

## YEP Forum event summary: Leadership and Motivation: What's the key to success?

On Tuesday 12 June, the YEP Forum and CGI UK took 50 young energy professionals to the Walkie Talkie building in London to hear from a range of energy industry leaders provide insights into their careers and how the next generation of YEPs can succeed in their professional development.

Ashley Bryant, GB Commonwealth Decathlete, opened the event with a truly motivational speech. He spoke about the impact being an athlete has had on his health and career both of which change, sometimes yearly. The difficult decisions made around coaching, surgery and competing has taught Ashley to be proactive, to not hold grudges and always take on new opportunities.

The panel of industry leaders for the night consisted of Daniel Ullrich (Innogy), Stuart Lacey (Electralink) and Kristian Ruby (eurelectric), with Susan McDonald (Deloitte and Chair of the YEP Forum) interviewing. It was fascinating to hear the original career goals from the speakers which included aspirations to be a musician, journalist and radio host! All three speakers had varying levels of education too, which meant their journeys into energy were diverse, allowing the audience to hear different insights into career experiences and how best to develop their own.

Key learnings from the event included the need to gain experience from a host of companies and industries. Gone are the days of getting a foot in one company and 'working your way up'. Employers seek experience and eagerness. The skill of being able to sell yourself was agreed to be vital when pursuing new opportunities, importantly needing to believe in your story and being able to sell it, realistically in alignment with the company's objectives – which takes practice.

Ultimately however, it was agreed young professionals need to fail forwards, to not accept mediocrity and to embrace job diversity. Finding a role model was also highlighted as being of huge value as a mechanism to not only to reflect on your career choices, but to seek advice and learn from those who have built their own careers over decades.

With thanks to our speakers Ashley, Susan, Daniel, Stuart and Kristian and our hosts, CGI UK.

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'Fail Forwards. Don't accept mediocrity. Embrace diversity. Find your role model. Jump into new opportunities and lead the industry into its bright future.'

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