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UK Business Angels Association

ANGEL INVESTMENT AWARDS 2026

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WELCOME TO THE UKBAA ANGEL INVESTMENT AWARDS 2026

Roderick Beer | Managing Director | UK Business Angels Association

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the UKBAA Angel Investment Awards 2026. Tonight, we bring together investors, entrepreneurs, ecosystem partners and supporters from every corner of the UK to celebrate the achievements, impact and ambition of our angel investment community.

I would like to begin by extending our sincere thanks to the British Business Bank, our Headline Sponsor, whose continued support is instrumental in making these Awards possible. We are equally grateful to our Award Sponsors, ACF Investors, KIN Group, Mathys & Squire, Barclays Demo Directory, That Round, Price Forbes and HSBC Innovation Banking, for their commitment to recognising excellence across the ecosystem and helping us shine a spotlight on the individuals and organisations driving innovation and growth throughout the UK. And finally, thanks to our reception sponsor Baltic Ventures, for their support in helping create a truly exceptional experience for our guests.

Tonight is an opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary contribution that angel investors make to the UK's entrepreneurial success story. At a time when access to early-stage capital remains more critical than ever, angels continue to provide not only investment but also the expertise, networks and mentorship that enable innovative businesses to grow and thrive.

Across every region and nation of the UK, angels are backing ambitious founders who are tackling some of society's most significant challenges. From breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, health and life sciences, and climate technologies, to the development of transformative new products and services, angel investment remains a catalyst for innovation, job creation and long-term economic growth.

As we look ahead, strengthening and expanding the angel investment market has never been more important. Ensuring that founders from all backgrounds and locations can access the support they need, and that investors are encouraged to back the next generation of high-growth businesses, will be essential to maintaining the UK's position as a leading global innovation economy.

This year we have once again received an exceptional range of nominations, a powerful reflection of the talent, dedication and impact within our community. My sincere thanks go to our distinguished judging panel for their time, expertise and rigour throughout the selection process. Congratulations to all our finalists and winners. Your achievements exemplify the energy, leadership and vision that make this ecosystem so special.

Thank you for joining us this evening. I hope you enjoy the celebrations and take real pride in the achievements represented here tonight. Together, we will continue to champion the investors and entrepreneurs who are shaping the future of innovation across the UK.

On behalf of British Business Bank, we'd like to welcome you once again to this year's UKBAA Angel Investment Awards.

British Business Bank works to power UK ambition and growth by helping small businesses as they start up, scale up and prosper, driving growth for the UK economy.

We strengthen finance markets by offering responsible financial solutions that connect smaller businesses with the opportunities they need to grow.

Our £370m Regional Angels Programme, launched in 2018, is designed to address imbalances in access to early-stage finance in the UK and to increase the overall amount of capital available to smaller businesses through early-stage investors.

We aim to raise the profile and professionalism of angel investment activity and to attract further third-party capital alongside business angels while generating a market rate of return.

Since it began, we've made over 40 commitments totalling more than £300m to partners, who have invested £200m into nearly 1,000 companies over the last six years, demonstrating the programme's mission to foster entrepreneurial activity and stimulate economic growth across the UK's Nations and regions.

Our congratulations go to all the angel investors and trailblazing entrepreneurs who are shaping the future of UK innovation, great to be celebrating them here tonight.

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SPEAKERS AND HOSTS

MARK BARRY, Senior Investment Director, British Business Bank

Mark is a Senior Investment Director and runs the regional angel and co-investment programme. Mark joined the Bank in 2015 in the BBI team, completing investments in challenger banks, asset finance and fintech as well as fund transactions. Prior to the Bank, Mark worked at PwC Dublin, in the asset management team and completed the ACA qualification.

JENNY TOOTH OBE, Executive Chair, UKBAA

Jenny is Executive Chair of the UK Business Angels Association, the trade body for angel and early stage investing, representing over 15,000 investors around the UK. Jenny has over 20 years' experience of facilitating SME's access to investment, both in the UK and internationally. She ran her own consultancy on access to finance for SMEs, including spending nine years based in Brussels, working closely with the EC.

In 2009, Jenny co-founded Angel Capital Group which incorporates London Business Angels, one of the most established and active angel networks in the UK. Jenny is an angel investor and in her role at UKBAA she focuses on building the angel community around the UK, connecting investors to good deal flow and assisting entrepreneurs to attract investors.

Jenny sits on the steering group for emerging technologies and innovations for Innovate UK, and the advisory board for the London Co-Investment Fund. Jenny is an experienced speaker on angel investing and entrepreneurship both in the UK and internationally. She has an MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Jenny was awarded an OBE in 2015 for services to small businesses.

RODERICK BEER, Managing Director, UKBAA

Roderick's career spans over 15 years of managing, founding and growing angel groups and investment platforms that have collectively deployed over £100m of equity investment in more than 500 startup and scaleup businesses. He started his career at Beer & Partners, one of the first and largest angel groups in the UK, and later helped form and grow a corporate finance firm as their COO. He is now the Managing Director of the UK Business Angels Association, the trade body for angel and early-stage investing, representing over 200 organisations and 18,000 investors around the UK that collectively deploy over £1bn p.a. in early-stage businesses.

Baltic Ventures

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Not just an accelerator, syndicate or community.

Access to exceptional scaling tech companies before institutional capital arrives. Pre-vetted. S/EIS tax relief on every investment.

0 → 33
angels in two years

£1.32m
invested into 30 companies

£12.144m
raised by them in follow-on

£640k
into female-led businesses

Minimum commitment from £10,000.

Reception Sponsor of the UKBAA Angel Investment Awards 2026.

Proud members of the UK Business Angels Association.

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PROGRAMME

19:15	**Sparkling Drinks Reception –** Sponsored by Baltic Ventures
20:00	**Guests seated for dinner**
20:10	**Opening Remarks** Jenny Tooth OBE, Executive Chair, UKBAA
20:15	**Welcome from British Business Bank** Mark Barry, Senior Investment Director
20:25	**Starters served**
21:00	**Mains served**
21:10	**AWARDS CEREMONY** Angel Group of the Year Women in Innovation Award Hard Tech Investment of the Year Early-Stage Advisor of the Year Scale-Up Team of the Year Accelerator of the Year
21:40	**Dessert served**
	AWARDS CEREMONY CONTINUES Regional Champion of the Year Exit of the Year Impact Investment of the Year Investment in Diversity Champion Deep Tech Investment of the Year Seed VC of the Year Angel Investor of the Year
22:50	**Post-Awards celebration**
01:00	**Carriages**

MENU

STARTER

Hot-smoked duck breast, black grape glaze, gochujang relish, whipped sesame tofu & kimchi tapioca crisp.

Thai asparagus gazpacho, cucumber & asparagus ribbons, green pepper, Thai basil oil & crispy puffed rice (VE)*

MAIN

Lamb rump & minted lamb breast, aubergine zaalouk, brown butter & preserved lemon pomme Anna, olive labneh & smoked tomato filo shard.

Sticky Indonesian aubergine, matcha butterfly pea flower rice, coconut & carrot purée, coriander & pickled chilli daikon remoulade, lotus leaf crisp (VE)*

DESSERT

Poached rhubarb & Braeburn press, vanilla feuilletine, rhubarb ice cream, sherbet, green apple gel & raspberry chocolate swirl (V)

WINE

2025 Tapisserie Blanc IGP Pays d'Oc, Domaines de Lamy, Languedoc, France

2024 Syrah IGP Côtes de Thau, Baron de Badassière, Languedoc, France

2025 Rosé IGP Pays d'Oc, Laroche La Chevalière, Languedoc, France

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For every growing business.

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JUDGES

Chris Adelsbach, Managing Partner, Outrun Ventures

Chris is an entrepreneur, investor, and mentor. He is the Managing Partner of Outrun Ventures, and one of Europe's most prolific investors in early stage Fintech companies. After a ten year career at GE Capital, he co-founded a specialty finance company that became one of the fastest growing businesses in the UK. He and his partners sold the business to a NASDAQ listed entity and specialist buy-out fund in 2014. After exiting he turned his attention to venture investing and mentoring founders, running the Techstars Fintech Accelerator for five years. He has also invested personally as an angel into a further 175 companies, many of them now notable, including Kuda Bank, Quant Network, Marshmallow, Smart Pension, Griffin Bank, Cuvva, Kompany, Seldon, and Atom Bank. He was named the UK's Angel investor of the year in 2018/19 and Sifted named him the most active fintech angel in Europe in 2020-22. In 2022 he was named as the leading Seed Investor in Europe by Business Insider and Tribe Capital and in 2023 was named Investor of the Year at the Great British Entrepreneurship Awards. Chris formed Outrun Ventures to facilitate investment into the growth stage round of some of his most exciting portfolio companies.

Rodney Appiah, Managing Partner, Cornerstone Partners

Rodney Appiah is the Managing Partner of Cornerstone VC, an early stage fund focused on a 'people first' investment approach. Investing at pre-seed and seed, Cornerstone VC is focused on UK tech companies led by diverse teams building in the areas of Health & Sustainability, Future of Work and Social. Prior to founding Cornerstone VC, Rodney held roles at BGF, Foresight Group and Merrill Lynch and has more than 15 years of financial services, TMT and Consumer experience across UK and Europe. An experienced board director, Rodney serves as an NED for the UK Business Angels Association (UKBAA) and Conduit Connect, a direct investment platform that focuses on connecting global high impact businesses with mission aligned investors. Additionally, he is a committee member of Innovate UK (Innovation Loans).

Mark Barry, Senior Investment Director, British Business Bank

Mark is a Senior Investment Director and runs the regional angel and co-investment programme. Mark joined the Bank in 2015 in the BBI team, completing investments in challenger banks, asset finance and fintech as well as fund transactions. Prior to the Bank, Mark worked at PwC Dublin, in the asset management team and completed the ACA qualification.

Roderick Beer, Managing Director, UKBAA

Roderick's career spans over 15 years of managing, founding and growing angel groups and investment platforms that have collectively deployed over £100m of equity investment in more than 500 start-up and scale-up businesses. He started his career at Beer & Partners, one of the first and largest angel groups in the UK, and later helped form and grow a corporate finance firm as their COO. He is now the Managing Director of the UK Business Angels Association, the trade body for angel and early-stage investing, representing over 200 organisations and 18,000 investors around the UK that collectively deploy over £1bn p.a. in early-stage businesses.

Scott O'Brien, Chief Investment Officer, Innovate UK

Scott O'Brien is Chief Investment Officer at Innovate UK, working to support innovative businesses secure the right funding and the right time to go from concept to commercialisation, growth and scale. He is directly responsible for delivery of Innovation Loans and Investor Partnerships. Scott was previously at British Business Bank and was responsible for creating the Start-Up Loans programme as well as working with the European Investment Fund on its Innovfin guarantee programme. Before that, he held roles across Government and in Corporate and Commercial Banking.

JUDGES

Irene Graham OBE, CEO, ScaleUp Institute

Irene is the founding CEO and a Board Director of the ScaleUp Institute, a private sector, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to making the UK the best place in the world to scale up a business. She is a former senior banker at Standard Chartered, where she held both European and global Managing Director roles. During her time there, she established, led and scaled several of the bank's key client and product businesses across its Corporate and Institutional Banking division, and was involved in a number of major global M&A activities. Her career has spanned Europe, the Americas, the Middle East and Asia, including a period living in Singapore.

During the height of the financial crisis, Irene was seconded to work across the UK banking industry, where she led the Business Finance Taskforce and Better Business Finance. In these roles, she was instrumental in the development of initiatives such as the Business Growth Fund, SME Finance Monitor, Open Banking, the Small Business Act and UK Export Finance instruments. She is a Visiting Professor of Entrepreneurship at the University of Strathclyde and holds a range of non-executive director and advisory roles across the business and finance communities. She has also contributed to a number of national and international initiatives, including the Fintech Strategy Review, the Life Sciences Scale-Up Taskforce and the Creative Industries Council. She previously served on Canada's National Research Industrial Advisory Council.

Chris Hill, Investment Programme Manager, SETsquared Partnership

Chris is Investment Programme Manager at SETsquared Partnership, where he supports a portfolio of high-growth companies on their journey to investment readiness. Drawing on his own experience in a start up, he brings first-hand insight to the entrepreneurs he works with. Working at the intersection of innovation and investment, he builds and maintains relationships with a broad network of investors from angels and venture capital to institutional funds to connect the right capital with the right opportunities. Chris plays a central role in driving SETsquared's mission to accelerate some of the UK's most promising technology ventures.

Christiana Stewart-Lockhart, Director General, EIS Association

Christiana is Director General of the EIS Association, the trade body for the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and the Seed EIS ecosystem. The EIS and SEIS are government schemes that have resulted in £34billion of private investment into 60,000 UK growth businesses. The EIS Association has more than 400 members including entrepreneurs, advisers and investors using the schemes. Christiana previously spent more than a decade working in Westminster and holds a BA in Politics from the University of York. She was included in the 2025 Women in Trade Associations powerlist, is a member of TISA's Financial Education Council, and sits on the Advisory Board for the APPG for Entrepreneurship.

Jon Gill, Partner, Eversheds Sutherland

Jon leads the TMT M&A and Venture team at Eversheds Sutherland, the global top 10 law firm. He is a leading corporate lawyer with over 20 years experience, focused on venture capital, private equity and technology M&A transactions. Jon acts for a number of routinely acquisitive public and private companies, mid-market private equity firms, venture capital providers, entrepreneurial management teams and investee companies. He also has a particular interest in entrepreneurship, supporting early-stage businesses and those with innovative technologies, and a particular specialism in Corporate Venture Capital. Jon have been ranked as a leading individual in Chambers, the independent guide to the legal profession, over the past 8 years for his M&A, private equity and venture capital experience. He also serves as Chair of the Legal, Tax and Regulatory Committee of the UK Business Angels Association.

JUDGES

Susan Nightingale, Senior Director – Local Growth Team, British Business Bank

As a Director in the UK Network Team at the British Business Bank, Susan leads on strategic partnerships and senior stakeholder engagement across the Devolved Nations. Her focus is on raising awareness and expanding access to start-up and growth capital for small businesses in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Susan also heads the Bank's UK-wide Angel Ecosystem Building initiative, which supports the development of new and emerging syndicates and promotes greater diversity within the angel investment community. A Chartered Accountant with a background in Commercial Banking and Corporate Finance, including experience in designing, implementing, and managing debt and equity funds as part of a £200 million Access to Finance programme.

Helen Oldham, Co-Founder, Lifted Ventures

Helen Oldham is a Co Founder of Lifted Ventures. Their mission is to increase the flow of early stage capital to regional, female founders, and to promote the significant business benefits of backing women. The Lifted Ventures flywheel has an angel network at its core, alongside investment literacy education for women founders and investors. Lifted have helped to raise over £11m in under two years.

She is an Investor, a Board member of the UKBAA, a NED, and consultant. Previously Helen was a Founding Board Director of multi award winning NorthInvest, and in 2020 she launched Fund Her North, a collective of women in VCs who support female founders to get equal access to finance. Prior to this Helen was Managing Director of the Yorkshire Post and The Scotsman.

Fred Soneya, Co-Founder & General Partner, Haatch

Fred was responsible for several high-profile, large-scale innovation projects across Kiddicare.com and, post-acquisition, Morrisons, the UK's 4th largest supermarket. He created award-winning digital customer experiences by working with cutting-edge early-stage technology start-ups, bridging the online–offline gap at Morrisons for millions of customers each week.

Since co-founding Haatch in 2013, Fred has led the launch and delivery of the Haatch tax-efficient funds in 2018 and the institutional funds in 2022, and he oversees the day-to-day running of the firm as General Partner. Over the last decade, he has overseen investments into over 170 companies, onboarded over 2,500 investors, and delivered multiple industry firsts across retail access, syndicate strategies, and fund technology.

Fred was recently appointed to the board of EISA, the trade body for the Enterprise Investment Scheme.

Eloise Morgan, Managing Director - Ventures, Price Forbes

Eloise Morgan is the Managing Director of Ventures at Price Forbes, an angel investor, and a seasoned insurance specialist with 20 years of experience supporting investors and entrepreneurs across the full investment lifecycle. She works closely with angel networks, VCs, and portfolio companies to strengthen due diligence, assess risk, and ensure investors have the insurance protections they need.

With deep expertise in the insurtech sector, Eloise advises founders on the insurance and risk management requirements typically expected during a fundraise, designing tailored programmes that scale with early stage and high growth businesses.

Recognised by Angel News as one of the "15 Heroines of the UK Angel Market," she holds an Enterprise Investment Scheme Accreditation and serves on the Advisory Panel of Insurtech UK, helping shape strategic priorities for the future of the UK insurtech sector.

JUDGES

Stephen Pegge, Non-Executive Director, UK Business Angels Association

Stephen is a member of the Creative Industries Council and steering group and chairs the access to finance working Group. He has been a long standing director of UK Business Angels Association and is a trustee of the major charity Shaw Trust and vice chair of Shaw Education Trust the leading multi academy trust of Schools in the Midlands and North of UK. He was part of the senior executive team of UK Finance, the leading financial trade association and was the industry's policy lead on commercial finance, specialist banking, dispute resolution, IBOR transition and international trade. Stephen has led work for the industry on Covid lending schemes, sustainability and diversity and inclusion.

Previously at Lloyds Banking Group since 1983, responsible nationally for risk management, marketing, international services and training as well as management of local teams, he led competition policy, financial services and business community relationships, local constituency and devolved nation political engagement and lending policy at Group level. He was also a member of executive boards in Lloyds Banking Group's Commercial Banking and Retail divisions with responsibility for business banking and invoice and asset-based finance both through Lloyds Bank and Bank of Scotland. As chair of the British Bankers' Associations Corporate Committee, he led work after the financial crisis to develop mentoring and the establishment of BGF in the UK.

Stephen read Economics at University College London and has professional qualifications from the Chartered Institute of Bankers and the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

He has represented the UK on business finance at the European Banking Federation and was on the executive committee of European Union Factoring and Commercial Finance Association.

Dama Sathianathan, Senior Partner, Bethnal Green Ventures

Dama Sathianathan is a senior partner and Head of Origination at Bethnal Green Ventures (BGV), Europe's leading early-stage tech for good VC. BGV backs ambitious founders using tech to tackle pressing social and environmental challenges at scale. At BGV, she leads on deal flow, community, and networks, driving BGV's efforts to act with integrity on diversity, equity, and inclusion and fuel the broader tech for good movement across the UK. Dama previously worked for international NGOs advocating for better human rights practices in global development and humanitarian response and has a background in international relations and human rights. Dama sits on the steering committee of VentureESG, the world's largest community of VCs and LPs stewarding better-shared learning and practices to integrate ESG and impact at the fund level and beyond.

Kamila Bochenek, Head of Business Development, Kin Group

Before joining Kin Group, Kamila was a Corporate lawyer with a focus on venture capital/debt transactions at an international law firm. She is now Head of Business Development at Kin Group.

Amir Nooriala, CEO, Saepio – 2025 Angel Investor of the Year

Amir started his career in Silicon Valley with Cisco, relocated to London with Accenture, before a long stint in Banking Tech as a MD. He was then headhunted to be the Series A COO of OakNorth and soon after asked to be the Series A CCO of Callsign. Giving him C-Level experience at 2 UK unicorns, raising >£600m from Softbank and PIF and leading their 'blitz-scale' phases. Amir is currently the owner and CEO of Saepio. Amir sits on the board of Konvi.

JUDGES

Benjamin Storey, Head of Investor Connectivity, Platforms & Proposition at Eagle Labs in Barclays UK PLC and founder and Head of Barclays Demo Directory

Benjamin Storey is Head of Investor Connectivity, Platforms & Proposition at Eagle Labs in Barclays UK PLC. He is also founder and Head of Barclays Demo Directory, the free investor to founder connectivity platform. Benjamin has been at Barclays since 2011, with roles covering Corporate Banking relationship management, Barclays Ventures, Eagle Labs senior strategic and relationship management and latterly investor connectivity and investor platform development. Having aided entrepreneurs since 2016 when he setup the first Eagle Lab incubator in Cambridge, Benjamin has successfully supported hundreds of entrepreneurs to access capital and connect to investors in the UK and beyond.

Simon Thorpe, Chairman, Cambridge Angels

Delta2020, Cambridge Angels, Angel investor, mentor, consultant. NED and Chair of the Investment Committee of the University of Manchester Innovation Factory, NED Albion Tech & General VCT, NED UB.io. Director of Rockspring Nominees. Member of Angel Academe (a predominately female angel network) and member of Manchester Angels. Chair of Salica Investments Venture Debt Investment Committee, Cambridge Judge Business School Entrepreneurship Fellow, Member Murray Edwards College Cambridge Enterprising Women Advisory Board, Sponsor Cambridge Female Founders program, UKBAA Angel Investor of the Year 2016/17. Specialties: Angel investing, mentoring, consulting, non-executive directorships, research focused on technology and tech enabled healthcare sectors, Chartered Accountant, Volunteer, wannabe sports champion, keen but slow cyclist. @thorpesi on Substack and other channels 'The digital revolution is the new industrial revolution'.

Jenny Tooth OBE, Executive Chair, UK Business Angels Association

Jenny brings over 30 years' experience of supporting businesses to access finance and investment .Jenny established the trade body for angel and early-stage investment in the UK in 2012 where she was CEO until 2020. Jenny has also been an Angel investor for nearly 20 years. As Executive Chair, Jenny continues in a strategic role on behalf of the trade body, managing relationships with the Government and wide range of ecosystem players and stakeholders across the UK.

During her time at UKBAA, Jenny has been an active proponent of increasing diversity in Angel and earlystage investment. She was a member of the Rose Review Board between 2019-2023 and supported the establishment of the Investing in Women Code launched in 2019 and established the Women Backing Women campaign in 2021 to enable more women across the UK to become Angel investors. She currently sits on UK Women Angel UK Investment Task Force where she chairs the Angel Investment Sub Committee. She also sits on the London Life Sciences Advisory Board and is a Women In Innovation Ambassador for Innovate UK and is also an Entrepreneurship Ambassador at Oxford Said Business School.

At European level, Jenny is a founding Board member for Business Angels Europe where she is VP for Diversity and currently leads the European Women Invest EU Network launched in 2024 supported by the European Commission and European Investment Fund. On an international level, she sits on the Investment Board for the UK-India Government Neev II Impact Fund. Jenny is also an experienced speaker both in the UK and internationally.

Jenny has a BA Hons Royal Holloway College, London University and MSc in Economics from London School of Economics and Political Science. She was also awarded an OBE in the Queen's New Year Honours 2015 for her services to angel investment and small business.

JUDGES

Claire Valoti, Co-Founder, Haylo Ventures

Claire ran Display and Digital advertising for Mindshare (WPP), was the MD for O2 Media, joined Facebook UK to build out their ad business and was then headhunted to build out Snapchat's international business. She grew it from 0 to >$1bn in revenue. Claire co-founded Haylo Ventures, a deep-tech venture operator, which in turn has purchased Plessey Semiconductors, where she is now Chief Growth Officer. Claire sits on the board of NYSE listed Genius Sports and Series A Howbout and has done CEO / commercialisation advisory for a number of late stage consumer businesses.

Glen Waters, Head of Early-Stage Tech & Life Sciences, HSBC Innovation Banking UK

Glen is responsible for leading client relationship teams that support fast growth innovation businesses, from early-stage, VC backed companies to late stage scale-ups, PE owned and publicly listed corporates.

With 20+ years of experience in finance, Glen has worked across commercial banking, venture capital and private equity and been involved in 150+ deals.
Before joining HSBC Innovation Banking, Glen qualified as a chartered accountant at PwC, where he spent 15+ years, including founding PwC Raise Ventures team that assisted in raising finance for early-stage businesses, as well as leading teams M&A and Financial Due Diligence teams in the mid-market TMT space.

Glen has also served as CFO and Board Advisor to a number of early stage businesses and currently sits as Board Advisor to the Cancer Vaccine Coalition, a US based non-profit organisation accelerating the development of cancer vaccines.

Henry Whorwood, MD – Research and Consultancy, Beauhurst Insights

Henry started and runs Beauhurst Insights which produces research on the UK's start-ups and scale ups for organisations including Barclays, Natwest, the British Business Bank, Innovate UK and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.

Beauhurst Insights deliver analysis, interpretation and commentary on the UK's economy to our clients across the public and private sectors. We specialise in transforming high-quality data into economic understanding. We work on thought leadership, strategic consulting, and economic evaluation engagements. Anyone wanting to better understand the UK's economy should work with us. Our methodologies and outputs can be tailored to geographies, sectors, and business types.

George Whitehead, Partner, ACF Investors

George was founding Chairman of the Angel CoFund for eight years before joining the team as Partner in 2020. Prior to joining, George was Venture Partner Manager at Octopus Ventures, one of Europe's largest and most active venture investors. During his 9 years at Octopus he led marketing and corporate connections with responsibility for investments alongside a syndicate of over 100 Angel investors. He is Chairman of the Clean Growth Fund and was the co-founder and Chairman of the Venture Capital Trust Association and continues to sit on the Finance Committee of the Scale Up Institute.

Andrew White, Partner, Mathys & Squire

Andrew is a Chartered UK and European Patent Attorney and a Partner at Mathys & Squire LLP. He has a background in Physics and supports clients across a range of subject areas from AI to medtech to electric vehicles. He regularly provides free support and advice to a number of start-up accelerators and incubators in the UK, discussing all aspects of IP including registered designs, agreements and licensing, as well as patents.

JUDGES

Erika Brodnock MBE, Co-Founder, Kinhub

Prof. Erika Brodnock, MBE, LLD is an award-winning serial entrepreneur, philanthropist, and angel investor. She is a Royal Society Entrepreneur in Residence at King's College London and an Honorary Professor at the University of Exeter. Erika holds an MBA from the University of Surrey and is a PhD in Behavioural Science at the LSvE. Erika is co-founder and CEO of Kinhub, a patent-pending B2B SaaS generative AI platform that empowers employees to thrive personally and professionally through convenient, personalised, evidence-based coaching for mental, social, and financial well-being. Erika also founded Karisma Kidz, Extend Ventures (acquired by Diversity VC), and The Black Funding Network. She is the co-author of Better Venture - Improving Diversity, Innovation, and Profitability in Venture Capital and Startups.

Chris Elphick, Head of Venture Capital, UK Private Capital

Chris Elphick is Head of Venture Capital at UK Private Capital. He leads on all policy areas related to venture capital and works closely with UK Private Capital members to promote the role the industry plays in the UK economy by supporting entrepreneurs and businesses.

Chris is a member of the Independent Advisory Board for the Government's Digital Growth Grant (delivered by Barclays Eagle Labs) and is an adviser to the APPG for Entrepreneurship.

*Based on the sectors in which we operate. Please see website for full details.

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THE AWARDS

ANGEL INVESTOR OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY

ACF Investors

This award recognises the most active and impactful angel investor backing start-up and early stage UK businesses, bringing not only vital risk capital, but significant added value to support the growth and success of their portfolio.

Winner announced this evening

THE AWARDS

ANGEL GROUP OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY

BARCLAYS Demo Directory

This award recognises the most active and impactful angel group in the UK, making not only a significant number of investments during the past year, but bringing strong added value to support the growth and success of their portfolio.

FINALISTS:

Awaken Angels

OXFORD INNOVATION FINANCE
The home of OION

VENTURES TOGETHER

ENTERPRISE 100
SINCE 1999

sie ventures

GREEN ANGEL
SYNDICATE

Archangels

Lifted.
Elevating female founders

South East Angels

THE AWARDS

WOMEN IN INNOVATION AWARD

Celebrating a woman investor whose strategic backing of a woman-led venture exemplifies bold conviction, commercial alignment, and ecosystem impact. This award honours investment where deal terms reflect true partnership, and where belief in female-led innovation has helped build scalable, high-growth success.

FINALISTS:

Dr Nadia Danhash's
investment in

Royal College of Art INNOVATIONRCA

Deborah Young's
investment in

ENOUGH ENERGY

Vicky Brock's
investment in

memorify.™

Sara Boltman's
investment in

MeOmics™

Victoria Taylor's
investment in

FUTURE GREENS

Katie Lockwood's
investment in

MATER-AI

Rubina Singh, Foresight Group,
investment in Spaceflux, Cambridge GaN Devices and uFraction8

SPACEFLUX

Triin Linamägi's
investment in

maeve ai

Iulia Tudor,
Ascension Ventures Limited,
investment in fintech consumer stealth company

/ASCENSION

THE AWARDS

HARD TECH INVESTMENT OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY

Mathys&Squire

This award recognises the founders and early-stage investors whose disruptive innovations in research-intensive and capital-intensive sectors such as health & life sciences, engineering and manufacturing are driving the future economy.

FINALISTS:

EnsiliTech

Backed by:

Fink Family Office, Science Angels Syndicate, Individual angel investors, QantX, Innovate UK grants

Astratus

Backed by:

University of Reading, Henley Business Angels and Jenson Ventures

occuity

Backed by:

Angel investors and syndicated investment groups

Backed by:

The FSE Group

NunaBio

Backed by:

Innovate UK, & private investors

Hartley Ultrafast

Backed by:

Aligned Syndicate and UK Angels

Quantcore

Backed by:

PXN Group

SENTION

Backed by:

Twin Path Ventures, Doral Energy-Tech Ventures, Endgame Capital, Energy Revolution Ventures, G.K. Goh Ventures, Green Angel Ventures, Third Sphere, and the UK Innovation and Science Seed Fund

THE AWARDS

EARLY-STAGE ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

Recognising the essential support network that fuels early-stage success. This award honours the professionals and organisations whose expertise, dedication, and behind-the-scenes impact help unlock investment and accelerate growth across the ecosystem.

FINALISTS:

MILLS & REEVE

PhilipHare&Associates

KIN GROUP

KINGSLEY NAPLEY
WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

priceforbes

RW Blears

MBM ENTREPRENEURIAL BUSINESS LAWYERS

SEEDLEGALS

Browne Jacobson

THE AWARDS

SCALE UP TEAM OF THE YEAR

This award recognises the most active and dynamic entrepreneurial team who, through strong leadership and teamwork, have achieved fast growth and scale of their highly innovative business.

FINALISTS:

VALOS

Backed by:

Angel investors and high-net-worth individual investors

TRADEAZE

Backed by:

Angel investors and high-net-worth individual investors

YourShortlist

Backed by:

Maven Capital Partners, supported by the British Business Bank

AUDDY

Backed by:

British Government's Future Fund, Haatch Ventures, Pembroke VCT, Brick Capital and individual investors from the U.S., Switzerland and Australia

checkboard by Kord.

Backed by

Deepbridge Capital and other investors

Ctrl Alt

Backed by:

Molten Ventures, Middlegame Ventures and SEI

FIFTH DIMENSION

Backed by:

Angel investors and high-net-worth individual investors

THE AWARDS

ACCELERATOR OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY

KIN GROUP

This award recognises an accelerator with the most dynamic and innovative programme of support for early-stage founders.

FINALISTS:

Deeptech Labs

entrepreneurial-spark

SETsquared Partnership
Universities of Bath, Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter, Southampton & Surrey

Royal Academy of Engineering | Enterprise Hub

Carbon13

NoBa Capital

KQ Labs

Royal College of Art
INNOVATIONRCA

sie ventures

Exeter INNOVATION

THE AWARDS

REGIONAL CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY

ThatRound

Recognising the essential support network that fuels early-stage success. This award honours the professionals and organisations whose expertise, dedication, and behind-the-scenes impact help unlock investment and accelerate growth across the ecosystem.

FINALISTS:

Deepbridge

Climb26

Awaken Angels

HAATCH

fhunded

pxn GROUP

TwinPath

STARTUPTO SCALEUP .CLUB

Foresight
Invest Build Grow

THE AWARDS

EXIT OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY

British Business Bank

Recognising the most exciting exit by an early-stage investor in the last 12 months as a result of backing an innovating UK entrepreneur.

FINALISTS:

MONOLITH

Backed by:

Founders Factory and Stanford UK Angels individual investors, Pentech VC and Ascension Ventures, Insight Partners, IP Group, BBB Future Fund and Apex Black, IP Group and Volta Ventures

FEATURE SPACE
A Visa Solution

Backed by:

Cambridge Capital Group

Ideagen Reactec

Backed by:

Archangels, Scottish Enterprise and
Old College Capital

BMLL

Backed by:

ACF Investors

Kative Teams

Backed by:

Haatch

HUNTER & GATHER

Backed by:

SFC Capital, Black Investment Holding,
Joanna Jensen, Mission Ventures
and Seedrs

OSPREY
FLIGHT SOLUTIONS

Backed by:

Backed by 24Haymarket

THE AWARDS

IMPACT INVESTMENT OF THE YEAR

Celebrating an early-stage business whose equity backing has enabled the development of a transformational solution to global challenges. This award honours both the founder and the investor behind the vision, those who champion innovation with the power to shape a more resilient, equitable, and commercially impactful future.

FINALISTS:

everybody counts

Backed by:

Wrexham SPF and individual investors

tova

Backed by:

Korra Ventures

MATER-AI

Backed by:

Grant funding

Sprive

Backed by:

Ascension VC

EnsiliTech

Backed by:

Fink Family Office, Science Angels Syndicate, Individual investors, QantX

wac

Backed by:

Angel investment, VC rounds and non-dilutive grants and awards

cocoon

Backed by:

2150 and Brick & Mortar Ventures, The Venture Collective, Wireframe Ventures, Gigascale Capital, Celsius Industries, SOSV, and Innovate UK

Foresight
Invest Build Grow

Backed by:

Foresight Technology VCT, Foresight Technology EIS fund and Hard Yards

ATELERIX
SAVE YOUR CELLS

Backed by:

o2h Ventures, ACF Investors, Cambridge Angels, Maven Cognition, Innovation Super Network, UK Innovation and Science Seed Fund (UKI2S), Mainspring (Newable), WCS Nominees, R42 Capital, Oxford Technology and Syndicate Room.

THE AWARDS

INVESTMENT IN DIVERSITY CHAMPION

SPONSORED BY

British Business Bank

This award recognises key individual(s) in the UK early-stage investment ecosystem that is taking a leadership role in breaking down barriers for access to equity investment for founders from diverse backgrounds, including women founders, Black and ethnic minority founders, or other overlooked groups.

FINALISTS:

Vanesa Pazos

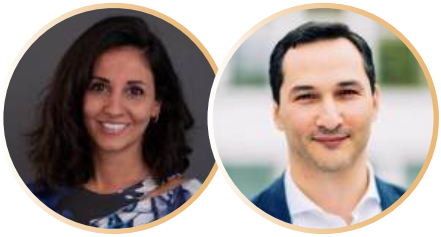
Katie Lockwood

Denise McQuaid

Anna Colombatti

Jill Jones

Jordan Dargue & Helen Oldham



Roxanne Sanguinetti & David Fogel

THE AWARDS

DEEP TECH INVESTMENT OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY

priceforbes

Recognising the investors and founders that are pioneering deep technologies like AI, machine learning, IoT and robotics to achieve fundamental breakthroughs to global challenges.

FINALISTS:

Lapis

Backed by:

Symvan Capital, Founders Factory, institutional backing, angel investment, and accelerator programmes

9fin

Backed by:

AI Seed

SPACEFLUX

Backed by:

Foresight, Blackfinch, UKI2S, angels, UK Space Agency and UK Government

Hartley Ultrafast

Backed by:

Aligned Syndicate (the syndicate powered by us), Strange VC (US), Silicon Catalyst

SmartBricks

Backed by:

Andreessen Horowitz (a16z), angels and early-stage investors

SPOTLIGHT PATHOLOGY

Backed by:

DeepBridge Capital

THE AWARDS

SEED VC OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY

HSBC Innovation Banking

This award recognises the most active and impactful early-stage fund in the UK, bringing investment and support to build and scale their investee businesses.

AI SEED

HAATCH

/ASCENSION

ARAYA

Fuel Ventures

ACFInvestors

JENSON VENTURES

OSNEY CAPITAL

CAMBRIDGE Enterprise Ventures

SFC

Making life easier for VC Asset managers...

SPVs & Syndicates

LP/GP Funds

EIS & SEIS Funds

Fund Admin

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>
> - Leeds Angels

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UK Business Angels Association

HOW EARLY-STAGE INVESTMENT WORKS

Do you work with founders and want to help them to access early-stage investment?

Sign up for the 'How Early-Stage Investment Works' online course to learn everything you need to know about the investment ecosystem.

ONLINE TRAINING

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE

21 SEPTEMBER 2026 | 10:00 - 16:00

Led by
RODERICK BEER
Managing Director, UKBAA

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UK Business Angels Association