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I do not have enough words to be enough thankful to Maria. I started to work with her in July 2014 and I well remember my first lesson as a new buyer, which was about the verb "assume", and I do it every time I have the chance and I also encourage my team to have the same drive and attitude. Her guidance and unending dedication, commitment and passion was the baseline of my career. She inspired me to love my job in procurement and this motivated me to obtain good achievements, since now I am managing a team based on 2 continents. The fact that she is sharing all her knowledge to everyone is requiring her an advice, shows how strong it is.



Maria is a key person for our railway industry, I've known her since 2013-14 when we worked together in Romania.

At that moment she was Commercial Director, leading a company with more than 300 people delivering railway projects and associated fabrication. The company had grown organically and built a team with 30% women representation in key functions, with Maria mentoring young women and helping them to develop as individuals and has been involved with the local community.

Later in 2017-18 we asked Maria to join us to deliver a collaborative light rail programme of works in excess of £1Bn. The cultural challenge to move from Romania to UK was important, however she adapted quickly to support the delivery team and was promoted in 2021 to Project Director for Birmingham East side extension.

Maria has been instrumental to deliver the initial junction in 12 weeks blockade working close with the client, stakeholders while minimising the disruption to the city. She has being a role model for young women, supporting the growth of the team where people like Marta, winner of the Global Light Rail Awards 2021 rising star of the year or apprentices are developing under her guidance.

Maria deserves recognition not just for the work well done but also for her support to the community at a personal and professional level adding a great social value to the railway industry.

Kind regards,

Alejandro

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From: Paul Brown <Paul.Brown@metroalliance.co.uk>

Sent: 02 February 2022 17:38

To: Maria Ion <Maria.Ion@metroalliance.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Women In Rail Awards - Nomination Form Review

Hi Maria.

I would like to add that during my time as Managing Director in Romania, you were more than instrumental in encouraging and mentoring the younger members of female staff to improve their status and achieve better things in their Rail career.

You also had a major input and were extremely supportive of myself and other staff in setting up charity events and local schemes to support and raise funds for a number of resident charities. You were always respected by your male counterparts in some extremely demanding circumstances during our time in a number of Eastern European countries and I was firstly always proud to have you supporting me and secondly always confident we would achieve our goals.

Good Luck,

Regards Paul

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