



**PORSCHE**

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139 students gain an insight into technical occupations at the sports car manufacturer

**Filiz Akkaya, Ph.D. student at Porsche: Girls' Day as an important motivation**

**Stuttgart.** Approximately 15 years ago Filiz Akkaya took part in Girls' Day herself. A pathfinding experience as it further strengthened her interest in technology. The 27-year old is now a Ph.D. student at Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG and develops testing methods for vehicle powertrains at the test station in the Weissach development centre. At Girls' Day on 23 April she will be showing students the test facilities herself.

A total of 139 girls from different types of secondary schools are seizing the opportunity to gain an insight into technical occupations at the sports car manufacturer. That is almost 50 per cent more students than last year. At the Porsche sites in Zuffenhausen, Weissach, Leipzig and Bietigheim-Bissingen the girls will change brake pads, paint vehicles and fit engines. In addition, this year for the first time the girls will also be able to take a look behind the scenes in the workshops of several Porsche centres: in Leipzig, Hamburg and Zuffenhausen they will have an opportunity to use tools and tinker with all different kinds of sports cars.

Filiz Akkaya is convinced that Girls' Day can open up new perspectives. When she herself took part she saw women "doing really good work in male professions. They were mentors and role models for me. They reinforced my decision and brought me this far." Today she is standing in front of the group herself and looking forward to "opening other girls' eyes to the fascination of technology."

Filiz Akkaya comes from Stuttgart and has loved cars and engines ever since she was a small girl. Incidentally, it was her own father who really opened her eyes: "He

allowed me to help him to change oil and repair cars." To change inlet and outlet valves her father had even been known to disassemble a whole engine in the family's living room.

"Engineering is a tangible and graphic world – and it's certainly more than just the formulas you learn at school", says Akkaya. After leaving secondary school she gained university entrance qualifications at a technical college. Whilst studying mechanical engineering she became a member of "Femtec", a career network for women in technical professions. Porsche AG is a founding member of the network established in 2001 that supports young women on their way to a typically male occupation. And it is successful as the proportion of female employees at Porsche has been growing for years – also and especially in technical areas.

This is a good signal for Filiz Akkaya, as building sports cars is also a woman's job. But on the other hand she knows that there are still too many girls without enough confidence in themselves. She is motivated to change this: "I want to encourage girls to apply and get started." This means that the forty students who Filiz Akkaya will guide through the development centre in Weissach can not only look forward to a varied tour, but also to a highly motivated guide.

### **Women at Porsche:**

"Just five or six years ago only around five per cent of trainees in skilled technical occupations were female. This has now gone up to 27 per cent", says Thomas Edig, Deputy Chairman of the Executive Board and Member of the Executive Board - Human Resources and Social Affairs of Porsche AG. "In three years we aim to reach the 30 per cent mark." Porsche brings women to management positions even without specific quotas for women in place: in 2014 the sports car manufacturer appointed women to 15 per cent of the management positions to be filled. Four out of ten young people completing training are women. The general objective of Porsche is to expand the proportion of women in all areas of the company – from apprentices to supervisors and graduates.

**Girls' Day:**

Girls' Day is a nationwide initiative by the Ministry for Families and Education and the European Union. Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG has been a partner of Girls' Day for around 15 years.

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NB: Accredited journalists can access photographic materials related to Filiz Akkaya and Girls' Day from the Porsche press database online at: <https://presse.porsche.de> .