

Tech Nation welcomes new Board Member, Manchester-based Anna Dick

- On 1st September 2021, Anna Dick will join Tech Nation's Board of Directors. Anna's appointment will add further emphasis to Tech Nation's work UK-wide
- As CTO of Manchester-based Hiring Hub and former Head of Agile Delivery at Co-op Digital, Anna brings with her wealth of knowledge and experience in digital products, strategy and transformation.
- A committed Diversity & Inclusion advocate hailing from Manchester, Anna is passionate about creating a more diverse and inclusive ecosystem - ensuring that Northern startups and scaleups receive the support they need to scale and grow.

13th August, 2021: Tech Nation, the UK's leading accelerator for tech scaleup companies, is delighted to announce that from 1st September 2021, Anna Dick, CTO of Hiring Hub and active Diversity & Inclusion Advocate, will join Tech Nation's Board of non-executive directors as its newest regional Director.

Tech Nation has supported the leadership teams of 3,000+ tech companies and almost one-third of the 100+ UK tech 'unicorns' (companies valued at \$1bn+), including Monzo, Checkout.com, Skyscanner, Darktrace and Revolut. Anna brings to the Board 20+ years of technical knowledge and experience in the digital world, having worked as a CTO for Manchester-based company Hiring Hub since 2018, as well as a coach and mentor for founders, businesses and tech leaders in the North. Anna's previous work ranges from building and scaling tech products for startups such as Hotels4U, to advising larger businesses such as the Co-op and the BBC on digital processes. She will draw upon her deep knowledge of digital products, strategy, product development and transformation to help Tech Nation foster innovation across the UK.

As a strong Diversity & Inclusion Advocate, who contributes to Women in Tech events in the North on an ongoing basis, Anna is also committed to helping Tech Nation inspire and support female entrepreneurs and companies based in the North and UK-wide. Her championing voice in this area will contribute to Tech Nation's work in ensuring that the UK tech ecosystem's support is world-class for founders right across the UK.

Anna commented: "I'm extremely excited to be joining Tech Nation because I've been living and breathing the startup-scaleup journey for the last 3 years, and fully understand all of the challenges that scaling tech founders face every day. I've seen firsthand the power that a supportive tech ecosystem has in helping these businesses unlock their full potential, and the need for this support to be accessible across all corners of the UK.

Having worked with Tech Nation a few times previously, I strongly believe Tech Nation is fundamental in helping founders from every UK region receive the support, coaching and networking opportunities they need to scale. In my own experience, I've seen that it can be more challenging for regional-based tech companies to receive support & capital compared to other areas such as London and the South West, and I'm excited to help Tech Nation boost UK tech's regional diversity, and scale the incredible tech businesses of our future."

Stephen Kelly, Chair of Tech Nation, commented: *“I am delighted to welcome Anna to Tech Nation’s Board of non-executive Directors. Her extensive experience in the digital world as a CTO and Product Manager are invaluable to our team and the Tech Nation community, in addition to her work as a Diversity & Inclusion Advocate mentoring aspiring girls and women in tech.*

It’s clear that the rate of digital transformation in the UK has accelerated hugely as a result of Covid-19, and increasingly, tech products are a powerful contributor to economic productivity, job creation and growth. I’m looking forward to working with Anna to help accelerate the tech startups and scaleups who are powering this digital revolution, in order to strengthen the UK’s economy and society at large.”

Tech Nation’s commitment to boosting regional diversity in UK tech

Tech Nation is committed to supporting the blossoming tech sector in the North of the UK; shaping the future of our society, boosting the UK economy, creating more jobs and providing equal opportunities for all.

In particular, Anna is excited to champion tech companies based in Manchester and the regions of the UK, where tech has been booming in recent years. According to the [Tech Nation Report 2021](#), the North of the UK is currently home to over 32,000 digital tech firms, with nearly 168,370 people working in tech roles. Manchester also attracted £163mn in investment in 2020, making it into the top 4 cities in the UK for tech investment. Manchester was the fastest growing tech hub with 277% growth in investment.

Tech Nation’s Board becomes world-class for diversity

Tech Nation is committed to building a Board of non-executive Directors which is world-class not only for its members’ deep knowledge and experience of the tech sector, but also in terms of its members’ diversity.

Tech Nation has actively taken steps to ensure its own organisation and Board of non-executive is diverse. With a 50:50 gender split, multiple ethnicities and a wide variety of areas of expertise, Tech Nation’s Board of non-executive Directors is made up of founders, entrepreneurs, and investors. Anna brings her in-depth knowledge as a CTO with experience of building and scaling tech products for startups and scaleups in the North.

Notes to the Editor

About Anna Dick

Anna has worked in tech, primarily based in Manchester and the North West, for over 20 years, with a proven track record of transforming and growing tech teams and businesses in a digital landscape across many sectors, including Media, Travel, Financial Services and Recruitment. Beginning within the frenetic world of digital agencies, Anna joined Moneysupermarket in 2006. The pursuit of

technical progress within a fast-growth environment suited Anna, who found similar homes at OTB & Hotels4U, building teams that continuously challenged ways of working. Anna worked on large transformation and digital projects for the BBC & Co-op Digital, before being headhunted by Hiring Hub where she is now CTO. Community-wise, Anna is a key contributor, with Diversity and Inclusion at the core.

Board Composition:

- Gerard Grech, founding Chief Executive (Executive Director)
- Eric Collins – CEO & Founder Member, Impact X Capital Partners
- Anna Dick - CTO, Hiring Hub
- Lesley Eccles - Founder & CEO of HelloRelish
- Jo Johnson – Chair, Tes Global and of Access Creative
- Hussein Kanji – Partner, Hoxton Ventures
- Stephen Kelly (Chair) - Former CEO of Sage, Micro Focus, Chordiant and COO of UK Government
- Trecilla Lobo (Chair People & Remuneration) – SVP People, BenevolentAI
- David Richards - Co-Founder and CEO of Wandisco
- Annette Wilson (Chair Audit & Risk) – Global Adviser & Chair Europe, Antler VC
- Sarah Wood (Senior Independent Director) - Co-Founder of Unruly

Tech Nation Board Responsibility

The Board of Tech Nation is responsible for the long-term strategy and success of the organisation. The Board maintains prudent and effective controls to assess and manage risk, ensures that resources are in place for the company to meet its objectives, and reviews management performance. The Board also supports Tech Nation's values and culture, and ensures that its obligations to its stakeholders and others are understood and met.

About Tech Nation

Tech Nation is the leading UK scaleup accelerator. Tech Nation fuels the growth of game-changing founders, leaders, and scaling companies so they can positively transform societies and economies. We provide them with the coaching, content, and community they need for their journey in designing the future. Tech Nation has years of experience facilitating and helping UK tech companies scale, both at home and abroad. Over 30 cohorts and 900 companies have successfully graduated from Tech Nation's growth programmes. Alumni include Skyscanner, Darktrace, and Monzo, as well as 3 of the UK's 7 new 'decacorns'; Revolut, Wise, and Farfetch.