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OF THE  
YEAR

# BUSINESS WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2021



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Meet the  
**Powerful Leader**  
in **Technology**







# Jeanette Forbes OBE

## Founder and Chief Executive of PCL Group

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PCL Group

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### About Jeanette Forbes

Originally from Yorkshire Jeanette, a qualified systems engineer, moved to Aberdeen in 1986 and has lived and worked there ever since. A highly accomplished businesswoman and entrepreneur, she has founded two successful businesses of her own and holds senior roles in three technology based, high-growth new start companies operating in the oil and gas, chemical and aviation sectors.

She founded her first company, PCL Group, in 2000 after being made redundant during a downturn in the oil and gas industry. Working initially at home from her dining room table, she moved into her first business premises in 2002. Since then, the company has steadily grown year on year and it now services a global clientele across five sectors.

She is one of only a small percentage of women who run globally-focussed technology companies.

Jeanette launched her second business, Grape & Grain, an upmarket wine bar, in 2017, taking to heart advice from a leading O&G leader that she should diversify her business interests. Despite knowing nothing of the hospitality sector when she started out, Grape & Grain is now a multi-award winning wine bar and one of Aberdeen's most prestigious venues.

In addition to her own companies, she was invited to join senior management teams, and use her business expertise, to help develop and grow three other young companies. She is CEO of Blue Gentoo and a Director of OMMICA both of which are involved in developing ground-breaking technology

for the new EnergyTech sector. She is also Managing Director of GoHawk, developer of the world's fastest flight route algorithm.

Jeanette is a board member on several Scottish Government partnerships and associations, working towards advancing Scotland's digital capability. She was a founding member of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce business mentoring programme and is a Burgess of the City of Aberdeen.

She has been involved in several charitable organisations on a long-term basis and actively supports a diverse range of other charities and non-profit ventures.

Over the years she has won many national awards and industry accolades which recognise her role as a business leader, entrepreneur and mentor and her commitment to encouraging and promoting career opportunities for women in the energy and technology sectors.

In 2020, she was awarded an OBE for Services to Business, Technology and Charity.

### About PCL Group

PCL Group is a total IT service provider to five main industry sectors, offshore, marine, commercial, industrial and renewables.

Since it was founded in 2000, it has seen year on year growth in the sectors it supports, its global reach and the services it provides to clients.

The company prides itself on its provision of

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a full range of services and provides turnkey solutions to meet individual client needs.

These services include remote desktop and VPN IT support; cloud services such as Office 365, Azure, virus protection and signatures; networking via 4G networks; telecoms; data services including back-up, disaster/recovery; and web development and design.

The customer base ranges from blue chip organisations on a quick response contract, to SMEs who want ad-hoc, ongoing service provision to single users who require only occasional support.

All work is undertaken in-house or through remote access by PCL's own team of highly trained technical engineers.

Despite its growth, PCL Group remains a family run business. In 2019, its founder Jeanette Forbes handed over the operational side of the business to her son Chris who became Managing Director and daughter Joanne the Financial Director. Jeanette still holds the role of CEO and now focuses on the business development aspect of PCL Group.