

# FINANCIAL NEWS



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## Meet the Fintech 40: The people powering financial technology

By  
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Financial News's annual Fintech 40 list represents a snapshot of the industry, and the changes this year speak volumes for the growth of the sector across Europe during the past 12 months.



From left to right: Eric Van der Kleij, Claire Calmejane and Stu Taylor

Big institutions have woken up to the digital challenge and they all – yes, pretty much all – have champions within them for the new wave of financial technology. Compared with the inaugural list last year, the number of people working at big banks has more than doubled.

The best of the entrepreneurs have continued to rapidly build their businesses and are transforming from start-ups to high-growth firms with real scale.

Meanwhile, funds continue to flow into the sector. A core group of battle-hardened venture capitalists with strong sector knowledge are continuing to ensure that the best ideas get the funding they need to prove themselves.

The early fintech support systems – such as the Level39 accelerator space in [Canary Wharf](#) – continue to perform a vital role but are now joined by a whole host of programmes and funding routes.

All this is reflected in the make-up of our second list of the 40 most influential people in European fintech. [Pictures and profiles of those on this year's list can be found here.](#)

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Thanks to the fintech firms operating in the retail space, the word “billion” appears in this list many more times than it did last year. [Giles](#) Andrews’ [Zopa](#), for instance, has lent more than £1 billion, while Taavet Hinrikus’s TransferWise has transferred funds of £3 billion. Mike Laven’s Currency Cloud is on track to move \$10 billion of payments in 2015, twice its 2014 total.

More strikingly, the word billion is increasingly being attached to valuations. Sebastian Siemiatkowski’s payments firm Klarna, which entered the \$1 billion club last year, has now been joined by Pieter van der Does’ payments firm Adyen and Samir Desai’s Funding Circle. Europe has been poor at generating start-ups in any tech sector that reach this kind of scale. It is encouraging that some fintech firms have already reached it.

At the big financial institutions, AXA’s François Robinet, Commerzbank’s Stefan Tirtey, [Deutsche](#) Bank’s JP Rangaswami, HSBC’s [Christophe Chazot](#) and Santander’s Mariano Belinky are all new entrants. They join Derek White of [Barclays](#) and Oliver Bussmann of [UBS](#) who were on last year’s list.

Some of the entrepreneurs on last year’s list continue to make progress. Nick Hungerford’s Nutmeg has generated a lot of attention using high-profile advertising as it tries to become a true mass-market wealth management firm. Alastair Paterson’s Digital Shadows has been expanding in the US while Stu Taylor’s Algomi is building a client list drawn from the A-list of global financial institutions and working with the [SIX Swiss Exchange](#) on a new bond platform.

Little of this progress, however, would have been possible without smart investors. This group is little changed from last year. [Sean Park](#) from Anthemis, Harry Nelis of [Accel](#), Jan Hammer of Index, Manu Gupta of Lakestar and Rob Moffat of Balderton have not only backed many entrepreneurs with cash, they provide smart advice that can be particularly useful to a new entrepreneur who may have spent the last two decades working at a large financial institution.

One very noticeable feature of the list is the gender imbalance. The only woman on the list is Lloyds’ Claire Calmejane. Some very important names narrowly missed out – if the list had 50 names instead of 40, then she would have been joined by others.

This may change in 12 months’ time. Indeed, at the rate at which the sector is changing,

almost everything may have changed. We will enjoy reporting those changes in the year ahead.

The list in full is published below in alphabetical order:

**Ismail Ahmed**, founder and chief executive: WorldRemit, London

**Giles Andrews**, co-founder and chief executive: Zopa, London - [@zopagiles](#)

**Yoni Assia**, co-founder and chief executive: eToro, Tel Aviv - [@yoniassia](#)

**Mark Beeston**, founder and chief executive: Illuminate Financial Management, London - [@MB\\_IFM](#)

**Mariano Belinky**, managing director: Santander InnoVentures, London - [@belimad](#)

**Oliver Bussmann**, group chief information officer: UBS, Zurich - [@obussmann](#)

**Dave Birch**, director: Consult [Hyperion](#), London - [@dgwbirch](#)

**Claire Calmejane**, director of innovation: [Lloyds Banking Group](#), London - [@ccalmeja](#)

**Simon Champ**, chief executive: Eaglewood Europe, London

**Christophe Chazot**, group head of innovation: HSBC, London

**Samir Desai**, chief executive and co-founder: Funding Circle, London - [@samirdesai01](#)

**Sebastian Diemer**, co-founder and chief executive: Kreditech, Hamburg - [@DiemerSebastian](#)

**Roberto Ferrari**, general manager: CheBanca!, Milan - [@ferrarirobotweet](#)

**Steve Gibson**, managing director: Euclid Opportunities, London

**Udayan Goyal**, founder and partner: Apis Partners, London - [@Udindex](#)

**Manu Gupta**, general partner: Lakestar, Zurich - [@mgupta1013](#)

**Jan Hammer**, partner: Index Ventures, London - [@janatindex](#)

**Taavet Hinrikus**, co-founder and chief executive: TransferWise, London - [@taavet](#)

**Nick Hungerford**, co-founder and chief executive: Nutmeg, London - [@nickhungerford](#)

**Mike Laven**, chief executive: Currency Cloud, London - [@currency\\_cloud](#)

**Nektarios Liolios**, managing partner: Startupbootcamp FinTech, London - [@neكليولios](#)

**Jeff Lynn**, co-founder and chief executive: Seedrs, London - [@jeffseedrs](#)

**Geoff Miller**, chief executive: GLI Finance, Guernsey - [@geoffmiller66](#)

**Rob Moffat**, principal: Balderton Capital, London - [@robmoff](#)

**Harry Nelis**, partner: Accel Partners, London - [@hnelis](#)

**Sean Park**, co-founder and chairman: Anthemis Group, Geneva - [@parkparadigm](#)

**Alastair Paterson**, co-founder and chief executive: Digital Shadows, London - [@patersonae](#)

**JP Rangaswami**, chief data scientist: Deutsche Bank, London - [@jobsworth](#)

**Matteo Rizzi**, general Partner: SBT Venture Capital, Brussels - [@matteorizzi](#)

**François Robinet**, chairman: AXA Strategic Ventures, Paris

**Sebastian Siemiatkowski**, co-founder and chief executive: Klarna, Stockholm - [@klarnasebastian](#)

**Chris Skinner**, chairman: Financial Services Club, London - [@Chris\\_Skinner](#)

**Anil Stocker**, co-founder and chief executive: MarketInvoice, London - [@anilstocker](#)

**Stu Taylor**, co-founder and chief executive: Algomi, London - [@Algomi\\_Ltd](#)

**Stefan Tirtey**, managing director: CommerzVentures, Munich and Frankfurt - [@toetoe](#)

**Pieter van der Does**, chief executive and co-founder: Adyen, Amsterdam

**Fabian Vandenreydt**, head of markets management: Innotribe and The Swift Institute, La Hulpe, Belgium - [@FVandenreydt](#)

**Eric Van der Kleij**, head: Level39, Canary Wharf Group, London - [@Ericvanderkleij](#)

**Derek White**, chief design officer: Barclays, London

**Kirk Wylie**, co-founder and chief innovation officer: OpenGamma, London - [@kirkwy](#)