

Towards new goals

For 38 years he was active within the oil and gas industry in Iran. During these years he took great pride in his work. He kept to two principles: To deliver good quality and always try to improve efficiency.

One day he had to flee his homeland. At the time, he had a management position at a company in the industry with SEK 2.2 billion in turnover and 350 employees. In 2010 he came to Sweden. 250 job applications and 9 years later Martin Dolatabadi is working as a Mechanic.

– I love mechanics, it's my passion!

Martin stated that he always has had a great interest in creating, developing and designing. Qualities that people around him have noticed, which has led to increased responsibility as a project manager, production manager and not least as CEO of a big industrial company within oil and gas industry.

An inventor

Martin's creative spirit, a strong interest and great drive showed the way to his success. He has developed a number of machines and continues with some of his own inventions which he hopes to develop further.

– I have always had many ideas, creativity runs in the family. We have two talented writers, one of which has actually been a candidate for the Nobel Prize in literature, Martin revealed. It is interesting to record Martin's humble appearance as he tells his story which in different ways depicts the skills he possess.

The escape

Parts of Martin's family live in Sweden, including an aunt and uncle, but most importantly his son and grandchildren. Brothers, siblings and his daughter are still living in Iran. Circumstances forced Martin to separate from his wife who remained in Iran.

Martin's daughter is now 35 years old and during his 9 years in Sweden the relationship has been kept alive at a distance. Martin recently met her for two days in Turkey for the first time since he left Iran. A short but important and longed for meeting. This part of his life story is very emotional.

Being forced to flee from your home country, leaving family, a well-paid profession and your whole life is impossible to understand unless you made a similar journey.

Martin Dolatabadi's life changed completely from one day to the next. Not only his family remained in Iran but also all the documents that attested to his competence. When he came to Sweden he knew nothing of what was waiting. Martin's new hometown became Stockholm and Nacka.

– I got a very nice first impression of Sweden, says Martin. Everyone was friendly and the landscape fantastic. However, it was difficult for me to get a job within the engineering industry.

250 job applications

It took 3,5 years for Martin to obtain a residence permit. Meanwhile, Martin managed to get jobs in the construction industry. But the goal was to get a job in the engineering industry again. Meanwhile he went to SFI (Swedish for immigrants) and a couple of various courses to obtain new certificates of his skills. 250 job applications without results. In 2013, Martin finally got his residence permit.

– I applied for almost 250 jobs directly, says Martin. Martin had a huge CV and the skills required, but that wasn't enough. He cut down his resume considerably, he also chose to change his

name. All with the aim of one day be given the opportunity to continue working with his passion of industrial engineering.

From several hundred applications, he received two offers with low salary considering his extended experience and skills. The location was away from Stockholm where parts of his family settled but Martin's desire to return to engineering won, and he chose to move.

– I started as an operator at NKT Cables in Falun via an employment staffing company, Martin explains.

Attention to Martin's skills

In his role as operator, Martin's broad knowledge was once again highlighted by people around him. When Quant were looking for a mechanic, the site manager, Ann-Britt Jansson, were advised of Martin.

– NKT's flow manager told me about Martin, I saw the opportunity and therefore I asked if it was possible to hire him from the staffing company, says Ann-Britt.

– I understood his skills but was also aware of the language gap and the risk that follows, a lot can go wrong if communication fails, says Ann-Britt, who sees Martin's knowledge and experience in his behaviour.

– He sees the process flow, understands maintenance technology, captures preparatory maintenance efforts, gets the importance of 5S and many more things.

Going forward

Going forward, Ann-Britt and Martin found different ways to communicate.

– We often draw on the white board to easier understand each other.

Martin clearly has the technical knowledge and basic requirements required for a maintenance engineer, no doubt about that. Our challenge is instead communication and the language, but with patience and support we will make it work, says Ann-Britt and continues:

– Quant wants to help our employees develop. Now we need to ensure that Martin understand the Swedish industry, especially when it comes to our safety culture, says Ann-Britt, who is also fully convinced that Martin has the needed potential.

We are a team – everyone is important

When Martin started working in Falun, he moved a lot. Sometimes he stayed in hotels, sometimes the distance was long so he had to travel a lot. When he failed to find accommodation, the car became his sleeping place. But the desire to contribute to society and to create a new life in this new country gave him strength.

When Ann-Britt extended the agreement with Martin, she asked where Martin lived. It turned out that Martin still hadn't found a suitable place to live. "I can sleep in the car," Martin said to Ann-Britt, who replied, "Just forget it". Ann-Britt and her colleagues immediately sought solutions together.



*Martin Dolatabadi is happy to once again get a job in the industry.
Photo: Hans Olander, Quant in Falun.*

– Martin borrowed my apartment in Ludvika for a period. Meanwhile, they did a research in Falun and Martin's colleague Tomas Söderman, arranged a room for Martin. Ann-Britt says firmly:
– At Quant we work as a team, everyone here is important and when needed, we help each other.

The possibilities have changed

Today Martin is employed as a mechanic at Quant in Falun, he is happy to be part of Quant's team on site. But the journey hasn't been, and is still not, simple.

– Sometimes I think that it can't be easy to work with me who doesn't speak Swedish so well, says Martin. I really appreciate the patience of my colleagues and the way they help me in my daily work.

Martin says that there may be some culture clashes, but it also comes interesting discussions out of it, where both parties learn from each other on several levels.

– It is a difficult situation and it is not always easy to deal with emotionally when you want to contribute but not succeed all the way because of language, software, culture or other.

– But I feel that I have the opportunity to develop and that I am in an environment where people listen to me here at Quant in Falun. It makes me grateful, says Martin.

New journey and new goals

Today Martin has his own shelter in Falun – plus a colonial lot in Stockholm. Every weekend he goes to Stockholm to meet his son and his family. The pictures of his little "garden" reflect his creativity. In this place, herbs and flowers grow in a beautiful arrangement. During the weeks in Falun, he likes to stay at home working with the inventions he believes in very much in. Mechanics day like evening - that's his interest.

A vision and dream

A new journey has begun for Martin Dolatabadi.

– My goal is to learn Swedish better in the first place, says Martin. I hope I will improve my opportunities to progress within Quant. I have a vision to hopefully be able to get a role with more responsibility within 5-6 years, concludes Martin with a dreamy look and a soft smile.