

Women Transforming our Industry



**Meet WINLPG
2024 Technical Groundbreaker Awardee**



Thais Soares

Production Manager - Ultragas

1. How did winning the award impact your confidence or sense of purpose?

Receiving the WINLPG award was a turning point in both my professional and personal journey. For the first time, I paused to deeply reflect on my path and the impact I've been making in promoting diversity in the spaces I navigate. This recognition awakened a new awareness in me: that my story holds value, resonance, and purpose. From the moment I began crafting my application, I was led to revisit my history, marking the beginning of a journey of self-discovery that helped me see more clearly the path I wish to follow as a leader. I understood that I am here to serve, inspire, and transform, and that leadership is, above all, an act of human impact. The award strengthened my confidence as a professional, as a woman, and as a change agent in the energy sector. It reinforced my conviction about the importance of promoting diversity and expanding female representation in leadership positions. More than an achievement, it was a call to keep innovating, opening doors, and leaving a positive legacy both inside and beyond the organisation.

2. What was the most memorable moment from the past year connected to receiving this award?

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3. Have you taken on any new projects, initiatives, or leadership roles since the award?

Since being recognised as a Field Groundbreaker, I've embraced new challenges that have expanded my role as an active leader and agent of transformation. I've been dedicated to projects focused on safety and operations, with the goal of strengthening individual ownership and promoting smoother integration between technical and administrative teams.

During strategic moments, I supported bases and branches through leadership transitions, temporarily stepping into management roles until new managers arrived — always committed to ensuring continuity, engagement, and operational excellence.

In addition, I've taken on an active role in developing new leaders, encouraging knowledge sharing, best practices, and the growth of a culture rooted in collaboration and trust. I believe that true leadership means multiplying impact, and each initiative has been an opportunity to expand impact and build bridges toward the future.

4. Has your approach to leadership or community involvement evolved over the last year?

Without a doubt, my approach to leadership has evolved significantly over the past year. I've come to see leadership as an even more human, empathetic, and collaborative practice. I've learned that true impact lies not only in the goals we achieve, but in how we cultivate relationships built on trust, purpose, and belonging. I've been dedicating more time to people development, active listening, and creating safe spaces where each individual can flourish authentically. This shift in perspective has led me to value even more the power of collective effort, the diversity of ideas, and the co-creation of solutions. Today, leadership for me means inspiring, serving, and opening paths — within the organisation and in the community. It's about building support networks, sharing knowledge, and expanding the reach of the positive impact we can create together.

5. What lessons have you learned over the past year that you wish you knew before?

One of the most valuable lessons I've learned over the past year is that true recognition doesn't need to be chased — it's a natural consequence of actions carried out with purpose, consistency, and integrity. When we connect with what truly matters, impact unfolds organically. I also discovered that inspiring others doesn't require perfection. On the contrary, it demands the courage to be authentic, vulnerable, and present. This awareness freed me from rigid standards and allowed me to embrace a lighter, more confident, and deeply connected style of leadership. Today, I understand that leading is about creating spaces where people can flourish by being who they truly are. And this shift in perspective has been transformative — for me and for those who walk alongside me.

6. Has the recognition opened up any new opportunities or networks for you?

The recognition expanded my network and connected me with incredible women from different countries and cultures. Although these exchanges aren't constant, they've opened doors to enriching conversations and new perspectives on leadership and diversity in the sector. Within the organisation, I noticed a significant shift in how my journey came to be perceived. Colleagues and leaders began seeking me out to exchange ideas, ask for advice, and share challenges — strengthening my role as a reference point and informal mentor. This closer connection brought admiration, prestige, and the opportunity to contribute even more to collective development. More than opening new doors, the award helped me solidify meaningful connections and step into spaces with greater confidence and purpose.



7. Where do you see yourself five years from now?

Five years from now, I envision myself leading projects that strategically and innovatively integrate technology, safety, and sustainability within the energy sector. I aim to be at the forefront of initiatives that generate meaningful impact — both in operations and in the lives of the people and communities involved. I've been dedicating myself to a specialisation in Safety Engineering, which has broadened my technical perspective and prepared me to take on increasingly complex and transformative challenges. I believe that combining knowledge, purpose, and leadership is the key to building solutions that are more human-centred, efficient, and sustainable.

8. Are there any new goals or dreams you're currently pursuing (at work or home)?

Currently, my focus is on continuing to grow as a leader and expanding female representation in technical and management roles. On a personal level, I strive for balance between career, health, and well-being — because I believe that to lead is also to inspire by example.

Meet. Connect. Exchange. Learn.

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 Women in LPG Global Network
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