



Most people, especially the young, enjoy working for Transocean, according to Marita Ness who's especially focused on the young employees.

On the barricades for youth

A dream job. Marita Ness is full of praise for her job and her colleagues on the Transocean Arctic.

Marita is a rigger and roustabout on the Transocean Arctic. This has been her job since last March, when she travelled offshore for the first time. But despite her short offshore service: She is absolutely thrilled with her job on the rig.

"Yes, I think the job is fantastically exciting. Couldn't be better. The working environment is good and my colleagues are really good at supporting me," says the 22-year-old, who originally comes from Sande in the County of Sogn og Fjordane. She worked from 2005 to 2007 for Hydro Aluminium in Høyanger, which is in her home country. Friends urged her to try a job offshore. Something she has never regretted.

Marita is one of relatively few women on the rig; most of the others work in catering. But to be in a minority is no problem, according to Marita. Colleagues are good at supporting each other and the ties among fellow workers are strong. People take care of each other.

When the 22-year-old is not offshore, she studies drilling technology at the Stavanger Offshore Technical School, where she is in her second year. After completing the three-year course, in 2010, she will have a diploma in work techniques. Based on her educational background she plans a long-term career offshore.

What fascinates you about working offshore?

"Many things. But for me the most important is that every day poses new challenges. I like the job because it's never possible to predict what the day will bring," she says.

And if work and school wasn't enough, Marita also finds time to involve herself in union work. She heads the Industri Energi union's youth committee in Transocean. The committee has five members plus a deputy representative. The committee's main focus is on the young company employees, new employees and the opportunities generally in the offshore industry. It is especially important when you are young to have good follow-up at work, receive personal and professional support and help to enhance your skills and competence. The company's mentor scheme is also very important, according to the youth committee leader.

"I think a great many young people can benefit from the IE union's dedicated youth committee. Furthermore I hope and believe that we can also bring fresh ideas by being able to think in new ways," states Marita. She adds that just in Transocean there are more than 70 who are in the youth committee's target group.

Where she will be in 10 years? If only I knew the answer to that is her reply. But if she still enjoys the life offshore and in Transocean, as she does today, she will probably be offshore.