

Q1 2024 EDITION

A Special Pullout

ENERGY

FacTor Boosts Guyana's Offshore Training Capabilities

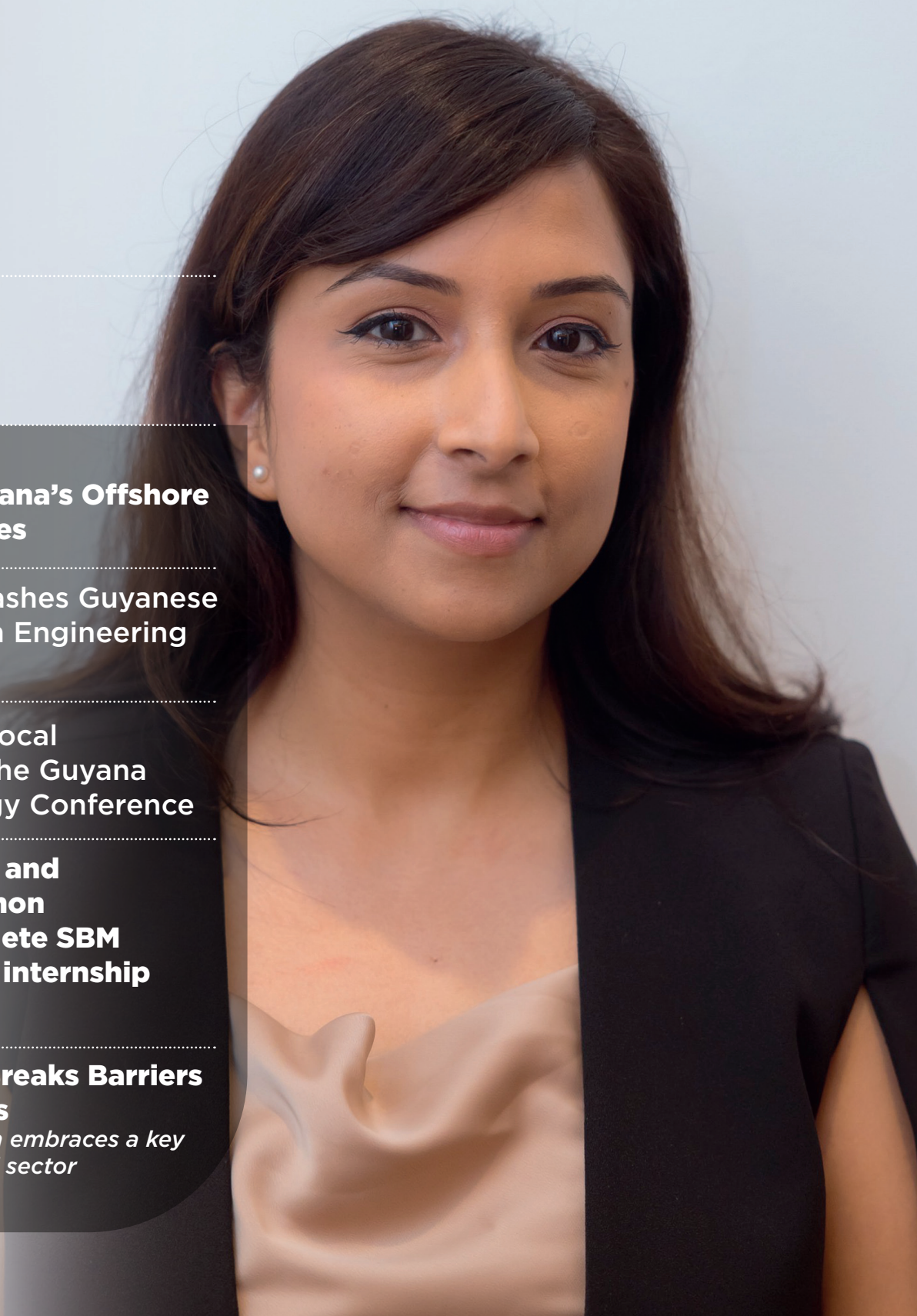
STEMGuyana Unleashes Guyanese Youths' Potential in Engineering and Robotics

G-Boats Anchors Local Empowerment at the Guyana International Energy Conference

Driving Innovation and Creativity: Hackathon participants complete SBM Offshore Guyana's internship program

How Gina Arjoon Breaks Barriers and Forges Futures

A bold, assertive woman embraces a key leadership role in the oil sector

A portrait of Gina Arjoon, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a black blazer over a light-colored top. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.



FacTor Boosts Guyana's Offshore Training Capabilities

— Offers cutting-edge training for a range of specialized oil and gas operations

Guyana, a rising star in the global energy landscape, has reached a significant milestone with the launch of its state-of-the-art Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) facilities simulator, aptly named FacTor. This cutting-edge initiative is a vital step forward in Guyana's strategic vision to establish itself as a premier destination for top-tier opportunities in the energy industry.

Developed through a collaborative partnership between the Government of Guyana and the high-powered consortium operating in the Stabroek Block—ExxonMobil Guyana Limited (EMGL), Hess, and CNOOC—and SBM Offshore Guyana, FacTor represents a substantial investment of USD13 million (GYD2.6 billion). This initial phase, a pivotal component of the broader Guyana Technical Training College Inc. located at Port Mourant in Berbice, shows a steadfast commitment to nurturing local talent and expertise in alignment with the country's ambitious energy aspirations.

Understanding FacTor

At the core of the FacTor training site lies a meticulously designed environment that mirrors real-life plant conditions, offering a comprehensive suite of classrooms, workshops, and the signature FacTor module. This multifaceted facility is a hub for hands-on training across multiple programs, empowering trainees to navigate operational practices, troubleshooting, and maintenance tasks within a simulated yet realistic environment.

Safety is the cornerstone of the FacTor ecosystem. By utilizing mediums like water and air, the facility ensures a secure training environment free from potentially hazardous gases or liquids. Central to its infrastructure are several essential pieces of equipment meticulously arranged to replicate the intricate operational conditions inherent in FPSO work processes, all within a controlled setting.

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STEMGuyana Unleashes Guyanese Youths' Potential in Engineering and Robotics

— Empowering Guyana's labor force for a high-tech future

The Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) STEMGuyana has launched a revolutionary learning system to prepare local youths for pivotal roles in the oil and gas sector. It focuses on teaching vital Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) skills to students from Grades One to Grade 11. Undoubtedly, the program sets students on a dynamic path to acquire the expertise to power an oil-based economy. The system will also enhance students' critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity, giving them the confidence to detect and solve technological problems when they enter the workforce.

Founded in 2016, STEMGuyana currently has four programs for students of all ages. According to Operations Manager Ms. Alisha Koulen, there are over 2,000 people involved in the program from across Guyana. She noted that the NGO aims to make this approach to education available to all students to not only increase their knowledge of Science,



Participants at the STEMGuyana Future innovators expo at Marriott Hotel

Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics but also develop their soft skills, which include good communication and interpersonal skills, leadership, problem-solving, work ethic, time management, and teamwork.

“At the end of any program we do, we want them to be well-rounded individuals; the students must be able to speak boldly to people, speak in front

of a camera... they must be able to present, to host training sessions and to teach what they learn to other young people,” the Operations Manager said. With little knowledge about STEM education and a passion for technology, Koulen herself started working with STEMGuyana as a Program Analyst in 2021, and she was responsible for just one program.

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LOCAL CONTENT

G-Boats Anchors Local Empowerment at the Guyana International Energy Conference



In a resounding display of commitment to Guyana, G-Boats Incorporated made an impact at the recent Guyana International Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo. The company's booth at the event not only showcased its cutting-edge capabilities in the offshore industry but also underlined its unwavering dedication to local content and community development.

Progress in Local Content Initiatives

At the end of the third quarter of 2023, G-Boats demonstrated substantial progress in its local content initiatives. The company's commitment to nationalization was evident with an overall nationalization rate of 73.5% employees hailing from Guyana. By the end of 2023, the numbers continued to rise, reaching an overall rate of 77.6% with 94.4% onshore workers and 76.9% offshore workers. This showcases G-Boats' persistent efforts to empower the local workforce.

Procurement Commitment

G-Boats has also played a pivotal role in supporting local businesses through its procurement practices. For example, approximately 82% of the total money spent by G-Boats was allocated to Guyanese suppliers. G-Boats' annual vendor forum held in October 2023 brought together over 70 Guyanese suppliers, fostering better understanding and collaboration. "It's worth noting that G-Boats values the Local Content Certificate as a prerequisite for onboarding new vendors and aims to maintain a prompt payment policy within 30-45 business days," said Geetangali Veronica Ramballie, G-Boats' Local Content and Office Manager.

Capacity Building Initiatives

Beyond employment and procurement, G-Boats actively contributes to capacity building in Guyana. The company sponsors Youth Basketball



Guyana, provides donations to the University of Guyana for sports uniforms; offers technical training for Guyanese employees; supports Matpal Marine Institute cadets with stipends and accommodations; conducts marine rigging classes for Guyanese; and provides health, safety, and environmental training for employees. These initiatives underscore G-Boats' dedication to fostering local talent and positively contributing to the communities in which it operates.

Ramballie emphasized the company's commitment at the Guyana Energy Conference stating, "G-Boats anchors its commitment at the Guyana Energy Conference, not just to exhibit, but to elevate local content, driving inclusive growth and sustainable development," she said. "At the conference, G-Boats stands as a beacon of collaboration. Suppliers benefit from forging strategic alliances, prospective employees find a company committed to their growth, and stakeholders engage in dialogue that drives positive change."

In essence, G-Boats Incorporated's participation in the Guyana International Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo is not merely a corporate presence but a testament to its deep-rooted commitment to the people and development of Guyana. The company's progress in local content initiatives and its multifaceted approach to community development position it as a key player in fostering sustainable growth within the nation's burgeoning energy sector.

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Driving Innovation and Creativity: Hackathon participants complete SBM Offshore Guyana's internship programme

— Two interns secure full-time positions

In 2023, SBM Offshore Guyana exclusively sponsored the Office of the Prime Minister's Industry and Innovation Unit's Innovation Challenge (Hackathon). The competition saw Guyanese competing to develop an application to support cross-company collaboration and communication within different organisations. In addition to SBM Offshore Guyana's financial support, three participants of the Hackathon, Shawn Jemmott, Timothy Shiwprasad and Dominic Braam were offered a three-month paid internship with the company, which concluded in December 2023. Jemmott and Shiwprasad later secured full-time positions with the organization.

During their internship, the young men exemplified innovation, creativity and responsibility, lending their skills and knowledge to creating digital software applications aimed at improving efficiency and work functions within the company's ecosystem. Jemmott, who possesses six years of experience and knowledge in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology, aided in the creation of a predictive model which identified and extracted equipment details from documents for inventory purposes.

"My key takeaway is that they are not afraid to try new stuff because SBM Offshore is not a software development company; it is a company that understands that AI is the new age of technology and that is something that they need to dive into. They always try something new and that is something I will take away with me, always try something new," he shared.

Combining his knowledge of AI and experience in software development, Shiwprasad supported the creation of a translation software application



Dominic Braam, Timothy Shiwprasad and Shawn Jemmott on the first day of their internships.

that scanned documents written in various languages and translated them to the required language, while maintaining the original format. Additionally, he supported a topic modelling project, which provided solutions for analysing organizational challenges by providing a synopsis of topical organizational issues. He credited the company for building his communication skills and refining his software skills, attributing his skill development to maintaining the company's high standards.

Shiwprasad posited, "I was given the opportunity to go onto the path that I wanted to be. I was able to work among data scientists and now I am 100 per cent certain that this is the field that I want to be in. My biggest takeaway is that the internship set me on the right path career-wise and also it reassured me that this is the right career for me."

Braam, who aided in the creation of a data visualisation package, worked to unify data visualisation across intelligent agents. The young man cited his experience with the company as enlightening, expressing that as a result of his internship, he interfaced with several new data science tools and technology.

"While I did learn a lot of new things in the technical aspect, I learned a lot more in the social aspect. I realized that socialising with your peers, it can bring more perspective on a project that I may be working on and that would really elevate the quality of work I put out at the end of the day," he shared.

SBM Offshore Guyana continues to provide opportunities for capacity-building, professional growth and development of Guyanese in the oil and gas industry.

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How Gina Arjoon Breaks Barriers and Forges Futures

— A bold, assertive woman embraces a key leadership role in the oil sector



CENTRE FOR
LOCAL
BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT

Gina at a Glance

Ms. Gina Arjoon is a Senior Economist and Project Management professional with over 15 years of expertise in economic research, international development, and project management. In her career, she has championed gender equality, public financial management, and climate change initiatives, and has worked for the High Commission of Canada and the Ministry of Health, Health Sector Development Unit. She sits on the Board of the Guyana Women's Leadership Institute.

In her personal life, Gina is a devoted mother of a delightful four-year-old girl, and shares a fulfilling partnership with her supportive life companion. She is an expert Kathak [Indian classical dance] performer with 25 years of experience, who participated in Naya Zamana [Hindu dance] shows as a dancer before transitioning to stage management of the event. Gina prioritizes balancing her family and professional commitments, embodying resilience and dedication in all aspects of her life.

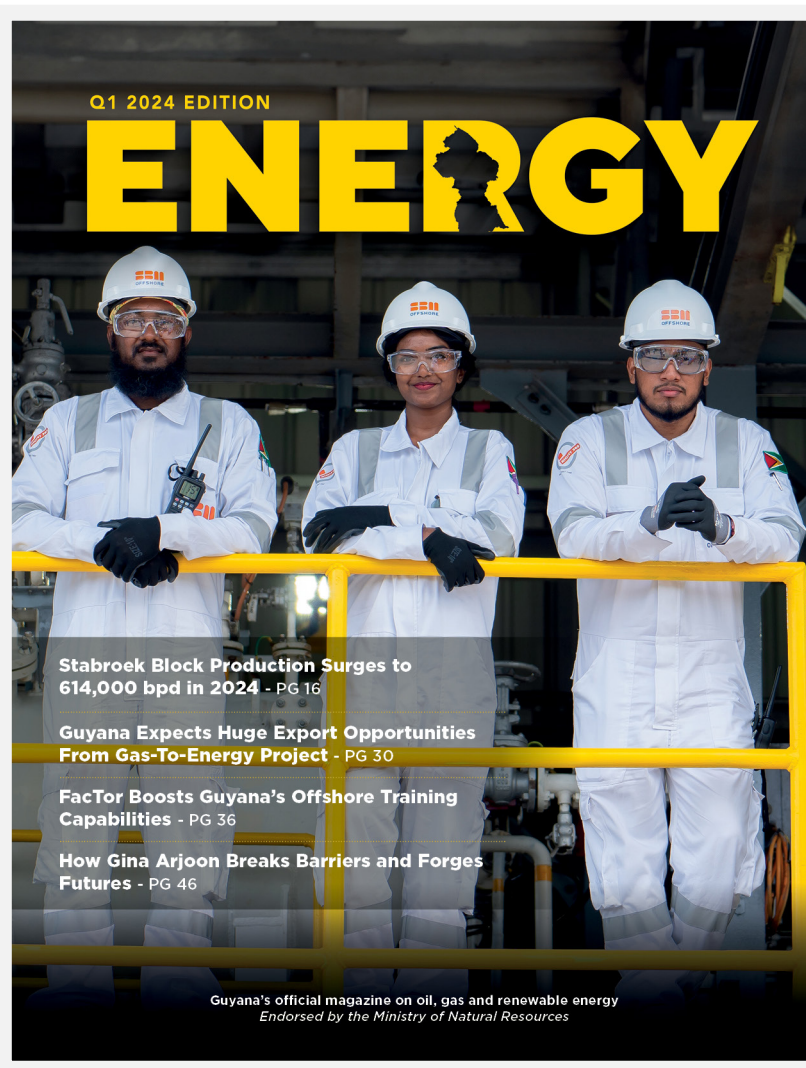
Gina Arjoon, the new Deputy Director of the Centre for Local Business Development (CLBD), plays a crucial role in her nation's rapidly evolving oil and gas industry. A seasoned economist with 15 years of experience in developmental work, Gina is making an indelible mark in a male-dominated field due to her resilience, foresight, and commitment to advancing opportunities for women.

Playing Her Role in a Paradigm Shift

When ExxonMobil found substantial oil and gas resources offshore Guyana in 2015, Gina saw this as more than a game-changing economic windfall. A passionate advocate of sustainable national development founded on gender equality, she immediately realized the rich potential to use this sector to advance gender welfare and holistic national growth. "Oil and gas brought us an opportunity, something unprecedented...it meant widespread development...more inclusive growth, gender-based and otherwise, than I think any of us ever thought possible," she says.

Today, almost ten years after the initial oil find, Gina is building her career and helping the CLBD to fulfill its mission from its inception in 2017: leveraging gains from the booming oil sector to empower local businesses and advance other industries. But her vision goes beyond that. She sees Guyana as the regional leader in agriculture, tourism, hospitality, and logistics, positioning the country at the forefront of inclusive economic development and equal opportunities for all. This vision aligns perfectly with the Centre's current and planned programs.

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VACANCIES

Check out some of the opportunities available in the oil and gas industry

- **Technip FMC** – Metering Engineer 1 ([Click here to view](#))
- **Technip FMC** – Automation Engineer 1 ([Click here to view](#))
- **Stena Drilling** – Join the team ([Click here to view](#))
- **Guyana Shorebase Inc.** ([Click here to view](#))
- **Eldorado Offshore** – Painter ([Click here to view](#))