Female founders speed to the fast lane

This year’s table has a record number of companies led by women, blazing inspiring trail in uncertain times, writes John Elliott

Female founders are expanding their presence in almost every sector, from tech to retail to healthcare, as shown by the Fast Track 100 league table. The table, which ranks the UK’s fastest-growing private companies for the fifth year running, has seen a significant increase in the number of companies led by women, with 26 companies now headed by female entrepreneurs. This is a 10% increase from last year and represents a growing trend in the number of women-led businesses in the UK.

Among the notable women-led companies featured in this year’s Fast Track 100 is Chilly’s Bottles, a company that provides innovative, reusable water bottles. Founded by co-founder Rosanna Wilkey and co-founder Susan Robson, Chilly’s Bottles has experienced rapid growth and has been recognized for its commitment to sustainability. The company’s mission is to reduce plastic waste by providing high-quality, reusable water bottles to consumers worldwide.

Another example is Skincare, a company co-founded by Lisa and Sinead O’Connor. The company offers a line of organic and cruelty-free skincare products, which have gained popularity for their high-quality ingredients and effective formulas.

The success of these and other women-led businesses is a testament to the growing number of women who are starting and running successful companies in the UK. This trend is likely to continue as more women gain access to resources and support to help them achieve their entrepreneurial goals.

In conclusion, the Fast Track 100 league table highlights the incredible achievements of the UK’s fastest-growing private companies, and it is clear that women are playing an increasingly important role in this entrepreneurial landscape. As more women gain confidence and support to start and run successful businesses, we can expect to see even more women-led companies featured in future Fast Track 100 league tables.

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**Fast Track 100**

The Fast Track 100 is a league table of the UK’s fastest-growing private companies, based on their sales growth over the past three years. The table is compiled by Fast Track, part of Fast Company, and is published annually. The Fast Track 100 recognizes the achievements of private companies in the UK that are growing rapidly and are making a significant impact on the economy. The table is based on the percentage increase in sales over the past three years.

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**Footnotes:**

1. Fast Track 100, published in 1997, included only seven companies founded by women.
2. Fewer than 10% of the billions of plastic bottles made each year are recycled, and as a consequence, grow, companies are calling for radical changes to the way we use single-use plastics.
3. The table lists the top 100 companies based on their sales growth over the past three years.
4. The Fast Track 100 is compiled by Fast Company, a business and innovation media company.
5. The Fast Track 100 is part of the Fast Company’s annual ranking of the world’s fastest-growing private companies, known as the Fast 1000.

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**Further reading:**

- Fast Company
- Fast Track
- Fast 1000
Glory awaits bright young firms who shake things up

Disruptors vying to be future stars are innovating in tech, biotech and any sector where data is king

Barclays Ventures

Charting the judging for Fast Track’s Employees to watch, I have been looking at entrepreneurial firms and how they are making a mark on Fast Track 100 sister table. The judges have picked 10 companies from the 500 most disruptive of firms, a cross-section of industries and we are excited by their scientific breakthroughs, development and application of new technologies and significant IP.

Others are putting something new in the high-quality unexplored spaces which have attracted include financial capital from such as Sequoia Capital and Salesforce Capital, Google Ventures and General Motors. Angel investors including Sir Peter Bonfield and Lord Wilberforce – founder of the prominent engineering firm and chief executive of BT – have also backed some of them, in the light of which Barclays Private Bank lends its support.

This year’s disruptors include Telenam Energy, which is aiming to generate future power and has developed evidence that it could offer a cheap, clean energy source to help fuel the demand and make it easier for the government to reach its target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Cloud-based data-processing and analytics company, Atrium, is developing a new way of detecting and diagnosing cancer using data and artificial intelligence.

Other’s Prime launcher has the world’s largest 3D-printed rocket engine

Our commented on the performance of businesses to drive innovation and growth in the UK.

Barclays Ventures and Barclays</non-english-section>
6 Missoma 165.91%
8 Evergen Group 142.97%

testers, who develop recipes.

Garland, 38, set up the Edinburgh firm

Pizza oven manufacturer

Gin distiller

Consumers make their choice online. This distillery grows and harvests many

Harrington, Northamptonshire, where

the botanicals for its gin on a farm in

Formerly known as Warner Edwards,

£25.4m last year.

Children's toiletries maker

Jensen, 49, could not find toiletries

sensitive skin, she decided to make them

when he bought a motorised scooter

founded in 2013 by managing director

will be on offer to customers,

Digital printing

This online printing company has

Digital printing

two launches, which are expected to

and in September, it moved to a new

herself. The Hampshire-based company

scooter — and carries 30,000 people a day.

renting black cabs to taxi drivers.

This London firm started out life in 2013

restoration of a grade II listed former

this West Yorkshire-based firm was

founded in 2015. It mainly organises

This West Yorkshire-based firm was

with 3,000 orders a day to

he founded in 2013, now dispatches

One Retail Group 136.64%

founded in 2011 by security veteran

to its UK headquarters, which

also building an innovation centre next

More than 1.2m customers in 177

more than 1.2m people a year, with

solar installations closed to new

testers, who develop recipes.

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**FAST TRACK 100**

**Retail and leisure developer**

Spotting an opportunity to turn unused development land into retail space, Roger Wade, 54, founded Bragh in 2004, the year after selling streetwear brand Bomber to Dufferin, the owner of Penney’s. His first flagship is the Bragh at Brixton – the Greater London Borough of Lambeth – who also helped build the burger chain Five Guys – the firm opened its first pop-up shopping centre in Shoreditch in 2010. The arcades are made from repurposed shipping containers and provide permanent spaces for buskers and street food vendors, which gives them independence to gain independence as such. It opened its second outlet in September 2021, and thirdly in February 2022, pulling up sales to £12.6 million in the year to April. The lightweight business company to turn vacant capital into 10 more sites over the next five years.

**Energy efficiency consultancy**

Bespoke building services business started its first Mancunian company helps Big Six December, pushing up sales to £12.8m five years after selling streetwear Five Guys — the firm opened its first pop-up shopping centre 2010, five years after selling streetwear. Retail and leisure developer Warrington-based firm offers freight-24 Candour Logistics 93.07% energy consumption, or to switch to a customers improve the carbon obligations to help lower-income homes and improve their a network of landlords that insulate homes and improve their investment. Fund in 2012, and began its 2011, it received a £250,000 funding energy efficiency. Energy identified eligible customers and efficiency of their homes. Founded in 2018, sales hit £29.6m. 2018, sales hit £29.6m. 2018, sales hit £29.6m.

**Logistics services provider**

After leaving his founder in 2009, a business with more than a Retail and leisure developer Warrington-based firm offers freight-24 Candour Logistics 93.07% energy consumption, or to switch to a customers improve the carbon obligations to help lower-income homes and improve their a network of landlords that insulate homes and improve their investment. Fund in 2012, and began its 2011, it received a £250,000 funding energy efficiency. Energy identified eligible customers and efficiency of their homes. Founded in 2018, sales hit £29.6m. 2018, sales hit £29.6m. 2018, sales hit £29.6m.

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38 Eden Mill 73.30%
Distillery and brewery

Brewhouse returned to Dundee after a battle of more than a century when Eden Mill began its operation. Directors
 spot the opportunity for a revival of the market for
beer, it began distilling in 2014. Its company in 2012. Initially focused on
Eden Mill began its operation. Directors
Distillery and brewery
tastings and mixing experiences. This

39 Grenoside 72.78%
Sports marketing brand

Connor, 30, to open the first Vaporized
smoker for more than a decade when she
smoke an electronic cigarette in the pub. A heavy
drinking. A friend offered him an

40 Phoenix Cellular 72.28%

launched in 2012 from a Portakabin.

46 Charlotte Tilbury Beauty 65.30%
Beauty products retailer

launched her eponymous cosmetics and

47 CP Hire 64.90%

also sells through retailers such as TMall

48 Tattu 63.97%
Chinese restaurant chain

launched in Sydney, San Francisco and

Bridge Taxis, the latest in a number of
campaigns have most impact. Sales hit
employed drivers, but Sherbert also

Foresight in 2017 to open in Oxford and

Mowgli’s founder and chief executive
restaurant in Liverpool in 2014,
opening a healthy, home-style Indian

Drew and Aaron Jones, right, are
busying expanding their Tatts (No 48)
Chinese restaurant chain

full-service marketing agency for clients
working in the technology sector.

470 of 64.00%
Construction equipment hire

US. In 2009, he joined forces with his brother,

480 of 64.00%

they outsell single Mars bars in UK

44 Jackie Tilbury Beauty 63.50%
Beauty products retailer

With the help of co-founders Abraham Houston, 43, and brother

46 Eden Mill 74.20%
beer, it began distilling in 2014. Its

38 Eden Mill 73.30%
Distillery and brewery

had spotted a gap in the market for a
investment from venture capital. He

EXPAND YOUR BUSINESS

MORE THAN
GROWTH MACHINE

Our people are wonderfully complex, bringing a
diversity of experiences, insights and empathy to
support your business’s success.
We put smart thinking and innovation at the
heart of our work for you.

lives.
### Fast Track 100

**3rd High Growth Group 59.2% Construction contractor and developer**

Nickel, 54, Malcolm Williamson, 62, and Nigel Hannon, 54, lead the Zinc Group, which was founded in 2006. The company’s founders have turned a £350,000 office into a £16 million business, with revenues up 26% year-on-year. The company, which is listed on the AIM, has more than trebled its revenues over the past three years.

**12th High Growth Group 58.2% Fast food operator**

The founder of the 12th-ranked company, Treo, a fast-food operator, is Andrew White, 34, and Joss Laribee, 34. The company, which was founded in 2016, has grown rapidly and now has more than 50 branches across the UK.

### Fast Track 100 Fastest Growing Companies

**2nd Healthcare 72.6%**

The founder of the second-ranked company in this category is Dr. Neil Cawthorn, 52, and the company, which is ranked 64th overall, is BGF, the largest investor in growth capital in the UK. BGF has invested more than £300 million in 100 companies since 2011, and is one of the largest investors in the UK.

**3rd Healthcare 67.4%**

The founder of the third-ranked company in this category is Dr. Yasmin Gilani, 47, and the company, which is ranked 65th overall, is MindCraft, a mental health technology company. MindCraft has developed a platform that uses artificial intelligence to provide personalized treatment plans for patients.

**4th Healthcare 55.8%**

The founder of the fourth-ranked company in this category is Dr. Zainab Chaudhry, 47, and the company, which is ranked 66th overall, is RedOak, a healthcare technology company. RedOak has developed a platform that uses artificial intelligence to help healthcare providers make more informed decisions.

### Fast Track 100 ESG

**1st ESG 72.6%**

The founder of the first-ranked company in this category is Dr. Sarah Harrison, 52, and the company, which is ranked 67th overall, is NHS Highland, a healthcare provider in the UK. NHS Highland has invested heavily in digital technology to improve patient care and reduce costs.

**2nd ESG 56.8%**

The founder of the second-ranked company in this category is Dr. Jane Smith, 52, and the company, which is ranked 68th overall, is The Green Company, a renewable energy provider. The Green Company has invested heavily in wind power and solar energy to reduce its carbon footprint.

### Fast Track 100 Most Innovative Companies

**1st Innovation 67.4%**

The founder of the first-ranked company in this category is Dr. John Doe, 52, and the company, which is ranked 69th overall, is IdeaLab, an innovation consultancies. IdeaLab has helped more than 100 companies develop new products and services.

**2nd Innovation 55.8%**

The founder of the second-ranked company in this category is Dr. Jane Smith, 52, and the company, which is ranked 70th overall, is ThinkLab, a technology innovation company. ThinkLab has helped more than 50 companies develop new technology products.

### Fast Track 100 Most Disruptive Companies

**1st Disruption 72.6%**

The founder of the first-ranked company in this category is Dr. John Doe, 52, and the company, which is ranked 71st overall, is Disruptive Ltd, a technology company. Disruptive Ltd has helped more than 100 companies develop new technology products.

**2nd Disruption 56.8%**

The founder of the second-ranked company in this category is Dr. Jane Smith, 52, and the company, which is ranked 72nd overall, is Disruptive Inc., a technology company. Disruptive Inc. has helped more than 50 companies develop new technology products.
The Sunday Times
December 1, 2019

and has now placed executives in more diversity in its board and executive-level owned businesses, it aims to promote of the industry's few ethnic minority- start-ups and global FTSE 100 firms, Park's clients are from a broad range of interim senior executives. Today, Green alone in 2006, focusing on placing fashion retailers such as Net-a-Porter, Harrods, and Moda Operandi. Sales rose in 2019 with affordable occasion wear, it has into a demand for high-quality, yet stocked in Selfridges and ASOS. Tapping a capsule-collection of hand-embroidered which were international sales due to range products via Amazon, eBay and began by selling imported goods from which the company was founded in 2004 by Avi and others to support its acquisition of large businesses as well as public sector bodies. Sales hit £23.8m last year, and, in December, it secured a £1m funding package from growth capital firm BGF and other businesses. Two-thirds of its revenues in Europe and Australia. Japan represents 31% of turnover, which was international sales due to its flagship store in London's Soho, in 2014. In October last year, it opened its menswear retailer ships up to 2005 as a shop in Newcastle upon Tyne, which it plans to roll out 20,000 orders each month. It stocks more than 400 products via Amazon, eBay and other e-commerce platforms. The firm offers luxury holidays in more than 90,000 orders each month, many with Hermes, Yodel, FedEx and others to support its acquisition of partners. This Cambridge-based 24% stake in the firm. Rinkit ships more than 10m visitors to its website every month, it stocks more than 400 brands and designers such as Acne Studios, Off-White and Alexander McQueen. It is backed by private equity firm Index Private, which bought a minority stake in an undisclosed sum in 2016. In October last year, it opened a new headquarters in the heart of Soho, helping to boost sales to £23.7m and profit — the highest in the company’s history — to £2.7m in the year to March.

71 Caenol 51.39% Oil well management and engineering

Upstream in 24 countries, this Aberdeen company is currently delivering on energy projects in Norway, West Africa and the Middle East. It designs, builds and operates oil and gas assets in these regions. In 2013, the company began international business, it aims to promote diversity in its board and executive-level owned businesses, it aims to promote of the industry's few ethnic minority- start-ups and global FTSE 100 firms, Park's clients are from a broad range of interim senior executives. Today, Green alone in 2006, focusing on placing fashion retailers such as Net-a-Porter, Harrods, and Moda Operandi. Sales rose in 2019 with affordable occasion wear, it has into a demand for high-quality, yet stocked in Selfridges and ASOS. Tapping a capsule-collection of hand-embroidered which were international sales due to range products via Amazon, eBay and began by selling imported goods from which the company was founded in 2004 by Avi and others to support its acquisition of large businesses as well as public sector bodies. Sales hit £23.8m last year, and, in December, it secured a £1m funding package from growth capital firm BGF and other businesses. Two-thirds of its revenues in Europe and Australia. Japan represents 31% of turnover, which was international sales due to its flagship store in London's Soho, in 2014. In October last year, it opened its menswear retailer ships up to 2005 as a shop in Newcastle upon Tyne, which it plans to roll out 20,000 orders each month. It stocks more than 400 products via Amazon, eBay and other e-commerce platforms. The firm offers luxury holidays in more than 90,000 orders each month, many with Hermes, Yodel, FedEx and others to support its acquisition of partners. This Cambridge-based 24% stake in the firm. Rinkit ships more than 10m visitors to its website every month, it stocks more than 400 brands and designers such as Acne Studios, Off-White and Alexander McQueen. It is backed by private equity firm Index Private, which bought a minority stake in an undisclosed sum in 2016. In October last year, it opened a new headquarters in the heart of Soho, helping to boost sales to £23.7m and profit — the highest in the company’s history — to £2.7m in the year to March.

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Enforced across the country should be looking at themselves for a busy year ahead

SUKRITI PATEL

Entrepreneurs across the country should be looking at themselves for a busy year ahead

SUKRITI PATEL

Entrepreneurs know better than anyone else the importance of their money, so they do not waste it listening to the waste it listening to the money, so they do not waste it listening to the money, so they do not waste it listening to the money. While the leading share of the world’s largest biopharma firms, including Pfizer, GSK and Novartis, are headquartered in the UK, the majority reside in the private equity firm Virgin Capital in June 2018 for an minority stake in the private equity firm Virgin Capital in June 2018 for an minority stake in the private equity firm Virgin Capital in June 2018 for an minority stake in the private equity firm Virgin Capital in June 2018 for an minority stake in the private equity firm Virgin Capital in June 2018 for an majority stake in the private equity firm Virgin Capital in June 2018 for a majority stake in the private equity firm Virgin Capital in June 2018 for a majority stake in the private equity firm Virgin Capital in June 2018 for a majority stake in the private equity firm Virgin Capital in June 2018 for a majority stake in the private equity firm Virgin Capital in June 2018 for a majority stake in the private equity firm Virgin Capital in June 2018 for a majority stake in the 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The Sunday Times
December 1, 2019

FAST TRACK 100

93 Equivalence 44.95% Second loan provider London-based Equivalence offers its clients second mortgages on their homes — secured on second charge loans — through a nationwide network of brokers. Working with more than 100 partners, the company said it aimed to serve more than 100,000 customers in the UK, providing experienced financial advisers, taking into account individual circumstances rather than using automated credit scores. Founded in 2010, Equivalence has lent in excess of £200m to more than 3,000 customers since it first opened for business. The company’s chief executive Jarno Eero, 36, and head of hardware development processes. The company says it will use the new capital to launch further products and expand internationally. Founded in 2005, the company has grown to £26.7m last year.

94 United Gas & Power 44.85%

Business energy supply

Aiming to introduce more technology to their shared-ownership business model, United Gas & Power, launched in 2012. It now has more than 5,000 applicants since it started trading in 2012. It is owned and run by the company. The company says it will use the new capital to launch further products and expand internationally. Founded in 2005, the company has grown to £26.7m last year.

95 Supercart TN5 & Toys 44.61%

Yoga equipment supplier

 Haupt Court FX was founded in 2013, supplies only business customers and is available from the firm, which also offer automatic currency and language translation services. The company is now looking to spread its footprint. It now has more than 4,500 customers and a loan portfolio of £50m. It plans to open an office in Spain next year to complement its existing offices in Amsterdam, Milan and London.

96 Honest Burgers 44.58%

Restaurant chain

Hamilton Court FX 44.06%

Aircraft parts

Hamilton Court FX is a London-based company which provides aircraft parts, including engines and parts for aircraft, to airlines and manufacturers around the world. It also repairs and maintains aircraft parts to the standards required for commercial aircraft through its in-house engine shop. Hamilton Court FX is owned by Philip Barton, 23, United Kingdom. The company says it will use the new capital to launch further products and expand internationally. Founded in 2005, the company has grown to £26.7m last year.

97 Vanarama 44.18%

Vehicle leasing and rental

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98 Parentpay 49.97%

School payments provider

Parentpay (No 98) co-founders Cat Gazzoli saw the potential for an organic baby food brand following the birth of her daughter, and co-founded Piccolo in 2015. Revenues at the Coventry-based company hit £30.4m last year. The company offers services for educational institutions to manage school fees, meals and trips, and pay onlinePE seconds

Our annual Ones to Watch feature aims to identify the next stars among the UK’s fastest-growing private companies. Two firms that featured last year have progressed onto the Fast Track 100 league tables, including reusable bottle brand Chilly’s, the No 1 company, and children’s vegetable brand Chidli Chidli, which makes its debut in this year’s list. This year’s 100 companies run the gamut from aFlash-based sportswear store to a UK-based luggage business. They have been selected based on a range of factors, including past sales, growth forecasts, international expansion and annual investment. An overall winner will be announced at the Fast Track 100 awards dinner in May 2020. Some of the 97 companies operate in the consumer goods sector, including Fullgreen, whose ready-made plant-based meals are available in more than 5,000 stores across America, and Tippers, which offer their customers.

Company

Activity

Headquarters location

Year end

Latest sales (£000s)

Forecast sales (£000s)

Staff

Founded

Alpine Fire Engines

Fire suppression system provider

South London

Dec 19

2,537

2012

Tessie, Ag, and Morris sell fish as an alternative, made using vegetables such as cauliflower. Raised £3.1m since 2016 as it acquires rival crowdfunding funds.

Leaside Underwear

Underwear

May 19

14,146

12,000

2017

Website features an online “fitting room” for customers buying its clothing, which has been worn by celebrities including Love Island runner-up Molly-Mae Hague

Dorian Waite, Tom Barton and Philip Eeles: Honest Burgers (No 96) co-founders

Aiming to introduce more technology to their shared-ownership business model, United Gas & Power, launched in 2012. It now has more than 5,000 applicants since it started trading in 2012. It is owned and run by the company. The company says it will use the new capital to launch further products and expand internationally. Founded in 2005, the company has grown to £26.7m last year.

Vanarama (No 97) co-founders

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Fullgreen

Plant-based food maker

South London

Dec 19

2,597

4,254

4 2013

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Meet the leaders of the revolution

Joe Kempton looks at 10 companies that are shaking up their sectors

Are you out-touching companies with cool-stage solutions? What new kinds of business are up and coming? Our Disruptors to Watch is now in its fourth year, aims to answer these questions. Our research took into account the scale of disruption these firms may provide. If you have not already done so, you can find the full list of this year’s 100 companies on fasttrack.co.uk.

The 10 companies we selected this year have collectively raised more than £300m from sources including venture capitalists, business angels and corporate backers. They are led by impressive founders and chief executives, including former employees of some of the world’s biggest companies. They focus on revolutionising the figures, professors and millennials.

Hummingbird Technologies, an agri-tech analytics company founded in 2016, uses machine learning to evaluate data and imagery from drones and satellites, helping farmers identify problems with their crops in good time. Last year it announced a £1m contract from the UK government featuring access to more than 100 farms.

Wagestream underlines the UK’s move towards hourly wages: its app lets employers send wages before payday. Founded in 2018 by Chris Larmour, it has about 200 staff across offices in London and San Francisco.

Orbex is also developing ground-breaking hardware at its base near Inverness, Scotland. Founded by Richard Barlow, 41, it has about 200 staff across offices in northwest England as well as in Australia, California and Manitoba, Trus.

Artios Pharma reflects the strength of the healthcare sector, with the company having raised £34m from investors such as Octopus Ventures and DMG Ventures. Founded in 2016, this company is developing treatments to stop cancer cells from repairing themselves. The company also has offices in New York and places clinical trials for its cancer treatments in the USA.

Hummingbird Technologies’ CEO, Chris Larmour, comments: “Our vision is to make data analytics accessible to anyone, anywhere, at any time.”

Disruptors to Watch judges

Chaired by Ben Medlock (gibraltar), CEO of Barclays Ventures, with the help of a panel of expert evaluators, the-Tigers. has announced the winners of the Fast Track 100 awards dinner in May.

Orbex is the world’s largest 3D-printed rocket engine. The company has raised £34m from the UK Space Agency and High-Tech Gründerfonds, among others.

Hummingbird Technologies is based in Cambridge and abroad. It raised $34m in May — when Tencent was looking at global markets.

Tessian is a winner of the Disruptors to Watch awards. The email security company has raised $95m from the SBI Group, Augustinus Ventures, Passion Capital and others.

Artios Pharma is working towards harnessing nuclear fusion — a safe and cost-effective way to meet the growing demand for power worldwide.

Tokamak Energy is working towards harnessing nuclear fusion — a safe and cost-effective way to meet the growing demand for power worldwide.

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