Maria is currently working at the Royal Netherlands Aerospace Centre (NLR) as R&D Engineer since 2020, focusing on bringing metal AM technologies to a higher level. She mainly focuses on laser powder bed fusion (LPBF) and directed energy deposition technologies looking at parameter optimisation and materials aspects. She started in metal AM during her bachelor thesis in 2011, where she worked with the University of Leuven and Layerwise (3D Systems) on the LPBF process optimisation and characterisation of tantalum and tungsten. Then, she did a master's degree in materials engineering at the University of Leuven. Her master's thesis focused on improving the LPBF processability of Al7075. Maria graduated in 2019 with the degree of Doctor of Engineering Science (PhD) from the University of Leuven. Her thesis focused on LPBF of high-temperature materials Hastelloy X and 316L. She worked on the alloy design, heat treatment optimisation and high-temperature material characterisation.