

WHAT MAKES GÉANT TICK

GÉANT is a unique organisation that plays a pivotal role for research and education worldwide. In one of our previous issues we presented Life at GÉANT, an initiative that is helping to attract new talent with a closer look at the people inside the organisation and what excites them about their working lives. CONNECT has selected two new employee stories to give you a flavour of Life at GÉANT. Visit www.geant.org for more!



MUNYARADZI SHAHWE, SENIOR PROJECT ACCOUNTANT, CAMBRIDGE

What do you do at GÉANT?

I am the Financial Management and Administration task leader within the established and extensive GÉANT Project (GN4-2) that has delivered the 500Gbps pan-European network, as well as a series of advanced, user-focused services, and a successful programme of innovation in networking technology.

My job entails financial reporting on GN4-2 and also regular tracking of costs/finance progress, as well as providing support to the programme managers, activity and task leaders with day-to-day budget and cost management within their respective areas.

Tell us about your experience at GÉANT

As soon as I joined GÉANT I felt part of the team. I love my job and I am impressed by the sheer scale of the projects that I report on; I never stop learning! Some of the projects are incredibly complex and I am intrigued by their full scope and impact. I also find cross-functional collaborations and initiatives very stimulating; I believe that such activities create a great buzz in the office.

Working at GÉANT has given me the opportunity to travel to Malaysia, Malawi and other remote countries to support, train and mentor the local finance teams collaborating with us on specific projects involving developing countries. It is for me a very rewarding experience to be involved in initiatives aimed at supporting and facilitating Research & Education around the globe hence helping to bridge the gap between the developed and developing world.

Here everyone is valued and given the space and the chance to thrive. It offers a truly international environment that values and embraces diversity and its atmosphere is genuinely welcoming and open.

About Munya

I was born and raised in Zimbabwe where I started my career working for the Mining Industry Pension Fund before moving to the United Kingdom in 2005. I was initially based in London where I worked in banking and finance and in 2009 I moved to Cambridge to join a non-governmental organisation as a Finance Manager. In 2013 I started at GÉANT as a Senior Project Accountant.



CHRISTIAN GIJTENBEEK, SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER, AMSTERDAM

What do you do and what do you most enjoy about your job at GÉANT?

I am a software engineer, I work with code, but I never forget that the outcome of my programming work will be used by people, so code is not cold or lifeless. I like to think strategically, understand what our NREN members need, and

combine data that adds value to them: a process I thoroughly enjoy. An example of this, is the work I carried out for the Compendium, a project that delivered to NREN members at a glance information of the entire and up-to-date map of GÉANT services in use by the whole NREN community.

In my job, I have the great opportunity to engage with our customers directly, understand their real requirements and deliver services that

they are not yet aware they need. I am lucky to collaborate with so many clever and driven people within GÉANT's impressive international community.

What is special about GÉANT?

At GÉANT, everybody's contribution is part of a collective effort to benefit the overall NREN community. We truly endeavour to provide value to customers in everything we do. The organisation promotes an atmosphere of partnership, trust and mutual respect. I am amazed by how much I am learning every day at a professional and personal level from such a diverse group of people from all over the world. In particular, what makes me really proud is to belong to an organisation that is also raising the bar of education for our society, globally.

About Christian

I used to be a middle-distance runner, I rarely won, but I always had the drive to succeed. I am enthusiastic and inspired by innovation and I can openly say that I am not afraid of failure. I endeavour to achieve the ideal balance between passion and drive. I always try to put myself in my customers' shoes and deliver for them valuable and useful bite-size wins that they can use quickly and successfully.

To read all the interviews featured in Life at GÉANT visit: https://www.geant.org/About/Joining_GEANT/life-at-GEANT
Happy reading!