



**THE
TOP 50**

2026

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

THE  TIMES



The LDC Top 50 Most Ambitious Business Leaders 2026

When: Wednesday 7th October | Where: BAFTA, 195 Piccadilly, London

ldc.co.uk/Top50



Celebrating Ambition

The LDC Top 50 Most Ambitious Business Leaders, in partnership with The Times, celebrates entrepreneurs building stronger businesses and a more productive economy by tackling real-world challenges, creating jobs and serving customers and communities better.

Launched in 2018, The LDC Top 50 was created to bring attention to the leaders behind a valuable yet often overlooked group: profitable, fast-growing businesses with annual turnover of up to £50 million. Many have built growing businesses during rapid change and economic uncertainty without losing sight of their purpose, principles or long-term plans.

This year's Top 50 and Ones to Watch lead businesses with a combined turnover of £1.4 billion and pre-tax profits of £152 million. Together, they employ almost 8,500 people and are headquartered in 55 towns and cities across the UK.

Their impact extends far beyond financial performance. These businesses invest in training, create opportunities for people to build meaningful careers, and equip workforces with valuable skills for the future. Many are also embracing AI to increase productivity, enhance customer experiences, and unlock new opportunities for growth and innovation.

While their entrepreneurial journeys are diverse, these leaders share a determination to turn bold ideas into enduring businesses. Their stories demonstrate the resilience, ingenuity and clarity of purpose that define ambition at its best.

Meet The Top 50 Most Ambitious Business Leaders of 2026 ►

◀ **Category award winners** from The Top 50 and Ones to Watch of 2025.



The ambition shaping the UK

Many of the leaders featured in The LDC Top 50 are building for the long-term, challenging accepted practice, improving transparency and embedding environmental responsibility.

Their disciplined approach balances confidence with sustainable growth, whether expanding through exports or focusing investment on opportunities closer to home.

◀ **NEWSUBSTANCE Group** - Founder Patrick O'Mahony designed Coachella's iconic seven-storey rainbow pavilion, Spectra.



David Tuck

CEO, Waracle

David Tuck is a leader who gets technology businesses back on track. In 2024, he joined Waracle following successful stints at digital consultancies Kin + Carta and Scott Logic. Two years on, the digital product consultancy, which works for clients including the People's Partnership & IG Group, is growing at 30 per cent and turnover will hit £60 million by 2028. "I want this business to be the best product consulting business in the UK," says David. The proof of his success isn't just about the numbers: "20 million people are using products that were built by Waracle," he says. "We create digital products trusted by millions."



Jack Morrison

Co-Founder and CEO, Zooki

After nearly a decade developing great-tasting, high-absorption liquid supplements, Zooki is suddenly taking off, with sales jumping from £9 million to £20 million last year. Packaged in convenient 'rip, sip and go' sachets, Zooki is stocked by national retailers including Holland & Barrett and Boots, as well as Soho House, gyms and coffee shops. "We show up in places you wouldn't expect," says co-founder Jack Morrison. Earlier this year, the brand flooded London's Tube stations, trains and buses with an advertising campaign shot by Rankin. "There's something special about creating a product, putting it out into the world and seeing people love it," he adds.



Fiona O'Connell

**Founder and Managing Director,
Stockton Group**

After training as a welder, Fiona O'Connell found her calling in groundworks for major infrastructure. From working on the Medway Tunnel to managing dredging works for the Øresund Bridge and drilling in the Suez Canal, she spent a decade as the only woman planning projects for the likes of Sweden's Skanska and Australian outfit McConnell Dowell. When she was made redundant after announcing she was pregnant, she started her own business, launching Stockton Group from her Yorkshire base in 2004, making the conscious decision to work on sustainable projects. "I spent my redundancy cheque on a drilling rig," Fiona says. "This year we'll turn over £25 million."



Dean Willshee

CEO, Willshee's Waste & Recycling

Dean Willshee left school at 16 to work in the family skip yard. Now CEO of Willshee's Waste & Recycling, he leads a £50 million turnover business with 160 employees, processing over half a million tonnes of waste across the Midlands every year. Over 13 years at the helm, Dean has transformed a local family operation into one of the region's most respected commercial waste management and recycling businesses, and his ambitions are far from satisfied. With a target of £100 million revenue within five years, he's focused on driving innovation in an industry he believes is ready for change. "We're nowhere near the end of the journey," he says.



Patrick O'Mahony

**Founder and Chief Creative Officer,
NEWSUBSTANCE Group**

Coachella's iconic seven-storey rainbow pavilion, Spectra, began life as a sketch in Patrick O'Mahony's notebook. "It was meant to be a one-off installation but has become part of the festival's identity. It's incredibly special when a project takes on a life of its own," he says. As the founder of creative studio NEWSUBSTANCE, and sister company SKYMAGIC, which creates drone light shows, Patrick has spent two decades imagining, designing and building world-class immersive experiences. Today, the Leeds-based group generates 80 per cent of its revenue from overseas. "It's the adrenalin of creating crazy, near-impossible projects from scratch that drives me."



Chris Whitter and Stephanie Spratt

Co-Founders, Olive Dining

It's no mean feat to provide a main course and pudding on a budget of just £2.85 but Stephanie Spratt and Chris Whitter, co-founders of Olive Dining, do that for over 150,000 students every day across 170 state primary and secondary schools, serving 98 per cent fresh food, all sourced from the UK. The pair launched the business after working together at a large food services company. "It was big, slow and took too long to make changes," says Stephanie. At Olive, menus constantly evolve, training is ongoing and decisions are executed the same day. "We are all passionate about educating children through food. That's what drives us," she adds.



Jonny Catto

Managing Director, iPac Packaging Innovations

Jonny Catto made his biggest career decision in a ski lift. “My father-in-law, Harry Reed, is a veteran of the thermoforming industry and pitched the idea for iPac while we were gliding up a mountain. It all started from there.” Jonny quit his job at Deloitte and the pair launched the Gateshead-based business in 2016, manufacturing sustainable thermoformed plastic packaging for major retailers. “We wanted to challenge the incumbents with a company that was genuinely focussed on quality, innovation, sustainability and customer service.” A decade on, iPac produces more than half a billion units annually destined for the likes of M&S and Tesco, “We’re now the UK’s largest independent thermoformer.”



Vikki Hodge

Co-Founder and Managing Director, Rave Coffee

After running a coffee van in Australia, Vikki Hodge and her then husband Rob returned to Britain, bought a Turkish coffee roaster and launched Rave Coffee from a shed in Cirencester. “The UK coffee industry was very cloak and dagger. We wanted to open it up,” she says. They became the UK’s first coffee roasters with a glass-fronted roastery, allowing customers to watch their coffee’s journey from bean to cup. Today, the business employs almost 90 people and roasts every order fresh. “We focus on our values, not what our competitors are doing. From paying farmers fairly to donating 1 per cent of sales to environmental causes, we’re constantly striving to be better.”



Ian Wilson

Founder and Group Director, Asteroceas Group

“We’re saving the planet,” says Asteroceas founder Ian Wilson. “We’re finding new species and protecting habitats. That’s what we do day in, day out.” Marine biologist and oceanographer Ian operates several cutting-edge environmental companies and has developed new techniques for mapping underwater environments, starting his company back in 2004. “I was working out of a cupboard then,” he says. Now Asteroceas encompasses seven ventures employing 86 people, with an eighth launching this year. Turnover stands at £20 million with projects as far afield as Angola and Malaysia. His hi-tech water monitoring company can detect pollution impacts and sources, helping deter dumping in the rivers and seas. “Our technology is desperately needed in the world.”



Declan Ausher

**Founder and Managing Director,
Primech Building Services**

Aged 30, Declan Ausher was offered a life-changing sum to sell his Kent-based building contractor. He turned it down. “I’m driven to achieve and succeed,” says the now 34-year-old founder of Primech Building Services. Turnover at the mechanical and electrical retrofit specialist, which works in schools, hospitals and government buildings, will hit £36 million this year. Declan has big plans to expand the business to become a full-service ecosystem. He also hopes to build his own training programme. “My first employee was an apprentice and we haven’t stopped training since,” he says. “I have even helped many staff found their own businesses; I’m passionate about backing people.”



Will Ghali

CEO, Ecosurety

“We want to rid the world of unnecessary packaging,” says Ecosurety CEO Will Ghali. Will joined the business in 2020, after working at consumer giants like Unilever and PepsiCo. “I have produced a lot of packaging in my career so now I’m atoning for my sins.” Under his stewardship, Ecosurety has shed its battery and waste electrics compliance division and opened a data and advisory business. “We help brands move to a reusable or refillable format,” he explains. “We will eliminate 50 tonnes of packaging this year alone.” The shift has helped the B Corp’s turnover to triple in six years. “It’s our goal to reach £200 million within the next five years.”



Gary Holliday, Dr. Suzanne Mansfield and Tim Jackson

Senior Directors, FPCR

Gary Holliday, Tim Jackson and Dr Suzanne Mansfield all joined Derby-based environmental and design consultancy FPCR as graduates more than 30 years ago. Today they lead the business, which has more than 300 employees across six UK offices and is proudly employee-owned. “Everyone shares in the company’s success,” says Tim. Over the past year, turnover has increased from £16 million to £21 million. “Even as we’ve expanded, we’ve tried to keep a family atmosphere,” says Gary. For Suzanne, reputation is everything. “Clients come back because they know they’ll get high-quality work, on time and on budget. Doing things properly has always mattered more to us than chasing a number.”



Keep a finger on the pulse

For many businesses represented in The LDC Top 50, success is measured by more than balance sheets – it's marked by how much their leaders can change the world for the better.

From faster scans and safer navigation for emergency aircraft to better healthcare spaces and shorter waits for heart surgery, these leaders are improving vital services and helping save lives.

◀ **Regent's Park Healthcare** - Dr. Anil Ohri's business helps tackle heart surgery waiting lists.



Dr. Amy Davis and Dr. Farzana Rahman

Co-Founders, Hexarad

The four founders of teleradiology specialist Hexarad met while training as radiologists at St George's in London. "We found a problem," says Dr. Farzana Rahman. "There were too many scans and not enough radiologists." In 2019, they created a platform to eliminate bottlenecks in NHS scan reporting. Hexarad now helps 2,000 patients a day, matching scans with a team of 400 radiologists working in their spare time. "We've helped three million patients get diagnosed," says Dr. Amy Davis. Amy and Farzana redefine ambition – purpose is more important than margin. Their algorithms help the NHS manage radiology resources more efficiently. "We're proud to be solving problems for the NHS," says Farzana.



Dr. Anil Ohri

Founder and CEO, Regent's Park Healthcare

After his father nearly died while waiting for heart surgery, former British Army doctor Anil Ohri became determined to find a better way of delivering specialist care alongside the NHS. In 2002, he remortgaged his house to launch Regent's Park Healthcare, initially buying a mobile catheter laboratory (a cardiac operating theatre) and even gaining an HGV licence so he could drive it around himself. Today, the company has delivered around 300,000 cardiac procedures and built specialist services within NHS hospitals across the country. Now, he plans to move into other complex specialisms such as robotics and neurosurgery. "Ultimately, it's about improving care and saving lives," he says.



William Moore

Co-Founder and CEO, Airbox Systems

"Our technology empowers frontline teams handling everything from terrorist threats to missing children and wildfires. We make the world safer for everyone." William Moore is the founder of Oxfordshire-based Airbox Systems, which provides mapping, operational awareness and tactical planning tools to police, fire and ambulance services across the UK. In 2008, the mechanical engineer had the novel idea to layer complex spatial data into intuitive maps, revolutionising how frontline teams tackle serious incidents. Over the next five years, the company will expand into Australasia and the US. William's ambition is to save as many lives as possible. "We change outcomes for people in their moment of ultimate need."



Emma Strain

Joint Managing Director, CSS Europe

Emma Strain's route to the boardroom began with a broken arm. After a serious fall ended her nursing career, she joined Staffordshire-based software company CSS Europe in 2014. Twelve years later, she's Joint Managing Director, having progressed through customer support, product marketing and business development. The company provides software that helps organisations to manage inventory, assets, equipment, medicines and complex supply chains. Recently awarded a place on the NHS's Scan4Safety framework, its technology has real-world impact. "Without our software, a patient might not get home with essential equipment, or a paramedic could be left without vital kit."



Matt Hiscock

CEO, Wild Nutrition

After two decades helping shape consumer brands including Marks & Spencer, Harry's and ASOS, Matt Hiscock recognised Wild Nutrition's untapped potential: a trusted, science-led women's supplement brand ready to define the future of women's wellness. "It was the industry's best-kept secret. My job was to make it known." Since becoming CEO, he's taken its range of award-winning, science-backed, women's supplements into Holland & Barrett, Sainsbury's and Boots while growing an active customer base of nearly half a million. Its nutritional therapists speak with more than 1,500 customers every month. "Our real differentiator is listening. We're guided by customers." Matt is targeting the US next, "I see a runway to build a £100 million business."



Rachel Beverley-Stevenson

Co-Founder and CEO, OneMedicalGroup

OneMedicalGroup was set up by father-and-daughter team Michael Beverley and Rachel Beverley-Stevenson. It started as a healthcare property specialist, focused on building medical facilities: "Everyone was building big boxes – nothing was designed around patients," says Rachel. With courtyards, orchards and dementia-friendly design, her buildings deliver better outcomes for patients, staff and local communities. Today, the Leeds-based company also provides care on behalf of the NHS through its OneMedicare arm. Rachel has ambitions to serve more than one million patients and is preparing to launch a new B2C division, OnePreciousLife, within three years.



Dr. Mel Fuller

CEO, The Pet Vet

A chemist by training, seasoned operations specialist Dr. Mel Fuller joined The Pet Vet five years ago to “build on the founding vision and deliver a growth plan.” At the time, the industry was struggling with staff retention. “Vets work unpredictable shift patterns, which affects their work/life balance.” She introduced a fixed day off and shift patterns built around vets’ lives. She also introduced a funding programme for training, “These people are intellectual rock stars. They need to continually learn and grow.” The business turned over £22 million in 2025. “We want to expand to 30 surgeries but I’ll always want to know every vet by name and what makes them tick.”



Richard Dooner

CEO, Antser Group

Richard Dooner left school at 16 and took the long way into business, working various jobs whilst studying business management at night, before finally moving into sales and project delivery. He then spent 13 years at Capita, running major transformation programmes, before leaving in 2018 to launch Antser Group. “Everyone thought I was crazy to leave for a start-up. But I wanted a different challenge.” Today, his Birmingham-based company employs around 90 people, delivering expert witness assessments, private diagnostic services, immersive VR training and therapeutic support. “We’re helping individuals in vulnerable situations. I like doing the hard stuff, working in the gaps no-one else has touched.”



Hannah Mann and Abigail Stuart

Founding Partners, Day One Strategy

“We never questioned whether we could do it. The only question was how big we could make it,” says Hannah Mann, who teamed up with her colleague Abigail Stuart in 2019 to launch healthcare insights agency Day One Strategy. Combining technology with human intelligence, the company is changing how healthcare research is done, working with many of the world’s largest pharmaceutical companies and employing 65 people across the UK and US. Looking ahead, Abigail believes AI presents the biggest opportunity yet. “Our vision is to be the sector’s most powerful intelligence partner. We’re building a company that doesn’t exist today.”



Jake Waudby

**Founder and Group Chairman,
Safer Roadworks Group**

After coming out of care, aged 18, Jake Waudby got a job in traffic management because “you didn’t need any qualifications or experience.” After rising through the ranks over a decade, he founded Safer Roadworks Group in 2021 with Karl Ritchards. Their Selby-based business, which has 400 staff and 200 vans on the road, turned over £21 million last year. Traffic management staff work long, antisocial hours and Jake invests heavily in mental health and social value initiatives. He also provides work opportunities for care leavers, ex-offenders and ex-Armed Forces personnel. “My ambition speaks for itself. It’s taken a lot of discipline to get here.”



Paul Volkaerts

Founder and CEO, Nervecentre

In 2010 Paul Volkaerts’ Wokingham company Nervecentre started to develop a collaboration technology platform for the NHS. By 2024 the platform had become a full electronic patient record (EPR) for logging and sharing patient information. Paul says Nervecentre has won 60 per cent of recent NHS contracts it bid for. “Most EPRs are just a digitised version of the records Florence Nightingale was keeping,” he claims. “We want to be the organisation that covers the entire patient pathway, using AI and automation to make care safer and more efficient. We’ll do that in three years.” Paul forecasts a £40 million turnover next year. “When your mission is this important, you never give up.”



Mohammed Sheikh and Bushra Sheikh

**Co-Founders, Personal Homecare Pharmacy
(PHP)**

Husband-and-wife team Mohammed and Bushra Sheikh started PHP in 2010, helping patients travelling abroad for IVF to source fertility drugs reliably and cheaply in the UK. During the pandemic, they pivoted quickly because fertility was deemed non-essential. Now PHP is fully diversified and delivers medications to patients’ homes, having repurposed their technology to build integrated portals for the NHS, patients, and nursing partners, alongside an e-prescribing platform that processes 1,200 prescriptions daily. They source “biosimilar” products for the NHS – medications that are just as effective but cheaper than branded alternatives. “We doubled the team to 86 this year and have 60,000 patients,” says Mohammed. “Next year, turnover will hit £60 million.”



Champions for talent

These leaders are investing in their people today while nurturing the workforce of tomorrow.

Alongside developing existing employees, they are creating training centres, partnering with colleges and expanding routes into work, helping young people overcome barriers and build valuable skills for lasting careers.

◀ **Enspec Power** - Mara Rastall (right) has helped Enspec Power redesign its skills programme.



Mike Shipp

Co-Founder and CEO, Carbon3

As a 17-year-old apprentice plumber, Mike Shipp helped deliver one of the UK's first solar panel installations under the clear skies programme, "It sparked my interest in renewables." Together with three friends (Paul, Ian and Sam), Mike started Carbon3 to help organisations, from schools and hospitals to stadiums and social housing, cut carbon emissions through renewable energy. The business recently opened a training centre to help close a skills gap in the sector and is on track for £30 million turnover. Growth is expected to accelerate through various drivers, "Everyone's behind renewables now. For the first time, we're not fighting against anything. We can go from strength to strength."



Paul Scott and Zein Al-Bader

Co-CEOs, Square 4 Partners

Paul Scott and Zein Al-Bader founded Square 4 Partners to help financial services firms tackle complex regulatory and operational challenges. The combined consultancy, technology and interim expertise model clearly works - Square 4 has a Net Promoter Score of +90. The remote-first company will hit £24 million in turnover this year, with 64 staff – many lured from senior roles by Square 4's hybrid working and unlimited holiday. Zein says, "We haven't paid out any dividends since we started; everything has been reinvested into the business." The business also donates four per cent of profits to charity.



PJ Farr

Founder and Executive Chairman, UK Connect

"Growing up, money was tight, but I always wanted to follow my dad into the Army and build something of my own," says PJ Farr. With dyslexia and ADHD, school was difficult, so he left early before later joining the armed forces. A Falklands deployment sparked the idea for UK Connect. "I started with £1,100 and one router, building the business by day and delivering bread for Warburtons at night." Today, UK Connect works across construction and defence, including special projects for The Shard and the Ministry of Defence. PJ also founded the Farr Foundation, helping raise young people's aspirations through STEM.



James Jarvis

CEO, ClearRoute

“My dad was an engineer in the Royal Navy. Some of my earliest memories are of building our own computers together,” says James Jarvis. That early passion for technology led to senior roles at Symantec and UST before he joined software engineering firm ClearRoute as an adviser in 2023. This year, he became CEO. The business enables large enterprises globally to get products to market faster and more reliably. It employs more than 200 people across five global offices. “We’re a real trailblazer in this space. My wife calls me an ‘ideas hamster’ because my brain never stops spinning out new ideas. I get huge energy from creating things.”



Danielle Corby

Founder and CEO, vMobility

“When I had my first daughter at 20, someone told me I’d never have a ‘serious’ career. I love proving people wrong,” says Danielle Corby. After training as an accountant, she became a CEO by 34. Following the birth of her third child, she completed an MBA before launching Solihull-based vMobility in 2023, providing technology enabled mobility services in the motor claims and fleet sector. The business employs 50 people and is set to double profits this year. Danielle also sponsors racing driver Daniella Sutton as part of her mission to champion women in male-dominated industries. “I want to inspire the next generation of female leaders and show you can have it all.”



Steve Harris

CEO, CloudClevr

Steve Harris built his “one-stop shop” technology provider by buying four best-in-class companies from around the UK between 2022 and 2024. CloudClevr, which was formed using funding from Rigby Group, the investment arm of multimillionaire tech entrepreneur Peter Rigby, is a trusted IT partner for mid-market businesses across the UK. The business is heading for an annualised run-rate of £70 million by 2029, both through further acquisitions and organic growth. “We’ll aim to acquire two companies a year,” says Steve. AI is a growth area for the business. “Businesses are just waking up to what it can do,” he says.



Mara Rastall

CEO, Enspect Power

When Mara Rastall joined electrical engineering firm Enspect Power in 2021, she was a complete industry outsider, “I knew nothing about electrical power systems and I was the only woman. But my husband Tim had spent his career there, so I wasn’t scared to ask the stupid questions.” After Mara carried out a strategy review and launched their first campaign to grow their consultancy offering, the department grew by 400 per cent in six months. Since the couple’s management buyout in 2023, the Merseyside company has more than doubled headcount and increased revenue by 125 per cent. “We may be niche but we’re global experts in what we do,” she says.



Dave Kelly

CEO, 2i

Dave Kelly was about to start his own software testing business when he was asked to take the helm of 2i in 2015. There had been 10 months of negotiations that led to a management buyout before he took over the business. Dave has since taken the business from revenues of sub-£4 million to £45 million this year, with £80 million forecast by 2030. Clients include the UK and Scottish governments. “We helped shape part of the Scottish government’s social security system,” reveals Dave. His next goal? To expand internationally. “2i is already the biggest in the UK, and now we’re targeting the US.”



Eliot Hibbert

Founder and CEO, Nexa

Eliot Hibbert set up his Shropshire-based virtual law firm in 2017 after practicing commercial law for 15 years. Nexa now has over 200 lawyers on its books, with more than 30 staff and over 100 assistants supporting the lawyers. “Most of our rivals struggle to scale beyond 25 lawyers,” says Eliot, who found success by offering a diverse range of services and focusing on both London and regional growth. Turnover should hit £30 million this year and Eliot is seeking to leverage AI to help his people work more efficiently. “I want Nexa to be the best tech-enabled ‘new model’ law firm in the UK,” he says.



Mick Howard

Group CEO, William Hackett

Mick Howard's career has taken him from the army to senior positions with some of the world's biggest drinks companies. In 2018, he took on his first CEO role at a struggling soft drinks manufacturer, returning it to profit before leading its multi-million-pound sale in 2024. He then switched industries to lead lifting & chain equipment manufacturer William Hackett. "Stepping outside my comfort zone excites me," he says. Mick has boosted turnover by over 25 per cent, more than doubled profit, and has launched an accredited World Class Operator apprenticeship scheme. "I think of myself as a custodian. I want to leave the business in a more sustainable position than when I walked in."



Kunal Thakker

Founder and CEO, Tooth Club

Sometimes, it takes an outsider to disrupt a sector and former Goldman Sachs director Kunal Thakker, "knew nothing" about dentists before entering the industry. After launching a dental business with his best friend's wife, which they sold in 2019, he set up Tooth Club in 2020. Drawing on his own dental anxiety, he reinvented the experience with flowers in waiting rooms and Netflix available during treatment. With 19 practices in the south, Kunal plans to expand into the north of England, taking turnover to £30 million next year. "I have built a cookie cutter model and have huge ambitions," he says. "We'll get to 50 UK sites within four years."



David Rice

Group CEO, Snap Analytics

David Rice was working in a call centre when he offered to fix his boss's broken computer. "Her data team was looking for trainees, and my career started from there," he says. Now he leads Snap Analytics, which builds data and AI platforms for organisations including Caffè Nero and Premier Foods. The business has grown 140 per cent over the past year and employs 185 people across Bristol, Pune and Cape Town. David is passionate about helping to solve the UK's young employment crisis. "We've grown our graduate scheme every year since 2021. Helping young people build great careers is one of the things that gets me out of bed in the morning."



A wealth of experience

The ambition of the leaders in The LDC Top 50 is often shaped by diverse backgrounds and defining experiences from early aspirations and demanding careers to parenthood and adversity.

Their resilience, determination and desire to create better lives have inspired them to build significant businesses, nurture their employee environment and drive lasting business growth.

◀ **VoCoVo** - CEO Beth Worrall's headsets keep retail teams from the likes of Tesco and John Lewis in sync.



Michael Linsky

**Founder and Managing Director,
Sensio Lighting Group**

After a teacher wrote him off as “useless” as a teenager, Michael Linsky dropped out of school with no GCSEs and a burning passion to prove them wrong. “I am dyslexic,” he says. “My dad gave me £1,000 and told me to start something.” Sensio Lighting was born in 2000 and has evolved from an electrical wholesaler to a specialist design and development lighting company working with major retailers including John Lewis. Six months ago, Michael launched sister company Bio-Labs to focus on biomedical engineering. “We’ve already filed 20 patents this year. This is a totally new category of lighting with the potential to have massive social impact.”



Richard Wallace

CEO, LCM Environmental Services

Growing up on a council estate in Northern Ireland, Richard Wallace never imagined he’d one day lead one of the UK’s fastest-growing critical infrastructure businesses. “I dropped out of school at 17,” he says. He joined the Royal Marines, serving for 27 years before leaving as a Lieutenant Colonel. In 2017, he joined Yorkshire-based LCM Environmental (formerly Craggs Environmental) as project director, later becoming CEO. Since then, the business has grown from five employees to 167, with turnover rising from £1 million to £32 million. “People think military leadership is about shouting orders but the Marines taught me the opposite. Everyone has a part to play. We’re one team.”



Beth Worrall

CEO, VoCoVo

Walk into a John Lewis, Tesco or Dunelm store and you’ll find shop-floor teams using VoCoVo’s wireless headsets to stay connected. “We keep retail teams in sync,” says CEO Beth Worrall. Since she joined the Oxfordshire company in 2022, turnover has quadrupled, with VoCoVo’s communications technology now connecting more than one million retail workers across 39 countries, earning the business a place in the Sunday Times 100 Tech listing. Beth’s guiding principle is “sustainable scalability”. “Our ambition is to set the standard for connected retail. We want to create something that lasts – built on stone, not sand.”



Tom Keegan

Group CEO, DBD International

When Tom Keegan joined DBD International, the nuclear consultancy was losing £170,000 a month. Having worked on projects for global firms including Telefónica and PwC, Tom saw potential. “This company in Warrington excited me and I backed myself to transform it.” He’s grown it to over £30 million turnover in the last ten years, opening offices across the US and Australia, and believes he can take it to £300 million in the next decade. His ambition is rooted in a tough childhood. “My parents split up when I was young and I remember bailiffs coming round. I want my children to have the safety and security I never had.”



Dr. Peter McQuillan and Akil Memishi

Co-Founders, Novomins Nutrition

Best friends since university, cosmetic dentist Dr. Peter McQuillan and pharmacologist Akil Memishi teamed up in 2020 to launch London-based Novomins. Sharing a passion for health, they spotted a gap in the market for science-backed, high-absorption gummy supplements made with natural ingredients. Since then, they’ve secured listings with Superdrug, Holland & Barrett and Boots, expanded into Europe and Australia, and launched an average of 12 new products every year. “We lead the market on innovation. That’s our secret sauce,” says Peter. The B Corp-certified company now sells a tub every ten seconds. “Our ambition is to sell one tub every second and be a £100 million brand by 2030,” adds Akil.



Capt. Arun Kar (Retd.)

Founder and Executive Director, Xpertnest

Indian-born Arun Kar spent seven years in the Army before a knee injury put an end to his combat career. After retraining in software, he moved to the UK in 2009 to oversee BT’s software migration before launching Xpertnest in 2016 “to solve problems with technology”. Today the London-based specialist works on major public sector contracts, such as StreetWise, which helps women feel safe walking home at night. His £15 million-turnover company has just 15 full-time staff, relying on more than 100 local contractors to build projects. “My vision is to build a unicorn that creates technology for the good of people and planet.”



Andrew Kays and Jamie Brummell

Founder and CTO & CEO, Socura

Jamie Brummell and Andrew Kays are behind Cardiff-based Socura, one of the UK's fastest-growing cybersecurity companies. "We're a 100 per cent remote business, built on the latest cloud architectures, which means we have the whole of the UK as our talent pool," says Andrew. In an industry facing skills shortages, the model has become a competitive advantage. Socura is one of only 15 UK-headquartered companies to feature in the MSSP Alert Top 250, which ranks the world's leading managed security service providers. "The ultimate ambition is to be number one," says Jamie.



Carl Maher

Managing Director, Innov8 Technology

"I still get imposter syndrome," admits Carl Maher. "I've come from a council house in Wythenshawe and I've got no industry qualifications. That's what keeps me pushing." A founding director of Stockport-based Innov8 Technology in 1997, he became sole owner in 2020 and has since completed 10 acquisitions, building the business into one of the UK's largest Sage partners with revenues of £22 million. The business employs 134 people across nine offices in the UK and Ireland, and staff retention stands at 97 per cent. "We'll do at least one acquisition every year," he says.



Aashim Dhand and Robert Thomas

Co-Founders and Co-CEOs, PLS Solicitors

In 2008, Aashim Dhand set up as a sole practitioner conveyancer and needed a business partner. Property lawyer Robert Thomas, then in legal recruitment, took the call. "He was so interested in the business that I asked if he fancied a pint," says Aashim. The pair have been business partners of Altrincham-based PLS Solicitors ever since. Aashim and Robert have built a reputation for stellar customer service, communication and technology; 70 per cent of PLS's work will soon be completed by agentic AI. They're aiming for 15 per cent market share of the new build sector nationwide by 2030, and revenues of £35 million.



Partha Chakraborty and Jo Whalley

Co-Founders, INNOVERV

When Partha Chakraborty and Jo Whalley started INNOVERV in 2023, everyone told them their AI-first consultancy would fail. “We were told: there’s no room for a new player and the world doesn’t need another consulting business. But the industry needed a shake-up,” says Jo, who left PwC at the height of her career, having been its fastest ever graduate to partner in consulting. With revenue predicted to hit £100 million in four years, INNOVERV is proving their critics wrong. It helps enterprises with complex digital transformations. “We’ve built a very agile, remote-first business,” reveals Partha “This is a new consulting model for the AI era.”



Andrew Jeffrey

CEO, Scorpion Automotive Group

At 13, Andrew Jeffrey bought a Visual Basic programming book at a car boot sale and taught himself to code, “I quickly realised I could use it to cheat at video games!” After a career in software engineering and DevOps, he joined Lancashire-based Scorpion Automotive Group as CTO in 2019, before becoming COO and taking over the business in 2024. In that time, he’s grown revenue from £5.5 million to £43 million and completed three acquisitions. “We design, manufacture, install and monitor anti-theft vehicle tracking systems, all under one roof. We’ve already become the market leader in the UK. Now we want to do it in Europe and the US.”



David Dickson

CEO, Miller Knight

Miller Knight was losing money when David Dickson took the helm in 2016. A trained quantity surveyor, he took charge of the construction company’s finances, tightened up contracts and took the business from £750,000 in revenue to a projected £50 million next year. “I remortgaged my house and put cash into the business to keep it going.” Miller Knight carries out fire safety remedial work and David has also diversified into refurbishment, working for clients like Center Parcs. “In three years, we’ll reach £100 million in turnover,” he says. “This business is a juggernaut.”



Elizabeth Vega OBE DUniv

Group CEO, Informed

Elizabeth Vega left a multinational technology giant to start her own business in 1992. “I loved my job but wanted to create a different workplace culture,” she says. Her Manchester-based company, Informed, has delivered digital, data and AI solutions in over 50 countries. Appointed an OBE in 2020 for services to digital transformation and international trade, Elizabeth says, “My intention has never been to scale up and then sell. It’s to grow sustainably into a truly great business.” Informed is a certified Great Place to Work, with 250 staff as well as a wider ecosystem of 600 contractors and associates.



Michael Hall MBE

Founder and CEO, Forest Feast

Michael Hall founded a dried fruit and nut packing company in 1991, straight out of university. By 1996, he had created Forest Feast in Northern Ireland. “Back then, most people only used dried fruit and nuts for baking,” he says. “We sourced premium products and created our category.” His relentless focus on quality has won the business, which creates and sells dried fruit snacks, trail mixes and chocolate-covered fruits and nuts, over 20 Great Taste awards. Now we’re on track to reach £100 million by 2030. Michael is expanding Forest Feast’s footprint in over 30 countries and has a strong pipeline of products responding to social media trends and international tastes.



Ones to Watch

These entrepreneurs are on the path to great achievements – they’re already pushing boundaries in their chosen fields, whether it’s delivering high protein meals to households or next generation data hardware to power AI.

Meet the Ones to Watch of 2026 ►

◀ **Andrew McLernon and Jay Gorga, Co-Founders of Interlink** were awarded the ‘Highly Commended: One to Watch Award’ in 2025.



Richard Adelsberg
Ear To the Ground

“Ear to the Ground is a creative agency working with global brands to help them get maximum value from their investments in sport, gaming and entertainment. Our IPA-effectiveness-accredited Fans into Consumers Operating System solves a key industry challenge by turning creativity into measurable impact.”



Dr. Taz Aldawoud
Doc Abode

“As a practising NHS GP, I’ve seen the challenge of coordinating community care. Doc Abode dynamically matches patient need to available capacity, keeping people out of hospital while doubling clinical productivity. Our ambition is to become the national coordination infrastructure for care beyond hospital.”



Louise Birritteri
Pikl

“Growth in short-term rentals won’t come from selling more nights alone. Pikl helps platforms use insurance to increase conversions, create more value from every booking and protect hosts, guests and businesses against downside risk.”



**Uko Umotong
and Harry Bourton**
UB Healthcare

“UB Healthcare supports health and care systems to achieve improved outcomes, with limited resources. We ensure people receive the right care in the right place. Our ambition is to become a leading complex care consultancy and MSP in the UK and internationally.”



**Mike Brown and
Alex Renshaw**
Target Dental

“At Target Dental, we acquire and develop high-quality dental practices using a proven model that empowers local teams to deliver exceptional patient care. Through sustainable growth and operational excellence, our ambition is to build the UK’s most respected dental group.”



Mark Bullen
GB Technology Group

“At GB Technology Group, we help customers turn complex technology ideas into reliable, manufacturable products. Our in-house expertise gives customers a joined-up route from concept to production, as we scale a UK technology business built for long-term growth and impact.”



Jonathan Burridge
Utopi

“Utopi is the leading building intelligence platform in multi-tenant real estate, using data to transform how asset owners unlock value in their assets. As we expand across Europe, my focus is empowering clients with dynamic insights that benefit people, the planet and profits.”



Dan Clark
MindJam

“MindJam empowers young people who struggle in traditional settings, providing a place where they feel understood, safe and able to thrive. We combine mentoring, digital skills and creativity to rebuild confidence and reconnect with learning. My ambition is to help every young person realise their potential.”



Stuart Clarke
Blackdot Solutions

“Blackdot Solutions helps investigators in banks, government agencies and corporates to leverage open-source data – uncovering hidden risks, improving intelligence and fighting crime. I believe that AI-driven automation will enable faster investigations, deeper intelligence and defensible outcomes.”



Dr. Stephen Coogan
myGP Clinic

“myGP Clinic provides membership-based, prevention-focused GP services, giving patients the time, continuity and long-term relationship good healthcare needs. Now caring for thousands of families, we’re building a growing, clinically led group focused on healthspan - the years lived well.”



Neil Cosgrove
OriGym

“At OriGym, I’m proud to lead the UK’s leading fitness training provider. We help people build rewarding careers in the health and fitness industry through high-quality, accessible and practical education. After a recent management buyout, I’m excited for the future.”



Mike Fazal
Leasing.com

“At Leasing.com, we’re expanding our data, insight and salary sacrifice capabilities to create the UK’s most trusted automotive marketplace and intelligence platform. I’m passionate about building a high-performing culture where people can thrive, grow, have fun and make a meaningful impact.”



Hema Gandhi

LatentBridge

“LatentBridge is a full-stack global AI partner helping enterprises turn AI into measurable value. We advise and enable innovation through proprietary AI accelerators, building production-ready solutions with deep expertise in banking and financial services.”



James Grover

Kinetik Wellbeing

“At Kinetik, we believe healthcare should empower people, not overwhelm them. We create trusted healthcare products that help people better understand and take control of their health in their home environment.”



Will Halford

Boniplas

“Boniplas ‘the home of stylish living’, supplies high-quality, design-led products to distributors across the UK, combining innovation with exceptional service. My ambition is to make Boniplas the market leader – if you build something people believe in, growth becomes inevitable.”



Myra Khanna

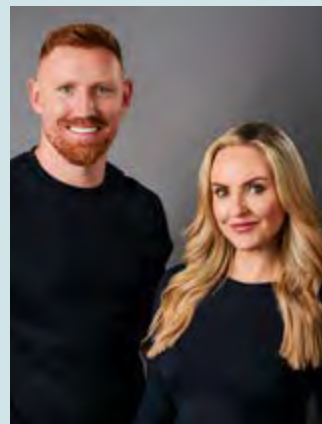
Sama

“Sama partners with high-performing organisations to unify digital coaching, performance management and workplace analytics into one platform – creating a single engine for growth. We’re building the technology to make human potential measurable, scalable, and unstoppable.”



Scott Vincent
Digital Futures Group

“My ambition is to build one of Britain’s leading AI companies, creating category-defining technology that delivers lasting economic and societal impact. I set the vision and strategy for Digital Futures and serve as custodian of our culture.”



James Laithwaite and Michelle Laithwaite
FuelHub

“FuelHub delivers premium, high protein meals to households across the UK, providing effortless nutrition for everyday high-performers who value their health, wellbeing and time. We’re on a mission to become the UK’s most trusted nutrition brand.”



Dr. Sai Lakshmi
Caura

“Caura makes managing vehicles effortless – for drivers, enterprises and now entire fleets – bringing compliance, payments and reporting into one platform. Our ambition is to become the operating system that runs every vehicle in the UK and beyond.”



Lawrence Perret-Hall
CYFOR Group

“CYFOR Group helps legal, corporate and public-sector clients establish facts from digital evidence, respond to cyber threats and make sense of complex data. My ambition is to build on CYFOR’s success – accelerating growth while strengthening technical excellence, service and culture.”



Stuart Murgatroyd
Data On Demand

“At Data On Demand, we use information about people to help businesses make smarter decisions and deliver stronger outcomes for their customers. Our challenger mindset and practical approach have transformed client performance – and we’re scaling that impact across more organisations.”



Pat Murphy
MurphyCobb

“MurphyCobb is an independent content production advisor. I’m focused on building something that lasts, strengthening our presence in all new platforms and media channels. My ambition is to create a business that performs brilliantly because people feel they belong and want to stay.”



Jake Norman
OAL

“At OAL, we automate factories for Britain’s leading food manufacturers. OAL Connected software and robotics keep food safe, solve labour shortages and transform productivity. Our ambition is to deploy over 1,000 robots over the next five years.”



Nathan Ollier
Open ECX

“Open ECX facilitates electronic trading between more than 25,000 businesses, through our AI powered automation and orchestration capability. We are proud to be the solution provider of choice for many global businesses across industry.”



Jason Osmond
Forge Technologies

“Forge Technologies helps organisations scale faster and operate smarter with AI, data and cloud solutions. We’ve doubled revenue for the past four financial years and are now focused on scaling our sales engine and attracting top technical and consulting talent to fuel our next stage of growth.”



William Parish
Nexus BioQuest

“At Nexus BioQuest, we transform complex immunological questions into clear, actionable data that drives informed decision-making and accelerates pre-clinical drug discovery programmes from concept to clinic. Our vision is to be the go-to immunology partner for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.”



Lyndsay Menzies
8 Million Stories

“8 Million Stories is an award-winning digital marketing and AI agency. I’m focused on building a culture that gives our team an outstanding environment to grow, develop their skills, and thrive. By fostering curiosity and innovation, we create better solutions for our major brand clients.”



Jason Powell
UK Vein Clinic

“At UK Vein Clinic, we’re improving access to high-quality vein and vascular care for patients across the UK. We believe healthcare works best when designed around the patient, that’s why we put them at the heart of everything we do.”



Tom Rooney
Meanwhile Creative

“Meanwhile Creative seeks out underutilised land in urban areas to create cost effective space for people to start or grow their business or passion projects. Our ambition is to open 15 more locations and hit our target of 2,500 creative partners over the next three years.”



Jarek Rosinski
Transmission Dynamics

“At Transmission Dynamics, we build AI-powered edge monitoring systems that help rail and industrial operators prevent failures before they happen. Our PANDAS-V® platform improves safety, reliability and resilience across critical transport networks.”



Sim Sekhon
LegalForLandlords

“LegalForLandlords helps letting agents and landlords to reduce risk, remain compliant and manage the entire journey more efficiently. What makes us different is our connected group offering – combining specialist people, technology, data and AI, rather than treating each in isolation.”



Paul Sheppard
Simitive

“Working with 70+ universities in UK, Australia, and Europe, Simitive provides dynamic resource planning, management and modelling to help organisations understand capacity, costs, and future resource needs. Now expanding into the NHS and professional services, Simitive plans further growth across North America and Asia.”



Michael Smith

Pivot Group

“Pivot creates environments where vulnerable young people can flourish through belief, strong relationships and personalised learning. My ambition is to help shape the future of SEND and alternative provision, ensuring more young people have access to the education and opportunities they deserve.”



David Stevens

ValStream

“At ValStream, I’m focused on creating an organisation that leverages the latest technology to simplify the most complicated and manual procurement processes in the world, creating genuine new value streams for our customers – embedded in actual ROI and driven by a mission driven team.”



Rebecca Stewart

Artus Air

“Artus Air is disrupting the air conditioning market with compact products that deliver improved comfort with half the carbon, and a far lower operating cost. People are already describing us as London’s go-to solution. Next, we will expand internationally, cooling a warming world.”



Bertie Swayne

Exploration & Production Information Company (EPIC)

“At EPIC, our award-winning Smart-Trac software platform is used globally in hazardous environments – helping organisations manage safety-critical operations, improve efficiency, and reduce risk. Our pragmatic, user-driven approach avoids complexity and we aim to be the global leader in workplace safety systems.”



Fred Thompson

Clarus WMS

“Clarus WMS is a cloud-native warehouse management platform. We combine AI and intelligent automation to replace legacy on-premise systems with modern multi-tenant SaaS technology. My ambition is to become the platform of choice for ambitious warehouse operators globally.”



Mark Turner

The Miles Consultancy (TMC)

“TMC’s technology helps global organisations manage mileage costs and reduce carbon through data-driven solutions. Following the launch of a transformative mobility platform, our ambition is to set a new standard for global workforce travel – defined by sustainability and cost-efficiency.”



James Tweed

Coracle Inside

“At Coracle, our mission is tackling digital exclusion and making education accessible to people in the hardest-to-reach environments. We have a King’s Award for promoting opportunity, and our clients include people serving prison sentences and those working at sea.”



Suraj Shukla and Havnek Kondal

Options Direct

“Options Direct delivers next-generation datacentre hardware – server, storage and networking – powering AI and elite hedge funds worldwide. We’re on track for record turnover and will prove small companies can achieve big things in today’s world of AI.”

Where Are They Now?

Since 2018, The LDC Top 50 has celebrated hundreds of exceptional individuals.

In the last 12 months we have reconnected with some of our alumni to discover where their growth journeys have taken them, the impact of being part of the The Top 50 and what their ambitions look like today.



Sat Sanghera
CEO, IPI

When Sat Sanghera joined IPI as an adviser in 2019, the technology reseller was struggling to find its niche in a crowded market. Sat agreed to become CEO in 2021 and with the leadership team, “reset the vision, purpose, and culture”, launching proprietary technology into international markets for the first time.

He has doubled turnover to £40m in five years. In 2024, he received The People Award in recognition of the outstanding culture he has built. IPI leads the industry in gender equality and allows junior employees to help shape the future of the company. IPI will continue to post double-digit growth, says Sat, a trained meditation teacher, breaking into new, international markets. “We want to take our own products global.”



Peter Moody

Founder, GAP Group North East

Former Royal Navy submariner Peter Moody has swapped the ocean depths for the front line of Britain's green-tech revolution. He has built GAP Group North East into one of the largest electrical waste recyclers in the UK, processing more than 90,000 tonnes each year.

Since appearing in The LDC Top 50 in 2024, Peter has opened a new state-of-the-art fridge recycling plant near Perth, Scotland, running on a 100 per cent net-zero carbon footprint, and established a new facility at Hessay, near York, which will shortly begin treating a new waste stream – details to be announced. His next venture is extracting gold and copper from old circuit boards. "I've got two daughters, and I'm trying to build a better world for future generations."



Jo Tutchener Sharp OBE

Founder, Scamp & Dude

Fashion brand Scamp & Dude turns 10 this year and founder Jo Tutchener Sharp OBE is more ambitious than ever. The former PR founded the purpose-led business following a brain haemorrhage. "Going into surgery not knowing if I would come out again was life-changing," she explains. Jo donates a scarf to a woman going through chemotherapy for every one sold, and her range of superhero sleep buddy toys are donated to bereaved and terminally ill children.

She featured in The LDC Top 50 in 2024 and won The Purpose Award the same year in recognition of her achievements. Since then, revenues have grown from £15 million to £20 million and the 100 people strong business will soon begin selling internationally. She says: "My passion for Scamp & Dude has never wavered."

“

Even three years on, people still talk about our Top 50 win. Barely a day goes by where a client or prospective partner doesn't mention it.”

Phil Lawson, InVentry



Phil Lawson

Group CEO and Co-Founder, InVentry

If you've signed in to visit a school or college, you've probably used InVentry. The Leeds-based maker of sign-in systems is the market leader in the UK, used by one in three education providers.

Since featuring in The LDC Top 50 in 2023, Group CEO Phil Lawson (pictured on right with Co-Founder Phil Brooke) has been on a journey. He's pivoted InVentry to a subscription model, and the lower upfront cost for customers has helped him build predictable revenue streams that are growing 30 per cent year-on-year. With 180 people spread across offices in the UK, Dubai, India and Singapore, he has also expanded InVentry's international footprint. "We'll grow revenues by 30 per cent again next year," says Phil. "Our goal is to be number one in every region and vertical we serve."



Kavita Parmar

Founder, Word360

In the two years since Word360 featured in The LDC Top 50, artificial intelligence has taken the world by storm. During that time, its founders, Kavita Parmar and Tiku Chauhan, whose language service business works with over 100 NHS trusts across the country, have invested £5 million into proprietary AI translation tools.

“We will always need human translators for sensitive conversations but for non-complex conversations such as a routine blood test, patients can now access AI-assisted translation instantly. Our Wondaa AI is designed to support the conversations that should happen, but don’t,” Kavita explains. This new technology is already being received positively across the NHS and Word360 is forecasting a turnover of £25 million this year.



James Post

Founder, Ashbury Global

At a time where more than one in 20 Brits has a food allergy, compliance and regulation specialist Ashbury Global has never been more vital. Founded by James Post in 2010, it manages food labelling compliance for leading retailers and brands including M&S, Sainsbury’s, Aldi and Pret.

Since appearing in The LDC Top 50 in 2024, revenues have grown 20 per cent a year. James said then he was focused on international expansion and he has delivered on that promise. The business now employs a team of 25 in the Netherlands, eight at Ashbury’s Australian office, as well as 30 international advisors to handle clients based outside the UK. James forecasts a turnover of £20 million this year. “We’re seen as a trusted advisor and a safe pair of hands,” he says. “Most opportunities come to us.”

“

Being part of The LDC Top 50 felt like a real milestone. It was a really rewarding, validating and joyful experience.”

Laura Rudoe, Evolve Organic Beauty



Laura Rudoe
Founder, Evolve Organic Beauty

Laura Rudoe founded Hertfordshire-based Evolve Organic Beauty in 2009, pioneering clean, efficacy-tested skincare made in small batches in their own studio, which runs on zero-carbon electricity. “I believe companies should do good as well as doing well,” she says.

Since appearing in The LDC Top 50 in 2023, Evolve has partnered with Whole Foods in the US and is now stocked in all Whole Foods stores across the country. “We were the only brand selected for a national roll-out at the time. It was a huge moment for us,” she says. The company has also expanded into luxury spas, including the Four Seasons Maldives and The Nici hotels, and recorded its strongest year yet. “We’ve had over 190 awards and nominations, but we’re still an independent challenger brand with plenty of room to grow.”



James Hacking

Founder, Socially Powerful

James Hacking knows what it takes to go viral, he had his own freestyle football channel, attracting millions of followers, before starting his influencer marketing agency in 2017. Socially Powerful has trebled in size since James featured in The Top 50 three years ago. “We’re at £40 million in revenue now and we’re aiming to get to £100 million by 2029,” he says.

James’s ambition is to move into social commerce – helping shoppers buy through social channels – and he plans to grow through acquisitions too. “I’ve never raised money or bought a business before, so it’s going to be interesting.”



Malcolm Wallis

Founder, C365Cloud

Malcolm Wallis spotted a gap in the market for a smarter way to manage compliance. He launched C365Cloud in 2010, building a cloud-based platform that helps large organisations oversee everything from statutory obligations to health and safety. “My approach has always been sustainable growth and sensible investment: profitable, debt-free and no jobs at risk.”

Since appearing in The LDC Top 50 in 2024, the company has moved to larger premises, expanded into the industrial sector, won its first major international client and strengthened its senior leadership team. “We’re ready to scale up even further.”



Supporting Youth Ambition

LDC's long-running partnership with The King's Trust is supporting young people from a diverse range of backgrounds to start, sustain and grow their own business. Since 2019, we've supported more than 7,350 young entrepreneurs and funded 2,800 business grants.

In 2024, we launched Business Advance, a programme providing young entrepreneurs with access to structured business reviews, specialist workshops and networking opportunities. So far more than 2,000 young people have taken part in the programme – 79% of participants report increased confidence, while 87% say their business knowledge has improved.

At The LDC Top 50 national celebratory event, we host a King's Trust Marketplace showcasing the inspiring young entrepreneurs supported by LDC through our funding of the charity's Enterprise Programme – celebrating innovation, ambition and the next generation of business leaders. Since 2023, these marketplaces have helped stallholders generate sales of £20,000.

In addition to The Top 50 and Ones to Watch of 2026, we will present 'The Youth Ambition Award' to recognise a young entrepreneur from Business Advance who has demonstrated remarkable success.

James Castor, Founder of KIKOKAI and colleague at The King's Trust Entrepreneur Marketplace during The Top 50 event in 2025. ►

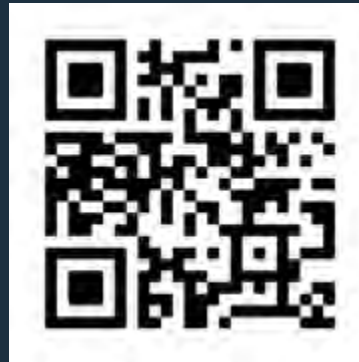


The Top 50 2027

Do you know someone who should be featured in The Times as one of The UK's Most Ambitious Business Leaders in 2027?

As we look to celebrate 10 years of The Top 50, nominate a CEO whose ambition, vision and leadership deserve national recognition.

Scan to nominate



“

For more than four decades, we've been trusted to support the ambitions of British businesses and we want to continue to champion those who are creating jobs and driving our economy forwards.”

Sam Grey

Chief Marketing Officer, LDC