



OpenUK Announces Inaugural New Year's Honours List for UK Open Technology Industry

*100 of the UK's Open Technology leaders honoured today
for their contributions to open source software, open hardware and open data*

1st January 2021 - OpenUK today shared its inaugural New Year's Honours List for 2021, supporting the open source software, open hardware and open data companies and organisations based in the UK. On this year's list are the likes of Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Jimmy Wales of Wikipedia, Melissa Di Donato of SUSE, Catherine Stihler of Creative Commons and Mark Shuttleworth of Canonical.

The list recognises the contributions of all those named for their influential actions around Open Technology, whether through their community contributions, development of policy and education around open, running leading open source companies or through their coverage of the sector as journalists or analysts.

The British Honours system is something very specific to the UK and a means of rewarding an individual for their achievement or service. Medals are used within this system to recognise an individual activity, or long and valuable service and OpenUK shared medals with the Honourees.

Amanda Brock, CEO at OpenUK said, "Until we set this up, I hadn't realised how British the concept of a New Year's Honours List is. In a time when we have so much to deal with, we wanted to start 2021 as we mean to go on, sharing positive news about the Open Technology community in the UK. Congratulations to all of those listed, we hope you enjoy the recognition that this List represents, and we look forward to seeing all that you will achieve in Open Technology through 2021."

"At SUSE, our purpose is to help our customers innovate everywhere through the power of many," said Melissa Di Donato, CEO of SUSE. "This passion has kept SUSE strong and resilient throughout the COVID-19 pandemic – from being supportive with extended payment terms for customers who have been impacted by the pandemic, to providing free open source software and training, to equipping our employees with unmatched support and flexibility. This recognition is an honour and aligned with our commitment to continue to offer innovation that is 100% based on open source – this way, our customers will continue to rise to their business challenges today, and enjoy the flexibility to fully plan and prepare for tomorrow."

"From a small start-up in London, Weaveworks is now internationally successful providing the global 2000 with cloud solutions. This would not be possible without our leadership in open source technology," said Alexis Richardson, CEO at Weaveworks, "and I am very proud to accept this Honour as recognition of my and our team's amazing work and recent fund-raising this year." UK open source software start up, Weaveworks, raised raised\$36 million in the run up to Christmas.



“We are celebrating our 20th birthday on the 15th January, and this recognition is something I share with the whole of the organisation. This represents the amazing community of people around the world that makes great projects like Wikipedia possible,” commented Jimmy Wales, founder of Wikipedia and board member of the Wikimedia Foundation, celebrating 20 years since it was founded on January 15.

“Thank you for this recognition. We at Creative Commons are excited about our 20th anniversary in 2021 and our new strategy. Our vision is for a world where equitable sharing of knowledge and culture purposefully serves the public interest. A robust and growing public domain is a key part of this vision where knowledge and culture is available to all to access, build upon, use, and share,” added Catherine Stihler, CEO at Creative Commons.

“Open source has opened up a whole new world for me in the past few years,” said 16 year old Joshua Lowe, the youngest recipient of an honour and the winner of the First OpenUK Young Person’s Award in 2020, “Through EduBlocks, I have been able to create a community around open that helps make it better for everyone through code, resources and teacher support. Being recognised amongst 99 other pioneers of UK Open Technology is a huge honour and hopefully, in years to come, we can expand the force for good that is open source in the UK, even further.”

This year’s Honours List also honours Basil Cousins, Honouree 101, the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, recognised for his work including setting up Open Forum Europe, the organisation advising the European Commission on Open Source and drafting its Open Source report to be published in February.

The list of 100 Influencers and the Lifetime Achievement Awardee #OpenUKInfluencer can be found at: <https://openuk.uk/2021honourslist/>

About OpenUK

OpenUK is the industry organisation and advocacy body representing Open Technology being open source software, open source hardware and open data organisations across the UK. As an industry organisation, OpenUK gives its participants greater influence than they could ever achieve alone.

OpenUK is committed to promoting UK leadership in open technology and supporting collaboration between businesses, public sector organisations, government and communities to expand the opportunities available to all around Open Technology on a global basis.

It is building a visible community, ensuring the UK’s laws and policies work for Open and promoting learning in Open Technology.

OpenUK is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, company number 11209475. OpenUK is sponsored by Arm, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, Red Hat and a number of other companies.



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