues.

Q: Who is a woman that you admire in personal/professional life?

I really admire my professor and supervisor Julia Even. She inspired me, through the nuclear physics course, to pursue a career in the nuclear field. I admire her passion, and the way she encourages students to get out of their comfort zones and challenge themselves.

Q: What are you looking forward to in the coming months?

In April, we have the annual maintenance stop, during which we will, among other things, change the fuel. During this period, the entire organization works together to complete all tasks efficiently and ensure that the nuclear power plant operates safely and reliably when we restart. I am looking forward to being part of this operation for the first time.

Q: What is your top tip for other women nuclear professionals?

Don't wait until you feel competent enough, trust your own expertise and have confidence that you will learn what you need to know along the way.



Picture of Lisa van der Werff at EPZ

Info about upcoming events

[KiVi Lezing Internationale vrouwendag - 5th of March](#)

[Celebration of the first year anniversary of WiN NL - 6th of March 15.00-16.00](#)

[Nuclear Innovation Conference 2026 \(10-11 June\)](#)

[WiN Global 2nd European Regional Flagship Event, 21 to 23 September 2026 in Baden, Switzerland](#)

