

Vin Murria OBE named Top Asian in UK Tech 2024



Caption: L-R: Ramesh Vala CBE, Vin Murria OBE, Lopa Patel MBE & Sareeta Vala

[London, 4 July 2024]: Tech titan Vin Murria OBE, founder of Advanced Computer Software plc, was named Top Asian in UK Tech 2024 by equality charity Diversity UK, publishers of the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list and the Asian Tech Pioneers index. The Chair's Award was presented by Lopa Patel MBE, Chair of the Judging Panel and Trustees of Diversity UK at the launch of the tenth anniversary edition of the list.

Chair of the Judging Panel 2024, Lopa Patel MBE, said in her citation: *"Vin Murria has had an outstanding career in the tech sector and is one of the original tech pioneers of this country. Armed with a first class BSc Honours degree in Computer Science, and an MBA, she has spent over a decade building her own tech company followed by twenty years of M&A activity in the software sector. She has smashed the glass ceiling for women in FTSE companies, the AIM market and within entrepreneurship. Vin has remained focused in her drive to create better-performing companies, driven by technological advancement, and she has truly mastered the art of deal-making. Her determination, razor-sharp intelligence and keen eye for an opportunity has brought her success and prosperity. We are delighted that she has engaged with the Asians in Tech initiative so enthusiastically over the years, always ready to offer help, support and advice to budding entrepreneurs. Away from work, she founded a charitable foundation, to help educate and support women in the UK and in India.*

Vin Murria she is a role model for young women the world over and a truly inspirational Chair's Award winner. Congratulations!"

About Vin Murria OBE

Founder – Advanced Computer Software plc

Vin Murria's career has included a combination of venture capital, private equity and CEO/operational experience, centred around twenty years of M&A activity in the software sector. She was founder and Chief Executive Officer of Advanced Computer a consolidator in the healthcare and business solutions sector which, in March 2015 was acquired by Vista Private Equity for c\$1Bn, and Founder and CEO of Computer Software Group plc, which exited to equity vehicle Hellman Friedman in July 2007 for circa \$800m. Prior to this she was COO at Kewill Systems plc (exited in March 2000 at a market valuation of \$1.8bn).

Vin is non-executive director at FTSE250 Softcat plc and FTSE 100 Bunzl plc, Advisor & Investor at Hg Capital and NM Rothschilds. Previously she was NED at Sophos Plc, Zoopla acquired by Thoma Bravo and Silverlake respectively and Chime Plc and Greenko Plc, acquired by Providence and GIC Private respectively.

Vin was named Overall Asian Woman of the Year(2010), Cisco's Woman of the Year (2012), and Tech Entrepreneur of Year (2012) whilst Advanced was named Tech Company of Year (2014) having grown to be the 3rd largest UK headquartered Software Business. Vin has a first class BSc Hons degree in Computer Science, and an MBA. She was awarded an honorary doctorate by Edinburgh Napier University and in 2018, she received an OBE for services to the British digital economy, as well as for advancing women in the software sector. In 2007 Vin formed and fully funded a charitable foundation targeted at educating and supporting women in India and the UK.

About Asians in Tech

The Asians in Tech initiative was established in 2015 with the launch of the first Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list. Successes of the Asians in Tech initiative over the past decade include ★ 9 AT100 lists published; ★ 6 Tech Showcases hosted (Cambridge, London, Manchester); ★ 5 Chairman's Awards presented; ★ 121 Asian Tech Pioneers recognised; ★ 3 Investing in Women Founders panel debates held, ★ Queen's Award for Enterprise Masterclass delivered, ★ Asian Tech Pioneers video + ★ AI Inclusion Podcast.

Successes of Asians in Tech & Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list

- ★ The sector has not only grown, making the **UK the third largest tech ecosystem in the world and first in Europe**, but innovators have focused on the most pressing global challenges; from climate change and health tech to harnessing the power of Generative AI. The theme this year was innovation, particularly '*scaling for impact*' (financial, environmental, human & social capital).
- ★ The findings of the research commissioned from an independent Cambridge Venture Project (CVP) team showed the Asians in Tech initiative **inspires, empowers, connects** founders; helping them get **funding** and **support**.
- ★ The CVP team also focussed their research on the **healthtech** and **life sciences** sector, finding that nominees in the sector demonstrated two important positive economic indicators. Firstly, the number of years before a healthtech start-up receives their first funding has been reducing, and secondly, healthtech start-ups have been hiring employees in addition to the original founders.
- ★ Women have also held their own in the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list, accounting for 48% of shortlisted nominees in 2024. The representation of women has risen from 21% in 2015 up to a peak of 52% in 2021 and is at 48% in 2024, despite the fact that nearly 23% were new nominees in 2024.

About the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech List

The aim of the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list is to showcase the wealth of talent on the British digital scene; from startup founders, creatives, social entrepreneurs, technologists, venture capital and angel investors to the policy makers and game changers. The key objective is to address the perceived lack of diversity in the tech sector by highlighting the business models, innovation, funding and support networks being created by these Asian digital entrepreneurs. Shortlisted nominees not only gain considerable media attention, they also make valuable connections to help fund or scale their business; are part of a network of innovators; can pitch their ventures at Tech Showcases; are recognised in industry publications and go on to win other competitions and awards.

Sponsors on the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2024 list include business support network Barclays Eagle Labs; one of the UK's leading independent suppliers of steel storage containers, Bell Container Ltd, global law firm Eversheds Sutherland and financial planning advisory, Futurum Financial Advice.

The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list and Diversity UK are the brainchild of the digital media entrepreneur Lopa Patel MBE, who has long been recognised as an evangelist for STEM and the tech industries in the UK.

For further details contact: Lopa Patel, T: 0203 865 4037, info [at] asiansintech.com

IMAGES:

Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2024 - Chair's Award: <https://bit.ly/3Xwtpq2>
Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2024 - Launch: <https://bit.ly/4eU6ETd>
Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2024 - Top 5s: <https://bit.ly/45CJ7lo>
Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2024 - Nominees: <https://bit.ly/3xmNswz>
Asian Tech Pioneers 2024: <https://bit.ly/3Xzrukn>

Notes for Editors:

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Diversity UK is proud that the aim of showcasing Asian talent in the tech sector has been realised with founders achieving their investment targets, receiving grant funding, forming new partnerships and recognition in scaling their ventures.

Social Media:

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/asiansintech/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/asiansintech/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/asiansintech/> @asiansintech

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/asiansintech/> @asiansintech

Website: <https://asiansintech.com/>

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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. For further information, visit <https://diversityuk.org/>

Diversity UK successes include:

- ❖ 1 Flagship 'Beyond the Glass Ceiling' Research Report published in 2013.
- ❖ 4 Reviews participated in, including the McGregor-Smith 'Race in the Workplace' Review
- ❖ 4 Consultations including on Gender Pay Gap Reporting, Diversity Action Plan & DEI initiatives
- ❖ 1 Women in Science Conference sponsored in 2016.
- ❖ 2 Collaborations with The Work Foundation and Fawcett Society on gender related research

ABOUT THE SPONSORS

About Barclays Eagle Labs

Barclays Eagle Labs is a network made up of member businesses, partners, investors, corporates, mentors, banking expertise and so much more. Eagle Labs provide a wealth of support to startup businesses, particularly those who are focused on technology and innovation. For those needing physical space we provide coworking and offices throughout the UK. Businesses can be connected to our mentors, specialists and deals that are all designed to help them grow. We also provide access to a collaborative community where businesses can be put in touch with and learn from their peers.

Scaling businesses can benefit from some of the more bespoke and tailored approaches that are available through Labs. We offer specialists in growth through our mentoring partners. Businesses looking to raise further capital can be connected to investors through our Demo Directory. If a business is looking to grow and raise overseas – particularly in the United States – the Eagle Lab Global Connect programme, run by Silicon Valley veterans, will be of interest.

Eagle Labs provides access to a community of high potential and growing businesses, many who will be looking for investment. Our Demo Directory allows potential investors to subscribe to a regular update showcasing top Eagle Lab businesses who are fundraising.

The Eagle Labs community offers a mechanism that helps corporates better understand innovation and new and emerging technologies. Opportunities exist where corporates can collaborate with innovators. Our industry programmes in Law, Agrifood Healthcare, Energy and Digital Security provide facilitated connections and help bridge the gap between startups and corporates. More generally Eagle Labs can connect larger businesses with innovators.

For further information visit <https://labs.uk.barclays/>

About Bell Container

Founded in 1983 by Nilesh Majeethia, Bell Container is one of the UK's leading independent suppliers of steel storage containers, site accommodation units and bespoke container conversions.

Bell Container has been serving the storage container and site accommodation industry for over 40 years, specialising in the hire and sale of new and used secure storage containers, containerised offices and welfare units, changing rooms and toilet blocks together with offering an expansive range of flat-pack steel units.

With its own team of in-house fabricators, Bell Container is also able to modify shipping containers into any required specification for a varied range of purposes - converting units to serve a wider customer base, from the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors and continually looking for new ways to innovate, upcycle and utilise the humble steel container into these respective markets.

A trusted partner to all its clients, from SMEs to large corporates and local authorities, Bell Container's extensive knowledge of the market in conjunction with access to a network of depots and agents, allows it to provide a bespoke, resourceful and cost efficient service.

For further information, visit bellcontainer.co.uk

Bell Container congratulates Diversity UK on all its charitable endeavours and is proud to support the Asians in Tech 2024 launch event.

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.

Jon Gill, Partner, Eversheds Sutherland said *"We are delighted to be partnering again with Diversity UK on what will be the tenth anniversary of the fantastic Asians in Tech initiative. To mark the launch of the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2024 Awards, the event has the theme of innovation at its heart and will prove to be an exciting opportunity to hear from some of the UK's most exciting growth companies and tech experts. We look forward to recognizing and celebrating the diverse talent within the UK's technology sector."*

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

About Futurum Financial Advice

Whether you are looking to invest for income or growth, the right investment strategy is critical in helping secure your future financial well-being.

We can advise on creating your unique investment strategy. The St. James's Place range of investment solutions and ongoing services have been carefully curated to help you reach your financial goals.

The St. James's Place risk-rated Portfolio solutions mean you can spread your investments across a wide range of asset types and choose fund managers with different investment styles to create a balanced and diversified investment solution.

The value of investments with St. James's Place will be directly linked to the performance of selected funds and these can fall as well as rise. You may get back less than the amount initially invested. Our investment planning advice services are designed to help grow wealth and protect against inflation.

Website: www.futurumfa.co.uk

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