

PRESS RELEASE

Neeta Patel CBE named Top Asian in UK Tech 2022

London, [7 July 2022]: Neeta Patel CBE, Non-Executive Director at Allianz Technology Trust PLC & Albion Venture Capital Trust PLC, and previously Founding CEO of the Centre for Entrepreneurs, was last night named as the Top Asian in UK Tech 2022 by equality charity Diversity UK, publishers of the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list and the Asian Tech Pioneers index. The Chairman's Award was presented by Ramesh Vala CBE, Chairman of the Judging Panel and sponsors; Nasser Ali Khasawneh, Partner & Global Head of TMT, Eversheds Sutherland and Adrian Simpson, Co-Founder, Wavelength at the launch of the eight edition of the list.

Neeta is a Non-Executive Director at FTSE 250-listed Allianz Technology Trust PLC and Albion Venture Capital Trust PLC, and was Founding CEO of the NEF+ programme, the UK's leading entrepreneur development programme and latterly of the merged Centre for Entrepreneurs (CFE). Prior to joining the CFE, she held senior positions at Legal & General PLC, Financial Times Group and at the British Council. Neeta is an experienced executive with over 30 years of strategy and operational leadership experience. She holds an MA from Oxford University, an MBA from Bayes Business School and a Sloan Fellowship from London Business School. She was appointed CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list 2020 for services to technology and entrepreneurship.

Chairman of the judging panel, Ramesh Vala CBE said in his citation:

"Neeta Patel was nominated for consideration for the Chairman's Award because of her unwavering support of the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list, having been a judge herself in 2015, 2020 & 2021; introducing new judges in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and for moderating at the Diversity Tech Summit in 2016 & 2022. In her previous role as Founding CEO of Centre For Entrepreneurs, she has supported and mentored more than 350 young people, including many from diverse backgrounds, who have gone through the CFE's flagship NEF+ programme, launching 200+ ventures, raising £240m with an aggregate valuation of £600m and have created more than 5000 jobs. She has also supported women founders via her roles as Entrepreneur-Mentor in-Residence at London Business School, Tech London Advocates and at City University Ventures. She was a speaker at the Diversity UK 'Investing in Women Founders' panel discussion in 2021; a moderator for the Diversity Tech Summit 2016 & 2022 and has attended a number of Diversity UK events since 2012."

"In my humble view, Neeta Patel CBE is a very worthy recipient of the Chairman's Award for 2022. She is an outstanding candidate in terms of her work in the tech and diversity sectors. The only surprise for me is that she has not received the award in previous years."

On accepting the award, Neeta said: *I am truly honoured and humbled to have received this award, following in the footsteps of so many eminent previous winners. Thank you to the judges and to Diversity UK for this and for the excellent work you do in keeping this issue at the forefront of business and entrepreneurship in the UK. Supporting and enabling diverse talent to start and grow businesses has been a long- term passion for me and I am committed to supporting this talent in any small way I can."*



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Notes for Editors:

Press Kit

Diversity Tech Summit 2022 - Images: <https://bit.ly/3ABOfst>

Diversity Tech Summit 2022 - Press Kit: <https://bit.ly/3u4v2vJ>

Diversity Champion Award 2022 - Images: <https://bit.ly/3c0IESr>

Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2022 - Launch Images: <https://bit.ly/3PeYkzS>

Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2022 - Chairman's Award Images: <https://bit.ly/3P49VI8>

Asian Tech Pioneers 2022 - Images: <https://bit.ly/3P9Kz5m>

Biography

Neeta Patel CBE

Non-Executive Director - Allianz Technology Trust PLC & Albion Venture Capital Trust PLC

Neeta Patel CBE is a Non-Executive Director at FTSE 250-listed Allianz Technology Trust PLC and Albion Venture Capital Trust PLC and was Founding CEO of the NEF+ programme, and latterly of the merged Centre for Entrepreneurs (CFE), for 11 years until May 2022. CFE is the UK's leading entrepreneur development programme and since its launch in 2011, nearly 350 people have gone through the programme, launching 200+ ventures, raising £240m with an aggregate valuation of £600m and have created more than 5000 jobs. Neeta is a mentor to a number of CFE founders; a Board Member at City Ventures and was Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee for the Young Women's Trust and an Advisory Board Member of Tech London Advocates.

Neeta is an experienced executive with over 30 years of strategy and operational leadership experience that spans financial services, media & publishing, education, arts and the creative industries. Prior to joining the CFE, Neeta worked in private equity matching technology entrepreneurs with investors. Neeta has held senior positions at Legal & General PLC, Financial Times Group and at the British Council. She is an early internet pioneer having launched the first personal finance web site in Europe for L&G in 1996.

Neeta holds an MA in Chemistry from Oxford University, an MBA (Marketing) from Bayes Business School, and a Sloan Fellowship in Strategy and Leadership from London Business School, where she was the winner of the PWC prize in 2009 for a consultancy assignment in China. Neeta is passionate about the importance of storytelling in business and has published a book about it, "Creative Business – the making of addictive stories", FT/Prentice Hall 2002. She was appointed CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list 2020 for services to technology and entrepreneurship.





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About Asians in Tech

The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech is the definitive list of Asians working in the digital and technology sectors in Britain. The aim of the list is to showcase diverse talent; from startup founders, technologists, venture capitalists and investors; to the game changers and digital influencers in business and social enterprise. www.asiansintech.com | [@asiansintech](https://twitter.com/asiansintech)

Recipients of the Chairman's Award in previous years include founder of ebookers, Dinesh Dhamija (2015); technologist Shankar Narayanan of Tata Consultancy Services (2016); Healthtech AR & VR evangelist Professor Shafi Ahmed (2017) and fintech entrepreneur, Monica Kalia (2018).

Social Media

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About Diversity UK

Diversity UK is an equality and inclusion charity that researches, advocates and promotes ideas for improving diversity in Britain. Diversity UK delivers its charitable objectives by undertaking research, facilitating debates, hosting roundtable meetings, producing white papers and publishing a monthly newsletter focusing on contemporary equality issues. Diversity UK is a registered charity (No: 1155189) in England & Wales. www.diversityuk.org | [@diversityuk](https://twitter.com/diversityuk)

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About Eversheds Sutherland

As a global top 10 law firm, Eversheds Sutherland provides legal services to a global client base. With more than 3,000 lawyers, Eversheds Sutherland operates in over 70 offices in more than 30 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the United States. In addition, a network of more than 200 related law firms, including formalised alliances in Latin America, Asia Pacific and Africa, provide support around the globe.

We recognise that having diverse talent across our business brings many benefits. We are committed to accessing a wide range of views, perspectives and thinking in all our teams and in this way, we are building a culture of inclusion, where each person feels able to be their true self at work and reach their full potential. We know that diverse and inclusive organisations are more productive, more innovative, perform better and have stronger levels of engagement from their people.

Diversity and Inclusion is fundamental to the firm's purpose of "helping our clients, our people and our communities to thrive", and 'Inclusive' is one of our five values. Our strategy encompasses a number of diversity dimensions including ethnicity; gender; disability; sexual orientation, gender identity and expression; parenting and caring; faith and social mobility.

By embracing diversity, we can better partner with our global and diverse client base, and be open and welcoming to all, across the communities we live and work in.

For further information, visit www.eversheds-sutherland.com





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About Wavelength UK

Wavelength is a world-class leadership company. We aim to make the world better through business, by enabling ambitious leaders to develop their connectivity, knowledge and resilience. We understand the key issues facing companies today: employee engagement, service excellence, social innovation, digital disruption, leadership resilience and change management. Our unique programmes and insider access to progressive and inspiring organisations offer a radically different model for learning and tangible return on investment. For further information, visit

www.wavelengthleadership.com

About Ketchum

Ketchum is a global communications consultancy that is passionate about doing work that matters and is leading the industry in the need for progress and improvements in DE&I. We bring the resources, structure specialisms and delivery of a big agency, with the passion, agility and contacts of the boutiques. Because we're multi-disciplinary by nature, we pride ourselves on being able to flex our talent depending on the challenge at hand. Diversity and Inclusion is our number one business priority. It is embedded throughout our culture, values and work and we're proud to have one of the most diverse creative teams in the industry producing work that matters. In 2021 we officially became the most awarded communications consultancy for DE&I. To find out more please visit: www.ketchum.com/london

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