

Peter Cruddas

Peter Cruddas is a businessman and philanthropist.

He founded CMC Markets, an online Fin-Tech and financial services company, in 1989 and remains its CEO and major shareholder today. The company has 12 offices worldwide including London, Sydney, Shanghai, Singapore Frankfurt and Toronto. In 1996 he created and invented the first online trading platform in Europe, allowing clients and companies to buy and sell financial products on the internet.

Since then the company has won numerous awards for technology and innovation including the Millennium Dome business innovation award when they were one of a select few to be exhibited in the Millennium Dome exhibition. They also develop and licence technology to businesses around the world – recently agreeing to licence their technology to ANZ Bank Australia to allow over 500,000 of their clients to execute their physical share deals with the Sydney Stock Exchange. This entailed the biggest migration of clients from one trading platform to another in the history of the Australian stock exchange.

Fourteen years ago he set up the Peter Cruddas Foundation which he funds entirely himself. His stated intention is to give away £100 million to support and help disadvantaged children. Since inception, the Peter Cruddas Foundation has donated to over 200 charities including large donations to the Prince's Trust, Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, the Royal Opera House, Great Ormond Street Hospital, Youth United and the Royal Ballet School. As part of his charity work, he has been a Trustee of the Prince's Trust and was Chairman of Youth United, and a trustee of the Royal Opera House.

He was the Conservative Party's Co-Treasurer from 2011 to 2012 and has supported a number of political causes including serving as a director of the No2AV campaign in 2011; co-founder and board member of Business for Britain, a cross-party organisation of over 1,000 business people; and co-founder, treasurer and board member of Vote Leave during the 2016 referendum. Following the success of the Vote Leave campaign he helped to create Change Britain, a cross-party pressure group seeking to ensure that the result of the 2016 was respected.

He is an honorary fellow of Harris Manchester College, Oxford, and a visiting professor of Loughborough University. He was also awarded a Doctorate from Loughborough University.