

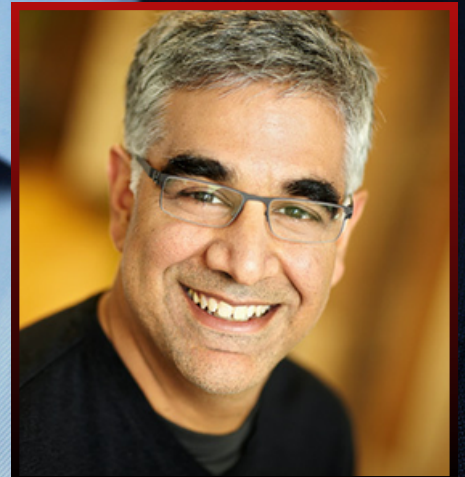
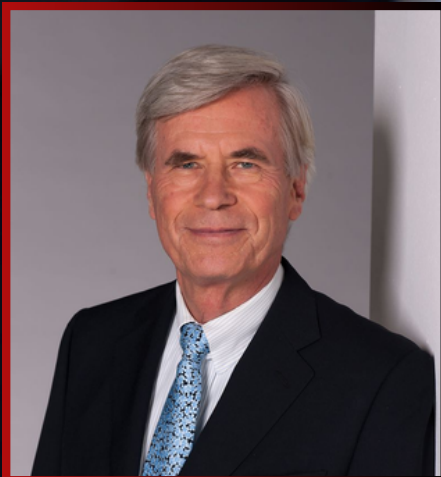
OXFORD BUSINESS REVIEW

6 EDITION

Early Life and Background
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Key Points

TOP 50 *SUCCESSFUL* *ENTREPRENEURS*





BERNARD ARNAULT

Bernard Arnault is a prominent French businessman known for his role as the Chairman and CEO of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE, the world's largest luxury goods company. Here are some key points about him and his career:

Early Life and Education

Birth: Bernard Jean Étienne Arnault was born on March 5, 1949, in Roubaix, France.

Education: He graduated from the École Polytechnique in Paris in 1971, a prestigious engineering school.

Career Beginnings

Early Business Ventures: Arnault began his career working for his father's company, Ferret-Savinel, which was involved in civil engineering. He persuaded his father to shift focus to real estate, and the company was renamed Ferinel.

Initial Foray into Luxury Goods: In 1984, Arnault acquired the bankrupt textile group Bousac Saint-Frères, which owned Christian Dior and Le Bon Marché. This marked his entry into the luxury goods sector.

Building LVMH

Formation of LVMH: LVMH was created in 1987 through the merger of Louis Vuitton, a luxury leather goods company, and Moët Hennessy, a leading champagne and cognac producer.

Leadership: Arnault took over as the majority shareholder in 1989, becoming Chairman and

CEO. Under his leadership, LVMH expanded significantly, acquiring various luxury brands.

Expansion and Acquisitions

Key Acquisitions: Under Arnault's leadership, LVMH acquired numerous prestigious brands, including Givenchy, Fendi, Bulgari, Sephora, and Dom Pérignon.

Diversification: The group diversified into different segments of the luxury market, including fashion, cosmetics, watches, jewelry, and wines and spirits.

Business Strategy

Focus on Heritage and Quality: Arnault's strategy emphasizes maintaining the heritage and quality of each brand while leveraging LVMH's resources for global expansion.

Innovation and Market Expansion: He has also focused on innovation and expanding into emerging markets, particularly in Asia.

Philanthropy and Influence

Cultural Patronage: Arnault is known for his patronage of the arts. He inaugurated the Fondation Louis Vuitton, a contemporary art museum in Paris, designed by Frank Gehry.

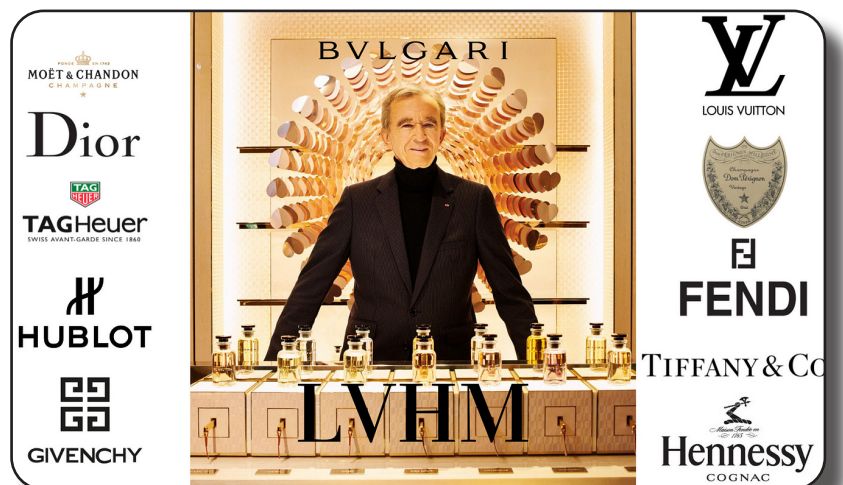
Philanthropic Efforts: Through LVMH, Arnault has supported various cultural, educational, and humanitarian initiatives.

Personal Life

Family: Arnault is married to Hélène Mercier, a Canadian concert pianist. He has five children, several of whom are involved in the family business.

Wealth and Recognition

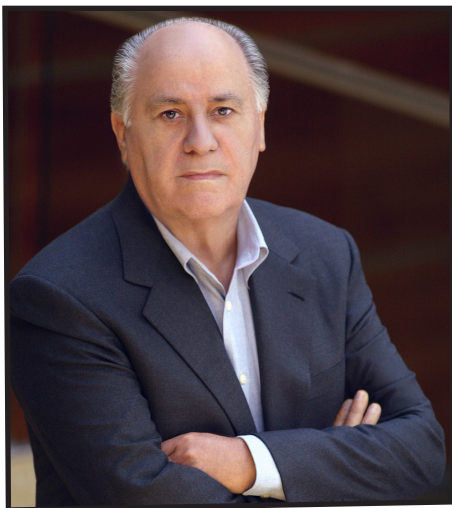
Net Worth: As of 2023, Bernard Arnault is one of the wealthiest individuals globally, with a net worth often placing him among the top billionaires.



Recognition: He has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to business and culture.

Summary

Bernard Arnault's strategic vision and leadership have transformed LVMH into a powerhouse in the luxury industry. His approach to brand management, focus on quality, and ability to navigate and shape the market have made him a pivotal figure in the global luxury market.



AMANCIO ORTEGA

He is a Spanish business magnate best known as the founder of Inditex, the world's largest fashion retailer and the parent company of the Zara chain. Here are some key points about his life and career:

Early Life and Background

Birth: Amancio Ortega Gaona was born on March 28, 1936, in Busdongo de Arbás, León, Spain.

Early Work: Ortega left school at the age of 14 to work as a shop hand for a local shirtmaker in La Coruña, Galicia. This early experience in retail and textiles laid the foundation for his future endeavors.

Career and Founding of Inditex

Early Ventures: In the early 1960s,

Ortega started Confecciones Goa, a company that sold quilted bathrobes. This company marked his first significant foray into the garment industry.

Founding of Zara: In 1975, Ortega opened the first Zara store in La Coruña, with a business model focused on quickly adapting fashion trends and getting them to market efficiently.

Expansion and Inditex Formation: The success of Zara led to the formation of Inditex (Industria de Diseño Textil) in 1985, which allowed for a more organized and scalable approach to retailing.

Business Strategy and Growth

Fast Fashion Model: Ortega pioneered the fast fashion business model, emphasizing rapid production, quick turnover, and vertical integration. This approach revolutionized the industry by reducing the time from design to retail.

Global Expansion: Under Ortega's leadership, Inditex expanded globally, opening thousands of stores across various brands, including Zara, Massimo Dutti, Pull&Bear, Bershka, Stradivarius, Oysho, and Uterqüe.

Innovation: Inditex is known for its innovative logistics and supply chain management, enabling the company to respond swiftly to market demands.

Leadership and Retirement

Management Style: Ortega is known for his low-profile, hands-on management style, often working closely with his team and maintaining a modest personal presence despite his significant wealth.

Retirement: In 2011, Ortega retired as the chairman of Inditex, handing over the reins to Pablo Isla. Despite stepping down from active management, he remains a significant shareholder and continues to influence the company.

Wealth and Influence

Net Worth: As of 2023, Amancio Or-

tega is one of the richest individuals globally, frequently ranking among the top billionaires.



Real Estate Investment s: Ortega has also invested heavily in real estate, owning properties in major cities around the world, including Madrid, London, New York, and Chicago.

Personal Life

Family: Ortega is married to Flora Pérez Marcote, with whom he has a daughter, Marta Ortega. He also has two other children from his first marriage to Rosalía Mera.

Privacy: Known for his privacy, Ortega rarely grants interviews and is seldom seen in public. His low-key lifestyle contrasts with the high-profile nature of his business empire.

Philanthropy

Charitable Efforts: Through the Amancio Ortega Foundation, he has made significant contributions to various causes, particularly in education and healthcare. Notably, the foundation has donated substantial amounts to cancer treatment and diagnostic equipment in Spanish hospitals.

Summary

Amancio Ortega's innovative approach to fashion retailing and his development of the fast fashion model have profoundly impacted the industry. His leadership of Inditex transformed it into a global powerhouse, making fashion accessible and affordable to a broad audience while maintaining operational efficiency and responsiveness to market trends. Despite his immense success, Ortega remains a private individual, dedicated to his business

and philanthropic efforts.



FRANCOIS PINAULT

He is a renowned French businessman known for founding Kering, one of the world's leading luxury goods companies. Here are some key details about his life and career:

Early Life and Background

Birth: Francois Pinault was born on August 21, 1936, in Les Champs-Géraux, Brittany, France.

Early Work: Pinault left school at the age of 16 to work in his family's timber trading business. This early experience in the timber industry laid the foundation for his entrepreneurial journey.

Career Beginnings

Entrepreneurial Ventures: In 1963, Pinault founded Établissements Pinault, a timber trading company. His success in this business allowed him to expand into other areas over the next few decades.

Formation of PPR (Now Kering)

Expansion: Throughout the 1980s, Pinault diversified his business interests, acquiring several companies in retail and distribution.

PPR Foundation: In 1988, he established Pinault-Printemps-Redoute (PPR), a retail conglomerate. This marked a significant shift from his original timber business to a broad-

er portfolio.

Transition to Luxury Goods

Strategic Shift: In the late 1990s, under the leadership of his son Francois-Henri Pinault, PPR began to shift its focus from retail to luxury goods.

Acquisitions: Key acquisitions included Gucci Group in 1999, which brought prestigious brands like Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent, and Balenciaga under PPR's umbrella. Other notable acquisitions followed, such as Bottega Veneta, Alexander McQueen, and Stella McCartney.

Rebranding to Kering

Kering Formation: In 2013, PPR was rebranded as Kering, reflecting its new strategic focus on luxury and lifestyle brands. The name Kering is derived from the Breton word "ker," meaning home, symbolizing Pinault's roots in Brittany and the company's commitment to caring for its brands.

Business Strategy and Growth

Luxury Focus: Kering, under Francois Pinault's vision and his son Francois-Henri's leadership, focused on nurturing and expanding its portfolio of luxury brands. The company emphasizes creativity, innovation, and sustainability.

Global Expansion: Kering has expanded its global presence, with a significant footprint in Europe, North America, and Asia. The company's brands are known for their high-quality products and strong market positions.

Art Collection and Philanthropy

Art Patronage: Francois Pinault is an avid art collector. His extensive collection includes works by contemporary and modern artists. He owns the Pinault Collection, which is showcased in prominent venues such as the Palazzo Grassi and Punta della Dogana in Venice.

Cultural Contributions: Pinault has made significant contributions to the art world, supporting various exhibitions, artists, and cultural in-

stitutions.

Philanthropy: Through the Francois Pinault Foundation, he has supported numerous educational, cultural, and environmental initiatives.

Personal Life

Family: Francois Pinault is married to Maryvonne Campbell. His son, Francois-Henri Pinault, is currently the chairman and CEO of Kering. Francois-Henri is married to actress Salma Hayek.

Privacy: Despite his immense success and wealth, Pinault maintains a relatively low profile, similar to many other prominent figures in the luxury industry.

Wealth and Recognition

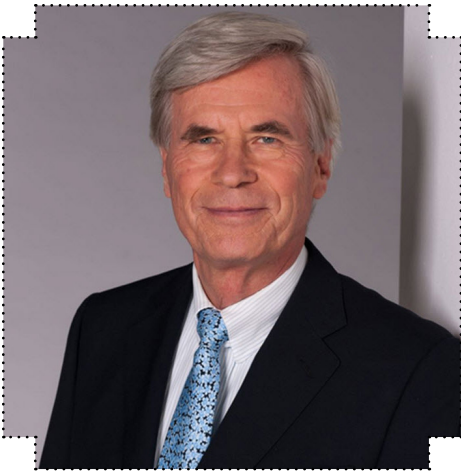
Net Worth: Francois Pinault is one of the wealthiest individuals in France and the world, with his net worth often placing him among the top billionaires globally.



Awards and Honors: Pinault has received numerous accolades for his contributions to business and culture, including recognition from the French government.

Summary

Francois Pinault's entrepreneurial spirit and strategic vision have been instrumental in transforming Kering into a global leader in the luxury goods market. His successful shift from a timber business to a diversified retail conglomerate and eventually to a focused luxury group showcases his adaptability and foresight. Beyond business, Pinault's contributions to the art world and philanthropy highlight his broader impact on culture and society.



DIETER SCHWARZ

He is a German billionaire businessman best known as the owner of Schwarz Group, which includes the well-known retail chains Lidl and Kaufland. Here are some key points about his life and career:

Early Life and Background

Birth: Dieter Schwarz was born on September 24, 1939, in Heilbronn, Germany.

Family Business: His father, Josef Schwarz, co-founded the company Lidl & Schwarz KG in 1930, initially focused on food wholesale.

Career and Development of Schwarz Group

Early Involvement: Dieter Schwarz joined the family business in the 1960s, learning the trade and preparing for future leadership.

Expansion into Discount Retail: In 1973, Schwarz opened the first Lidl discount store, inspired by the emerging trend of discount retailing in Germany. This marked the beginning of Lidl's expansion.

Growth and Expansion

Lidl Expansion: Under Schwarz's leadership, Lidl rapidly expanded throughout Germany and then internationally. By focusing on efficiency, low prices, and a limited assortment of high-turnover products, Lidl grew to become one of Europe's leading discount supermarket chains.

Kaufland: Schwarz also expanded

the company's portfolio by developing Kaufland, a chain of hypermarkets. This complemented Lidl's discount model with a broader range of products and services.

Business Strategy

Efficiency and Cost Control: Schwarz Group is known for its rigorous cost control and operational efficiency. This includes centralized logistics, strict cost management, and a focus on private-label products to keep prices low.

International Expansion: Schwarz Group expanded beyond Germany, establishing Lidl and Kaufland stores in numerous countries across Europe and the United States. Lidl, in particular, has become a significant player in the global retail market.

Leadership and Legacy

Stepping Back: Dieter Schwarz gradually stepped back from day-to-day operations in the 1990s but retained ownership and strategic control of the company. He appointed trusted managers to lead the business while he maintained a low public profile.

Philanthropy: Schwarz is known for his philanthropic efforts, particularly in education and research. He established the Dieter Schwarz Foundation, which supports educational initiatives, scientific research, and cultural projects. The foundation has funded numerous schools, universities, and research institutions in Germany.

Personal Life

Privacy: Dieter Schwarz is notoriously private, rarely giving interviews or making public appearances. Despite his immense wealth, he lives a modest lifestyle.

Family: He is married to Franziska Schwarz, and they have two children.

Wealth and Influence

Net Worth: As of 2023, Dieter Schwarz is one of the richest individuals in Germany and among the wealthiest people in the world. His

wealth is primarily derived from his ownership of Schwarz Group.

Business Impact: Schwarz's approach to discount retailing and his expansion strategies have had a significant impact on the global retail industry. Lidl and Kaufland are known for their competitive prices and have influenced market dynamics in numerous countries.



Summary

Dieter Schwarz's vision and leadership have been instrumental in transforming Schwarz Group into a global retail powerhouse. His innovative approach to discount retailing, emphasis on efficiency, and strategic expansion have made Lidl and Kaufland household names in many parts of the world. Despite his low public profile, Schwarz's impact on the retail industry and his philanthropic contributions make him a significant figure in business and society.



SUSANNE KLATTEN

She is a prominent German businesswoman and billionaire, known for her major shareholdings in BMW and the pharmaceutical and chemical company Altana. Here are some key points about her life and career:

Early Life and Education

Birth: Susanne Klatten was born on April 28, 1962, in Bad Homburg, Germany.

Family Background: She is the daughter of Herbert and Johanna Quandt. Her father, Herbert Quandt, is credited with saving BMW from bankruptcy and turning it into a successful automotive company.

Education and Early Career

Education: Klatten earned a degree in business finance and an MBA from IMD Business School in Lausanne, Switzerland. She also studied at the University of Buckingham.

Early Work: Before fully engaging in her family's business interests, Klatten gained experience working for various companies, including an ap-

role in the strategic decisions of the company.

Altana:

- **Acquisition:** Susanne Klatten inherited a 50.1% stake in Altana from her father. Under her leadership, Altana transformed into a highly profitable specialty chemicals company.
- **Expansion and Sale:** In 2006, Klatten led the sale of Altana's pharmaceuticals division to Nycomed for €4.5 billion, refocusing the company solely on specialty chemicals.
- **Privatization:** She took Altana private in 2010, allowing for more control and flexibility in its operations.

sanne Klatten is known for her philanthropic efforts. She has contributed to various educational, social, and cultural causes through foundations and personal donations.

Klatten Foundation: She established the Susanne Klatten Foundation, which supports scientific research, education, and social projects.

Personal Life

Privacy: Like many members of the Quandt family, Klatten maintains a low public profile. She is known for her discretion and privacy.

Family: Susanne Klatten is married to Jan Klatten, and they have three children. The family resides in Munich, Germany.

Wealth and Recognition

Net Worth: As of 2023, Susanne Klatten is one of the wealthiest individuals in Germany and consistently ranks among the richest people globally. Her wealth primarily comes from her stakes in BMW and Altana.

Influence: Klatten is a highly influential figure in the business world, particularly in the automotive and chemical industries. Her strategic vision and successful management of her investments have garnered respect and recognition.

Summary

Susanne Klatten's business acumen and strategic investments have made her a significant figure in the global business landscape. Her major shareholdings in BMW and Altana highlight her influence in the automotive and chemical industries. Beyond her business achievements, Klatten's philanthropic efforts reflect her commitment to social responsibility and innovation. Despite her immense wealth, she remains a private individual, dedicated to her family and her work.



prenticeship at BMW and working in advertising.

Major Shareholdings and Business Interests

BMW:

- **Ownership:** Susanne Klatten owns approximately 19% of BMW, making her one of the major shareholders alongside her brother, Stefan Quandt, who also holds a significant stake.
- **Board Membership:** She has been a member of BMW's supervisory board, playing a

Business Strategy and Expansion

Diversification: Beyond BMW and Altana, Klatten has invested in various sectors, including wind energy, biotech, and venture capital. Her investments reflect a strategy of diversification and innovation.

SGL Carbon: Klatten holds a significant stake in SGL Carbon, a company specializing in carbon-based products, including automotive and aerospace applications.

Philanthropy and Social Responsibility

Charitable

Work: Su-



STEFAN QUANDT

He is a prominent German businessman and billionaire, primarily known for his major shareholding in BMW. Here are key points about his life and career:

Early Life and Education

Birth: Stefan Quandt was born on May 9, 1966, in Bad Homburg, Germany.

Family Background: He is the son of Herbert Quandt, who played a crucial role in saving BMW from bankruptcy and turning it into a successful automotive company, and Johanna Quandt, a prominent businesswoman.

Education

University Education: Stefan Quandt studied at the University of Karlsruhe, where he earned a degree in engineering.

Career and Business Interests

BMW:

- **Ownership:** Stefan Quandt owns approximately 23.6% of BMW, making him one of the largest shareholders alongside his sister, Susanne Klatten, who also holds a significant stake.
- **Board Membership:** Quan-

dt has been a member of BMW's supervisory board, contributing to the strategic direction and oversight of the company.

Other Business Ventures:

Delton AG: Quandt is the chairman of Delton AG, a holding company that manages his diverse business interests. Delton AG has investments in various sectors including logistics, pharmaceuticals, and information technology.

Logistics and Manufacturing: Through Delton AG, Quandt has significant stakes in companies such as Logwin AG, a logistics company, and CEAG, a power supply manufacturer.

Business Strategy

Diversification: Stefan Quandt's investment strategy emphasizes diversification. He has invested in multiple industries beyond automotive, including logistics, healthcare, and technology.

Long-term Vision: Quandt is known for his long-term investment approach, focusing on sustainable growth and innovation.

Philanthropy and Social Responsibility

Charitable Work: Stefan Quandt is involved in various philanthropic activities, although he tends to keep a low profile regarding his charitable efforts. He supports educational, cultural, and social causes through donations and foundations.

Personal Life

Privacy: Like other members of the Quandt family, Stefan Quandt maintains a low public profile. He is known for his privacy and discreet lifestyle.

Family: Stefan Quandt is married to Katharina Quandt, and they have two children. The family resides in Bad Homburg, Germany.

Wealth and Recognition

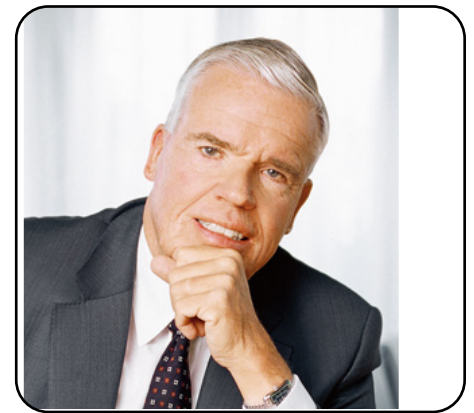
Net Worth: As of 2023, Stefan Quan-

dt is one of the wealthiest individuals in Germany and ranks among the richest people globally. His wealth is primarily derived from his substantial shareholding in BMW and other business ventures.

Influence: Quandt is a significant figure in the global business community, particularly in the automotive industry. His role in BMW and his diverse business interests have made him a respected and influential businessman.

Summary

Stefan Quandt's significant shareholding in BMW and his strategic leadership on the supervisory board have contributed to the company's success. His diversified investment strategy, through Delton AG, spans various industries, reflecting his broad business acumen. Known for his privacy, Quandt maintains a low public profile while actively participating in philanthropic activities. His wealth and influence underscore his importance in the global business landscape, particularly in the automotive and logistics sectors.



KLAUS-MICHAEL KÜHNE

He is a prominent German businessman known for his role as the honorary chairman and majority owner of Kühne + Nagel, one of the world's leading logistics companies. Here are key points about his life and career:

Early Life and Background

Birth: Klaus-Michael Kühne was born on June 2, 1937, in Hamburg, Germany.

Family Business: Kühne + Nagel was founded by his grandfather, August Kühne, and Friedrich Nagel in 1890 as a forwarding and logistics company.

Education and Early Career

Education: Kühne studied economics and business administration, preparing him to join the family business.

Joining the Company: He joined Kühne + Nagel in 1958, gaining experience in various roles before taking on leadership positions.

Leadership and Growth of Kühne + Nagel

CEO and Chairman: Kühne became the CEO of Kühne + Nagel in 1966 and later its chairman. Under his leadership, the company expanded its global footprint and diversified its services.

Global Expansion: Kühne spearheaded the company's international expansion, establishing a strong presence in Europe, the Americas, Asia, and Africa. Today, Kühne + Nagel operates in over 100 countries.

Diversification: He diversified the company's logistics services, including sea freight, air freight, contract logistics, and integrated supply chain solutions. This diversification helped Kühne + Nagel become a global leader in logistics.

Business Strategy

Innovation and Technology: Kühne + Nagel has been at the forefront of adopting new technologies and innovative solutions to enhance efficiency and customer service in logistics.

Sustainability: The company has also focused on sustainability, implementing measures to reduce its carbon footprint and promote eco-friendly logistics solutions.

Investments and Other Business Interests

Hamburg-based Companies: Kühne has significant investments in various Hamburg-based companies, including a substantial stake in Hapag-Lloyd, a leading global shipping company.

Real Estate: He has also invested in

ly making public appearances or giving interviews.

Family: He is married to Christine Kühne, and the couple resides in Switzerland. They have no children.

Wealth and Recognition

Net Worth: As of 2023, Klaus-Michael Kühne is one of the wealthiest individuals in Germany and consistently ranks among the richest people globally. His wealth is primarily derived from his majority stake in Kühne + Nagel and other investments.

Awards and Honors

Kühne has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to business and philanthropy, including recognition from the logistics and shipping industries.

Summary

Klaus-Michael Kühne's strategic leadership and

vision have been instrumental in transforming Kühne + Nagel into a global logistics powerhouse. His focus on innovation, technology, and sustainability has positioned the company as a leader in the logistics industry. Beyond his business achievements, Kühne's philanthropic efforts through the Kühne Foundation have had a significant impact on education, research, and healthcare. Known for his privacy, Kühne's influence and contributions to both business and society remain substantial.



real estate, particularly in prime locations in Hamburg and other major cities.

Philanthropy and Social Responsibility

Kühne Foundation: Klaus-Michael Kühne established the Kühne Foundation, which supports various educational, medical, and cultural initiatives. The foundation is particularly active in logistics research and education, healthcare, and humanitarian aid.

Education and Research: The Kühne Foundation funds the Kühne Logistics University in Hamburg, a leading institution dedicated to logistics and supply chain management education and research.

Personal Life

Privacy: Klaus-Michael Kühne is known for his private lifestyle, rare-



FRANÇOISE BETTENCOURT MEYERS

She is a French billionaire businesswoman, philanthropist, and author, best known as the heiress to the L'Oréal fortune. Here are some key points about her life and career:

Early Life and Background

Birth: Françoise Bettencourt Meyers was born on July 10, 1953, in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.

Family Background: She is the daughter of Liliane Bettencourt, who was the principal shareholder of L'Oréal, and the granddaughter of Eugène Schueller, the founder of L'Oréal.

Education and Personal Interests

Education: Bettencourt Meyers pursued a robust education, focusing on various disciplines, including the Bible and Greek mythology.

Author and Scholar: She has written several books, primarily focusing on Jewish-Christian relations and biblical commentaries, reflecting her deep interest in religion and history.

Role in L'Oréal

Board Membership: Françoise Bettencourt Meyers has been a member of L'Oréal's board of directors since 1997. She plays a significant role in guiding the strategic direction of the company.

Chairwoman: Following the death of her mother in 2017, she became the chairwoman of the family holding company, Téthys, which holds a substantial stake in L'Oréal.

Business Strategy and Influence

L'Oréal's Success: Under her influence, L'Oréal has continued to thrive as the world's largest cosmetics and beauty company. The company is known for its innovation, extensive research and development, and a wide range of products that cater to various market segments.

Sustainability and Ethics: Bettencourt Meyers has been involved in promoting sustainability and ethical practices within the company, reflecting a commitment to corporate social responsibility.

Philanthropy

Bettencourt Schueller Foundation: Françoise Bettencourt Meyers is the president of the Bettencourt Schueller Foundation, which was established by her parents. The foundation supports various initiatives in science, arts and culture, and humanitarian projects.

Healthcare and Research: The foundation has funded numerous scientific research projects, particularly in the fields of life sciences and

healthcare. It also supports cultural endeavors, such as music and fine arts.

Community Support: The foundation has been active in social and humanitarian efforts, including supporting educational initiatives and helping communities in need.

Personal Life

Family: Françoise Bettencourt Meyers is married to Jean-Pierre Meyers, a French businessman. They have two sons, Jean-Victor and Nicolas. Jean-Pierre Meyers also serves on the board of L'Oréal.

Privacy: Bettencourt Meyers is known for her private lifestyle, avoiding the public eye despite her significant wealth and influence.

Wealth and Recognition

Net Worth: As of 2023, Françoise Bettencourt Meyers is one of the wealthiest individuals globally, consistently ranking among the top billionaires in the world. Her wealth is primarily derived from her substantial stake in L'Oréal.

Recognition: She has received numerous accolades for her business acumen and philanthropic efforts. Her contributions to science, education, and culture have been widely recognized.

Summary

Françoise Bettencourt Meyers's role as the heiress to the L'Oréal fortune and her leadership in the company and philanthropic efforts make her a significant figure in the global business and humanitarian landscapes. Her influence on L'Oréal's strategic direction and her commitment to sustainability and ethical practices have helped maintain the company's position as a leader in the cosmetics industry. Through the Bettencourt Schueller Foundation, she continues to impact various fields, including science, education, and the arts, demonstrating her dedication to making a positive difference in society.



GIOVANNI FERRERO

He is an influential Italian businessman, best known as the executive chairman of Ferrero Group, one of the world's leading confectionery companies. Here are key points about his life, career, and contributions to the business world:

Early Life and Background

Birth: Giovanni Ferrero was born on September 21, 1964, in Farigliano, Italy.

Family Legacy: He is the younger son of Michele Ferrero, the visionary entrepreneur who significantly expanded Ferrero Group, and Maria Franca Fissolo. The Ferrero family is renowned for its innovation in the confectionery industry.

Education

International Studies: Giovanni Ferrero pursued his education abroad, studying marketing and international management. He attended the European School of Business in Brussels and later studied at Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania, USA. His international education provided him with a broad perspective on business and management.

Career at Ferrero Group

Early Involvement: Giovanni joined the family business in 1985, starting in various roles to understand the operational aspects of the company. He worked closely with his father and brother, Pietro Ferrero, gaining

valuable experience.

Joint CEO: From 1997, Giovanni served as co-CEO of Ferrero Group alongside his brother, Pietro. Together, they led the company through a period of growth and diversification.

Sole CEO: Following Pietro's sudden death in 2011, Giovanni became the sole CEO. He focused on expanding Ferrero's global footprint and enhancing its product offerings.

Executive Chairman: In 2017, Giovanni transitioned to the role of executive chairman, while Lapo Civiletti was appointed as CEO. This shift allowed Giovanni to concentrate on long-term strategy and major acquisitions.

Business Strategy and Achievements

Innovation and Expansion: Under Giovanni's leadership, Ferrero has continued to innovate, introducing new products and improving existing ones. He has overseen significant global expansion, making strategic acquisitions to diversify Ferrero's portfolio.

Acquisitions: Notable acquisitions include the purchase of Thorntons, a British chocolate retailer, Fannie May, an American premium chocolate brand, and the U.S. confectionery business of Nestlé.



Sustainability and Ethics: Giovanni has emphasized sustainability within Ferrero's operations. The company has committed to responsible

sourcing of ingredients, reducing its environmental impact, and promoting ethical practices throughout its supply chain.

Personal Life

Privacy: Giovanni Ferrero is known for maintaining a low public profile, similar to other members of the Ferrero family. He rarely gives interviews and prefers to keep his personal life private.

Family: He is married to Paola Rossi, and they have two children. The family resides in Belgium, where Ferrero International is headquartered.

Wealth and Influence

Net Worth: As of 2023, Giovanni Ferrero is one of the wealthiest individuals in Italy and ranks among the richest people in the world. His fortune stems from his substantial stake in Ferrero Group.

Business Acumen: Giovanni is respected in the business community for his strategic vision and effective leadership. He has successfully navigated Ferrero through competitive markets while maintaining its reputation for quality and innovation.

Philanthropy

Corporate Social Responsibility: Ferrero Group, under Giovanni's leadership, has been active in various social and environmental initiatives. The company supports numerous community projects and has programs aimed at improving the livelihoods of cocoa farmers and other suppliers.

Personal Philanthropy: While less is publicly known about Giovanni's philanthropic activities, the Ferrero family has a history of charitable contributions, particularly in regions where the company operates.

Summary

Giovanni Ferrero's role as the executive chairman of Ferrero Group highlights his significant influence in the global confectionery industry. His focus on innovation, strategic acquisitions, and sustainability has driven

the company's growth and success. Despite his immense wealth and influence, Giovanni Ferrero remains a private individual dedicated to his family's legacy and the continued success of the Ferrero Group. His leadership has ensured that Ferrero continues to be a major player in the global market, known for its high-quality products and ethical practices.



Reinhold Würth

He is a distinguished German entrepreneur and philanthropist, renowned for transforming the Würth Group into a global leader in the distribution of assembly and fastening materials. Here are key points about his life and career:

Early Life and Education

Birth: Reinhold Würth was born on April 20, 1935, in Öhringen, Germany.

Early Life: He grew up in post-war Germany, experiencing the challenges of rebuilding and economic recovery.

Career at Würth Group

Joining the Family Business: In 1949, at the age of 14, Reinhold Würth joined his father Adolf Würth's small wholesale screw business as the company's second employee. After his father's sudden death in 1954, Reinhold, at the age of 19, took over the business.

Growth and Expansion:

Strategic Vision: Reinhold Würth expanded the company's product range from screws to a broad array of assembly and fastening materials, tools, and services, catering to various industries including automotive, construction, and manufacturing.

Global Expansion: Under his leadership, Würth Group grew from a small regional operation into a global enterprise with a presence in over 80 countries. Today, Würth Group has more than 400 companies and employs over 80,000 people worldwide.

Innovation: Reinhold Würth emphasized innovation and customer service, developing a strong sales force and efficient logistics to ensure high-quality service. This focus on innovation helped differentiate Würth Group from its competitors.

Leadership Transition

CEO to Chairman: In 1994, Reinhold Würth stepped down as CEO and became chairman of the supervisory board, allowing him to focus on strategic direction and governance.

Honorary Chairman: In 2006, he became the honorary chairman of Würth Group, continuing to influence the company's strategic direction and values.

Business Strategy and Achievements

Decentralization: Reinhold Würth implemented a decentralized man-



agement structure, allowing indi

A. Würth GmbH & Co. KG, Künzelsau-Gaisbach, Germany - Reinhold-Würth

vidual companies within the group to operate independently while adhering to the overarching corporate philosophy.

Customer Focus: The company's success is largely attributed to its strong customer orientation, with a dedicated sales force providing personalized service to clients.

Sustainability: Würth Group has made significant strides in sustainability, focusing on environmentally friendly products and practices, and promoting corporate social responsibility.

Personal Life and Interests

Art Collection: Reinhold Würth is an avid art collector with a passion for modern and contemporary art. His collection includes over 18,000 pieces, some of which are displayed in the museums he established.

Philanthropy: Through the Würth Foundation, Reinhold Würth supports various cultural, educational, and social initiatives. The foundation funds projects in art, culture, research, and education.

Family: Reinhold Würth is married to Carmen Würth, and they have three children. His daughter, Bettina Würth, is actively involved in the company, serving as chairwoman of the advisory board.

Wealth and Recognition

Net Worth: As of 2023, Reinhold Würth is one of Germany's wealthiest individuals, with a net worth derived from his substantial ownership stake in the Würth Group.

Awards and Honors: Reinhold Würth has received numerous awards for his contributions to business and society, including the Federal Cross of Merit and honorary doctorates from several universities.

Summary

Reinhold Würth's visionary leadership and entrepreneurial spirit have been instrumental in transforming the Würth Group into a global leader in the distribution of assembly and fastening materials. His emphasis

on innovation, customer service, and decentralized management has driven the company's success. Beyond his business achievements, Würth's commitment to philanthropy and the arts reflects his dedication to giving back to society. Despite his immense success, he remains a figure of humility and continues to inspire through his work and contributions.



Giorgio Armani

He is an iconic Italian fashion designer and entrepreneur, best known as the founder of the globally renowned Armani brand. His influence extends beyond fashion to include lifestyle and luxury products, making him one of the most influential figures in the fashion industry. Here are key points about his life and career:

Early Life and Education

Birth: Giorgio Armani was born on July 11, 1934, in Piacenza, Italy.

Early Life: He grew up during World War II, experiencing the challenges of post-war Italy. Initially, Armani pursued a career in medicine, studying at the University of Milan, but he left after three years to pursue a career in fashion.

Career Beginnings

Early Work: Armani began his fashion career in the mid-1950s as a window dresser at La Rinascente, a famous Milanese department store. He later became a buyer for the

store, gaining valuable experience in fashion and retail.

Design Experience: In the 1960s, Armani worked as a designer for Nino Cerruti, creating menswear. This experience honed his skills and provided him with insights into high-quality tailoring and fabric.

Founding Armani

Launch of Armani: In 1975, Giorgio Armani founded his own fashion house, Giorgio Armani S.p.A., with his partner Sergio Galeotti. The brand quickly gained recognition for its clean, tailored lines and sophisticated aesthetic.

Breakthrough: Armani's breakthrough came with his revolutionary menswear collection, which introduced a relaxed, unstructured style that contrasted sharply with the rigid suits of the time. His designs emphasized comfort and elegance, reshaping modern menswear.

Expansion and Success

Women's Wear: Following the success of his menswear, Armani expanded into women's wear, bringing the same clean lines and sophisticated style to women's fashion.

Hollywood Influence: Armani's designs gained international fame when they were featured in the 1980 film "American Gigolo," starring Richard Gere. This exposure solidified Armani's reputation as a designer for the stars.



Brand Diversification: Over the years, Armani diversified his brand to include multiple lines such as Armani Exchange, Emporio Armani, Armani Collezioni, and Armani Jeans, catering to different market segments. He also expanded into accessories, cosmetics, home goods, and even hotels and restaurants.

Business Strategy

Global Expansion: Armani's strategic vision included expanding globally, opening flagship stores in major cities around the world. His brand's presence spans across Europe, the Americas, Asia, and the Middle East.

Luxury and Lifestyle: Giorgio Armani extended the brand into a complete lifestyle concept, offering not just fashion but a wide range of luxury products and experiences, including the Armani Hotel in Dubai and Milan.

Personal Life and Interests

Privacy: Giorgio Armani is known for his private lifestyle. He rarely gives interviews and prefers to stay out of the public eye.

Interests: Beyond fashion, Armani is passionate about interior design, architecture, and sports, particularly basketball.

Wealth and Recognition

Net Worth: As of 2023, Giorgio Armani is one of the richest fashion designers in the world, with a substantial net worth built from his diverse business ventures.

Awards and Honors: Armani has received numerous awards for his contributions to fashion and design, including the CFDA International Award and the Ambrogino d'Oro from the city of Milan.

Philanthropy

Charitable Work: Giorgio Armani has been involved in various philanthropic activities, supporting causes such as AIDS research, children's hospitals, and disaster relief efforts. He has also been active in promoting sustainability within the fashion industry.

Legacy

Influence on Fashion: Giorgio Armani's impact on fashion is profound. His emphasis on simplicity, elegance, and high-quality craftsmanship has set standards in the industry.

Enduring Brand: The Armani brand continues to be a symbol of luxury and sophistication, with a loyal global following and a legacy that endures in the ever-evolving fashion landscape.

Summary

Giorgio Armani's visionary approach to fashion and business has made him a towering figure in the industry. From his innovative menswear designs to his creation of a comprehensive luxury brand, Armani's influence extends far beyond fashion. His dedication to quality, elegance, and understated sophistication has redefined modern style. With a keen business acumen and a commitment to philanthropy, Giorgio Armani remains a pivotal force in fashion and a respected global icon.



JOHANN RUPERT

He is a prominent South African entrepreneur and the chairman of Richemont, a leading luxury goods company based in Switzerland. He is recognized for his significant contributions to the global luxury market and his strategic leadership. Here are key points about his life and career:

Early Life and Education

Birth: Johann Peter Rupert was born on June 1, 1950, in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Family Background: He is the eldest son of Anton Rupert, a well-known South African business magnate who founded the Rembrandt Group (now Remgro and Richemo-

nt).

Education: Rupert attended the University of Stellenbosch, where he studied economics and company law. He did not complete his degree, choosing instead to enter the business world directly.

Early Career

Banking Experience: Rupert began his career in banking, working for Chase Manhattan in New York and Lazard Frères in London. This experience provided him with valuable insights into international finance and business operations.

Founding of Richemont

Creation of Richemont: In 1988, Johann Rupert founded Compagnie Financière Richemont SA, a Swiss-based luxury goods holding company. Richemont was created as a spin-off from the Rembrandt Group's international assets.

Strategic Acquisitions: Under Rupert's leadership, Richemont acquired several prestigious luxury brands, including Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, Piaget, and Montblanc. These acquisitions positioned Richemont as a powerhouse in the luxury goods market.

Leadership and Growth

Executive Roles: Rupert has held various executive roles within Richemont, including CEO and executive chairman. He stepped down as CEO in 2010 but remains the chairman, guiding the company's strategic direction.

Luxury Market Leadership: Through Rupert's strategic vision, Richemont has become one of the world's leading luxury goods companies, specializing in jewelry, watches, and writing instruments. The company owns some of the most renowned brands in the luxury sector.

Business Strategy

Focus on Heritage Brands: Rupert has focused on acquiring and nurturing heritage brands with strong legacies and craftsmanship.

This strategy has helped Richemont maintain its position as a leader in the high-end luxury market.

Innovation and Digitalization: Under Rupert's leadership, Richemont has embraced innovation and digital transformation. The company has invested in e-commerce platforms and digital initiatives to stay competitive in the evolving market.

Sustainability: Richemont is committed to sustainability and ethical practices, promoting responsible sourcing of materials and environmental stewardship.

Personal Life and Interests

Privacy: Johann Rupert is known for his private lifestyle and rarely makes public appearances.

Philanthropy: Rupert is involved in various philanthropic activities, particularly in South Africa. He supports initiatives in education, healthcare, and conservation. The Anton Rupert Foundation, named after his father, is one of the key vehicles for his philanthropic work.

Sports Enthusiast: Rupert is an avid sports enthusiast, particularly in golf and cricket. He owns the prestigious Leopard Creek Golf Club in South Africa.

Wealth and Recognition

Net Worth: As of 2023, Johann Rupert is one of the richest individuals in Africa and consistently ranks among the wealthiest people globally. His wealth is primarily derived from his substantial stake in Richemont and other business interests.

Awards and Honors: Rupert has received numerous accolades for his contributions to business and society, including honorary doctorates and industry awards.

Summary

Johann Rupert's strategic leadership and vision have been instrumental in shaping Richemont into a global leader in the luxury goods market. His focus on heritage brands, innovation, and sustainability has driv-

en the company's success. Despite his immense wealth and influence, Rupert maintains a low public profile and is dedicated to philanthropic efforts, particularly in his home country of South Africa. His contributions to both the business world and society at large make him a respected and influential figure in the luxury goods industry.



ANEEL BHUSRI

He is a prominent entrepreneur and business executive, best known as the co-founder and CEO of Workday, a leading provider of enterprise cloud applications for finance and human resources. Here is a brief overview of his background and achievements:

Background

Education: Aneel Bhusri holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Brown University and an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Early Career: Before co-founding Workday, Bhusri worked at PeopleSoft, where he held several key roles, including Senior Vice President responsible for product strategy, business development, and marketing.

Workday

Founding: Aneel Bhusri co-founded Workday in 2005 with Dave Duffield,

the founder of PeopleSoft. The company was established with the goal of providing innovative cloud-based applications for managing business operations, particularly in human resources and finance.

Growth and Impact: Under Bhusri's leadership, Workday has grown significantly and become a major player in the enterprise software market. The company is known for its user-friendly and flexible solutions that help organizations manage their workforce and financial operations more effectively.

Public Offering: Workday went public in 2012, and its IPO was one of the most successful tech IPOs of that year, highlighting the market's confidence in the company's potential.

Leadership and Vision

Innovative Approach: Bhusri is recognized for his forward-thinking approach and commitment to innovation. He has been instrumental in driving Workday's strategy to leverage advanced technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning to enhance its products.

Corporate Culture: He places a strong emphasis on maintaining a positive and inclusive corporate culture, which has been a cornerstone of Workday's success.

Achievements and Recognition

Industry Influence: Aneel Bhusri is widely regarded as a thought leader in the technology and business communities. He frequently speaks at industry conferences and contributes to discussions on the future of enterprise software and cloud computing.

Philanthropy and Advocacy: Beyond his business pursuits, Bhusri is also involved in various philanthropic efforts and advocates for social causes, including education and diversity in the workplace.

Aneel Bhusri in the UK

Workday's Presence in the UK: Workday has a significant presence in the UK, providing cloud solutions to numerous organizations across

various sectors. The company's UK operations are an integral part of its global strategy, and it continues to expand its footprint in the region.

Aneel Bhusri's leadership and vision have been central to Workday's success, making it one of the leading providers of cloud-based enterprise solutions worldwide. His influence extends beyond the company, as he continues to shape the broader landscape of enterprise technology.



RODNEY MCMULLEN

He is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Kroger Co., one of the largest grocery retailers in the United States. Here is a detailed overview of his background, career, and impact:

Background

Education: Rodney McMullen holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and a Master of Science degree in Accounting from the University of Kentucky.

Early Career: McMullen began his career with Kroger in 1978 as a part-time stock clerk while he was a college student. Over the years, he worked his way up through various roles within the company, demonstrating a deep understanding of the business from the ground up.

Career at Kroger

Rise Through the Ranks: Over his decades-long career at Kroger, McMullen held numerous positions, including Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Vice Chairman. His roles have spanned various aspects of the business, including operations, strategy, and finance.

CEO Appointment: Rodney McMullen was named CEO of Kroger in January 2014, succeeding David Dillon. He was later appointed Chairman of the Board in January 2015.

Leadership and Vision

Strategic Initiatives: As CEO, McMullen has focused on several key strategic initiatives to drive growth and innovation at Kroger. These include expanding Kroger's digital and e-commerce capabilities, enhancing the in-store experience, and pursuing strategic partnerships and acquisitions.

Restock Kroger: One of his significant initiatives is the "Restock Kroger" program, launched in 2017, aimed at redefining the customer experience, improving product freshness and quality, and increasing operational efficiencies.

Technology and Innovation: McMullen has overseen the integration of advanced technologies into Kroger's operations, such as data analytics, personalized marketing, and the development of automated fulfillment centers through a partnership with Ocado, a UK-based online grocery retailer.

Achievements and Recognition

Industry Influence: McMullen is recognized as a key figure in the retail grocery industry. Under his leadership, Kroger has continued to grow and adapt in a highly competitive market, maintaining its position as a leading grocery retailer in the United States.

Sustainability and Community: He has also emphasized Kroger's commitment to sustainability and community engagement. Initiatives like Kroger's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste plan aim to address food insecurity and reduce food waste.

Rodney McMullen and the UK

Ocado Partnership: One of the notable connections between Rodney McMullen and the UK is Kroger's partnership with Ocado. In 2018, Kroger announced a strategic partnership with Ocado to leverage their technology for developing automated warehouses in the US, enhancing Kroger's e-commerce capabilities. This partnership highlights McMullen's focus on innovation and efficiency in grocery retailing.

Conclusion

Rodney McMullen's leadership at Kroger is marked by a blend of deep operational expertise, strategic vision, and a commitment to innovation. His efforts have not only strengthened Kroger's market position but also expanded its capabilities through technology and strategic partnerships, including those with international firms like Ocado.



JAMES RATCLIFFE

He is a prominent British entrepreneur, industrialist, and the founder and CEO of INEOS, one of the world's largest chemical companies. Here is an overview of his background, career, and influence:

Background

Education: James Ratcliffe holds a degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Birmingham and an MBA from the London Business School.

Early Career: Before founding INEOS, Ratcliffe worked for several major corporations, including Esso and Courtaulds. He gained significant experience in the chemical industry, which laid the foundation for his later ventures.

Founding and Growth of INEOS

Establishment: Ratcliffe founded INEOS in 1998 by acquiring a former BP chemicals site. His strategy focused on purchasing underperforming chemical plants and turning them into profitable operations through stringent cost controls and efficiency improvements.

Expansion: Under Ratcliffe's leadership, INEOS grew rapidly through a series of acquisitions, including parts of major chemical companies such as BASF, BP, and ICI. The company expanded its product range to include petrochemicals, specialty chemicals, and oil products.

Global Reach: INEOS has grown to become a global enterprise with operations in over 20 countries and annual revenues exceeding \$60 billion. The company's portfolio includes a wide range of products used in various industries, from automotive to pharmaceuticals.

Leadership and Vision

Innovative Strategies: Ratcliffe is known for his bold and innovative business strategies. He focuses on cost leadership, operational efficiency, and strategic acquisitions to drive growth. His approach often involves taking calculated risks to capitalize on market opportunities.

Resilience and Adaptability: Ratcliffe has steered INEOS through various economic cycles, demonstrating resilience and adaptability. His leadership style emphasizes quick decision-making and a hands-on approach to managing the busi-

ness.

Achievements and Recognition

Industrial Impact: Ratcliffe's impact on the chemical industry is substantial. INEOS is now one of the largest and most influential chemical companies globally, playing a crucial role in the supply chains of numerous industries.

Wealth and Influence: Ratcliffe is one of the wealthiest individuals in the UK. His business acumen and success have earned him recognition and influence in the business community.

Honors: In 2018, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his services to business and investment.

James Ratcliffe and the UK

Domestic Investments: Ratcliffe has made significant investments in the UK, including the development of the INEOS Automotive division, which is working on the Grenadier, a rugged 4x4 vehicle designed to fill the gap left by the discontinuation of the Land Rover Defender.

Sports Involvement: Ratcliffe has diversified his interests into sports, notably acquiring the Swiss football club Lausanne-Sport and investing in the British America's Cup sailing team, INEOS Team UK. In 2019, he also purchased the French football club OGC Nice.

Conclusion

James Ratcliffe's journey from a chemical engineer to the founder and CEO of INEOS is marked by his entrepreneurial spirit, strategic acumen, and willingness to take risks. His leadership has transformed INEOS into a global chemical powerhouse, with a significant impact on various industries worldwide. His contributions to business and his investments in the UK have solidified his reputation as one of the most influential industrialists of his time.



MICHAEL OTTO

He is a prominent German businessman and the Chairman of the Otto Group, one of the world's largest e-commerce and retail companies. Here is an overview of his background, career, and contributions:

Background

Birth and Education: Michael Otto was born on April 12, 1943, in Kulm, now Chełmno, Poland. He studied economics and business administration, earning a degree from the University of Hamburg.

Family Business: The Otto Group was founded by Michael Otto's father, Werner Otto, in 1949. The company started as a mail-order business and later expanded into retail and e-commerce.

Career at Otto Group

Early Involvement: Michael Otto joined the family business in the 1970s. He took on various roles within the company, learning the intricacies of the business and helping to drive its expansion.

Leadership: He became Chairman of the Executive Board in 1981, succeeding his father. Under his leadership, the Otto Group expanded internationally and diversified its operations beyond mail-order to include e-commerce, financial services, and logistics.

Innovation and Growth: Michael Otto spearheaded the company's

transition into the digital age. He recognized the potential of e-commerce early on and invested in the development of the company's online retail platforms. Today, Otto Group operates numerous online stores and is a major player in global e-commerce.

Otto Group Today

Global Presence: The Otto Group operates in over 30 countries and employs around 50,000 people. The company encompasses a wide range of businesses, including e-commerce, retail, logistics, and financial services.

Brands and Subsidiaries: Some of the notable brands and subsidiaries under the Otto Group umbrella include OTTO, Bonprix, Crate & Barrel, and Hermes Group, among others. The group serves millions of customers worldwide through its various platforms.

Leadership and Vision

Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility: Michael Otto is known for his commitment to sustainability and corporate social responsibility. He has championed numerous environmental and social initiatives within the company, promoting sustainable business practices and ethical sourcing.

Philanthropy: Otto is also active in philanthropy through the Michael Otto Foundation, which focuses on environmental conservation, education, and social issues. The foundation supports various projects aimed at protecting natural resources and promoting sustainable development.

Achievements and Recognition

Industry Influence: Michael Otto is highly respected in the business community for his visionary leadership and contributions to the retail and e-commerce industries. Under his guidance, the Otto Group has maintained its position as a leader in the global market.

Awards and Honors: Otto has received numerous awards and honors

for his business achievements and philanthropic efforts. These include recognition for his commitment to sustainability and his impact on the retail industry.

Michael Otto and Germany

Economic Impact: As one of Germany's most successful businessmen, Michael Otto has had a significant impact on the country's economy. The Otto Group is one of the largest private companies in Germany, contributing substantially to employment and economic activity.

Cultural Influence: Beyond his business endeavors, Otto is involved in various cultural and social initiatives in Germany. He supports arts, education, and environmental projects, enhancing the cultural and social fabric of the country.

Conclusion

Michael Otto's leadership has transformed the Otto Group into a global e-commerce powerhouse. His commitment to innovation, sustainability, and corporate responsibility has not only driven the company's success but also set a standard for ethical business practices. His influence extends beyond the business world into philanthropy and social causes, making him a prominent figure in Germany and internationally.



LEN BLAVATNIK

He is a prominent British-American businessman and philanthropist, best known as the founder and chairman of Access Industries, a privately-held industrial

group with investments in various sectors. Here's an overview of his background, career, and impact:

Background

Birth and Education: Len Blavatnik was born on June 14, 1957, in Odessa, Ukraine (formerly part of the Soviet Union). He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1978.

Education: Blavatnik earned a Master of Science in Computer Science from Columbia University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Career and Business Ventures

Founding Access Industries: Len Blavatnik founded Access Industries in 1986 as a privately-held industrial group. The company's initial focus was on acquiring and investing in companies in various industries, including natural resources, media, telecommunications, and technology.

Investment Portfolio: Access Industries has made significant investments across multiple sectors, including oil and gas (through stakes in companies like LyondellBasell and Wintershall Dea), media and entertainment (Warner Music Group, AI Film), technology (Zynga, Rocket Lab), and real estate (acquiring properties in prime locations such as New York City and London).

Leadership and Vision

Entrepreneurial Spirit: Blavatnik is known for his entrepreneurial spirit and strategic investment approach. He has a knack for identifying undervalued assets and opportunities for growth, often making bold moves to capitalize on market trends.

Global Perspective: Access Industries operates on a global scale, with investments and operations spanning across North America, Europe, and beyond. Blavatnik's global perspective and diversified investment strategy have contributed to the success and resilience of the company.

Philanthropy and Civic Engagement

Charitable Initiatives: Len Blavatnik is actively involved in philanthropy through the Blavatnik Family Foundation, which supports various educational, scientific, cultural, and healthcare initiatives around the world. The foundation has made significant contributions to institutions like Oxford University, Harvard University, and the Tate Modern in London.

Civic Leadership: Blavatnik serves on the boards of several prestigious institutions, including the Harvard University Global Advisory Council, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the New York Academy of Sciences. He has also received numerous awards and honors for his philanthropic efforts and contributions to society.

Len Blavatnik and the UK

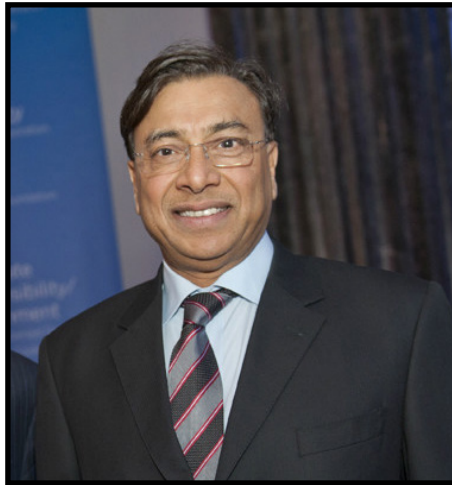
Investments and Presence: While Len Blavatnik is based in the United States, Access Industries has significant investments and a presence in the UK. The company's investments in the UK include stakes in media, entertainment, real estate, and technology companies, contributing to the country's economy and business landscape.

Cultural and Educational Contributions: Blavatnik's philanthropic efforts extend to the UK, where the Blavatnik Family Foundation has supported educational institutions, cultural organizations, and scientific research. His contributions have had a positive impact on the UK's academic and cultural sectors.

Conclusion

Len Blavatnik's entrepreneurial journey and business acumen have made him one of the most influential figures in the business world. Through Access Industries, he has built a diversified investment portfolio with a global footprint, while his philanthropic endeavors have left a lasting legacy in education, science, and culture. His contributions to the UK's business, cultural, and educational landscape underscore

his significant impact on both sides of the Atlantic.



LAKSHMI MITTAL

He is an Indian-born British billionaire businessman known for his leadership as the Chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal, the world's largest steelmaking company. Here's an overview of his background, career, and impact:

Background:

Birth and Education: Lakshmi Mittal was born on June 15, 1950, in Sadulpur, Rajasthan, India. He graduated from St. Xavier's College in Kolkata with a degree in Commerce.

Career and Business Ventures:

Early Ventures: Mittal began his career working in his family's steel business in India. In the 1970s, he founded his own steel company, which grew rapidly through acquisitions and expansions.

Global Expansion: Mittal's vision for global expansion led him to acquire struggling steel companies worldwide, consolidating them into what would eventually become ArcelorMittal.

Formation of ArcelorMittal: In 2006, Lakshmi Mittal orchestrated the merger of Arcelor, a European steel company, with his own company, Mittal Steel, creating ArcelorMittal. This merger formed the largest

steelmaking company in the world, with operations in more than 60 countries.

Leadership and Vision:

Industry Leadership: Mittal's leadership has been instrumental in shaping ArcelorMittal into a global powerhouse in the steel industry. He is known for his strategic vision, bold acquisitions, and ability to navigate complex global markets.

Innovation and Sustainability: Under Mittal's leadership, ArcelorMittal has invested in research and development to innovate and develop sustainable steelmaking technologies. The company is committed to reducing its environmental impact and has implemented initiatives to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions.

Achievements and Recognition:

Business Success: Lakshmi Mittal's success in the steel industry has made him one of the wealthiest individuals globally. He has consistently ranked among the world's richest people according to Forbes magazine.

Philanthropy: Mittal and his family are active philanthropists, supporting various charitable causes, particularly in the areas of education, healthcare, and poverty alleviation. The Mittal family has donated significant sums to establish educational institutions and fund healthcare initiatives in India and other parts of the world.

Lakshmi Mittal and the UK:

Residence and Investments: Lakshmi Mittal became a British citizen in 2005 and resides in the UK. ArcelorMittal has significant operations and investments in the UK, including steelmaking facilities and research centers.

Cultural Contributions: Mittal and his family have made notable contributions to the cultural landscape of the UK. In 2008, they donated £19.5 million to fund the construction of the ArcelorMittal Orbit, a sculpture and observation tower in London's

Olympic Park, designed by artist Anish Kapoor.

Conclusion:

Lakshmi Mittal's leadership as the Chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal has had a profound impact on the global steel industry. His vision, strategic acquisitions, and commitment to innovation have propelled ArcelorMittal to the forefront of the industry. Additionally, Mittal's philanthropic efforts and cultural contributions reflect his commitment to giving back to society and leaving a positive legacy.



VAGIT ALEKPEROV

He is a prominent Russian businessman who served as the President of LUKOIL, one of the largest energy companies in the world. Here's an overview of his background, career, and contributions:

Background:

Early Life and Education: Vagit Alekperov was born on September 1, 1950, in Baku, Azerbaijan, which was then part of the Soviet Union. He graduated from the Azerbaijan Institute of Oil and Petrochemicals in 1974 with a degree in chemical engineering.

Career and Business Ventures:

Early Career: Alekperov began his career in the oil industry working as

an engineer in various capacities. He rose through the ranks at the Soviet Ministry of the Oil and Gas Industry and gained valuable experience in oil production and management.

Formation of LUKOIL: In 1991, Alekperov played a key role in the creation of LUKOIL, one of the first private oil companies in Russia after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. He was appointed as the company's President and has been instrumental in shaping its growth and success.

Expansion and Diversification: Under Alekperov's leadership, LUKOIL expanded its operations both domestically and internationally. The company became a major player in the global energy market, with interests in oil exploration, production, refining, and marketing.

Leadership and Vision:

Strategic Vision: Alekperov is known for his strategic vision and leadership in navigating LUKOIL through various challenges and market fluctuations. He has focused on modernizing and optimizing the company's operations while maintaining a strong commitment to safety and environmental responsibility.

Innovation and Technology: Alekperov has emphasized the importance of innovation and technology in the oil and gas industry. LUKOIL has invested in research and development to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and develop new technologies for oil exploration and production.

Achievements and Recognition:

Industry Influence: Vagit Alekperov is considered one of the most influential figures in the global energy industry. Under his leadership, LUKOIL has become one of the largest oil companies in the world, with operations spanning multiple continents.

Recognition: Alekperov has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to the energy sector and Russian business. He

is widely respected for his business acumen and leadership abilities.

Vagit Alekperov's Legacy:

Retirement: While there hasn't been any announcement regarding Alekperov's retirement from LUKOIL as of my last update, it's worth noting that he has led the company for several decades and may eventually transition into a different role or retire.

Legacy: Alekperov's legacy as the President of LUKOIL is marked by the company's significant growth and success under his leadership. He has played a pivotal role in shaping Russia's oil industry and establishing LUKOIL as a major player in the global energy market.

Conclusion:

Vagit Alekperov's tenure as the President of LUKOIL has been characterized by his strategic vision, leadership, and contributions to the energy industry. His accomplishments have solidified LUKOIL's position as a leading global energy company, and his legacy will continue to influence the industry for years to come.



GENNADY TIMCHENKO

He is a Russian businessman known for his involvement in various industries, including energy and commodities trading. He is one of the co-founders and former co-owners of Gunvor Group, one of the world's largest

commodity trading companies. Here's an overview of his background, career, and contributions:

Background:

Early Life: Gennady Timchenko was born on November 9, 1952, in Leninakan, Armenian SSR (now Gyumri, Armenia), which was then part of the Soviet Union.

Education: Timchenko graduated from the Leningrad Institute of Finance and Economics in 1976 with a degree in Economics and Finance.

Career and Business Ventures:

Early Career: Timchenko began his career in the Soviet Union's Ministry of Foreign Trade, where he specialized in foreign economic relations.

Commodities Trading: In the 1990s, Timchenko transitioned into commodities trading, founding his own trading company. He co-founded Gunvor Group in 2000 with Swedish businessman Torbjörn Törnqvist. Gunvor quickly became one of the world's largest independent energy trading companies, specializing in crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas, and other commodities.

Expansion: Under Timchenko's leadership, Gunvor expanded its operations globally, with a significant presence in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. The company's success was driven by Timchenko's strategic vision and expertise in energy markets.

Leadership and Vision:

Business Acumen: Timchenko is known for his business acumen and ability to navigate complex international markets. He played a central role in building Gunvor into a global trading powerhouse.

Diversification: Under Timchenko's leadership, Gunvor diversified its activities beyond energy trading into areas such as logistics, infrastructure, and investments in the energy sector.

Political Connections and Controversy:

Relationship with Putin: Gennady Timchenko has been associated with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and his ties to the Russian government have drawn scrutiny. He is considered part of Putin's inner circle of influential businessmen.

Sanctions: Timchenko has been subject to sanctions by the United States and the European Union due to his close ties to Putin and his alleged involvement in Russian government activities. These sanctions have had implications for his business activities and personal finances.

Departure from Gunvor:

Sale of Stake: In 2014, amid increasing scrutiny and sanctions, Gennady Timchenko sold his stake in Gunvor to his business partner, Torbjörn Törnqvist. The sale was reportedly prompted by concerns over the impact of sanctions on Gunvor's business operations.

Conclusion:

Gennady Timchenko's career is notable for his role in co-founding and building Gunvor Group into a global energy trading giant. While his business achievements have been significant, his close ties to the Russian government and subsequent sanctions have also drawn attention and controversy. Timchenko's departure from Gunvor marked a significant change in his business interests, but his influence in the energy and commodities trading sectors remains substantial.



Italy seizes yacht owned by Russian oligarch Mordashov

-source | Reuters



ALEXEY MORDASHOV

He is a prominent Russian businessman and the Chairman of Severstal, one of Russia's largest steel producers. Here's an overview of his background, career, and contributions:

Background:

Early Life: Alexey Mordashov was born on September 26, 1965, in Cherepovets, Russia.

Education: He graduated from the Leningrad Engineering-Economic Institute in 1988 with a degree in Economics.

Career and Business Ventures:

Early Career: Mordashov began his career working in various roles within the steel industry. In the early 1990s, he became involved with Severstal, one of Russia's leading steel companies.

Leadership at Severstal: Mordashov rose through the ranks at Severstal and became its CEO in 1996. Under his leadership, Severstal expanded its operations and became one of the largest and most profitable steel companies in Russia and globally.

Diversification: Mordashov led Severstal's diversification efforts into other industries, including mining, energy, and telecommunications. The company's diversified portfolio helped it weather fluctuations in the steel market and contributed to its overall stability and growth.

Leadership and Vision:

Strategic Vision: Mordashov is known for his strategic vision and leadership in the steel industry. He has focused on modernizing Severstal's operations, improving efficiency, and investing in technology and innovation.

Corporate Governance: Mordashov is recognized for his commitment to corporate governance and transparency. Severstal has been praised for its adherence to international standards and best practices in corporate governance.

Achievements and Recognition:

Industry Influence: Alexey Mordashov is considered one of the most influential figures in the global steel industry. Severstal's strong performance under his leadership has solidified its position as a key player in the industry.

Awards and Honors: Mordashov has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to business and industry. He has been recognized for his leadership, innovation, and philanthropy.

Philanthropy and Civic Engagement:

Charitable Initiatives: Mordashov is involved in various philanthropic efforts through the charitable foundation he established. The foundation supports initiatives in education, healthcare, culture, and social welfare, benefiting communities in Russia and beyond.

Civic Leadership: Mordashov is active in civic and social initiatives aimed at promoting economic development, entrepreneurship, and social welfare in Russia.

Conclusion:

Alexey Mordashov's leadership at Severstal has been characterized by his strategic vision, commitment to innovation, and contributions to the global steel industry. His efforts

have not only strengthened Severstal's position as a leading steel producer but also made significant contributions to Russia's economy and society. Mordashov's continued influence and involvement in business and philanthropy underscore his importance as a key figure in Russian industry and society.



LEONID MIKHELSON

He is the CEO of Novatek, Russia's largest independent natural gas producer. He has been a key figure in the company's development and growth. Here are some details about him:

Background and Career

Full Name: Leonid Viktorovich Mikhelson

Date of Birth: August 11, 1955

Education: Graduated from the Samara Institute of Civil Engineering in 1977 with a degree in Industrial Civil Engineering.

Career Highlights

1. Early Career:

- Mikhelson began his career as a foreman at a construction and assembly company in Tyumen, which was part of the Ministry of Construction of the RSFSR.

- He quickly rose through the ranks, becoming the chief engineer of the Ryazantruboprovodstroy company,

and later its general director.

2. Novatek:

- Mikhelson co-founded Novatek in 1994. Under his leadership, the company has become a major player in the global natural gas market.

- Novatek focuses on exploration, production, processing, and marketing of natural gas and liquid hydrocarbons. It operates primarily in the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Area, which holds some of the largest gas reserves in the world.

3. Achievements:

- Under Mikhelson's guidance, Novatek has developed several significant projects, including the Yamal LNG project, which has positioned the company as a key exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

- Mikhelson has been instrumental in securing international partnerships and investments, particularly with companies from China and France, to finance and develop Novatek's LNG projects.

Personal Life and Wealth

Wealth: Leonid Mikhelson is one of Russia's wealthiest individuals. His net worth has been reported in the tens of billions of dollars, largely due to his significant ownership stake in Novatek.

Personal Interests: He is known to have an interest in art and has invested in cultural projects and art exhibitions in Russia.

Influence and Recognition

- Mikhelson is recognized as a significant figure in the energy sector, both in Russia and globally. His leadership has not only expanded Novatek's operations but also increased Russia's presence in the global LNG market.

- He has been featured in various lists of influential businesspeople and has received numerous awards for his contributions to the industry.

Leonid Mikhelson's strategic vision and business acumen have made Novatek a leading force in the nat-

ural gas industry, contributing significantly to Russia's energy export capabilities.



PETR KELLNER

He was the founder and majority shareholder of PPF Group, a Czech multinational investment company with interests in various sectors, including financial services, telecommunications, media, and real estate. Here are some key details about him:

Background and Career

Full Name: Petr Kellner

Date of Birth: May 20, 1964

Date of Death: March 27, 2021

Education: Graduated from the University of Economics in Prague in 1986.

Career Highlights

1. Founding of PPF Group:

- In 1991, shortly after the fall of communism in Czechoslovakia, Petr Kellner founded PPF Group (První Privatizační Fond), initially focused on investing in the voucher privatization program.

- The group's first significant acquisition was a stake in Česká pojišťovna, a major Czech insurance company, which became the foundation for PPF's future growth.

2. Expansion and Diversification:

- Under Kellner's leadership, PPF Group expanded into various sectors and regions. It grew its portfolio to include assets in financial services, telecommunications, media, real estate, and biotechnology.

- PPF acquired Home Credit, which became a leading consumer finance provider in several countries, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, Asia, and Russia.

- PPF also invested in telecommunications, acquiring significant stakes in companies like O2 Czech Republic and Telenor's operations in Central and Eastern Europe.

3. Global Presence:

- PPF Group's investments spanned over 20 countries, making it a major international player. Its diversified portfolio included substantial assets in Europe, Asia, and the United States.

Personal Life and Wealth

Wealth: Petr Kellner was the wealthiest person in the Czech Republic, with a net worth estimated in the billions of dollars. At the time of his death, he was one of the richest individuals in Central and Eastern Europe.

Philanthropy: Kellner was known for his philanthropic activities, particularly in education. The Kellner Family Foundation, established by him and his wife, focused on supporting educational projects and providing scholarships to talented students.

Influence and Recognition

Business Influence: Kellner was a significant figure in the Czech and international business communities. His strategic vision and investment acumen transformed PPF Group into a global investment powerhouse.

Legacy: Despite his relatively private nature, Kellner's impact on the Czech economy and his contributions to various sectors have left

a lasting legacy. His death in a helicopter crash in Alaska in 2021 was widely mourned and marked the end of an era for PPF Group.

Death

- Petr Kellner tragically died in a helicopter crash on March 27, 2021, near Knik Glacier in Alaska. The accident claimed the lives of five people, including Kellner. His passing was a significant loss to the business world, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe.

Petr Kellner's leadership and vision were instrumental in building PPF Group into a formidable global investment entity, and his influence continues to be felt through the company's ongoing operations and investments.



ANDERS HOLCH POVLSEN

He is the CEO and sole owner of Bestseller, a Danish fashion company. He is also known for being one of the largest private landowners in the United Kingdom and for his significant investments in various sectors. Here are some key details about him:

Background and Career

Full Name: Anders Holch Povlsen

Date of Birth: November 4, 1972

Nationality: Danish

Career Highlights

2. Bestseller:

Founding: Bestseller was founded by Anders Holch Povlsen's parents, Troels Holch Povlsen and Merete Bech Povlsen, in 1975. The company began as a single store in Brande, Denmark.

Leadership: Anders Holch Povlsen took over the company at a young age. Under his leadership, Bestseller expanded significantly and now owns several well-known fashion brands, including Vero Moda, Jack & Jones, ONLY, and SELECTED.

Global Presence: Bestseller operates in more than 70 markets worldwide, with thousands of retail stores and a strong online presence. The company is known for its fast-fashion approach, catering to a broad audience with a wide range of clothing and accessories.

2. Investment Activities:

Land Ownership: Povlsen is one of the largest private landowners in the UK, owning substantial tracts of land in Scotland. His holdings include large estates focused on conservation and sustainable land management.

Technology and Retail: Povlsen has made significant investments in various technology and e-commerce companies. He holds substantial stakes in ASOS, an online fashion retailer, and Zalando, a European e-commerce company. He is also an investor in several other tech ventures and startups.

Personal Life and Wealth

Wealth: Anders Holch Povlsen is one of the wealthiest individuals in Denmark, with a net worth estimated in the billions of dollars. His wealth primarily stems from his ownership of Bestseller and his various investments.

Personal Tragedy: In April 2019, Povlsen faced a personal tragedy when three of his four children were killed in the Easter bombings in Sri

Lanka. This devastating event had a profound impact on him and his family.

Influence and Recognition

Business Influence: Povlsen is a significant figure in the fashion industry and the investment community. His strategic decisions have not only expanded Bestseller's global footprint but also made him a prominent investor in the tech and retail sectors.

Conservation Efforts: Povlsen is known for his commitment to environmental conservation. His extensive landholdings in Scotland are managed with a focus on ecological sustainability and restoration, reflecting his dedication to preserving natural landscapes.

Legacy and Impact

Fashion Industry: Anders Holch Povlsen's influence on the fashion industry through Bestseller has been substantial. The company's brands are household names in many countries, and its business model has set trends in the fast-fashion sector.

Philanthropy and Conservation: Povlsen's investments in land and conservation efforts highlight his commitment to environmental sustainability. His work in Scotland, in particular, aims to protect and restore natural habitats, contributing to the preservation of the region's biodiversity.

Anders Holch Povlsen's leadership of Bestseller and his diverse investment portfolio have made him a key player in the fashion and investment worlds, while his conservation efforts demonstrate his dedication to environmental stewardship



ASOS billionaire Anders Holch Povlsen wins right to build a floating sauna and changing room on banks of Loch Ness at his £15m Scottish castle estate



STEFANO PESSINA

He is the Executive Vice Chairman of Walgreens Boots Alliance, a global leader in retail and wholesale pharmacy. He is known for his strategic vision and leadership in transforming the pharmaceutical and health retail sectors. Here are some key details about him:

Background and Career

Full Name: Stefano Pessina

Date of Birth: June 4, 1941

Nationality: Italian

Career Highlights

1. Early Career:

- Pessina began his career in the family business, starting in the wholesale pharmaceutical sector.

- He earned a degree in nuclear engineering from the Polytechnic University of Milan.

2. Alliance Santé and Alliance UniChem:

- In the 1970s, Pessina took over his family's pharmaceutical wholesaling business and transformed it into Alliance Santé.

- He orchestrated the merger of Alliance Santé with the UK-based UniChem in 1997, forming Alliance UniChem, a leading European pharmaceutical wholesaler and retailer.

3. Boots and Walgreens Merger:

- In 2006, Alliance UniChem

merged with Boots Group to form Alliance Boots, with Pessina as the Executive Chairman. This merger created a major international player in health and beauty retail.

- Pessina led the significant merger between Walgreens and Alliance Boots in 2014, creating Walgreens Boots Alliance. This merger was a landmark event, forming one of the largest global pharmacy-led health and wellbeing enterprises.

Role and Achievements at Walgreens Boots Alliance

Executive Vice Chairman and CEO:

- Pessina served as CEO of Walgreens Boots Alliance from 2015 to 2021 before stepping down to become the Executive Vice Chairman.

- His tenure as CEO was marked by significant strategic initiatives to expand the company's global footprint and improve operational efficiencies.

Strategic Vision:

- Under Pessina's leadership, Walgreens Boots Alliance expanded its reach, enhanced its supply chain, and leveraged technology to improve customer service and operational efficiency.

- He focused on integrating the retail and wholesale pharmacy sectors, emphasizing synergies and economies of scale.

Partnerships and Acquisitions:

- Pessina spearheaded numerous acquisitions and partnerships, including the acquisition of a stake in AmerisourceBergen, a leading pharmaceutical sourcing and distribution services company.

- He emphasized building strategic partnerships to enhance the company's service offerings and expand its market presence.

Personal Life and Wealth

Wealth: Stefano Pessina is one of the wealthiest individuals in Italy, with his net worth estimated in the billions of dollars. His wealth primarily comes from his significant

ownership stake in Walgreens Boots Alliance and his successful career in the pharmaceutical industry.

Personal Interests: Pessina maintains a relatively private personal life. He is known for his low-profile demeanor despite his significant influence in the business world.

Influence and Recognition

Industry Influence: Pessina is recognized as a visionary leader in the pharmaceutical and retail sectors. His strategic insights and leadership have significantly shaped the global pharmacy landscape.

Awards and Honors: Over his career, Pessina has received numerous accolades for his contributions to the industry, including recognition for his leadership and strategic impact.

Legacy and Impact

Pharmaceutical Industry: Stefano Pessina's legacy in the pharmaceutical industry is marked by his role in creating and leading one of the largest global pharmacy and health retail companies.

Global Expansion: His strategic vision and leadership have driven the global expansion of Walgreens Boots Alliance, enhancing its position as a leader in healthcare retail and wholesale.

Stefano Pessina's impact on the pharmaceutical and retail sectors is profound, with his strategic leadership driving the growth and transformation of Walgreens Boots Alliance into a global powerhouse.



Stefano Pessina - Monaco Tribune



HEINRICH DEICHMANN

He is the CEO of Deichmann SE, a leading shoe retail company based in Germany. Under his leadership, Deichmann has become one of the largest shoe retailers in Europe and has expanded its presence globally. Here are some key details about him:

Background and Career

Full Name: Heinrich Otto Deichmann

Date of Birth: November 30, 1962

Nationality: German

Career Highlights

1. Family Business:

- Deichmann SE was founded by Heinrich Deichmann's grandfather, Heinrich Deichmann Sr., in 1913 as a cobbler shop in Essen, Germany.

- Heinrich Deichmann joined the family business in 1989 after completing his studies in business administration and theology.

2. Leadership at Deichmann SE:

- Heinrich Deichmann became the CEO of Deichmann SE in 1999, taking over from his father, Heinz-Horst Deichmann.

- Under his leadership, Deichmann SE has seen significant expansion both in Germany and internationally.

3. Global Expansion:

- Deichmann SE has grown to become one of the largest shoe retailers in Europe, with a presence in over 30 countries.

- The company operates under various brand names in different markets, including Dosenbach in Switzerland, Ochsner Shoes in Switzerland, vanHaren in the Netherlands, and Rack Room Shoes and Off Broadway Shoe Warehouse in the United States.

Business Strategy and Achievements

Retail Excellence:

- Deichmann SE is known for its focus on providing affordable, high-quality footwear. The company emphasizes a wide selection of shoes for all ages and preferences.

- The company has a robust supply chain and efficient logistics operations, allowing it to offer competitive prices and maintain a strong market presence.

Innovation and Online Presence:

- Under Heinrich Deichmann's leadership, the company has embraced e-commerce and digital transformation. Deichmann has developed a strong online presence, complementing its extensive network of physical stores.

- The company has invested in technology and innovation to enhance customer experience, including online shopping platforms and modern store concepts.

Personal Life and Philanthropy

Wealth: Heinrich Deichmann is one of the wealthiest individuals in Germany, with a significant portion of his wealth derived from his ownership of Deichmann SE.

Philanthropy: Deichmann is known for his commitment to social and philanthropic causes. He has continued the family tradition of philanthropy, supporting various charitable projects, particularly those focused on education, health, and

social welfare.

- The Deichmann Foundation supports numerous initiatives both in Germany and internationally, including projects aimed at helping disadvantaged children and promoting access to education and healthcare.

Influence and Recognition

Industry Influence: Heinrich Deichmann is a respected figure in the retail industry, known for his business acumen and leadership in expanding Deichmann SE's global footprint.

Awards and Honors: He has received various accolades for his contributions to the retail sector and his philanthropic efforts. His leadership has been instrumental in maintaining Deichmann SE's position as a market leader.

Legacy and Impact

Retail Sector: Heinrich Deichmann's leadership has solidified Deichmann SE's status as a dominant player in the shoe retail industry, recognized for its wide range of products and customer-centric approach.

Philanthropic Efforts: His commitment to philanthropy and social responsibility reflects the company's values and has had a positive impact on numerous communities around the world.

Heinrich Deichmann's successful leadership of Deichmann SE and his dedication to philanthropy have made him a notable figure in the retail industry and beyond, continuing the legacy of the family business while expanding its global reach.



HASSO PLATTNER

He is a prominent German entrepreneur and philanthropist, best known as the co-founder of SAP SE, one of the world's leading enterprise software companies. He has played a significant role in shaping the software industry and has made substantial contributions to education and research through his philanthropic efforts. Here are some key details about him:

Background and Career

Full Name: Hasso Plattner

Date of Birth: January 21, 1944

Nationality: German

Education: Studied communications engineering at the University of Karlsruhe (now Karlsruhe Institute of Technology).

Career Highlights

1. Founding of SAP:

- In 1972, Hasso Plattner, along with four former IBM colleagues (Dietmar Hopp, Klaus Tschira, Claus Wellenreuther, and Hans-Werner Hector), founded SAP (Systems, Applications, and Products in Data Processing).

- The company was established to develop standard enterprise software for real-time data processing. SAP's first product, SAP R/2, revolutionized data processing by allowing companies to integrate their business processes.

2. Growth and Innovation:



DEICHMANN

- Under Plattner's leadership, SAP introduced SAP R/3 in the 1990s, a client-server software that became the industry standard for enterprise resource planning (ERP).

- Plattner served as CEO of SAP until 2003, when he transitioned to the role of Chairman of the Supervisory Board, a position he holds to this day.

3. Technological Contributions:

- Plattner has been a driving force behind SAP's innovation, particularly in the development of SAP HANA, an in-memory database platform that has transformed data processing speeds and capabilities.

- His vision for real-time data analytics and business intelligence has kept SAP at the forefront of enterprise software solutions.

Personal Life and Philanthropy

Wealth: Hasso Plattner is one of Germany's wealthiest individuals, with a net worth estimated in the billions of dollars. His wealth primarily stems from his substantial ownership stake in SAP.

Philanthropy:

- Plattner is a notable philanthropist, with significant contributions to education, research, and the arts.

- He established the Hasso Plattner Institute (HPI) in 1998, which focuses on IT systems engineering and offers bachelor's, master's, and PhD programs. HPI is part of the University of Potsdam in Germany and is renowned for its cutting-edge research and innovation in information technology.

- In 2017, he donated \$20 million to the University of Cape Town to establish the Hasso Plattner School of Design Thinking (d-school), promoting innovation and creative problem-solving in Africa.

Influence and Recognition

Industry Influence: Plattner is a highly respected figure in the tech industry, known for his forward-thinking approach and contributions to

enterprise software development. His work has had a lasting impact on how businesses manage their operations and data.

Awards and Honors: Over his career, Plattner has received numerous awards and honors, including the Werner-von-Siemens-Ring, one of the highest technical and scientific honors in Germany, for his contributions to information technology.

Academic Involvement: Plattner holds honorary doctorates from various institutions and has been actively involved in academia, promoting education and research in the IT field.

Legacy and Impact

Enterprise Software: Hasso Plattner's legacy in the enterprise software industry is profound. His vision and leadership have been instrumental in SAP's rise to become a global leader in business software solutions.

Philanthropy and Education: His philanthropic efforts, particularly through the Hasso Plattner Institute, have made significant contributions to the fields of IT and design thinking, fostering innovation and education around the world.

Hasso Plattner's contributions to technology and his commitment to philanthropy and education have made him a pivotal figure in both the business and academic communities, ensuring his legacy will endure for generations.



DMITRY RYBOLOVLEV

He is a prominent Russian investor

and businessman, known for his involvement in various sectors, including fertilizer production, real estate, and sports. Here are some key details about him:

Background and Career

Full Name: Dmitry Yevgenyevich Rybolovlev

Date of Birth: November 22, 1966

Nationality: Russian

Education: Graduated from the Perm Medical Institute in 1990, specializing in cardiology.

Career Highlights

1. Early Career:

- After completing his medical education, Rybolovlev initially worked as a doctor. However, he soon shifted to business, capitalizing on the economic opportunities in post-Soviet Russia.

2. Uralkali:

- In the early 1990s, Rybolovlev founded several companies before acquiring a controlling stake in Uralkali, one of the world's largest producers of potash fertilizers.

- As the majority shareholder and chairman, he transformed Uralkali into a major global player in the fertilizer industry. Under his leadership, the company significantly increased its production and market share.

- In 2010, Rybolovlev sold his stake in Uralkali for approximately \$6.5 billion, marking one of the largest transactions in the Russian fertilizer sector.

3. Real Estate Investments:

- Following the sale of his stake in Uralkali, Rybolovlev diversified his investments, focusing on high-profile real estate acquisitions around the world.

- Notable purchases include Donald Trump's Palm Beach mansion, the Greek island of Skorprios (formerly owned by Aristotle Onassis), and various luxury properties in

New York, Monaco, and Switzerland.

4. Sports Investments:

- In 2011, Rybolovlev acquired a majority stake in AS Monaco FC, a football club in the French Ligue 1. Under his ownership, the club has experienced a resurgence, including winning the Ligue 1 title in the 2016-2017 season.

- His investment in AS Monaco includes significant financial backing for the club's infrastructure and player acquisitions, aiming to establish Monaco as a competitive force in European football.

Personal Life and Wealth

Wealth: Dmitry Rybolovlev is one of Russia's wealthiest individuals, with his net worth estimated in the billions of dollars. His wealth comes from the sale of his stake in Uralkali and his diverse portfolio of investments.

Personal Interests: He is known for his interest in art and high-value collectibles, having assembled an impressive art collection that includes works by renowned artists such as Picasso and van Gogh.

Influence and Recognition

Business Influence: Rybolovlev is recognized for his strategic investments and his ability to navigate complex business environments. His leadership in transforming Uralkali and his successful real estate and sports ventures highlight his business acumen.

Controversies: Rybolovlev has been involved in several legal disputes and controversies, particularly related to his art collection and real estate transactions. These issues have garnered significant media attention and have had an impact on his public profile.

Legacy and Impact

Fertilizer Industry: Dmitry Rybolovlev's role in the expansion of Uralkali has had a lasting impact on the global fertilizer market, establishing the company as a key player in the industry.

Real Estate and Sports: His high-profile real estate acquisitions and investment in AS Monaco FC have cemented his status as an influential figure in both sectors, contributing to the growth and success of these investments.

Dmitry Rybolovlev's diverse business ventures and strategic investments have made him a prominent figure in various industries, reflecting his adaptability and business prowess. His impact on the fertilizer industry, real estate market, and sports world underscores his multifaceted career and enduring influence.



Dietmar Hopp

He is a renowned German entrepreneur and philanthropist, best known as one of the co-founders of SAP SE, one of the world's largest enterprise software companies. He is also noted for his significant contributions to sports and various philanthropic endeavors. Here are some key details about him:

Background and Career

Full Name: Dietmar Hopp

Date of Birth: April 26, 1940

Nationality: German

Education: Studied telecommunications engineering at the University of Karlsruhe (now Karlsruhe Institute of Technology).

Career Highlights

1. Founding of SAP:

- In 1972, Dietmar Hopp co-founded SAP (Systems, Applications, and Products in Data Processing) along with Hasso Plattner, Klaus Tschira, Claus Wellenreuther, and Hans-Werner Hector.

- SAP was established to create standard enterprise software for real-time data processing. The company's first product, SAP R/2, revolutionized how businesses managed their operations and data.

2. Leadership at SAP:

- Hopp played a crucial role in SAP's growth and success, serving as the company's CEO from 1988 to 1998 and as chairman of the supervisory board from 1998 to 2003.

- Under his leadership, SAP developed SAP R/3, a client-server software that became the industry standard for enterprise resource planning (ERP).

3. Innovation and Growth:

- Hopp's tenure saw SAP become a global leader in enterprise software solutions, expanding its product offerings and market reach.

- The company's focus on innovation and customer-centric solutions helped it grow rapidly, establishing a significant presence in various industries worldwide.

Personal Life and Philanthropy

Wealth: Dietmar Hopp is one of Germany's wealthiest individuals, with a net worth estimated in the billions of dollars, largely derived from his stake in SAP.

Philanthropy:

- Hopp is a prominent philanthropist, dedicating a significant portion of his wealth to various charitable causes through the Dietmar Hopp Foundation, established in 1995.

- The foundation focuses on projects in education, healthcare, sports, and social programs. It has supported numerous initiatives, including funding medical research, building hospitals, and supporting youth

sports.

Contributions to Sports

TSG 1899 Hoffenheim:

- Hopp is the principal financial backer of TSG 1899 Hoffenheim, a football club in the German Bundesliga. He has invested heavily in the club's development, infrastructure, and youth programs.

- Under his support, Hoffenheim rose from the lower leagues to the Bundesliga, establishing itself as a competitive team in German football.

Golf and Other Sports:

- Hopp has also invested in other sports, including golf. He was instrumental in the development of the St. Leon-Rot golf club, one of the premier golf clubs in Europe.

- His contributions to sports extend to supporting various local sports initiatives and facilities.

Influence and Recognition

Industry Influence: Hopp is recognized as a pioneer in the software industry, with his contributions to SAP significantly shaping the enterprise software landscape.

Awards and Honors: He has received numerous accolades for his business achievements and philanthropic efforts, including honorary doctorates and national honors such as the Order of Merit of Baden-Württemberg.

Legacy and Impact

Enterprise Software: Dietmar Hopp's work at SAP has left a lasting legacy in the enterprise software industry, with SAP continuing to be a global leader in business solutions.

Philanthropy and Community Impact: His philanthropic efforts have made a profound impact on communities, particularly in the fields of healthcare, education, and sports. His foundation's work continues to benefit numerous individuals and organizations.

Sports Development: Hopp's in-

vestment in TSG 1899 Hoffenheim and other sports initiatives has fostered the growth and development of sports at various levels, promoting physical activity and supporting young athletes.

Dietmar Hopp's contributions to technology, philanthropy, and sports have established him as a key figure in these fields, with his legacy continuing to influence and inspire.



Eugene Kaspersky

He is a prominent Russian cybersecurity expert and the CEO of Kaspersky Lab, a global cybersecurity company he co-founded in 1997. He is known for his expertise in cybersecurity and his contributions to the development of advanced security software.

Key Points About Eugene Kaspersky:

1. Early Life and Education:

- Born on October 4, 1965, in Novorossiysk, Russia.

- Studied mathematics and cryptography at the Technical Faculty of the KGB Higher School, now the Institute of Cryptography, Telecommunications, and Computer Science.

2. Career:

- Began his career working in the Soviet military, focusing on cryptography.

- In the early 1990s, he started working on antivirus software after

his computer was infected by the Cascade virus.

- Founded Kaspersky Lab in 1997 with a team of cybersecurity experts, including his then-wife Natalya Kaspersky.

3. Kaspersky Lab:

- The company is headquartered in Moscow and operates globally, offering a range of cybersecurity products and services.

- Known for its antivirus software, endpoint protection solutions, and threat intelligence services.

- Kaspersky Lab has been recognized for its research into advanced persistent threats (APTs) and cyber espionage campaigns.

4. Publications and Research:

- Eugene Kaspersky is an active contributor to the cyber security community through research papers, blogs, and public speaking.

- He has highlighted the importance of international cooperation in combating cyber threats and has called for regulations to improve global cybersecurity standards.

5. Controversies:

- Kaspersky Lab has faced scrutiny and accusations from some governments, particularly in the United States, alleging that its software could be used for espionage by the Russian government. Kaspersky has consistently denied these allegations.

- In 2017, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security banned the use of Kaspersky software in federal agencies, citing security concerns.

6. Awards and Recognition:

- Eugene Kaspersky has received numerous awards for his contributions to the field of cybersecurity.

- He is often featured in influential lists and rankings related to technology and cybersecurity.

Philosophy and Vision:

Eugene Kaspersky advocates for a

secure cyberspace through technological innovation and international collaboration. He emphasizes the need for robust security measures and proactive threat detection to protect against evolving cyber threats.

Kaspersky's leadership has been instrumental in positioning Kaspersky Lab as a leading cybersecurity firm, despite the challenges and controversies faced in the geopolitical landscape.



Vladimir Potanin

He is a prominent Russian businessman and the CEO of Norilsk Nickel, one of the world's largest producers of nickel and palladium. He is also known for his significant influence in the Russian economy and his role in the country's post-Soviet privatization process.

Key Points About Vladimir Potanin:

1. Early Life and Education:

- Born on January 3, 1961, in Moscow, Russia.

- Graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) in 1983 with a degree in international economics.

2. Career:

- Began his career working for the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade.

- In the early 1990s, co-founded the Interros holding company, which played a significant role in the privatization of Russian state assets.

- Acquired a controlling stake in Norilsk Nickel in 1995 through the loans-for-shares program, a controversial privatization scheme in Russia.

3. Norilsk Nickel:

- Norilsk Nickel is the world's largest producer of refined nickel and palladium, and also produces significant quantities of platinum, copper, and cobalt.

- Under Potanin's leadership, Norilsk Nickel has become a major player in the global mining industry, known for its large-scale operations in Russia's Far North and its significant contribution to the Russian economy.

4. Philanthropy and Social Initiatives:

- Potanin is one of Russia's leading philanthropists. In 2013, he signed the Giving Pledge, committing to donate at least half of his wealth to charitable causes.

- He has funded various cultural, educational, and sports initiatives, including the development of Russian museums and the support of higher education institutions.

5. Controversies:

- Potanin's acquisition of Norilsk Nickel during the 1990s privatization era has been a subject of controversy, with critics arguing that the process favored a small group of oligarchs.

- In recent years, Norilsk Nickel has faced environmental challenges, including a major oil spill in 2020, for which the company has been heavily fined and criticized.

6. Wealth and Influence:

- Potanin is one of Russia's richest individuals, regularly featured on Forbes' list of billionaires.

- His wealth and business activities have made him a significant figure in Russia's economic and political landscape.

7. Personal Life:

- Potanin is known for his passion for sports, particularly skiing and snowboarding.

- He has been married twice and has several children.

Business Philosophy and Vision:

Vladimir Potanin is known for his strategic vision in business, emphasizing efficiency, modernization, and expansion. He has overseen Norilsk Nickel's growth into a leading global mining and metallurgical company, while also addressing challenges related to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

te the controversies surrounding his rise to wealth, Potanin's role in Russia's economic development and his commitment to philanthropy highlight his complex legacy as a business leader.



Pavel Durov

He is a renowned Russian entrepreneur, best known as the founder of Telegram, a popular messaging app, and VKontakte (VK), Russia's largest social networking site. Durov is often referred to as Russia's Mark Zuckerberg due to his significant impact on the Russian tech industry.

Key Points About Pavel Durov:

1. Early Life and Education:

- Born on October 10, 1984, in Leningrad (now Saint Petersburg), Russia.

- Graduated from the Philology De-

partment of Saint Petersburg State University in 2006 with a degree in linguistics.

2. VKontakte (VK):

- In 2006, Durov founded VKontakte, which quickly became the most popular social networking site in Russia and other Russian-speaking regions.

- VK gained popularity due to its user-friendly interface and features similar to Facebook.

- Durov's tenure at VK was marked by his commitment to free speech and user privacy, often clashing with Russian authorities.

- In 2014, Durov was ousted from VKontakte after alleged pressure from Russian authorities, leading to his sale of the remaining shares and departure from Russia.

3. Telegram:

- In 2013, Durov launched Telegram, a cloud-based messaging app known for its strong emphasis on security and privacy.

- Telegram features encrypted chats, self-destructing messages, and a decentralized structure to avoid censorship.

- The app quickly gained a global user base, with over 700 million monthly active users as of 2023.

- Durov has maintained Telegram's independence, refusing to sell the company or monetize it through traditional means, instead focusing on user experience and privacy.

4. Philosophy and Vision:

- Durov is a strong advocate for digital privacy, freedom of expression, and minimal government interference in technology.

- He has consistently prioritized user privacy and security in both VKontakte and Telegram, often taking a principled stand against government surveillance and censorship.

5. Controversies:

- His refusal to cooperate with Russian authorities on censorship and surveillance demands led to conflicts and his eventual departure from VKontakte.

- Telegram has faced bans and restrictions in several countries, including Russia and Iran, due to its encrypted messaging capabilities and refusal to comply with government data requests.

6. Personal Life:

- Durov is known for his unconventional lifestyle, minimalist approach, and nomadic living, often moving between different countries.

- He has expressed a belief in libertarian principles and maintains a public persona that emphasizes simplicity and freedom.

7. Awards and Recognition:

- Durov has been featured in various lists of influential tech entrepreneurs and has received recognition for his contributions to the tech industry.

Business Philosophy and Impact:

Pavel Durov's business philosophy centers around the principles of privacy, user freedom, and technological innovation. His work with VKontakte and Telegram has had a profound impact on social media and messaging platforms, especially in terms of how they handle user data and privacy.

Durov's commitment to maintaining the integrity and independence of Telegram, in the face of various challenges, highlights his dedication to his principles and his vision for a more secure and open digital world.



Sergey Galitsky

He is a prominent Russian entrepreneur best known as the founder of Magnit, one of Russia's largest retail chains. His entrepreneurial journey and business strategies have made him a significant figure in the Russian retail industry.

Key Points About Sergey Galitsky:

1. Early Life and Education:

- Born Sergey Arutyunyan on August 14, 1967, in Lazarevskoye, Krasnodar Krai, Russia.

- Graduated from the Economics Faculty of Kuban State University in 1993.

2. Career and Founding of Magnit:

- Began his career in the trading business, working in the wholesale sector.

- In 1998, he founded Magnit, initially starting with a small wholesale business.

- Magnit expanded rapidly, focusing on a network of discount supermarkets primarily in Russia's regions rather than major cities.

- The company grew to become one of Russia's largest retail chains, operating thousands of stores across the country.

3. Business Strategy and Growth:

- Galitsky emphasized efficiency, cost control, and logistics, which allowed Magnit to offer competitive prices and expand rapidly.

- The company went public in 2006, and by 2013, Magnit had become the largest retailer in Russia by sales, surpassing other major competitors.

- Under his leadership, Magnit built its own logistics infrastructure, including distribution centers and a fleet of trucks, which was key to its success in the vast Russian market.

4. Exit from Magnit:

- In 2018, Galitsky sold his majority stake in Magnit to the state-controlled VTB Bank for approximately \$2.5 billion.

- His departure marked the end of an era for the company, as Galitsky had been the driving force behind its growth and success.

5. Philanthropy and Post-Magnit Activities:

- Galitsky is known for his philanthropic efforts, particularly in his home region of Krasnodar.

- He has invested in the development of sports infrastructure, including the construction of the FC Krasnodar Stadium and the establishment of the FC Krasnodar football club, which has become a significant presence in Russian football.

- Galitsky continues to be involved in various business and philanthropic ventures, although he has largely stepped back from the public eye since selling Magnit.

6. Awards and Recognition:

- Galitsky has been recognized for his contributions to the Russian economy and the retail industry.

- He has been featured on various lists of influential business leaders and has received accolades for his entrepreneurial achievements.

Business Philosophy and Impact:

Sergey Galitsky is known for his pragmatic and innovative approach to business. His focus on efficiency, logistics, and regional expansion allowed Magnit to grow rapidly and become a dominant player in the Russian retail market. Galitsky's

ability to identify and capitalize on market opportunities, along with his commitment to operational excellence, played a crucial role in his success.

His philanthropic activities, particularly in sports and community development, reflect his dedication to giving back to his community and fostering local development. Despite stepping away from Magnit, Galitsky's legacy in the Russian retail sector remains significant, and his contributions to business and society continue to be felt.



Silvio Berlusconi

He was an influential Italian politician, media tycoon, and businessman who served as Italy's Prime Minister in four governments. He was also a prominent figure in Italy's media landscape and one of the country's most controversial and colorful public figures.

Key Points About Silvio Berlusconi:

1. Early Life and Education:

- Born on September 29, 1936, in Milan, Italy.

- Graduated with a law degree from the University of Milan in 1961.

2. Business Career:

- Real Estate: Berlusconi began his career in real estate, founding the construction company Edilnord in

the 1960s, which developed residential projects in Milan.

- Media Empire: In the 1970s, he founded Mediaset, which grew to become Italy's largest commercial broadcaster. Mediaset operates several television channels and has a significant influence on Italian media.

- AC Milan: Berlusconi acquired the football club AC Milan in 1986, leading it to become one of the most successful clubs in Europe during his ownership.

3. Political Career:

- Forza Italia: Founded the political party Forza Italia in 1994, presenting himself as a fresh alternative to the traditional political establishment.

- Prime Minister: Served as Italy's Prime Minister in four separate terms: 1994-1995, 2001-2006, and 2008-2011. His tenure is the longest since World War II.

- Policies: His government focused on tax cuts, pension reforms, and efforts to modernize Italy's infrastructure. He also emphasized pro-business policies and sought to reduce government intervention in the economy.

4. Controversies:

- Berlusconi's political and business career was marked by numerous scandals and legal issues, including accusations of corruption, tax fraud, and bribery.

- His personal life was often in the spotlight due to allegations of inappropriate relationships and parties, including the notorious "bunga bunga" parties.

- Despite facing multiple legal challenges, he remained a resilient and influential figure in Italian politics and business.

5. Media Influence:

- Berlusconi's control over significant portions of Italy's media raised concerns about media pluralism and conflicts of interest during his time

in office.

- Critics argued that his media empire provided him with an unfair advantage in shaping public opinion and influencing political outcomes.

6. Later Life and Legacy:

- After stepping down as Prime Minister in 2011, Berlusconi continued to be an active figure in Italian politics, leading his party and remaining a member of the European Parliament.

- His legacy is mixed, with supporters praising his business acumen and political reforms, while detractors highlight his legal troubles and ethical controversies.

- Berlusconi passed away on June 12, 2023, leaving a lasting impact on Italian politics and media.

7. Personal Life:

- Berlusconi was married twice and had five children. His personal life was often the subject of media attention due to his flamboyant lifestyle and numerous relationships.

Business Philosophy and Impact:

Silvio Berlusconi's business philosophy was characterized by bold entrepreneurship, strategic media investments, and a keen understanding of market dynamics. His creation of a media empire transformed the Italian broadcasting landscape and provided a platform for his political ambitions.

In politics, Berlusconi positioned himself as a reformist and a defender of free market principles. His ability to connect with the electorate through his media channels and charismatic personality enabled him to build a significant political following.

Berlusconi's life and career remain a subject of extensive analysis and debate, reflecting the complexities and contradictions of his impact on Italy's economic, political, and social fabric.



Alisher Usmanov

He is a prominent Russian business magnate and investor, widely recognized for his extensive investments across various industries, including mining, telecommunications, technology, and sports. He is one of Russia's wealthiest individuals and has a significant influence in both Russian and global business spheres.

Key Points About Alisher Usmanov:

1. Early Life and Education:

- Born on September 9, 1953, in Chust, Uzbekistan, then part of the Soviet Union.

- Graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) in 1976 with a degree in international law.

- Earned a degree in banking from the Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation.

2. Career Beginnings:

- Began his career in the Soviet Union's foreign trade and investment organizations.

- In the 1980s, he was involved in producing plastic bags and other consumer goods.

3. Metalloinvest:

- Usmanov made his fortune primarily through Metalloinvest, a large Russian mining and metallurgy company he founded in the 1990s.

- Metalloinvest is one of the world's largest producers of iron ore and hot briquetted iron (HBI).

- The company also has significant steel production capabilities.

4. Diversified Investments:

- Telecommunications: Invested heavily in Russian telecommunications, acquiring stakes in companies like MegaFon, one of Russia's largest mobile operators.

- Technology: Through his investment company, USM Holdings, he has invested in various tech companies, including significant stakes in Facebook, Alibaba, and VKontakte (VK).

- Media: Usmanov has interests in media companies, including stakes in the Russian newspaper Kommersant and other media outlets.

- Sports: Known for his investments in sports, including a significant stake in the English football club Arsenal, which he later sold. He also supports various sporting initiatives in Russia.

5. Philanthropy:

- An active philanthropist, contributing to various cultural, educational, and social causes.

- Funded the restoration of historical monuments, supported arts and sports, and donated to healthcare and education initiatives.

- In 2012, signed the Giving Pledge, committing to give away at least half of his wealth to philanthropic causes.

6. Controversies:

- Usmanov's business activities have not been without controversy. He has faced accusations of corruption and scrutiny over his business practices, particularly related to his early career and the acquisition of state assets during Russia's privatization era.

- His close ties to the Kremlin and his role in the Russian business oligarchy have also drawn criticism, especially in the context of inter-

national sanctions and geopolitical tensions.

7. Personal Life:

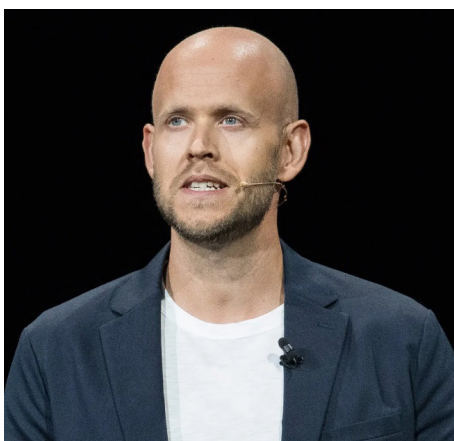
- Usmanov is known for his low-profile personal life, though he occasionally appears in public and media events.

- Married to Irina Viner, a prominent rhythmic gymnastics coach in Russia.

Business Philosophy and Impact:

Alisher Usmanov's business philosophy is characterized by diversification and strategic investments. He has a reputation for identifying and capitalizing on growth opportunities across various sectors. His impact on the Russian economy is significant, particularly through his leadership in the mining and telecommunications industries.

Usmanov's philanthropic efforts reflect his commitment to giving back to society, supporting a wide range of cultural, educational, and social initiatives. Despite the controversies surrounding his career, his influence and contributions to business and philanthropy remain substantial.



Daniel Ek

He is a Swedish entrepreneur best known as the CEO and co-founder of Spotify, one of the world's leading music streaming platforms. His innovative approach to music distribution has significantly impacted the music industry, transforming how peo-

ple access and consume music globally.

Key Points About Daniel Ek:

1. Early Life and Education:

- Born on February 21, 1983, in Stockholm, Sweden.

- Developed an interest in technology and programming at a young age, creating websites for clients while still in high school.

- Attended the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm but dropped out to pursue his entrepreneurial ambitions.

2. Early Career:

- Founded several tech startups in his early career, including Advertigo, an online advertising company sold to Tradedoubler in 2006.

- Worked briefly as the CTO of Tradedoubler, gaining valuable experience in the tech and advertising industries.

3. Founding Spotify:

- In 2006, Ek, along with Martin Lorentzon, co-founded Spotify with the vision of providing a legal and user-friendly alternative to music piracy.

- Spotify launched in 2008, offering both free, ad-supported streaming and premium, subscription-based services.

- The platform quickly gained popularity for its vast music library, personalized playlists, and innovative features.

4. Growth and Impact:

- Under Ek's leadership, Spotify expanded rapidly, becoming available in numerous countries and amassing millions of subscribers.

- As of 2023, Spotify boasts over 500 million monthly active users and more than 200 million premium subscribers.

- The platform has revolutionized the music industry by providing artists with a new revenue stream and giving users easy access

to a vast array of music.

5. Challenges and Controversies:

- Spotify has faced criticism over its royalty payments to artists, with some arguing that the payments are insufficient.

- The company has also navigated challenges related to licensing agreements, competition from other streaming services, and regulatory scrutiny.

6. Innovations and Features:

- Spotify has introduced numerous features, including Discover Weekly, personalized playlists, podcasts, and social sharing options.

- Continues to invest in new technologies and services to enhance user experience and expand its content offerings.

7. Philosophy and Vision:

- Ek is known for his focus on user experience, innovation, and disruption of traditional business models.

- Advocates for a data-driven approach to business, leveraging analytics to improve services and create value for users and artists alike.

8. Personal Life:

- Ek maintains a relatively private personal life but is known to be married with children.

- He is passionate about technology, music, and entrepreneurship, often speaking on these topics at conferences and public events.

Business Philosophy and Impact:

Daniel Ek's business philosophy emphasizes innovation, user-centric design, and the transformative power of technology. His vision for Spotify was to create a platform that could provide seamless access to music while addressing the challenges of piracy and artist compensation.

Ek's leadership has been instrumental in Spotify's success, making it a household name in music streaming and influencing the broader entertainment industry.

His commitment to innovation and disruption continues to drive Spotify's growth and adaptation in an ever-evolving digital landscape.



Sebastian Siemiatkowski

He is a prominent Swedish entrepreneur, best known as the CEO and co-founder of Klarna, a leading global payments and shopping service. His innovative approach to financial technology has significantly transformed the way consumers make online purchases and manage their finances.

Key Points About Sebastian Siemiatkowski:

1. Early Life and Education:

- Born on September 23, 1981, in Sweden.

- Son of Polish immigrants, grew up in Uppsala, Sweden.

- Studied at the Stockholm School of Economics, where he earned a degree in economics.

2. Founding Klarna:

- Co-founded Klarna in 2005 with Niklas Adalberth and Victor Jacobsson while still a student.

- The idea for Klarna stemmed from a desire to simplify and secure the online shopping experience by allowing consumers to buy now and pay later.

- The company initially struggled to gain traction but eventually secured investment from renowned entrepreneur Jane Walerud, who played a

crucial role in its early growth.

3. Growth and Expansion:

- Klarna has grown into one of Europe's largest fintech companies, offering payment solutions in over 17 countries.

- The company provides services such as pay later, pay now, and installment payments, catering to both consumers and merchants.

- As of 2023, Klarna has over 150 million users and partners with more than 450,000 merchants worldwide.

4. Innovations and Services:

- Klarna's innovative payment solutions allow consumers to shop online with flexibility and security, reducing the risk of fraud and increasing convenience.

- Introduced the Klarna app, which offers personalized shopping experiences, budgeting tools, and seamless integration with various retailers.

- Expanded into banking services, launching Klarna Bank and offering savings accounts and personal finance management tools.

5. Leadership and Vision:

- Siemiatkowski is known for his visionary leadership, emphasizing customer experience, innovation, and disruptive business models.

- Focuses on building a user-centric company culture and fostering an environment that encourages creativity and growth.

- Advocates for a responsible approach to credit and financial services, aiming to empower consumers with better financial tools and education.

6. Challenges and Controversies:

- Klarna has faced regulatory scrutiny and criticism regarding consumer debt and the potential risks associated with buy-now-pay-later (BNPL) services.

- Siemiatkowski has addressed

these concerns by emphasizing transparency, responsible lending practices, and financial education for users.

7. Personal Life:

- Siemiatkowski is married and has children. He maintains a relatively private personal life but is active in promoting entrepreneurial and financial literacy.

- He is passionate about technology, innovation, and the potential of fintech to improve consumer financial experiences.

8. Awards and Recognition:

- Siemiatkowski has received numerous accolades for his contributions to fintech and entrepreneurship, including recognition on Forbes' lists of influential tech leaders.

Business Philosophy and Impact:

Sebastian Siemiatkowski's business philosophy revolves around innovation, customer-centricity, and responsible financial practices. His vision for Klarna was to create a seamless and secure online shopping experience that empowers consumers and merchants alike.

Under Siemiatkowski's leadership, Klarna has become a major player in the fintech industry, pioneering new payment solutions and expanding into banking services. His commitment to innovation and disruption continues to shape the future of digital payments and consumer finance, making Klarna a key player in the global fintech landscape.



Antti Herlin

He is a prominent Finnish businessman known primarily for his role as the Chairman of the Board of KONE Corporation, a global leader in the elevator and escalator industry. Here are some key details about him and his career:

Background

Birth: Antti Herlin was born on November 14, 1956.

Family: He is a member of one of Finland's wealthiest and most influential families. His father, Pekka Herlin, was the previous chairman of KONE, and the family has a long history of involvement in the company.

Career at KONE

Joining KONE: Antti Herlin joined KONE Corporation in 1987, following in the footsteps of his father.

Chairman: He became the Chairman of KONE Corporation in 2003, succeeding his father. Under his leadership, KONE has continued to grow and innovate, maintaining its position as one of the top companies in the elevator and escalator industry worldwide.

Other Roles and Achievements

Investor and Philanthropist: Besides his role at KONE, Antti Herlin is known for his investments in various sectors and his philanthropic activities.

Wealth: He is consistently ranked among the richest individuals in Finland, with significant holdings in KONE and other businesses.

Other Positions: He has served on the boards of various companies and organizations, contributing his expertise and leadership skills.

Personal Life

- Antti Herlin is known for his relatively private lifestyle, despite his significant public and business roles.

He has made notable contributions to Finnish society through both his business activities and philanthropy.

Antti Herlin's leadership at KONE has been marked by a focus on innovation, efficiency, and sustainability, helping the company to expand its global footprint and continue its legacy as a leading provider of elevators, escalators, and related services.



Frederik Paulsen

He is a distinguished business figure best known for his role as the Chairman of Ferring Pharmaceuticals, a global biopharmaceutical company headquartered in Switzerland. Here are key aspects of his career and contributions:

Background

Birth: Frederik Paulsen was born in 1950 in Sweden.

Family: He is the son of Dr. Frederik Paulsen Sr., who founded Ferring Pharmaceuticals in 1950. The Paulsen family has played a crucial role in the growth and development of the company.

Career at Ferring Pharmaceuticals

Joining Ferring: Frederik Paulsen joined Ferring Pharmaceuticals early in his career, contributing to the company's expansion and innovation.

Chairman: He became Chairman of Ferring Pharmaceuticals in 1988. Under his leadership, the company has grown significantly, expanding

its presence globally and advancing its research and development capabilities.

Achievements and Contributions

Global Expansion: Under Paulsen's leadership, Ferring Pharmaceuticals has established a strong global presence, with operations in numerous countries and a focus on developing innovative treatments in areas such as reproductive health, gastroenterology, and urology.

R&D Focus: The company has prioritized research and development, leading to significant advancements and a robust pipeline of new therapies.

Philanthropy and Cultural Interests: Paulsen is also known for his philanthropic efforts and his interest in cultural and scientific endeavors. He has supported various initiatives in these fields, reflecting his broad interests beyond the pharmaceutical industry.

Personal Life

Exploration and Adventures: Frederik Paulsen is known for his adventurous spirit and interest in polar exploration. He has participated in numerous expeditions to remote parts of the world, including the Arctic and Antarctic.

Cultural Contributions: He has a keen interest in preserving and promoting cultural heritage and scientific research, supporting various projects and institutions dedicated to these causes.

Frederik Paulsen's leadership at Ferring Pharmaceuticals has been marked by a commitment to innovation, global expansion, and a strong focus on improving patient outcomes through advanced biopharmaceutical research. His diverse interests and philanthropic activities further underscore his multifaceted contributions to business and society.



Margrethe Vestager

He is a prominent Danish politician known for her influential role as the European Commissioner for Competition. Here are key details about her background, career, and contributions:

Background

Birth: Margrethe Vestager was born on April 13, 1968, in Glostrup, Denmark.

Education: She holds a degree in Economics from the University of Copenhagen, which laid the foundation for her career in public service and economic policy.

Political Career in Denmark

Early Career: Vestager entered politics at a young age, joining the Danish Social Liberal Party (Radikale Venstre).

Ministerial Roles: She has held various ministerial positions in Denmark, including:

- Minister for Education (1998-2001)

- Minister for Economic and Interior Affairs (2011-2014)

Party Leadership: Vestager served as the leader of the Danish Social Liberal Party from 2007 to 2014.

European Commissioner for Competition

Appointment: Vestager was appointed as the European Commissioner for Competition in November 2014. Her term was renewed in December 2019, and she also became the Executive Vice President of the European Commission for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age.

Role and Responsibilities: As Commissioner for Competition, Vestager is responsible for enforcing EU competition law, which includes overseeing mergers and acquisitions, preventing anti-competitive practices, and ensuring a fair competitive environment within the European Union.

Key Actions and Impact:

Tech Industry Scrutiny: Vestager has been particularly noted for her rigorous scrutiny of major technology companies, including landmark cases against Google, Apple, Amazon, and Facebook for various anti-competitive practices.

State Aid Control: She has also focused on ensuring that state aid rules are adhered to, preventing unfair advantages and maintaining a level playing field for businesses across Europe.

Advocacy for Consumers: Vestager has been a strong advocate for consumer rights, working to ensure that markets remain competitive and beneficial for consumers.

Personal Attributes and Public Perception

Reputation: Margrethe Vestager is known for her tenacity, fairness, and thoroughness in applying competition laws. Her work has earned her a reputation as a powerful regulator who is not afraid to take on major corporations.

Public Image: She has been featured in various international media outlets and recognized as one of the most influential women in global politics and business regulation.

Margrethe Vestager's role as the European Commissioner for Com-

petition has been pivotal in shaping the competitive landscape of the European Union, particularly in the digital and technology sectors. Her efforts to enforce competition laws and promote fair market practices have had significant impacts both within Europe and globally.



Karl-Johan Persson

He is a prominent Swedish businessman best known for his significant role at H&M (Hennes & Mauritz), a leading global fashion retailer. Here are key details about his background, career, and contributions:

Background

Birth: Karl-Johan Persson was born on March 25, 1975, in London, United Kingdom.

Family: He is the grandson of Erling Persson, the founder of H&M, and the son of Stefan Persson, who also served as the company's chairman.

Education and Early Career

Education: Persson holds a degree in Business Administration from the European Business School in London.

Early Career: Before joining H&M, he gained experience in business through various roles, including working in investment banking and managing a private equity company.

Career at H&M

Joining H&M: Karl-Johan Persson joined H&M in 2005, starting with

roles that gave him broad exposure to different aspects of the company.

CEO Role: In 2009, he succeeded Rolf Eriksen as CEO of H&M, a position he held until 2020. During his tenure as CEO, he focused on expanding the company's global footprint, enhancing its digital capabilities, and promoting sustainability initiatives.

Chairman: In 2020, Karl-Johan Persson became the Chairman of H&M, taking over from his father, Stefan Persson. As chairman, he continues to influence the strategic direction of the company.

Achievements and Contributions

Global Expansion: Under Persson's leadership, H&M continued to grow its global presence, opening new stores in various markets and expanding its online retail capabilities.

Sustainability Initiatives: He has been a strong advocate for sustainability in fashion. H&M has launched several initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable fashion, such as the Conscious Collection and various recycling programs.

Digital Transformation: Persson has overseen significant investments in H&M's digital infrastructure, enhancing the company's e-commerce capabilities and integrating online and offline customer experiences.

Diversity and Inclusion: He has also emphasized the importance of diversity and inclusion within the company, promoting a culture that values different perspectives and backgrounds.

Personal Life

Philanthropy: Karl-Johan Persson is involved in various philanthropic activities, supporting causes related to education, social welfare, and environmental sustainability.

Family Life: He is known for maintaining a relatively private personal life, focusing publicly on his professional and philanthropic endeavors.

Karl-Johan Persson's leadership at H&M has been marked by a com-

mitment to sustainability, digital innovation, and global growth. His efforts have helped position H&M as a leader in the fast fashion industry while also pushing the company toward more sustainable and responsible business practices.



Lars Seier Christensen

He is a notable Danish entrepreneur best known for co-founding Saxo Bank, a leading financial services and trading firm. Here are key details about his background, career, and contributions:

Background

Birth: Lars Seier Christensen was born on December 21, 1963, in Denmark.

Early Life: He developed an interest in finance and entrepreneurship early in his life, which shaped his career path.

Career

Early Career: Christensen began his career in the financial sector, working in various roles that provided him with a deep understanding of trading and investment.

Co-founding Saxo Bank:

Foundation: In 1992, Lars Seier Christensen co-founded Saxo Bank with Kim Fournais. The bank started as a brokerage firm and evolved into a prominent online trading and investment institution.

Growth and Innovation: Under Christensen's leadership, Saxo Bank became known for its innovative online trading platforms, offering a wide range of financial products and

services to clients globally. The bank was one of the pioneers in the field of online trading, making financial markets more accessible to retail traders and investors.

Achievements and Contributions

Technological Innovation: Christensen played a crucial role in developing and implementing Saxo Bank's advanced trading technology, which has been a significant factor in the bank's success and growth.

Global Expansion: Saxo Bank expanded its operations worldwide, establishing a presence in major financial markets and serving clients in over 180 countries.

Leadership Transition: In 2016, Lars Seier Christensen stepped down as co-CEO of Saxo Bank, although he retained a stake in the company for some time afterward. His departure marked the end of an era of his direct leadership but the continuation of his influence in the financial world.

Other Ventures and Interests

Seier Capital: After leaving Saxo Bank, Christensen founded Seier Capital, an investment firm focused on supporting innovative startups and growth companies in various sectors, including technology, finance, and blockchain.

Blockchain and Cryptocurrency: Christensen has been an advocate for blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies, investing in several projects and promoting the potential of decentralized financial systems.

Philanthropy and Cultural Contributions: He is also known for his philanthropic efforts, supporting various cultural, educational, and social initiatives. He has been involved in funding arts and sports projects, reflecting his diverse interests and commitment to giving back to the community.

Personal Life

Public Persona: Lars Seier Christensen is known for his outspoken and entrepreneurial spirit. He often

shares his views on financial markets, technology, and innovation through various media channels and public speaking engagements.

Family: He maintains a relatively private personal life, focusing publicly on his professional and philanthropic activities.

Lars Seier Christensen's contributions to the financial industry, particularly through the co-founding and growth of Saxo Bank, have had a lasting impact on online trading and investment. His continued involvement in innovative ventures and philanthropy highlights his ongoing influence and commitment to fostering new opportunities in the business world.



Georg Schaeffler

He is a prominent German businessman best known as the owner of Schaeffler Group, a leading global manufacturer of rolling element bearings for automotive, aerospace, and industrial applications. Here are key details about his background, career, and contributions:

Background

Birth: Georg Schaeffler was born on October 19, 1964, in Erlangen, Germany.

Family: He is the son of Maria-Elisabeth Schaeffler and Georg Schaeffler Sr., who co-founded the Schaeffler Group in 1946. The Schaeffler family has played a crucial role in the company's development and success.

Education and Early Career

Education: Schaeffler holds a law degree from the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland and an LL.M. degree from Duke University School of Law in the United States.

Early Career: Before taking a more active role in the family business, he worked as a business lawyer in Dallas, Texas, specializing in mergers and acquisitions.

Schaeffler Group

Joining the Family Business: After his father's death in 1996, Georg Schaeffler became more involved in the Schaeffler Group, partnering with his mother, Maria-Elisabeth Schaeffler, to lead the company.

Leadership: He currently serves as the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Schaeffler AG. Under his leadership, the company has continued to grow and innovate, maintaining its position as a key player in the automotive and industrial sectors.

Achievements and Contributions

Continental AG Acquisition: One of the significant moves under Schaeffler's leadership was the acquisition of a significant stake in Continental AG, a major automotive parts manufacturer, in 2008. This strategic investment strengthened Schaeffler Group's position in the automotive industry.

Innovation and Expansion: Schaeffler has focused on expanding the company's global footprint and investing in research and development. The company is known for its innovations in automotive and industrial technologies, including advancements in electric mobility and digitalization.

Sustainability: Schaeffler Group under his leadership has committed to sustainability, aiming to reduce its environmental impact and develop sustainable products and solutions for the automotive and industrial sectors.

Personal Life

Public Persona: Georg Schaeffler is known for maintaining a low public profile, with a focus on his business

activities. He rarely gives interviews and prefers to keep his personal life private.

Wealth: He is one of the wealthiest individuals in Germany, with significant holdings in Schaeffler Group and other investments.

Philanthropy

Charitable Activities: While details about his philanthropic activities are not widely publicized, it is known that the Schaeffler family has been involved in various charitable and community-focused initiatives.

Georg Schaeffler's leadership has been pivotal in steering Schaeffler Group through significant growth and transformation. His strategic vision and commitment to innovation have ensured the company remains at the forefront of the automotive and industrial sectors.



Ulf Mark Schneider

He is a prominent business executive known for his role as the CEO of Nestlé, one of the world's largest food and beverage companies. Here are key details about his background, career, and contributions:

Background

Birth: Ulf Mark Schneider was born on September 9, 1965, in Neuwied, Germany.

Education: Schneider holds a doctorate in economics from the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Early Career

Consulting and Management: Before entering the corporate world, Schneider worked as a management consultant with McKinsey & Company, where he gained significant experience in strategic business development and operations.

Fresenius Group

Fresenius SE & Co. KGaA:

Joining Fresenius: In 2001, Schneider joined Fresenius, a global healthcare group, as CFO.

CEO Role: He was appointed CEO of Fresenius in 2003, a position he held until 2016. Under his leadership, Fresenius expanded significantly, becoming a global leader in healthcare services and products.

Achievements: During his tenure, Schneider oversaw several major acquisitions and expansions, which helped Fresenius grow its revenue and global footprint.

Nestlé

Appointment as CEO: In January 2017, Ulf Mark Schneider became the CEO of Nestlé, succeeding Paul Bulcke, who became the Chairman of the Board.

Strategic Focus: Schneider's leadership at Nestlé has been marked by a focus on health, nutrition, and wellness. He has driven the company to focus more on high-growth categories such as pet care, coffee, and water, while also divesting non-core businesses.

Innovation and Sustainability: Schneider has emphasized the importance of innovation and sustainability. Nestlé has committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and has been investing in sustainable packaging and renewable energy.

Portfolio Management: Under Schneider's guidance, Nestlé has made strategic acquisitions, such as the purchase of Atrium Innovations and a majority stake in Blue Bottle Coffee. He has also led the divestiture of less profitable segments to

streamline operations and focus on high-growth areas.

Achievements and Contributions

Financial Performance: Schneider has been credited with improving Nestlé's financial performance, increasing organic growth, and enhancing profitability through strategic initiatives and efficient management.

Health and Nutrition Focus: He has steered Nestlé towards a greater emphasis on health and nutrition, aligning with global trends and consumer demand for healthier food and beverage options.

Digital Transformation: Schneider has also focused on digital transformation, integrating digital technologies into Nestlé's operations to improve efficiency and customer engagement.

Personal Life

Public Persona: Ulf Mark Schneider is known for his strategic vision and leadership skills. He maintains a relatively low public profile, focusing on his role at Nestlé and the company's performance.

Language Proficiency: Schneider is fluent in several languages, including German, English, and French, which is beneficial in leading a global company like Nestlé.

Ulf Mark Schneider's tenure as CEO of Nestlé has been marked by a strategic realignment of the company towards high-growth, health-focused sectors, and a strong commitment to sustainability and innovation. His leadership continues to shape Nestlé's position as a global leader in the food and beverage industry.



Franz Haniel

He is a notable German business executive known for his role as the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Haniel Group, a diversified family-owned investment holding company. Here are key details about his background, career, and contributions:

Background

Birth: Franz Markus Haniel was born on April 26, 1955, in Oberhausen, Germany.

Family: He is a descendant of Franz Haniel, who founded the Haniel Group in 1756. The Haniel family has maintained significant ownership and involvement in the company for generations.

Education and Early Career

Education: Franz Haniel studied business administration at the University of Munich and later obtained an MBA from INSEAD in Fontainebleau, France.

Early Career: Before joining the family business, he gained experience in various roles, including working in banking and consulting.

Haniel Group

Joining Haniel: Franz Haniel joined the Haniel Group in the 1980s, gradually taking on more responsibility within the company.

Leadership Roles: Over the years, he held various positions within the group, gaining extensive experience in different aspects of the business.

Chairman: In 2003, Franz Haniel was appointed Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Haniel Group. His leadership has been instrumental in guiding the company through strategic transformations and investments.

Achievements and Contributions

Strategic Transformation: Under Franz Haniel's leadership, the Haniel Group has undergone significant strategic changes. He has focused on transforming the company from a traditional trading firm into a diversified investment holding company.

Sustainable Investments: Haniel has emphasized sustainable and responsible investing, aligning the company's portfolio with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria. This focus has helped position Haniel Group as a forward-thinking, socially responsible investor.

Portfolio Diversification: The Haniel Group has diversified its investments across various sectors, including healthcare, environmental services, and digital technology. Notable investments include stakes in companies like CWS-boco, a provider of hygiene services, and Bekaert-Deslee, a manufacturer of mattress fabrics.

Long-term Value Creation: Haniel has concentrated on creating long-term value for the company and its stakeholders. His approach involves nurturing and growing portfolio companies while maintaining a commitment to sustainable business practices.

Personal Life

Public Persona: Franz Haniel is known for his commitment to responsible business practices and sustainability. He maintains a relatively low public profile, focusing on his roles and responsibilities within the Haniel Group.

Family Business Stewardship: As a steward of the family business, Haniel has been dedicated to preserving the company's legacy while adapting to modern business challenges

and opportunities.

Philanthropy and Social Engagement

Philanthropic Activities: The Haniel family has a tradition of philanthropy, and Franz Haniel has continued this legacy by supporting various social and cultural initiatives. The Haniel Foundation, for instance, focuses on education, entrepreneurship, and social innovation.

Community Involvement: Haniel has been involved in numerous community and industry organizations, promoting sustainable business practices and corporate responsibility.

Franz Haniel's leadership of the Haniel Group has been marked by strategic diversification, a strong commitment to sustainability, and a focus on long-term value creation. His efforts have helped transform the company into a modern, responsible investment holding group, maintaining its relevance and success in a changing global business environment.



Andreas Treichl

He is a prominent Austrian banker known for his role as the former CEO of Erste Group Bank, one of the largest financial services providers in Central and Eastern Europe. Here are key details about his background, career, and contributions:

Background

Birth: Andreas Treichl was born on October 7, 1952, in Vienna, Austria.

Education: He studied law and economics at the University of Vienna and later obtained a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from INSEAD in France.

Early Career

Banking Experience: Treichl began his career in banking at Citibank in 1977, where he gained experience in various roles, including corporate finance and investment banking.

Private Sector Experience: Before joining Erste Group, he worked in the private sector, including stints at McKinsey & Company and Warburg Pincus.

Erste Group Bank

Joining Erste Group: Andreas Treichl joined Erste Group Bank in 1986, initially serving as the head of the corporate banking division.

CEO Role: In 1997, he was appointed CEO of Erste Group, a position he held until his retirement in 2019. During his tenure, Treichl oversaw significant growth and transformation of the bank.

Achievements and Contributions

Expansion and Diversification: Under Treichl's leadership, Erste Group expanded its operations beyond Austria, establishing a strong presence in Central and Eastern Europe. The bank became a key player in the region, offering a wide range of banking and financial services.

Financial Performance: Treichl was credited with steering Erste Group through various economic challenges, maintaining solid financial performance and profitability even during turbulent times in the financial markets.

Digital Transformation: He emphasized the importance of digital innovation in banking and led Erste Group's efforts to modernize its technology infrastructure and enhance digital banking services for customers.

Corporate Social Responsibility: Treichl was committed to corporate social responsibility, advocating for

sustainable banking practices and supporting initiatives focused on education, community development, and environmental conservation.

Personal Life

Public Persona: Andreas Treichl is known for his charismatic leadership style and outspoken views on banking and financial matters. He has been a prominent figure in the Austrian and European banking industry for several decades.

Philanthropy: He has been involved in various philanthropic activities and serves on the boards of several charitable organizations dedicated to education, healthcare, and social welfare.

Retirement

Retirement from Erste Group: Andreas Treichl retired as CEO of Erste Group in 2019 after more than two decades at the helm. He was succeeded by Bernhard Spalt, who had previously served as Deputy CEO.

Legacy: Treichl left a lasting legacy at Erste Group, having transformed the bank into a leading financial institution in Central and Eastern Europe and leaving behind a strong foundation for future growth and success.

Andreas Treichl's leadership at Erste Group Bank was characterized by vision, resilience, and a commitment to sustainable growth and development. His contributions to the banking industry in Central and Eastern Europe have been widely recognized, and he remains a respected figure in the financial community.



Heidi Horten

She is a prominent Austrian socialite and philanthropist who gained significant attention due to her marriage to Helmut Horten, the founder of the German department store chain, Horten AG. Here are some key details about Heidi Horten:

Background

Birth: Heidi Horten was born Heidi Pribitzer on February 14, 1941, in Klagenfurt, Austria.

Marriage to Helmut Horten: She married Helmut Horten, a successful entrepreneur, in 1966. Helmut Horten founded the Horten AG department store chain, which became one of Germany's largest retailers.

Wealth and Inheritance

Inheritance: Upon Helmut Horten's death in 1987, Heidi Horten inherited a significant portion of his wealth, making her one of the wealthiest individuals in Austria.

Financial Holdings: Heidi Horten's wealth is primarily derived from her inheritance and investments. She holds stakes in various companies and properties, contributing to her substantial net worth.

Philanthropy and Art Collection

Philanthropic Activities: Heidi Horten is known for her philanthropic endeavors, supporting various charitable causes in Austria and beyond. She has donated to organizations focused on education, healthcare, and cultural preservation.

Art Collection: Horten is also known for her extensive art collection, which includes works by renowned artists such as Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, and Gustav Klimt. Her collection is considered one of the most valuable private art collections in the world.

Personal Life

Private Persona: Heidi Horten maintains a relatively private life-

style, with limited public appearances and media interactions. She is known for her discretion and tends to avoid the spotlight.

Residence: She resides in Austria, where she is actively involved in philanthropy and cultural activities. Her residence is known for its opulence and grandeur, reflecting her wealth and taste for luxury.

Legacy

Cultural Impact: Heidi Horten's philanthropic contributions and art collection have had a significant cultural impact in Austria and beyond. Her support for the arts and charitable causes has left a lasting legacy, benefiting numerous organizations and individuals.

Influence: Despite her preference for privacy, Heidi Horten's influence as a philanthropist and art collector is widely recognized, and her contributions continue to make a positive impact in various sectors.

Heidi Horten's wealth, philanthropy, and art collection have made her a notable figure in Austrian society. While she maintains a low public profile, her contributions to charitable causes and the arts have earned her respect and admiration from many.



Florentino Pérez

He is a prominent Spanish businessman known for his leadership as the President of ACS Group (Actividades de Construcción y Servicios), one of

the largest construction and civil engineering companies in the world. Here are key details about his background, career, and contributions:

Background

Birth: Florentino Pérez was born on March 8, 1947, in Madrid, Spain.

Education: He studied civil engineering at the Technical University of Madrid, where he earned a degree in 1973.

the company through periods of significant growth and transformation.

Global Expansion: Under his leadership, ACS Group has become a global leader in construction, infrastructure development, and industrial services, with operations in numerous countries across Europe, the Americas, and beyond.

Diversification: Pérez has overseen ACS Group's diversification into other sectors, including renewable en-

energy, telecommunications, and environmental services, broadening the company's portfolio and revenue streams.

Sustainable Development: He has advocated for sustainable development and environmental responsibility, integrating sustainability principles into ACS Group's business strategies and projects.

Corporate Governance: Pérez has been recognized for his commitment to corporate governance and transparency, implementing best practices to ensure accountability



Early Career

Construction Sector: Pérez began his career in the construction industry, gaining experience in various roles related to civil engineering and project management.

Founding of ACS: In 1983, Pérez co-founded Construcciones Padrós, which later merged with Construcciones y Contratas (CYC) to form ACS Group in 1997. Pérez played a crucial role in the company's growth and expansion.

ACS Group

Leadership Role: Florentino Pérez has served as the President of ACS Group for multiple terms, guiding

the company through periods of significant growth and transformation.

Mergers and Acquisitions: He has been involved in several major mergers and acquisitions, including the acquisition of Spanish energy company Iberdrola and the merger with German construction company Hochtief.

Achievements and Contributions

Innovation and Technology: Pérez has emphasized the importance of innovation and technology in construction and infrastructure development, driving ACS Group to adopt advanced construction methods and

and integrity within ACS Group.

Personal Life

Public Persona: Florentino Pérez is a well-known figure in Spanish business and politics, often appearing in the media and participating in public events related to construction and infrastructure development.

Real Madrid Presidency: Apart from his business ventures, Pérez is also known for his involvement in sports, particularly football. He has served multiple terms as the President of Real Madrid, one of the most successful football clubs in the world.

Florentino Pérez’s leadership at ACS Group has been characterized by vision, innovation, and global expansion, establishing the company as a major player in the construction and infrastructure sectors worldwide. His contributions to business, sports, and society have earned him recognition and respect both in Spain and internationally.



Martin Bouygues

He is a prominent French businessman known for his leadership as the CEO of Bouygues, one of France’s largest industrial groups with diverse interests in construction, telecommunications, and media. Here are key details about his background, career, and contributions:

Background

Birth: Martin Bouygues was born on May 3, 1952, in Suresnes, France.



Family Legacy: He is the son of Francis Bouygues, who founded Bouygues in 1952 as a construction

company. Martin Bouygues represents the second generation of the Bouygues family leading the conglomerate.

Education and Early Career

Education: Martin Bouygues studied engineering at École Centrale Paris, where he earned a degree in civil engineering.

Entry into the Family Business: After completing his education, he joined Bouygues, gaining experience in various roles within the company’s construction division.

Bouygues Group

Leadership Role: Martin Bouygues has served as the CEO of Bouygues since 1989, succeeding his father, Francis Bouygues. He has been instrumental in leading the company through various challenges and expansions.

Diversification: Under his leadership, Bouygues has diversified its business interests beyond construction into telecommunications and media. The group’s subsidiaries include Bouygues Construction, Bouygues Telecom, and TF1, among others.

International Expansion: Bouygues has expanded its presence globally under Martin Bouygues’ leadership, undertaking projects in various countries and regions around the world. The company is known for its expertise in major infrastructure projects, including transportation, energy, and urban development.

Achievements and Contributions

Innovation and Sustainability:

Martin Bouygues has emphasized innovation and sustainability across Bouygues Group’s operations. The company has invested in research and development to develop cutting-edge construction techniques and sustainable building practices.

Telecommunications Growth: Bouygues Telecom, the telecommunications arm of the group, has experienced significant growth and competitiveness in the French market under Martin Bouygues’ leadership. He has overseen the expansion of Bouygues Telecom’s network and services, as well as strategic acquisitions and partnerships.

Media Holdings: Bouygues Group’s media division, which includes TF1, one of France’s leading television channels, has been a key focus area under Martin Bouygues’ leadership. He has worked to strengthen TF1’s position in the media landscape, adapting to changing consumer behaviors and technological advancements.

Personal Life

Private Persona: Martin Bouygues maintains a relatively private personal life, with limited public appearances and media engagements. He tends to keep the focus on his professional responsibilities and the activities of Bouygues Group.

Family Involvement: Bouygues Group remains a family-controlled business, with Martin Bouygues and his family retaining significant ownership and influence over the company’s strategic direction.

Martin Bouygues’ leadership at Bouygues Group has been marked by strategic vision, diversification, and a commitment to innovation and sustainability. His stewardship has contributed to the company’s growth and success across multiple sectors, solidifying its position as a leading industrial group in France and beyond.