

# WOMEN IN GEOTHERMAL

Promoting the education, professional development, and advancement of women in the geothermal community.



## GHAZAL IZADI COO XGS ENERGY

Ghazal Izadi, the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of XGS Energy, brings a unique blend of technical expertise and strategic vision to the geothermal industry. With a background in oil and gas, she has seamlessly transitioned into the realm of geothermal energy, driven by her passion for sustainable solutions and innovative technologies. In this article, we delve into Ghazal's journey, exploring the pivotal moments, influential mentors, and core beliefs that have shaped her career.

As the COO of XGS Energy, Ghazal finds herself balancing technical problem-solving with strategic business planning. While she remains passionate about tackling complex subsurface and operational issues, she acknowledges that commercial aspects—business strategy, strong partnerships, and execution at scale—are equally crucial for scaling geothermal energy into a mainstream power source.

XGS Energy is at the forefront of advancing geothermal technology, unlocking heat from deeper and less permeable rock formations without the need for conventional geological characteristics. By reducing upfront costs and making geothermal energy scalable, cost-efficient, and deployable globally, the company aims to make geothermal a financeable and mainstream power source.



Ghazal is leading the engineering, operations, and commercial aspects of XGS Energy's projects, driving successful execution and accelerating geothermal's role in the clean energy transition. The XGS technology has been tested at scale in existing geothermal fields, with plans to move to commercial projects soon.

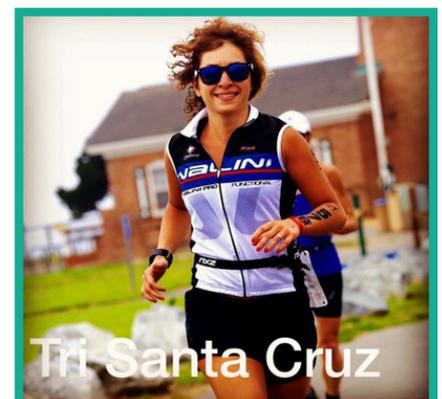
Ghazal was thrilled to share XGS Energy's launch of the Power Shift Program, bringing together industry leaders, visionaries in energy technology, and policy experts to discuss the future of power and sustainability. With a lineup of distinguished guests, the program aims to highlight the importance of geothermal energy as a cornerstone of the clean energy transition. These episodes will be available on Youtube.

Ghazal's journey began in Iran, where she developed an appreciation for science and mathematics. This passion led her to pursue a bachelor's and master's degree in applied mathematics, where she honed her analytical thinking and quantitative skills. Seeking to apply these principles to real-world challenges, Ghazal transitioned into petroleum and reservoir engineering for her PhD at Penn State, focusing on enhanced geothermal systems (EGS), gaining invaluable experience in geothermal engineering.

Despite initially working in the oil and gas industry, she maintained her interest in geothermal energy, eventually shifting her focus back to this field in recent years.

Throughout her career, Ghazal has benefited from the guidance of influential mentors, which she credits to much of her success. These mentors saw potential in her before she fully recognized it herself, encouraging her to explore geothermal and challenge conventional thinking. As a result, Ghazal is a strong advocate for mentorship and believes in a collaborative approach. She emphasizes the importance of listening, asking questions, and allowing mentees to develop their own solutions. Ghazal highlights the Wing Thermal Trailblazer Mentoring Program's role in fostering leadership and inclusivity, strengthening the entire industry, and driving the clean energy future.

Ghazal's North Star is a vision of a world where clean, sustainable energy is a reality. She firmly believes that geothermal energy can redefine the future of power, providing a reliable and sustainable energy source for generations to come.



## PROFILES

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Inspired by Thomas Edison's quote, "There is a way to do it better, find it," Ghazal continually seeks to refine approaches and improve efficiency. Ghazal highlights resilience, adaptability, and a willingness to take risks as her key characteristics to success. She believes in constantly learning and being open to new opportunities, taking on difficult projects, and building strong teams. Outside of work, Ghazal enjoys sports such as tennis, hiking, yoga, and swimming, which help her stay sharp.

Ghazal encourages the younger generation to keep learning and not be afraid to take risks. Geothermal is expanding rapidly, creating opportunities for innovation. She emphasizes the importance of seeking mentors, building a strong network, and embracing new challenges. Focusing on fundamentals like math and physics is crucial, as a strong science background empowers individuals to succeed in various career paths. In the next five years, Ghazal envisions driving impactful innovation and leading efforts to scale the geothermal industry. She sees herself pushing boundaries and expanding geothermal's role in global energy and hopes to continue entoring the next generation of leaders, learning from their insights and fostering their development.

Ghazal believes the next five years of geothermal will be about massive scaling, bringing geothermal to new markets, reducing costs, and integrating it into broader energy systems. She envisions next-generation geothermal technologies becoming mainstream and widely deployed, transforming the global energy mix and providing reliable, clean power.

Ghazal Izadi's journey is a testament to her resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to sustainability. Through her leadership at XGS Energy, she continues to drive innovation, inspire teams, and shape the future of geothermal energy. The geothermal industry, like a close-knit family, is poised for transformative growth, and Ghazal is excited to be part of this dynamic and welcoming community.



## Author: Kiara Daly



Kiara Daly recently graduated from Cornell University with a PhD in geophysics and is currently contributing to the scientific community as a postdoctoral researcher in Hawai'i. Her research focuses on utilizing various seismological techniques to investigate the Alaska-Aleutian subduction zone and the Hawai'ian magmatic systems. Kiara earned her undergraduate degree in geophysics and physics from the University of Auckland in New Zealand. An active member of the Women in Geothermal (WING) thermal trailblazers mentorship program, Kiara has also joined a WING committee where she authors Spotlight Articles that celebrate the achievements of industry leaders. She is passionate about the geothermal industry and its vibrant community, eager to contribute to its growth and development. Beyond her professional roles Kiara is a New Zealand national champion in adult synchronized figure skating. She is an avid traveler, enjoys learning French, and has recently taken up playing the ukulele.

