



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Saïd
Business
School



EMBA Profiles

Class of January 2024

A

**Darien Acosta**

United States

Chief AI Officer

Cover Whale, United States

Sector: Financial - Fintech

Darien currently serves as the Chief AI Officer at Cover Whale, an insurtech company dedicated to enhancing road safety. In his role, Darien leads the company's AI strategy and development. Darien's extensive expertise in analytics and artificial intelligence has also led him to impactful positions at REEF, Barstool Sports, Yahoo!, Business Insider, Reddit, and Condé Nast. His career is marked by a commitment to driving innovation in data-driven strategies across a variety of industries.

**Mario Aguilar Lagos**

Honduras

Honorary Consul of the Republic of Honduras

Honorary Consulate of Honduras, Mexico

Sector: Nonprofits and Social Enterprises

Mario pioneered the creation of the Binational Chamber of Commerce between Mexico and Honduras. He has managed various credit and lending solutions, nationally and internationally, driving financial growth; also strategic planning and execution, driving the company's vision and mission in the tobacco industry.

**Wajahat Ahmed**

United Kingdom

Senior Manager

Reinsurance HSBC

Sector: Insurance

Wajahat is a versatile professional with significant corporate and entrepreneurial success. Primarily a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, he has held various Actuarial roles at major financial institutions, currently working in Global Insurance at HSBC as Senior Manager. He has specific expertise in Life Reinsurance. Wajahat's entrepreneurial experience include co-founding a highly successful electronic cigarette distribution and marketing company, achieving multi-million-pound revenue.

**Feras Alhoshani**

Saudi Arabia

Business Operations Manager

Saudi Nuclear Energy Holding Company, Saudi Arabia

Sector: Energy and Utilities

Feras played instrumental roles in the start-up and development of high-quality energy organisations, leading the process of corporate governance, policy development and organisational structure for the first Saudi nuclear power company. He is now managing enterprise tasks related to both day-to-day operational execution and long-term strategic plan implementation. He provides direct support to the CEO across governance, procurement processes, HR operations and recruitment.

**Amal Alshammary**

Saudi Arabia

Head of Aviation & Maritime Ambulance Department

Prince Sultan College for Emergency Medical Services, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia

Sector: Healthcare

Dr Amal heads the Aviation & Maritime Ambulance Department at King Saud University, notable as the first woman to hold this position. Her role involves her work as an Assistant Professor and Clinical Immunology Consultant, dedicated to enhancing academic instruction, mentoring graduates, and providing high-quality emergency medical services. With a substantial academic career, Dr Amal has a significant record of publications and contributes to the development of upcoming scientific leaders.

**Rachael Antwi**

Ghana

Group Head of Sustainability and ESG

Ecobank Transnational Incorporation

Sector: Financial - Investment Banking and Corporate Finance

Rachael is the Group Head of Sustainability and ESG at Ecobank Transnational Incorporation where she manages and oversees sustainability and ESG for 35 subsidiaries of the Group. She is a former board member of the Center for Environmental Rights and the deputy regional chair for the International Capital Markets Association (ICMA). Her goal is to use her diverse knowledge and expertise in finance, climate, and sustainability to drive a positive change in the bank and on the African continent.

**Tameem Aswad**

Saudi Arabia

Manager

Public Investment Fund Project, Saudi Arabia

Sector: Real Estate

Tameem is currently part of the strategy and planning team at a Public Investment Fund (PIF) portfolio company mandated to develop a 300+ square metre land area as a mixed-use real estate development project. Tameem previously worked at McKinsey & Co. in Saudi Arabia and the UAE across several sectors and industries including multi-billion dollar transformations in the public and private sectors, industry 4.0, and operational excellence consulting in the public healthcare sector.

**Noman Azhar**

Pakistan

CEO Zindigi/ JS Bank

JS Bank, Pakistan

Sector: Fintech

Founder & CEO of Zindigi, the first locally developed Digital Bank of Pakistan, targeting the youth of the country and offering easy access to Financial Services. Noman is a technologist with great business acumen who built the most innovative and agile brand in the fintech industry engaging with 4.5 million customers in just two years. He has received a Presidential Award for his contributions towards the financial eco-system of the country. He is also part of the leadership team at JS Bank.

B

**Stéphanie Baaklini**

Belgium

Commercial Leader Belgium

NielsenIQ, Belgium

Sector: Technology

Stéphanie is a strategic Commercial Leader at NielsenIQ Belgium. With a nine-year track record, she manages a team of Key Account Managers, propelling a portfolio of 100+ clients. Her expertise lies in driving market penetration via go-to-market strategies and fostering high-performance cultures. Her career showcases a history of successful strategic decision-making, budget management, and project implementation, elevating client satisfaction and revenue growth.

**David Benattar**

France

Chief Sustainability Officer

The Warehouse Group, New Zealand

Sector: Retail

David is the Chief Sustainability Officer of The Warehouse Group, New Zealand's largest mass retail group. He represented the country's Climate Leaders Coalition at COP25 and COP26. He advises the government on climate finance, policies, and capabilities. His upcoming book titled 'What Can We Do by Friday' urges leaders toward faster climate action. Previously based in New York, David worked on innovation for global powerhouses. He's a French citizen, avid runner and photographer.

**Cem Buyukkaya**

Turkey

Chief Investment and Finance Officer

Dream International B.V., United Kingdom

Sector: Hospitality and Tourism

Cem has been leading the investment and finance functions of Dream International B.V., a Holdco that invests and operates market-leading, luxury lifestyle restaurants across 15 countries. Prior to this, he held posts in Dogus Group M&A team where he advised on the transactions focusing on the luxury hospitality, maritime and retail sectors in developed markets. He has a proven track record of developing and turning around PE backed businesses.

C**Guillermo Calderon Martinez**

Colombia

Manager, Business Development

American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), United States

Sector: Transportation and Logistics, Maritime

With extensive international experience in the offshore and ship-building industries, Guillermo has worked in the development of more than a dozen large-scale offshore installations and over a hundred ocean ships, from gas carriers to research and military vessels. He is now utilising his experience to lead innovation strategies in areas of alternative fuels, digitalisation and marine electrification to increase safety and achieve decarbonisation goals in the maritime world.

**Juliana Cresci**

United States

WW Channel Marketing Manager

Apple, United States

Sector: Technology

Juliana is a Marketing Manager at Apple. She is responsible for establishing the roadmap, defining optimal processes and engagement plans, and solving communication issues that impact the overall success of Apple Watch and iPad for Global Channel Partners. She is also responsible for leading the cross-functional collaboration across strategy, creative development, merchandising and production.

D**Ricardo De La Fuente**

United States

President

AIE USA/ Lanufer SA, United States

Sector: Real Estate

Ricardo De La Fuente was born in San Diego, California. In 2020 Ricardo became the youngest Nominee for Congress resulting in nearly 100,000 Votes. Ricardo serves as President of a AIE USA & Lanufer that owns and operates hotels and restaurants as well as investments in industrial, residential and commercial real estate throughout USA and Latin America. In 2019 Ricardo rowed 300 km across the Mediterranean as captain of a five person team that raised funds to fight cancer in the NOMAN race.

**Yvette Dimiri**

Nigeria

Director

Stears, Nigeria

Sector: Technology

Yvette is an experienced digital strategy professional. She is currently a Director at Stears, a data and insights company that helps customers understand the disruptive trends, transformations and technologies shaping Africa. At Stears, she is responsible for growth strategy, overseeing daily operational, budgetary and people needs to achieve revenue targets. In a previous role, she led the digital transformation of Business Day, Nigeria's oldest business daily newspaper.

**Kathleen Dolan**

United States

Director

Accenture Private Equity, United States

Sector: Consulting - Strategy

Kathleen is a Director in Accenture's Private Equity practice where she provides technology-driven strategy consulting expertise to global private equity and technology firms. She specialises in helping clients achieve financial and operational value through go-to-market strategy, strategic definition and implementation of innovative technologies, and strategic partnerships. Kathleen has international experience across Australia, Brazil, Germany, Belize, and Qatar; has been named CIO Times 40 Under 40; and holds a private pilot's license.

E

**Bruna Estevanin Costa**

Brazil

Senior Manager of Partner Solutions for Europe, Middle East and Africa

Meta (Facebook), United Kingdom

Sector: Technology

Bruna heads a team of senior consultants at Meta, collaborating with content creators in Europe, Middle East and Africa. Prior to her current role within Meta, she led a team responsible for managing the relationship with media publishers in Latin America. She's an executive member of Women@Tech UK, supporting other women to thrive in the Tech sector. With a vast international experience, Bruna has built a reputable career, with focus on strategy setting and operations management in emerging economies.

F

**Thomas Fehley MBE**

United Kingdom

Business Advisor

Veri Energy

Sector: New Energies

Tom currently leads Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and Government Relations at Veri Energy. He specialises in accelerating growth in early-stage businesses and leading organisations through crises. He is also the Founder and CEO of Heart Hub, a technology focussed on increasing bystander CPR in the UK.

G

**Diego Garcia Rincon**

Venezuela

CTO

Multiply Sales, Spain

Sector: Technology

As the CTO of Multiply Sales, Diego leads teams dedicated to developing Gen AI applications for the Sales and Education industries. Working closely with partners in Europe and Latin America, he develops technology bootcamps to empower aspiring students. Diego has a successful track record in early startups and acquisitions, and holds a patent for Low Code/No Code components. Actively engaged in philanthropy, he works at the non-profit Code For Venezuela, providing tech solutions to communities.

**Duygu Gozeler Porchet**

Turkey

Managing Partner

Gaia Impact Ventures, United Kingdom

Sector: Financial - Impact Investment

Duygu is the Founder and Managing Partner of Gaia Impact Ventures, an advisory firm dedicated to supporting impact driven businesses in capital raising and global expansion. She has founded Gaia following a career in investment banking and wealth management over three continents. She is committed to advancing impact investments and gender equity across industries. She is an advocate in mobilising capital into purposeful investments in order to solve the world's most pressing challenges.

H

**Wolfram Haller**

Germany

Senior Manager Global Programs

Siemens Energy, Germany

Sector: Technology

Wolfram is a Senior Manager Global Programs, working as chief of staff for Siemens Energy Grid Technology Products, a Siemens Energy unit with over 11,000 employees that manufactures power transformers and switching products. He develops the unit's strategy and coordinates the global factory network. Wolfram studied international relations, economics, and American history at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich. After completing his master's degree, he started his first assignment in Siemens' own financing arm Siemens Financial Services working as a liaison officer to the World Bank as well as to the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB). During his years as an inhouse consultant and strategy director at Siemens AG Wolfram led several strategy projects. He implemented a new operating model for Siemens Energy, a Siemens AG spin off.

**Manuel Heyden**

Germany

Founder

Entrepreneur & Investor, Germany

Sector: Investment Management - Private Equity, Venture Capital, Hedge Fund

Manuel is a serial entrepreneur and investor. He started his career in 1999 and founded his first online marketing company at the age of 19. Since then, he has pursued his passion for product development primarily in the fintech sector, where he co-founded two companies and sold his shares after years of building up the businesses as CEO. He is now utilising his experience and skillset as an entrepreneur and is focusing mainly on advisory and private equity.

**Lijia (Lika) Huang**

China

Regional Director of Sales & Marketing, Asia

Select Property Group, United Kingdom, China

Sector: Real Estate

With 13-year's experience in the real estate and hospitality sectors, Lika is now a regional leader for Select Property Group, a renowned UK developer which owns an extensive property portfolio of student accommodation, residential and hotel brands across the UK and Europe. Overseeing business functions in Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Malaysia, Lika devotes herself to developing a strong business strategy and educating the Asia market on the value of UK property investment and asset diversification.

I**Iustina Ilisei**

Romania

Data Science Product Owner/Manager

Roche, Switzerland

Sector: Consulting - Operations and Performance Improvement

Iustina is currently a Data Science Product Owner in the Strategic Operational Management department in Roche. She has both industry and research experience in Computer Science. Her research interest was in Text Mining/Data Science field, whereas in the industry she was an IT Business Consultant with roles such as a Data Science SME, Lead IT Business Analysis, and Technical Product Owner. Iustina has worked across various domains: Life Sciences, Aviation, Telecom, Media and Information.

J

**Eshaq Janahi**

Bahrain

Senior Associate - Deputy Head of Investment Operation

Wisayah Global Investment, Saudi Arabia

Sector: Financial - Investment Management

Eshaq is the Deputy Head of Investment Operations at Wisayah Global Investment Company, where he supports the implementation of investment decisions and strategic initiatives whilst leading their Internal Portfolio Management. With a banking and investment career spanning 15 years in treasury, capital markets and asset management, Eshaq has developed operational infrastructures, managed multicultural teams globally, and is passionate about investment strategy, digital innovations and AI.

**Juan Jimenez Santana**

Spain

Service Delivery Lead

Virgin Media O2, United Kingdom

Sector: Telecommunications

Juan is a seasoned IT leader with 12+ years of experience in India, Spain, Canada and UK. Currently the Service Delivery Lead at Virgin Media O2, Juan excels in strategic planning, team leadership, and IT infrastructure. His achievements include integrating Virgin Media and O2's database operations and leading a program to migrate 50% of Telefonica's Spain databases to the cloud. Juan's Project Management roles showcased his skills in system migration and cost reduction.

K

**Anastasiya Karelina**

United Kingdom

Senior Director of Product Development

SS&C Technologies, United Kingdom

Sector: Financial - Fintech

Anastasiya has extensive experience in the Fintech sector. She is a Senior Director of Product Management at SS&C Technologies, overseeing product development and product management functions for back-office and managed services solution suites for the investment management market. Beyond her corporate endeavours, Anastasiya is passionate about making high-quality learning widely available. She holds a board position at a London-based academy and is the founder of an AI-powered EdTech start-up.

**Imran Khan**

Canada

Senior Vice President

Sago

Sector: Consulting - Strategy

Imran is a Senior Vice President at Sago with over 12 years of experience in consumer insights and government. He co-founded Addison Research, North America's first consumer insights agency that supported clients in APAC. In 2021, Addison was acquired by Sago through an M&A process. Imran is a new father and is a firm believer in Philanthropy. He is passionate about social impact and women's empowerment. He and his wife co-founded the Pearson-Khan Award for Women's Empowerment.

**Samuel Kolli**

United Kingdom

Team Lead

Roche, Switzerland

Sector: Healthcare

Samuel is a principal data scientist with over 15 years of experience in quantitative finance and tech leadership. Samuel, trained as a computer engineer, began his data science career as a quantitative analyst at Citigroup in London. He has held various positions in corporate treasury and business analytics. He currently leads a healthcare data team, focusing on applying AI to improve patient outcomes. Samuel is committed to leveraging AI and machine learning to create positive impacts.

L

**Sum Lam**

Hong Kong S.A.R.

Head of Patent Practice

Eversheds Sutherland LLP, Hong Kong S.A.R.

Sector: Law and Legal Services

Sum heads the patent practice, working as the most senior patent lawyer in Eversheds Sutherland, which is one of largest international law firms in the world with 5000 employees. He leads the patent and IP practice team and helps clients manage their patent and IP portfolios. Sum chairs the Patent Attorneys' Association of Hong Kong (HKIPA and HKCPAA) and serves as a consultant for the government on legislation.

**Chung Yun (John) Lo**

Australia

Hong Kong Head of Legal

State Street Global Advisors Asia Limited, Hong Kong S.A.R.

Sector: Financial - Investment Management

John is a business man in handling insurance matters. He has experience in working in the renowned international bank specialising in the insurance business. Prior to joining the bank, John was a solicitor with dual qualifications in Hong Kong and Australia with practising experience in both countries. Due to his legal experience, John could provide suitable solutions with different business units within the organisation that would comply with the legal requirements, and assist the organisation to achieve its business goal.

**Marat Lutfullin**

Russia

CEO

Quantum Solutions, United Kingdom

Sector: Technology

Marat serves as the CEO of Quantum Solutions, a company at the forefront of nanotechnology and new imaging solutions. With a Ph.D. in chemistry and experience spanning both start-up ventures and industrial companies, Marat combines unique expertise in deep technology with commercialisation proficiency. He has multicultural work experience in the United Kingdom, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe.

M

**Juho Majamaa**

Finland

Director

AlixPartners, United Kingdom

Sector: Consulting - Operations and Performance Improvement

Juho is a procurement and supply chain management professional working as a director at AlixPartners, a global management consulting firm. Before transitioning to advisory over ten years ago, he was a supply chain manager at a glass manufacturer Pilkington Automotive Finland. He has delivered numerous projects in end-to-end strategic sourcing, sales and operations planning process implementation, manufacturing footprint optimisation and operational due diligence.

**Alex Malitsky**

United Kingdom

Debt Capital Markets Director

TD Securities, United Kingdom

Sector: Financial - Investment Banking

Alex is a Director in the Debt Capital Markets team of TD Securities in London. He is responsible for advising multilateral development banks and governments on refinancing via bond issuance in global capital markets. In this role he was awarded consecutive Rising Star awards. Alex is the Chairman of the ICMA Future Leaders, representing young professionals from over 600 member firms in 66 jurisdictions. He is a CFA charterholder, was born in Kiev, grew up in Germany and studied in the US and UK.

**Ren McMahon**

Japan

COO

Liberty, Inc., Japan

Sector: Education

With extensive experience in the education and fine-art industries, Ren, as COO, transformed his family business to a leading English education provider in Japan. Previously, as International Director, Ren propelled an art gallery to global prominence by establishing collaborations with important artists, art professionals, and institutions like the British Museum and the Metropolitan Museum.

Ren envisions launching an AI-assisted platform to enhance the profitability and creativity of artists.

**Arsen Melkonyan**

Armenia

Deputy CEO

Acba Bank OJSC, Armenia

Sector: Financial - Commercial Banking

Arsen is Deputy CEO at Acba Bank OJSC. With a 23 year track record in Acba Arsen he has been assigned to many roles, starting from a role as a credit officer.

Now Arsen is responsible for SME, Agri and Retail businesses product management in the bank. The Marketing Department and the Customer Experience Management team also report to Arsen. He is also author of many initiatives in the bank, like Acba Business Club, and non-financial services etc.

Arsen is known as team player who has motivated people, leading them to be managers now.

**Matthew Miles**

United Kingdom

Consulting Director

Self Employed, United Kingdom

Sector: Government - Local or National

Matthew specialises in strategic transformation within local government. He has worked with over 20 local authorities including merging organisations, establishing strategic outsourcing partnerships and creating social innovation. Matthew shapes an organisation's transformation agenda and assesses its readiness to adopt a new vision. He establishes the necessary conditions for success. Matthew is an aspiring entrepreneur in the use of technology for social change.

**Simukayi Mukuna**

Zimbabwe

Managing Director

Gallo Music, South Africa

Sector: Media

With 14 years of work experience, Simu is a passionate and driven music industry leader with a strong background in strategy, entrepreneurship, and start-ups. Currently, he is the Managing Director of Gallo Music, the largest and oldest independent record label in South Africa, where he oversees the company's operations, finances, and growth. He is motivated by the mission of empowering and showcasing African artists and creating a platform for their music to reach a global audience.

N

**Raheel Naqvi**

Canada

Manager, New Nuclear Deployment Engineering

Ontario Power Generation, Canada

Sector: Energy and Utilities

Raheel has served in a variety of leadership roles and fronted ground-breaking initiatives in the nuclear energy industry, including a multibillion-dollar small modular reactor deployment in Ontario, Canada. Raheel has extensive utility experience, focusing on engineering, strategic deployment, and business development. Using his skills in technical expertise, international negotiations, strategic planning and execution, Raheel supports nuclear energy deployment across Canada and Europe.

**Phuong (Emily) Nghiem**

Vietnam

Innovation Lead

Facebook UK, United Kingdom

Sector: Technology

Emily is a Harvard alumna and has worked in the banking and tech industries for more than a decade. She has studied and worked in Vietnam, the US, China, Singapore, and the UK. She's currently focused on innovation in Trust and Safety with AI at Meta and consulting a few start-ups at the same time. Emily speaks Vietnamese, English and Chinese fluently.

**Gitau (John) Njoroge**

Kenya

Chief Strategist

Techminds Technologies Ltd, Kenya

Sector: Technology

Gitau, with a rich 20-year background in technology sales and strategy, excelled at Cisco Systems PLC, handling complex projects for clients like Vodafone/Safaricom. Currently, as the Chief Strategist and investor at Techminds Technologies, he drives innovation and strategic partnerships, leveraging his expertise in governance, sales, management, and his experience in policy advisory roles. Gitau is passionate about supporting local communities in the technology space grow their businesses.

**Ogonna Nneji**

Nigeria, United Kingdom

Partner and Head of Risk Advisory

Albourne Partners

Sector: Financial - Independent Research and Ratings, United Kingdom

Ogonna leads the Risk Advisory unit within the Portfolio Group at Albourne Partners, a premier global investment advisor. Ogonna holds a PhD in Finance. He spearheads research and development of quantitative tools for modelling multi-asset portfolio risk. Ogonna's expertise extends to conducting Monte Carlo simulations and providing invaluable insights for forecasting risk and returns on clients' portfolios. Ogonna is a dynamic presenter, frequently contributing his thoughts and ideas at board meetings and conferences.

P

**Kieren Paterson**

United Kingdom

Managing Director

Marshall Futureworx, United Kingdom

Sector: Technology

Kieren is the co-founder and Managing Director of Marshall Futureworx, the innovation and venture building arm of the Marshall of Cambridge Group. Futureworx identifies long term opportunities for value creation and strategic growth, develops and launches next generation products and services, and creates new business ventures to generate return on investment and strategic value for the Marshall Group. Prior to Futureworx, Kieren spent 20 years in Marshall's aerospace and defence business.

**Nadav Perl**

Israel

Chief Investment Officer

Renewable Listing, LLC, United States

Sector: Energy and Utilities

Nadav has served in a variety of commercial roles in the energy and infrastructure space. He has developed over \$10B in global energy projects ranging from conventional upstream energy to renewable energy both in the Eastern Mediterranean region as well as the continental US. Nadav is currently working to originate and aggregate a portfolio of climate commodities and projects into a revised development vehicle, with a heavy focus on the North American market. Nadav is an avid mountain climber.

**Pacoley (Nic) Po**

Hong Kong S.A.R.

Global Head of Business Performance, Group Customer and International
HSBC Group, United Kingdom

Sector: Financial - Banking

Nic is a strategic, outcome-focused and innovative bank leader. He has created game-changing, industry-leading and commercially successful 'First in HSBC Group' business models, sales and servicing capabilities around the globe seven times. In addition, he has spearheaded HSBC Group's flagship programmes and strategic actions nine times. Nic was the recipient of 'HSBC Group CEO Hexagon Award' for distinct contributions.

Through a stunning 18 year career, Nic has worked across ranks within HSBC in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Japan and the United Kingdom. Most recently, Nic oversees global retail customer, revenue and balance growth across 38 markets and five customer segments, which is a business that entails over 39m customers, \$900bn balances and generates \$18bn of annual revenues.

**Roman Polishchuk**

Ukraine

Co-Owner, Partner
Ubase Investment Fund, Ukraine

Sector: Real Estate

Roman is a co-owner of UBASE Investment Fund, a real estate investment and renovation fund with £40M AUM, specialising in the acquisition and sale of mortgage loans within the Ukrainian financial market. UBASE successfully acquired over 500 loans from the Deposit Guarantee Fund of Ukraine and also purchased and renovated commercial and residential properties by resolving lawsuits and winning all corporate disputes. The Fund's structure includes a legal company, a financial company, and an exchange.

**Rachel Pope**

United Kingdom

Finance Director
ADQ, United Arab Emirates, United Arab Emirates

Sector: Financial - Investment Management

Rachel is a Finance Director for ADQ, an Abu Dhabi based investment company with a government mandate to accelerate the transformation of the emirate into a knowledge-based economy. She was previously at Mars Incorporated for 15 years in both the UK and Middle East, where she held several Chief Financial Officer roles. Her key strengths are in business transformation and building high performing teams.

R

**Rajeev Ranjan**

India

Scientist

TU Dresden, Germany

Sector: Technology

Rajeev is a semiconductor scientist with more than 14 years of industrial, research, and entrepreneurial experiences.

He did his PhD in Neuromorphic System Design at the TU Hamburg, Germany in 2019. Since then, he has been involved in research commercialisation at various organisations. His research interests are wireless technologies, biomedical implants, and neuromorphic systems. Presently, he is doing research on neural implants to cure Neuropsychiatric diseases at TU Dresden.

S

**Adam Santa Maria**

Australia

Managing Director

Affinity Capital Group, Australia

Sector: Financial - Investment Banking and Corporate Finance

Adam is founder of the Affinity Capital Group, a specialist investment bank and corporate finance house that works to achieve outcomes that move our world forward responsibly.

Affinity delivers its key offerings in strategy, M&A, capital markets and private equity across its core thematic of sustainability, carbon, food security, infrastructure, sovereign capability and supply chain, manufacturing and the minerals driving the electrical revolution and the transition to net zero.

**Anna Saville**

United Kingdom

Senior Legal Consultant

Linklaters LLP, United Kingdom

Sector: Law and Legal Services

Anna has spent her career structuring and leading market-leading multi-million dollar financings across the world. As a lawyer, she has represented banks, investment funds, private equity firms and corporates in a variety of financings, the subject matter of which have ranged from the leveraged acquisition of companies to the financing of trade and commodities in the emerging markets. Away from law, Anna is passionate about tech, having recently founded a fintech investment platform.

**Rishad Sharif**

Bangladesh

Global Operations Development and Planning Manager

British American Tobacco P.L.C., United Kingdom

Sector: Consumer Goods

Rishad, a senior manager in operations, partners with the leadership team in developing long-term functional strategy and spearheads critical global projects. An engineer by education, he began his career in manufacturing in Bangladesh before expanding into supply chain management. Having lived in three countries, Rishad enjoys working with diverse stakeholders and teams. He is passionate about cultivating a rational society through discourse and has worked as a debate and public speaking coach.

**Jiaping (Toff) Shen**

China

Director of the New Products Division

Atexco, China

Sector: Technology

Jiaping joined Atexco in 2008 and has been actively involved in sales, marketing, project management, and product development. Currently, Jiaping holds a key role as the Director of the New Products Division at Atexco. Established in 1992, Atexco stands as China's largest Digital Image and Printing Technology company, listed on the Shanghai Stock Market, with two overseas subsidiaries in Japan and Germany.

**Olesya Spicer**

United States

Medical Director

Sanofi, United States

Sector: Healthcare

Dr Olesya Spicer is a Pharmaceutical and Public Healthcare Management Executive with 20+ years of distinguished experience. She holds a Doctor of Medicine (MD) and a PhD in medical science with an extensive background in medicine (dermatology), academia, research, education, business, and the pharmaceutical industry. Dr Spicer's current position is a US Medical Director.

**Yipeng Sun**

China

VP, Head of Infervision EMEA

Infervision, Germany

Sector: Healthcare

Sun specialises in leading the design and deployment of innovative healthcare AI solutions for diagnosis and treatment.

Sun's expertise extends to driving business growth through effective sales and channel management. He led successful market entries in over 20 countries across Europe and Asia and established Infervision as a long-term AI supplier for various international organisations, including the European Commission and the United Nations.

**Andy Swartz**

South Africa

Senior Multinational Corporate Coverage Banker

ex-Barclays Corporate Investment Bank & Nedbank (resigned), South Africa

Sector: Financial - Investment Banking

Andy is a qualified Chartered Accountant with extensive consulting and Corporate Investment Banking ("CIB") experience at international banks. Andy has combined his analytical and interpersonal skill to specialise as a multisector large-multinational corporate senior banker, leading the advisory and execution of financial risks and solutions for client C-suite on their global growth objectives. Andy has led the development of CIB sector strategies and enjoys working across country cultures.

T

**Amal Teyeb**

Tunisia-Belgium

Vice President - Senior Risk Manager

Swiss Re, Switzerland

Sector: Financial - Insurance

With over a decade of international experience in the insurance/re-insurance sector at top-tier companies, Amal built a versatile skill set combining technical knowledge with strategic thinking that she has successfully leveraged in dynamic roles demanding a proactive and solution-driven approach. In her current role as Vice President at Swiss Re, she assumes a wide range of responsibilities, including building analytical capabilities and leading cross-functional initiatives and risk assessments.

**Brooke Tibbles**

United States

Senior Manager, Business Product Management

Ernst & Young, United Kingdom

Sector: Technology

Brooke has served a variety of clients across two continents during her time at EY. These include clients in retail and emerging technology sectors such as blockchain, and range from start-ups to multinational enterprises.

She is passionate about teaming and inclusion, and the transformative impact of technology and innovation. She is tapping into that passion in her current role, where she leads across functions to design product concepts and enable and develop new AI capabilities.

V

**Hugo van Brakel**

Netherlands

Head of Commercial Strategy & Operations, Mid Sized Markers

Astellas Pharma, Netherlands

Sector: Healthcare

Hugo is a growth-oriented professional with substantial experience in driving marketing, marketing intelligence and operational excellence for various renowned pharmaceutical companies. This includes proven success in managing cross-functional teams across geographies and driving revenue growth through organisational restructuring, resource allocation optimisation, and marketing strategy improvements.

**Federico Vrljicak**

Croatia

Director

Mastercard

Sector: Financial - Fintech

Federico has served in a variety of roles in technology and finance sectors for organisations across three continents, driving software innovation in the early start of real-time communications to leading transformation of global engineering teams for the largest American, European and Asia IT and Telco brands. He is passionate about entrepreneurship, and has developed multiple ventures before assuming an executive position for a major publicly traded Fintech to support Europe growth strategy.

W

**Sheila Wristberg**

Ghana

Managing Director

iRisk Management Limited, Ghana

Sector: Financial - Insurance

Sheila is a Chartered Accountant, former Big 4 auditor and tax consultant now Managing Director of iRisk Management Limited and Director for iRisk Reinsurance Brokers which serves clients across Africa. She specialises in specialist insurance structuring, risk advisory and inclusive solutions.

Sheila is a multiple award-winning executive who advocates for age and gender diversity in insurance. She's a fashion creator and pan-African speaker on next-generation leadership and innovation.

Y

**Delyan Yarov**

Bulgaria

Business Development Consultant

Freelance, United Kingdom

Sector: Consulting - Transactions and Turnaround

Delyan is a business consultant with expertise in agricultural commodities trading. He has built a network of producers and buyers from Europe, Africa and South America. Participating in projects with a value over a few hundred million euros and growing annually. His banking and asset management background helped him to establish his business and develop it. In his role, Delyan is responsible for assessing the risk of each transaction, negotiating the terms, and performing all necessary due diligence.



Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford is a vibrant and innovative business school, embedded within a 900-year-old world leading university. We create programmes and ideas that have global impact and reach. We educate leaders, change makers and innovators across every industry and sector. Our groundbreaking research and exceptional teaching transforms individuals, who transform businesses, which transforms the world. We create impact *from within*.

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