Britain's Most Admired Companies 2026

ACTIVATING YOUR AWARD

echo LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE An LSEG Business BRITAIN'S MOST ADMIRED COMPANIES

Britain's Most Admired Companies

The UK's most renowned and longest-running annual survey of corporate reputation, with data going back 36 years.

Led by global reputation specialists and Expert Witnesses, Echo Research in partnership with the London Stock Exchange.

Britain's largest public companies and leading employers across 28 sectors assess their sector peers across 13 criteria. They also nominate an outstanding leader and share views on hot topics for British businesses.

The UK's leading benchmark of corporate reputation, as seen by a company's closest critics – its peers, City commentators and financial influencers.

Activate your award today

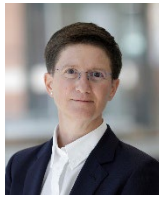
1. Access your **tailored Britain's Most Admired Benchmark report**, to drive and benchmark award-winning reputation performance
2. Join the **Britain's Most Admired Leaders Network**, to learn from other award-winners
3. Leverage the **Britain's Most Admired Companies brand and logo** to build profile, credibility and advocacy

"For over three decades, this research has provided something rare and invaluable: a rigorous, peer-driven measure of corporate reputation, based on a company's performance in the eyes of its stakeholders.

In an environment where narratives can be noisy and fleeting, the perspective of those who understand business best - competitors, investors and advisers - remains a vital compass. Admiration cannot be claimed; it must be earned."

Dame Julia Hoggett, CEO
London Stock Exchange

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE



Join the Britain's Most Admired Route to Repute

"Today's companies like to be admired too, especially by their peers. There are good reasons why. If everyone – from analysts to rival bosses in your industry – thinks you have got it right, you probably have.

Admiration brings with it a firmer share price and loyal shareholders, which helps to fend off would-be predators.

Best of all, being admired is usually good for business. When workers are told they are doing a good job they tend to do a better one; so do companies."

The Economist

Editorial on Britain's Most Admired Companies

"Celebrating some truly inspiring leadership at the Britain's Most Admired Companies awards at the London Stock Exchange.

Octopus Energy taking the top spot, and Rolls-Royce CEO Tufan Erginbilgiç being voted Britain's Most Admired Leader, was a really great moment for these special companies and individuals at the forefront of clean energy and the future of engineering – not just in the UK, but globally.

These are exactly the stories we should be telling and celebrating."

Dame Susan Langley,
Lady Mayor of the City of London

Britain's Most Admired Company 2025

"Business leaders use the word 'humbled' all the time – but this really is the case today. To be Britain's Most Admired Company – voted for by other businesses, including our competitors – feels like a real achievement.

It's the result of incredible focus and dedication from 12,000 people working together, outstanding long-term investors, and the British public not just demanding something better – but choosing it.

And thank you to Britain's business community for welcoming a relative newcomer to the fold – we won't let you down."

Greg Jackson
Founder & CEO

octopus energy

Access your tailored Britain's Most Admired Benchmark report

To drive & benchmark award-winning reputation performance

- **Tailored analysis** of your reputation performance, with 5-year trends
- **Benchmark** against your sector, best-in-class, and chosen peers
- **Integrated analysis** of peer, financial analyst and media commentary
- **Strengths**, **vulnerabilities** and **reputation risks**
- **Debrief** with our senior reputation research experts

How to access your tailored Britain's Most Admired Benchmark report

Just speak to Echo's reputation experts to select your chosen comparators, and we'll prepare your report within 1 week

£8,950 ex VAT

Join the Britain's Most Admired Leaders Network

Learn from the award-winners

- **Tailored analysis** of your reputation performance, with 5-year trends
- **Benchmark** against your sector, best-in-class, and chosen peers
- **Integrated analysis** of peer, financial analyst and media commentary
- **Strengths**, **vulnerabilities** and **reputation risks**
- **Debrief** with our senior reputation research experts
- **+ Invitation** to exclusive peer roundtables and events
- **+ 10% discount** on Echo Research services

Join the Britain's Most Admired Leaders Network today

£15,000 ex VAT for a 2-year subscription

Leverage the Britain's Most Admired Companies brand & logo

To build profile, credibility and advocacy

- A robust, independent endorsement of your corporate leadership and performance
- Demonstrate City analyst and peer confidence in your strategy and long-term value creation
- National profile as a corporate leader and success story
- Powerful employer branding, to motivate your people and secure top talent
- Credibility among stakeholders, e.g. regulators, policy makers, investors
- Trust among customers and partners

License the Britain's Most Admired Companies logo

Companies placing Gold, Silver or Bronze (by criteria or sector) are eligible to license the official Britain's Most Admired Companies winners logo

£4,250 per annum

Britain's Most Admired Companies gives unrivalled recognition for leaders…

…and all their colleagues!

"I'm delighted to accept this award and to represent what I firmly believe is one of the best companies in the world.

I was humbled to be joined at the ceremony by James Bone and Moriam Mosanya who along with 50,000 great colleagues deserve this recognition."

Anthony Kirby,
Group Chief Executive

serco

"The win reflects strong confidence among senior industry peers, financial analysts and City commentators in the company's leadership, strategy and delivery of complex, people-centred services."

ADVANCE

“This is more than an award…”

“Our progress is visible. Our inclusion index has seen a marked increase to 83% over the past few years, and we became the first automotive company in the UK to sign the Race at Work Charter.

This award is a reflection of thousands of small actions, considered decisions and shared commitments that continue to shape a culture JLR is proud to be recognised for.”

JLR

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Claire Parker • Following
Global Head of Diversity Equity & Inclusion at Jaguar Land Rover
2d •

I'm ending the week feeling incredibly proud. JLR has been recognised as one of Britain's Most Admired Companies by Echo Research and London Stock Exchange for our work in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. This is more than an award, it's a reflection of the people who make JLR what it is.

Every conversation, every challenge, every moment of allyship and accountability contributes to a culture where everyone can thrive.

Grateful to my amazing team, our colleagues, our networks, our leaders, and every person who shows up with courage and authenticity. This recognition belongs to all of us and it fuels our commitment to keep pushing for meaningful, lasting change.

#WeAreJLR #Diversity #Equity #Inclusion

You and 145 others · 11 comments · 4 reposts

Recognition as a sector leader

Powerful employer & customer branding

"Reputation is built slowly; through the choices we make every day and the values we uphold over time.

This recognition is shaped by our peers and commentators who understand our industry and the standards we hold ourselves. It was an honour to receive it on behalf of our brilliant team.

Thanks to everyone at Arup who brings such care and commitment to our work… this award is for all of you."

Tom Wilcock,
Managing Director, UKIMEA

"This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our people, it reflects the incredible work colleagues do every day, living our values—caring for customers, supporting each other, serving communities, caring for our assets and reducing our impact on the environment. We are extremely proud of this achievement."

Patrick Verwer,
CEO, Rail

"It's fantastic to see the daily determination, passion and proactivity of colleagues recognised in such a prestigious way. What a way to start 2026!"

Recognition as a value creator

Demonstrate market and stakeholder confidence

"Quality of management at IMI comes from strong teams, trusted leaders and a culture that values performance, accountability and different perspectives. We keep investing in leadership at every level so good ideas turn into real impact.

Thank you to our teams across IMI for what you do every day."

Liz Rose,
Chief People Officer

"Great recognition from people across our industry of the value we're creating both for our customers and society."

António Simões,
CEO

"What makes this award special is that it's judged by our peers, our competitors, and some of our toughest critics. To earn their recognition means a great deal and reflects the exceptional talent, commitment and culture that runs through the Berkeley team."

Richard Stearn,
CEO

"This recognition is particularly meaningful as it comes from our peers and industry experts, who assess companies against a wide range of criteria, including long-term investment value, capacity to innovate and financial soundness."

Shellie Wells,
Corporate Communications Director

Positive national, local and trade media coverage

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LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE
An LSEG Business
BRITAIN'S MOST ADMIRED COMPANIES

PASSENGER Transport

Go-Ahead is most admired in transport

Group tops table in BMAC study - but Arriva still lags behind

CORPORATE REPUTATION

The Go-Ahead Group is again the most-admired of the UK's largest passenger group's, according to the UK's longest-running annual survey of corporate reputation.

Partnered by the London Stock Exchange, Britain's Most Admired Companies (BMAC) studies corporate reputation as judged by competitors and financial influencers across 28 sectors. Board-level representatives, financial analysts and city commentators - including *Passenger Transport* - are asked to rate companies in their sector on a scale of 0 (poor) to 10 (excellent) across 13 key criteria.

The 2025 edition of BMAC includes 10 companies from the transport sector: four land-based passenger transport groups - Arriva, FirstGroup, Go-Ahead and National Express (Mobico) - and six airlines.

Go-Ahead was ranked most-admired overall in the transport sector, ahead of second-placed International Consolidated Airlines Group (IAG) and Ryanair. The bus and rail group also achieved the highest score of all transport companies in four criteria - 'quality of management" (8.5), 'capacity to innovate" (7.0), 'positive contribution to society' (8.00), and 'commitment to diversity equity and inclusion' (7.67).

Patrick Verwer, chief executive officer - rail, who collected the award commented: "This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our people, it reflects the incredible work colleagues do every day, living our values - caring for customers, supporting each other, serving communities, caring for our assets and reducing our impact on the environment. We are extremely proud of this achievement."

FirstGroup achieved the highest score of all 10 transport companies for reducing environmental impact (7.25).

At the other end of the transport league table, Arriva once again had the second lowest overall ranking in the transport sector, ahead of low-cost airline company Wizz Air Holdings. Arriva received the lowest score in four of the 13 criteria -'quality of products and services' (4.00), 'clarity of strategy' (3.67), 'capacity to innovate" (4.00), and 'effective use of corporate assets' (4.00).

"We are extremely proud of this achievement"
Patrick Verwer

ADVANCE THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF ADS

ADVANCING UK AEROSPACE, DEFENCE, SECURITY & SPACE SOLUTIO

itain's Most Admired Company in its sector

SECURITY

Serco named Britain's Most Admired Company in its sector

Posted 19 January 2026

Serco has secuured the top prize in the Support Services (People & Places) category in the Britain's Most Admired Companies study, which is the UK's longest-running independent study of corporate reputation.

Carolyn McCall

Chief executive, ITV

BEST OF THE REST

Andrew Williams, Halma

James Dyson, Dyson

Alison Brittain, Whitbread

Insurance News › Who are Britain's 'most admired' insurers?

Who are Britain's 'most admired' insurers?

Thirteen key criteria considered

the drinks business

NEWS

Heineken named 'most admired' company' in the UK drinks sector

21 JANUARY 2026

Positive national, local and trade media coverage

Mirror NEWS CELEBS FOOTBALL LIFESTYLE MORE

Nationwide announces good news to 16 million customers

Nationwide bosses 'delighted' with the news

Nationwide has announced to its customers following the building society's receipt of a significant and prestigious accolade this week. The UK's largest and the world's biggest mutual building society **released a statement on Friday**.

On January 16, **Nationwide** - which competes with TSB, Santander, HSBC UK, Lloyds, Barclays, NatWest and The Co-operative Bank, as well as First Direct and others - announced on its website that it had won gold in the Retail Banking sector in Britain's Most Admired Companies 2025.

"This award reflects the progress we've made in building an even stronger Nationwide – one that delivers banking that's fairer, more rewarding, and for the good of society. We are delighted to receive this recognition from those who best understand our industry."

Dame Debbie Crosbie, CEO

nationwide

CHEM::PLORE Chemical Industry News, Data & Insights

Croda Wins Britain's Most Admired Chemicals Company for 10th Time

20 January 2026

Key highlights

- Croda has been named Britain's Most Admired Chemicals Company for the tenth time.
- The recognition is part of the UK's longest-running peer-reviewed corporate reputation survey.
- The 2025 study involved over 350 industry leaders assessing 260 UK companies.
- Croda led in 11 of 13 reputation criteria in the chemicals sector.

water magazine HOME LATEST NEWS SUPPLIER DIRECTORY EVENTS MAGAZINE ARCHIVE MEDIA DATA

WATER COMPANY NEWS

Northumbrian Water named one of UK's best in Britain's Most Admired Companies study

19 March, 2026

Northumbrian Water is celebrating a major national success after being named the UK's top organisation for Capacity to Innovate in the Britain's Most Admired Companies study, the first time the company has reached the number one spot.

This recognition puts Northumbrian Water ahead of some of the UK's most forward-thinking organisations across energy, technology and other major industries.

Which is Britain's Most Admired Car Company and Why?

By 2nd Opinion - December 6, 2019

The annual Most Admired Companies Study by English business magazine, Management Today dates back 28 years and honors the best businesses throughout the country.

Positive national, local and trade media coverage

UK NEWS WEBSITE OF THE YEAR 2024

The Telegraph

News Sport Business Money Opinion Ukraine US election Travel Health Lifestyle Culture Puzzle

Economy Companies Markets Tech

Emma Walmsley and Carolyn McCall named Britain's most admired business leaders

Andrew Saunders

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05 December 2018 12:01am GMT

Article • Diversity & Inclusion (D&I)

Sustainability MAGAZINE

Why People are Central to Sustainable Manufacturing at JLR

By Charlie King

March 16, 2026 • 7 mins

"Inclusion has had a measurable, positive impact on JLR's people, culture and business performance… our recent recognition with the Gold Award for Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the 2025 Britain's Most Admired Companies Awards, demonstrates that our policies and practices are creating fairer, more equitable outcomes."

Claire Parker,
Global Head of DE&I

JLR

BUSINESS MATTERS
UK'S LEADING BUSINESS MAGAZINE

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Octopus Energy crowned Britain's Most Admired Company

RailBusinessDaily

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Go-Ahead wins Gold at Britain's Most Admired Companies Awards 2025

By Rosie Crampton January 16, 2026

Positive national, local and trade media coverage


74 Management Today December 2019

BRITAIN'S MOST ADMIRED LEADERS

didn't feel qualified and she wondered if "a mum and wife could take on something so big."

Despite her reservations, she took the job – a "bungee jump into the unknown". Seven years later she became CEO, making her the first woman to run a major pharmaceutical company. On taking the reins, she told employees that they would be judged by the level of courage they displayed, then set about making her own bold moves – dramatically reshaping the company, replacing or moving two-thirds of the senior leadership team, sharpening accountability, and prioritising the discovery of big blockbuster drugs to replenish the firm's ageing portfolio.

Her pace is ferocious. This year has been marked by a frenzy of acquisitions and smart bets, including a joint venture with Pfizer. The deal, which combines GSK's consumer brands, such as Sensodyne, Aquafresh and Panadol, with Pfizer's Advil and Centrum, creates a consumer goods giant headquartered in the UK with combined sales of nearly £10bn. The new business will be spun out within three years into an independent company with a separate listing on the London Stock Exchange.

Walmsley has also set a three-year timetable for breaking up GSK into two separate businesses, one focused on consumer health and the other on pharmaceuticals and vaccines. "To be truly world-class, you have to have a clear purpose which you stick to unwaveringly," she says. This leader is not for turning.

2 LORD SIMON WOLFSON

While the retail apocalypse has continued to claim victims this year, with brands such as Debenhams, Patisserie Valerie and Mothercare collapsing into administration, high street stalwart Next has held its ground. It reported a 3.7 per cent rise in sales to £2bn and pre-tax profits of £310m for the first half of 2019. And Lord Simon Wolfson, who has run the FTSE 100 firm since 2001, is confident that Next will "continue to prosper".

Online, he's turned Next into a multi-brand retailer, adding labels such as Adidas, French Connection and Boohoo. "Over the last five years, we have radically changed the way we do business," he admits. "We have accepted and embraced the challenge of competing against ourselves... We want to slowly but surely become the first choice for people online. We can only do that by extending our offer."

In stores, he's partnered with mobile operator O2 to trial a new "shop-in-shop" format. Shoppers will be able to buy O2 products and services alongside Next's clothing and homeware in a move both brands hope will appeal to consumers seeking convenience.

He has also set out a detailed 15-year "stress test", modelling how Next might perform in an environment of declining bricks-and-mortar sales, decreased rents and rates, and continued online growth. It's what Lord Wolfson describes as a way through the woods: a "realistic scenario under which we might deliver a growing, profitable and potentially world-class online clothing and homeware business." He believes that with continued innovation, execution and a "myriad of independent experiments and small decisions", Next has the power to generate £12bn of pre-tax cash flow over the next 15 years.

Investec retail analyst Kate Calvert says it's this "obsession with detail, analysis and clear thinking" that makes him a visionary CEO.

Lord Wolfson comes from a family of great leaders. His great-uncle was Sir Isaac Wolfson, philanthropist and chairman of Great Universal Stores, the one-time powerhouse which owned Burberry and Scotch House. His father David was chairman of Next in the 1990s.

Lord Wolfson joined the business in 1991 after studying law at Trinity College, Cambridge. He started out as a store assistant at the Kensington branch and powered through the ranks. Ten years later, aged just 33, he became the retailer's youngest-ever chief executive. He's been steering the ship ever since, quashing any accusations of nepotism by establishing himself as "one of the most highly regarded figures in the sector", according to Helen Dickinson, chief executive of the British Retail Consortium.

A Conservative peer and prominent Leave supporter, Lord Wolfson is one half of a power Tory couple; his wife Eleanor Shawcross is the former deputy chief of staff for the ex-Chancellor George Osborne. He is extremely media-shy and hates talking about himself, refusing to take part in any profile-style interviews.

He owns a £90m stake in Next, having sold £10m of shares earlier this year. Despite his vast wealth, he continues to wear off-the-peg suits from his own stores.

Echo Research and Management Today Collaborate for Annual Survey of Britain's Businesses

LONDON, UK, 26th February 2021 – AVEVA, a global leader in engineering and industrial software, has been named one of Britain's Most Admired Companies 2021 in the longest-running corporate reputation survey in Britain.

CONSTRUCTION UK MAGAZINE

Bellway wins bronze award in Britain's Most Admired Companies 2025

Posted on February 2, 2026 in Events & Awards News

Investing.com

Earnings call transcript: Serco Group Q4 2025 sees steady growth and strategic expansion

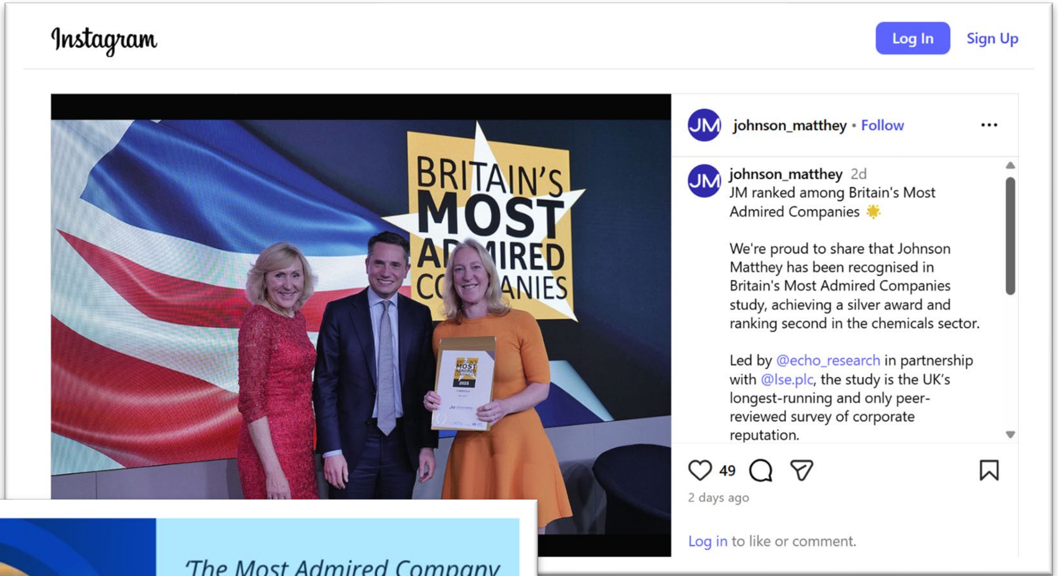
"During the year, our performance has been acknowledged by a range of independent organizations, but the standout for me was Britain's Most Admired Companies.

That recognition reflects not just what we deliver, but how we deliver it, the strength of our leadership teams, our culture, and the trust we build with our customers and the communities in which we work. Ultimately, it reinforces that we are building a business our colleagues are proud to work for, our customers are proud to partner with, and our investors can have confidence in."

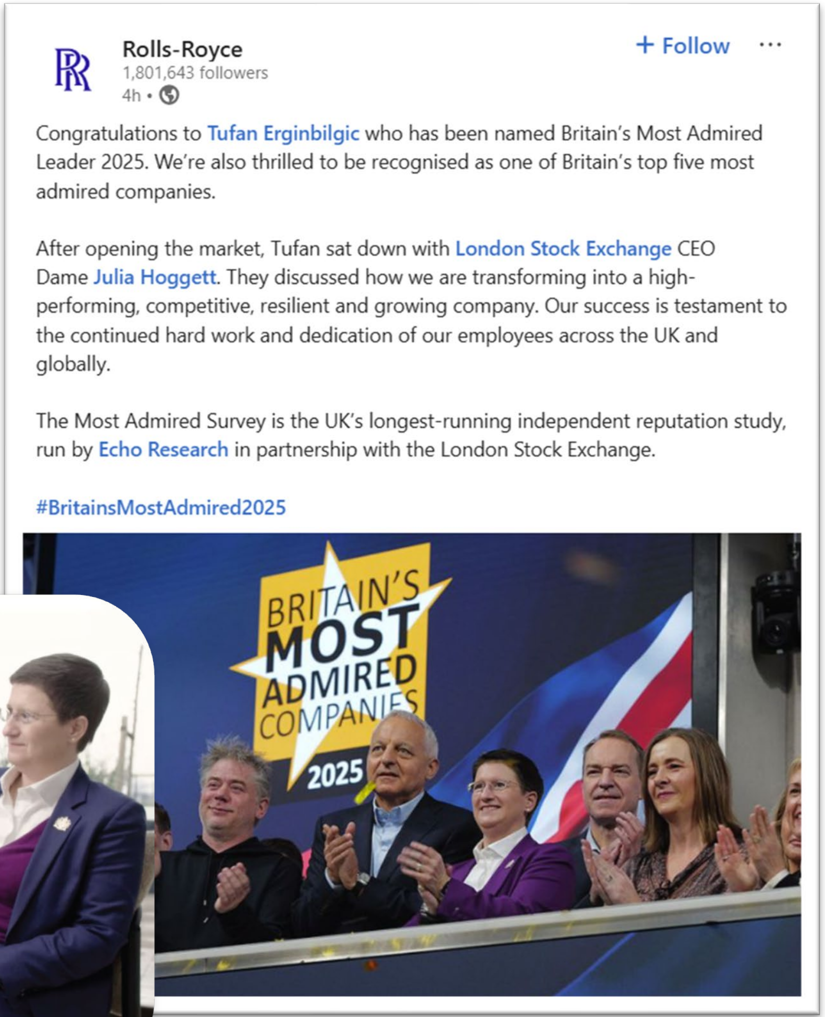
Anthony Kirby,
Group Chief Executive

serco

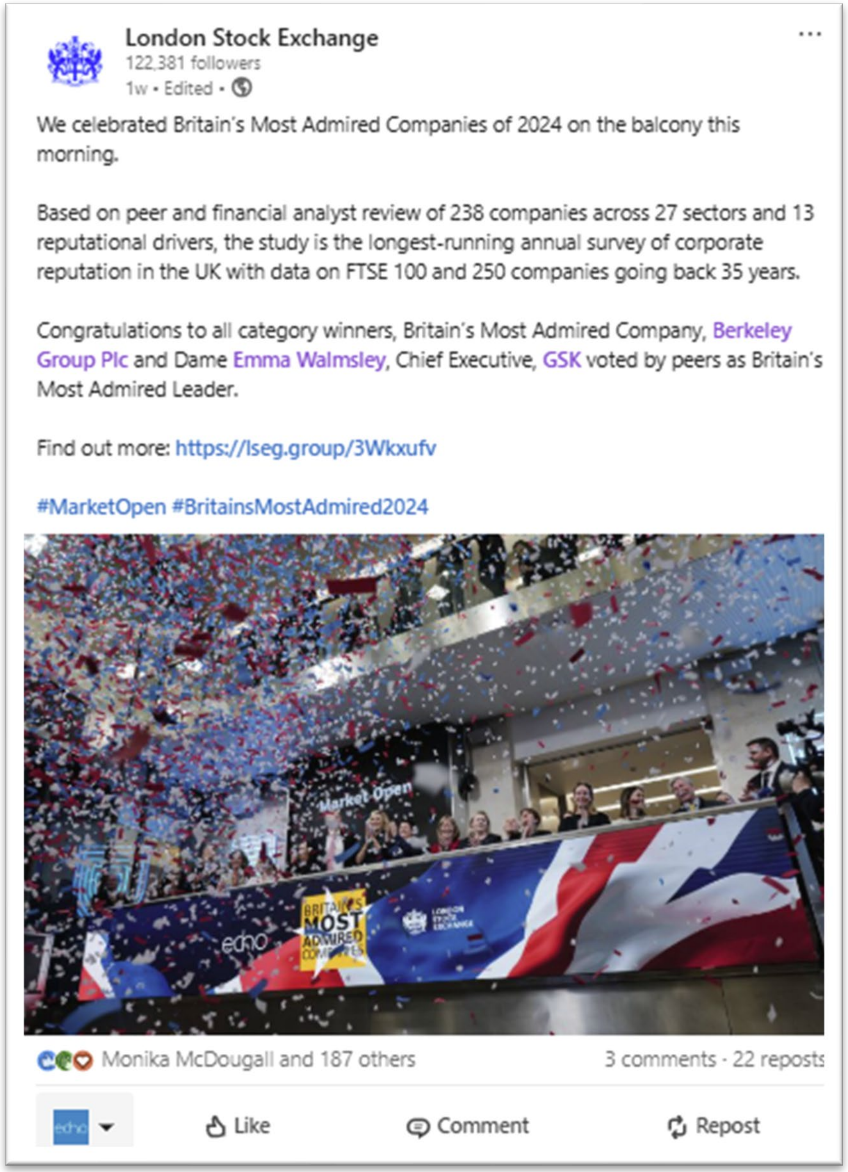
Activation across social channels



Watch the full interview here →



Expert endorsement of your corporate reputation



London Stock Exchange
122,381 followers
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We celebrated Britain's Most Admired Companies of 2024 on the balcony this morning.

Based on peer and financial analyst review of 238 companies across 27 sectors and 13 reputational drivers, the study is the longest-running annual survey of corporate reputation in the UK with data on FTSE 100 and 250 companies going back 35 years.

Congratulations to all category winners, Britain's Most Admired Company, Berkeley Group Plc and Dame Emma Walmsley, Chief Executive, GSK voted by peers as Britain's Most Admired Leader.

Find out more: https://lseg.group/3Wkxufv

#MarketOpen #BritainsMostAdmired2024

Monika McDougall and 187 others 3 comments · 22 reposts

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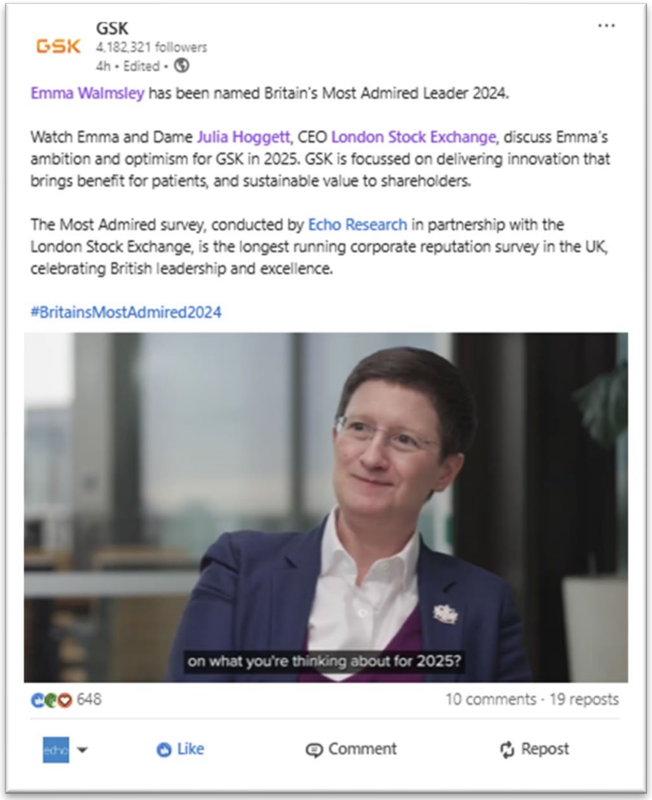

GSK
4,182,321 followers
4h • Edited •

Emma Walmsley has been named Britain's Most Admired Leader 2024.

Watch Emma and Dame Julia Hoggett, CEO London Stock Exchange, discuss Emma's ambition and optimism for GSK in 2025. GSK is focussed on delivering innovation that brings benefit for patients, and sustainable value to shareholders.

The Most Admired survey, conducted by Echo Research in partnership with the London Stock Exchange, is the longest running corporate reputation survey in the UK, celebrating British leadership and excellence.

#BritainsMostAdmired2024

648 10 comments · 19 reposts

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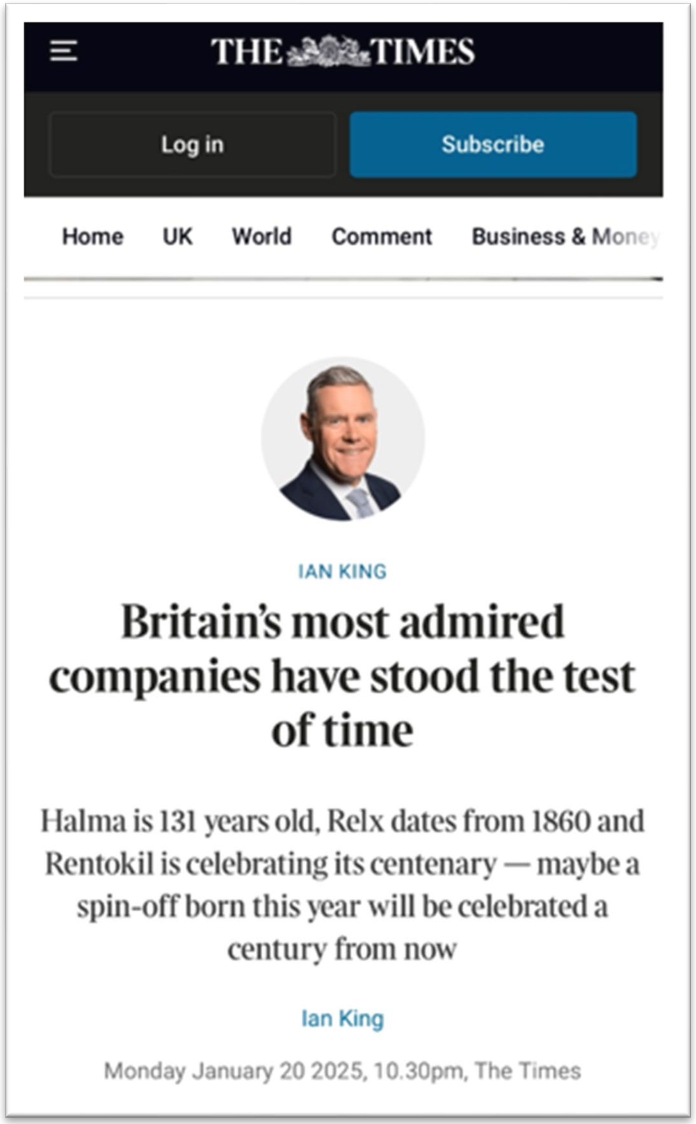

THE TIMES

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IAN KING

Britain's most admired companies have stood the test of time

Halma is 131 years old, Relx dates from 1860 and Rentokil is celebrating its centenary — maybe a spin-off born this year will be celebrated a century from now

Ian King

Monday January 20 2025, 10.30pm, The Times

Leverage the Britain's Most Admired brand

Annual Reports, website, email signatures, etc

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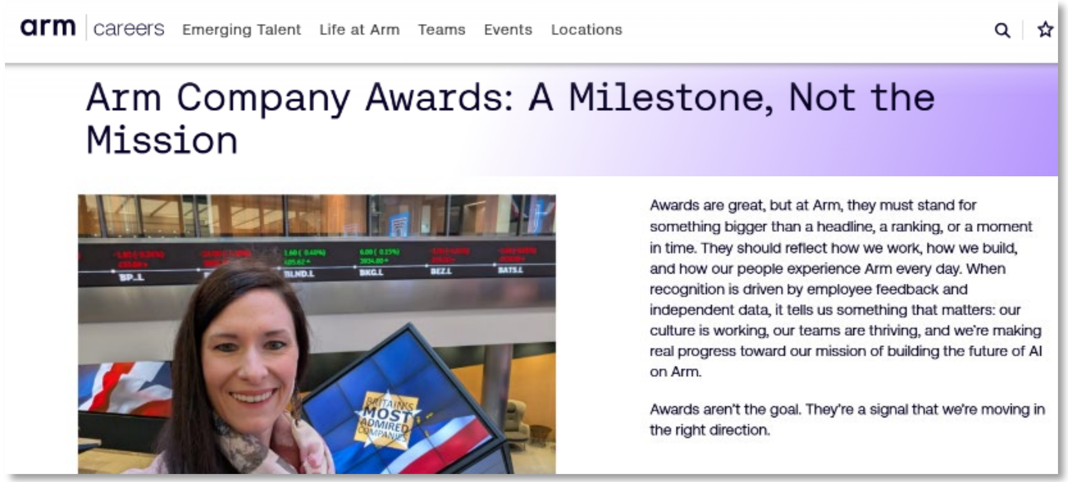
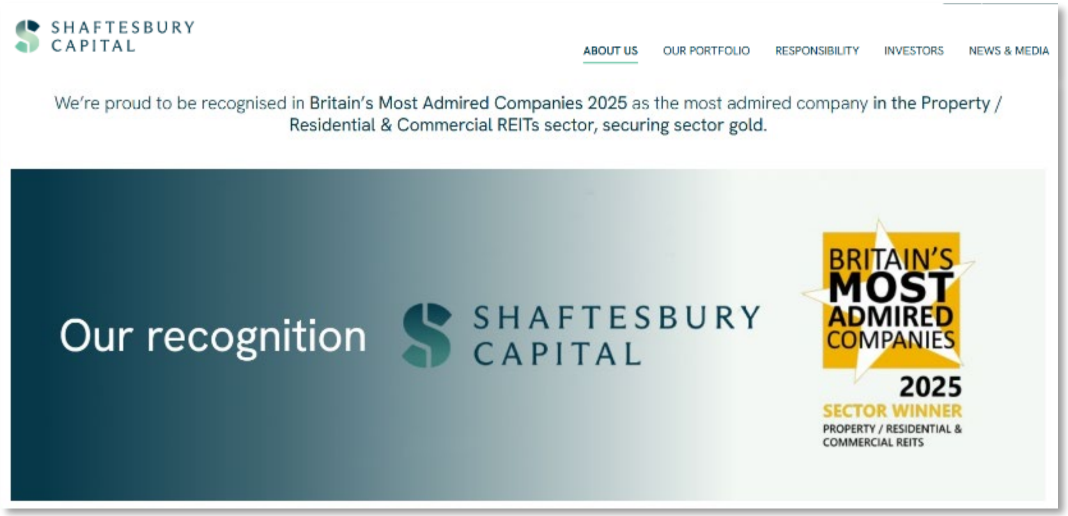
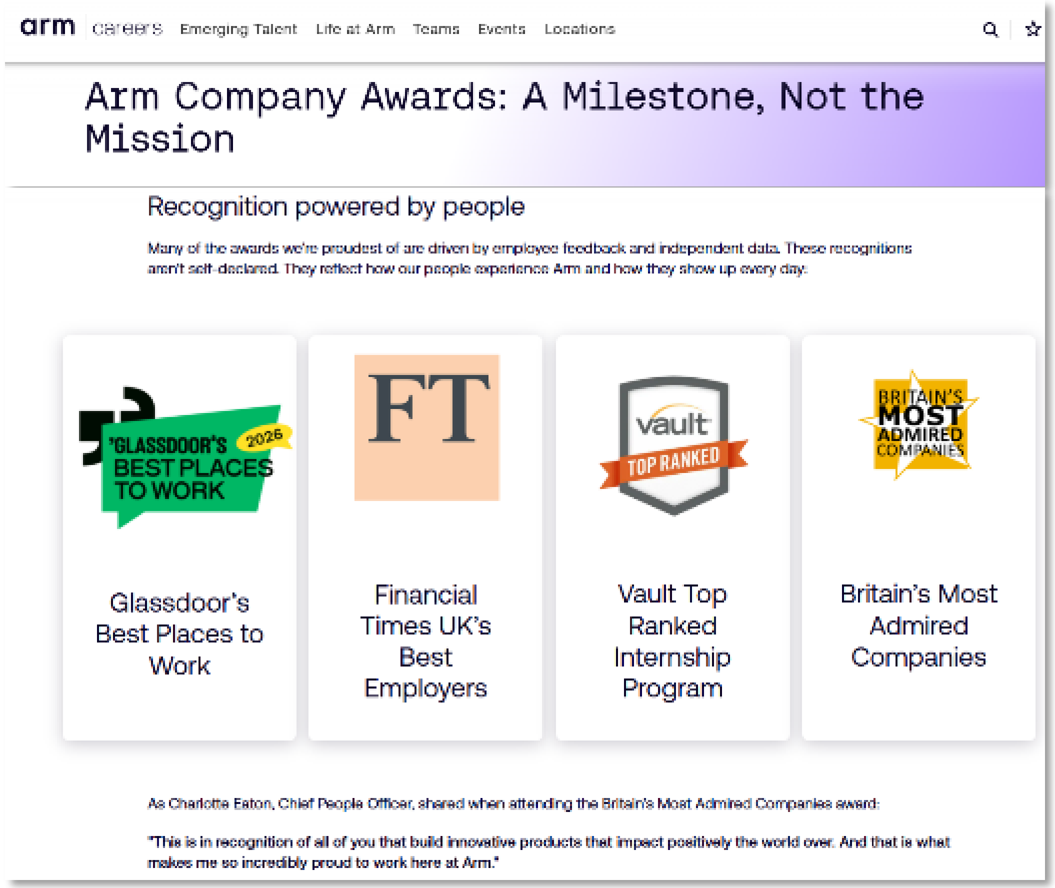
Annual Reports, website, email signatures, etc







Echo Research

30-year track record of working with the **world's leading businesses, NGOs** and **government agencies,** delivering insights which drive strategic outcomes.

MRS Company Partners with **100+ awards for research excellence.** Full service research capabilities along with earned and social media content analysis.

Proven ability to research senior, hard-to-reach stakeholders in **business, media, NGOs and government.**

Britain's Most Admired Companies - the UK's premier corporate reputation survey, in partnership with the **London Stock Exchange.**

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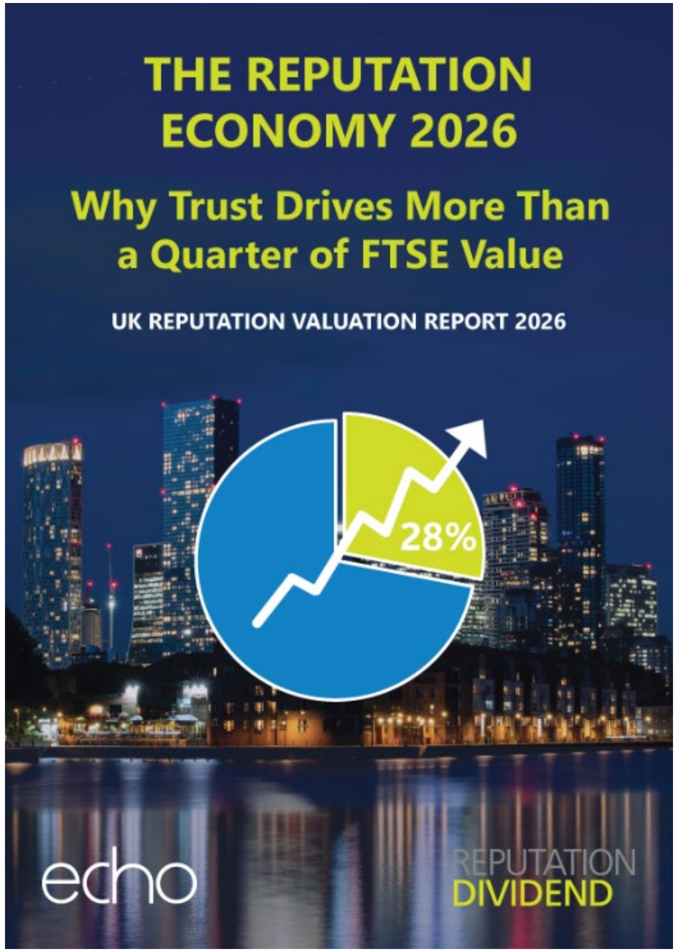

[Download the report here]

Echo Research services

echo LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE An LSEG Business BRITAIN'S MOST ADMIRED COMPANIES

Reputation / brand audits

Taking the holistic view, from benchmarks and KPIs that matter across our key stakeholders to harnessing evidence in support of improved decision making and prioritisation.

Risk & issues monitoring

Developing risk and issues matrix. Ensuring early warning alerts through to anticipating emerging trends and issues globally.

Reputation measurement & valuation

From internal / external reputation gap analyses to valuing the true economic worth of your corporate reputation for improved resilience and success.

Influencer mapping

Determining the most important influencers in your sector, across your issues, to support better planning, outreach and engagement.

Thought leadership

Supporting thought leadership and engagement programs through evidence-based content and insights.

External and social listening

Assessing the influence of online and traditional media from global listening to mapping reputation drivers, alignment to SDGs and competitor benchmarking.

The sustainability balanced scorecard

How is sustainability driving value to your organisation?

Contact Us

Meaning to the past
Clarity to the present
Direction to the future

Sandra Macleod | Group CEO

+44 (0)20 8050 3611 | +44 (0) 44 7770 328 724

sandra.macleod@echoresearch.com

Giulio Vernaccini | Research Director

+44 (0) 20 8050 3623 | +44 (0)20 8050 3610

giulio.vernaccini@Echoresearch.com

britainsmostadmired.com

@MostAdmiredUK

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