

Women investors bag top spots in the Asian Stars in UK Tech 2023 list



London, [July, 7 2023]: For the first time ever, women have bagged all Top 5 slots in the 'investors' category of the Top 100 Asian Stars 2023 list which was unveiled earlier this week by equality charity Diversity UK, in association with law firm Eversheds Sutherland and Cambridge-based Biorbyt, one of Europe's largest bio-reagents supplier. The event took place in Central London on Wednesday 5 July 2023 and simultaneously saw the presentation of the Asian Tech Pioneers Awards honouring twenty tech stalwarts and recognising the significant impact of a further ten pioneers who are entrepreneurship ecosystem builders. Now in its ninth year, the list celebrates the outstanding contribution made by British Asians to this country's digital economy.

Lopa Patel MBE, list curator and Chair of Diversity UK said: "Women's representation in the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list has risen from 21% in 2015 up to a peak of 52% in 2021 and is at 48% in 2023, despite the fact that nearly 60% of the list are new nominees. But even I was surprised that women took all five spots in our 'Top 5 Investors' category. Their backgrounds range from angel investors to those investing at pre-seed and seed levels, within corporates, as well as those working at established venture capital firms funding Series A rounds and beyond.

"It is also pleasing that we were able to honour twenty amazing Asian Tech Pioneers, 85% of whom are product, service and AI innovators, including for the first time ever, ten inspirational women who made up 50% of the Pioneers index this year.

PRESS RELEASE

Tech faces new challenges, but remains resilient

“Overall, the past year has been a difficult one for the technology sector but it remains resilient. DCMS data shows that digital technologies are the engine driving the UK’s economic growth. The UK digital sector contributed 7.4% of UK total GVA in 2022, growing three times faster than the rest of the economy. The UK is home to over 85,000 tech startups and scale ups providing over 3 million jobs and a strong innovation ecosystem.”

Earlier this year, the Rose Review reported that more women were founding more businesses. Despite difficult economic headwinds, the confidence of female founders continues to grow:

- Over 150,000 new all-women led companies were founded in 2022 – more than ever before
- A fifth of new incorporations (20.5%) last year were all-female led, a figure that has risen from 16% in 2018
- The biggest leap was among 16- to 25-year-old female founders, which rose by almost a quarter (24.3%)

*“The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2023 sectoral analysis showed that Asian women are working across the tech industry. This year, 25% of the list is made up of **Startup** founders or co-founders; and 15% are in the **Business** category with more established enterprises; 18% are **Investors** (including angel investors, incubators, private equity and venture capitalists). The **FinTech** category accounted for 8%; **Healthtech & Life Sciences** (22%), **Greentech** (6%) and **AI** (6%),”* added Lopa Patel, *“with more women innovators coming through the UK’s universities, research institutes and entrepreneurship ecosystems”.*

One example is **Qun Yang**, a chartered accountant turned lifesciences pioneer who co-founded and now runs Cambridge-based Biorbyt, one of Europe’s largest bio-reagent supplier, providing antibodies, small molecules, ELISA kits and protein products and services to the global scientific community. *“During the pandemic, we stepped up by collaborating with the world’s finest researchers and academics to develop products of the highest quality for Covid-19 antibody research. This year we partnered with the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2023 initiative, to promote and showcase healthtech innovators, so I am delighted that 22% of the nominees are in the HealthTech & LifeSciences sector. Given equal opportunity and access to funding, women know that everything is possible.”*

About the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list

The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list, published by Diversity UK aims to highlight the business models, apps, funding and support networks being created by Asian digital entrepreneurs. The list addresses the perceived lack of diversity in the tech sector and showcases the wealth of talent that is currently helping the British tech scene grow. The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list and Diversity UK are the brainchild of the digital entrepreneur Lopa Patel MBE who has long been recognised as an evangelist for STEM and the tech industries in the UK.

Notes for Editors:

Press Kit images:

Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech - Top 5s: <https://bit.ly/3XxBPeO>

Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech - Nominees: <https://bit.ly/3PCNKG8>

Asian Tech Pioneers 2023: <https://bit.ly/44re0aQ>

Social Media: @asiansintech @diversityuk @lopapatel @biorbyt @qunyang8 @ESTMTIaw

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About The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech - Top 5 Investors 2023

In alphabetical order by first name (the list is not ranked)

Aashima Arora, Partner - LocalGlobe

Aashima Arora is a Partner at venture capital firm LocalGlobe where she leads their blockchain practice, ranked #1 early-stage fund in EMEA and #3 globally with the highest number of unicorns in portfolio, with companies like SoRare, Copper, Robinhood, Wise, Figma, Twitter and Canva.

Abhilasha Dafria, CEO - Angels Den Funding

Abhilasha Dafria is the youngest and the first female CEO of Angels Den Funding- UK & Europe's largest angel-led investment platform with a thriving community of more than 100,000 early-stage entrepreneurs and investors, built over a decade of sound pedigree, experience and knowledge.

Gunita Bhasin, Investor - Unilever Ventures

Gunita focuses on European and North American investments at Unilever Ventures, across beauty & wellness, e-commerce, and enterprise tech. Prior to Unilever Ventures, Gunita worked for three years within VC, at Speedinvest in the Fintech investment team and at Atomico in the fundraising team.

Jaysri Thangam, Investor - Fund F by Female Founders

Jaysri 'Jay' Thangam is an investor at Fund F by Female Founders, investing in pre-seed startups with gender-diverse founding teams in ClimateTech, FemTech, HealthTech, FinTech & HR Tech. Jay is an investor, investment consultant on fintech strategy and growth equity investments and a mentor focussed on supporting women.

Rubina Singh, Deeptech/Cleantech Principal - Octopus Ventures

A specialist in sustainable technologies, Rubina Singh leads the deeptech team for early-stage companies at Octopus Ventures. Previously at Centrica, Rubina focused on smart energy & e-mobility at Centrica Ventures, and established and led the innovation division at British Gas.



PRESS RELEASE

About the sponsors of the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list

About Biorbyt

Biorbyt dares to do things differently. Based in Cambridge, one of Europe's largest bioscience hubs, Biorbyt has a simple yet challenging mission: to provide the best service to the global scientific community.

We achieve this by collaborating with the world's finest researchers and academics to develop products of the highest quality. We carefully manufacture and meticulously test a wide range of reagents to meet your needs. We offer reagents that have been extensively tested in areas some of our competitors can't offer. Whether you need antibodies or Elisa kits, biochemicals or a custom request, you can depend on us to do things differently.

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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.

Diversity UK has long promoted inclusion in the tech sector. It has:

- ❖ Co-hosted the Diversity Tech Summit in 2016 and in 2022
- ❖ Published the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech (AT100) for the past eight years
- ❖ Recognised more than 90 individuals as Asian Tech Pioneers
- ❖ Organised 5 Tech showcases for under-represented founders to pitch for funding
- ❖ Championed women founders with a series of 'Investing in Women Founders' events.

For further information www.diversityuk.org | [@diversityuk](https://www.facebook.com/diversityuk)



PRESS RELEASE

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

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)

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The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list and Diversity UK are the brainchild of the digital entrepreneur Lopa Patel MBE, listed in Computer Weekly's Most Influential Women in UK Tech 2022 list, who has long been recognised as an evangelist for STEM and the tech industries in the UK.

Ends.