



Leesa Kingman

About me

I am a **Senior Principal FPGA Engineer and Team Lead** at **MBDA**. I have spent 25 years in industry after studying Computer Systems Engineering at the University of Sussex. I didn't know I was unusual until I got to university to discover I was 1 of 4 female engineers in a cohort of 200! I live in small town with my family.

My inspiration

Having taken Maths, Physics and Chemistry for A-level I was unsure what to do with them for university. But everything clicked when I had the chance to attend a Girls in Electronics course. The course gave me hands-on experience in coding, electronics, and engineering, and **I realised how much I enjoyed applying theoretical knowledge to real-world problems.**

That experience made everything I was learning feel relevant and exciting, and I instantly knew that it was the path for me. Since then, the field of electronics has continued to captivate me with its endless possibilities for innovation.



My strengths

My strengths are in problem-solving and supporting others. I love diagnosing issues and finding solutions, especially when it comes to design challenges. There's a real sense of satisfaction in making things work.

I also have a strong ability to treat people as individuals, which helps me effectively mentor and guide others. Helping people succeed and grow is something I'm passionate about, and I thrive in creating environments where people can reach their potential.

Fascinating tech

FPGAs (Field Programmable Gate Arrays) have become much more powerful, flexible, and accessible. The integration of processors, enhanced memory and I/O bandwidth, and the rise of cloud FPGA services have all contributed to expanding the potential use cases of FPGAs—from telecom and industrial applications to cutting-edge fields like AI/ML and cloud computing. At the same time, advances in software tools have made FPGA development more approachable and practical for a wide range of users. This has continued my interest in this area as the best to work in!

What excites me about the future

The **industry is evolving rapidly, and young engineers are at the forefront of that change.** New technologies are pushing the boundaries of what's possible, and it's exciting to think about the advancements just around the corner.

As someone who enjoys mentoring, I'm also passionate about helping the new generation discover what excites them in this dynamic field and guiding them toward their goals. Seeing young talent learn, grow, and bring fresh perspectives is one of the most rewarding parts of being part of this industry.

My aspirations

My aspiration for my future career is to continue learning and growing in an ever-evolving field. **The world of engineering is dynamic, and every day brings new challenges and opportunities.** I want to stay at the forefront of those changes, whether it's mastering new technologies or solving complex problems.

In addition, I am committed to contributing to the growth of female engineers, particularly through my work on the D&I taskforce in my current role. I hope to inspire and mentor more women to pursue engineering careers and help create a more inclusive, diverse workforce for the future.



Don't let stereotypes hold you back. Electronics is such an inclusive place to work. Believe in yourself, get as much information as you can via people in industry, work experience, research, open days etc.