Brief intro: -

Steve is an industry and business connector who works as a startup advisor and mentor. His career in the technology industry began in the early 1980s, initially in medical electronics and later in mobile at Cellnet. He was instrumental in the growth of Demon Internet, which became the largest Internet Service Provider (ISP) in the UK before being acquired by Scottish Telecom and floated as THUS Plc. Steve holds a BSc in Microelectronics and Information Processing from the University of Brighton.

Current Professional and Non-Profit Affiliations: -

Director, NetTek Ltd: Steve's consulting company, founded in 1994, through which he has worked with major telecommunications companies and ISPs and now primarily advises tech start-ups.

Director OpenStreetmap UK - this is a Community Interest Company (as was not for profit) and runs the UK chapter of OpenStreetmap (Foundation).

Advisor: MAPS Messaging: An IoT platform designed for network edge use that can convert between multiple IoT protocols with low microsecond latency (MQTT, AMQP, MQTT-SN,

CoAP, REST, raw serial/etc).

Professional Institutions: Steve is a Life Fellow of the British Computer Society (FBCS) Chartered Information Technology Practitioner (CITP) , and a member of the Institution of Engineering Technology (IET) , the Institution of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) , and the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM).

Non-Profit Affiliations and Responsibilities:

BCS Council: An elected member of the British Computer Society Council, which works with the Trustee Board to set policy and strategy.
Internet Society (ISOC) England Chapter: Sits on the Executive Committee and would like to continue.
NetUK / UKNOF: Serves on the Programme Committee for NetUK, which organises conferences for the UK infrastructure community. He was previously Chair of the Communications Committee.
City Meets Tech: Co-founded and ran events from 2011 to 2018 to connect early-stage technology start-ups with investors.
Mentor: Mentors for various accelerators and organisations, including Techstars , CognitionX,

University of Brighton, MassChallenge and more.

Holocaust Education: He is a supporter of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust / Holocaust Education Trust and is active with other networks like the Association for Jewish Refugees (AJR) and The

Second Generation Network and planning on giving talks about his father's experience as a Holocaust survivor.

London Softball League: Plays softball and has helped organise the league as a committee member, qualified coach, and umpire.

Personal Statement: Why Steve is a Good Candidate

Steve's extensive experience, spanning from the inception of the commercial internet in the UK to the current startup ecosystem, makes him a strong candidate for the Executive Committee. His career has been defined by his involvement in pivotal moments of UK internet history, such as sending the UK's second SMS message (replying to the 1st) , helping to grow Demon Internet into the UK's largest ISP , designing its initial ADSL service, and project managing the world's largest netcast at the time for the first UK "Big Brother". More recently has helped design a neural interface device and was non-exec of an MLoPS company.

Steve's expertise covers a broad and relevant spectrum, including:

Technical and Strategic Knowledge: Strengths in Internet, Telecoms, Mobile, and Wireless technologies, as well as business strategy, product development, and the commercialisation of technology.

Regulatory and Legal Acumen: At THUS, Steve worked directly with the Legal & Regulatory department to respond to Ofcom consultations and ensure compliance with the Communications Act. This expertise extends to how legal and regulatory frameworks relate to technology.

Communication Skills: He is media-trained and has a long history of acting as a media spokesperson, speaking to trade and national press on complex technology topics and how they affect consumers and writing a tech blog.

Commitment to the Tech Community: He has a proven track record of fostering the UK tech scene, notably by co-founding City Meets Tech to help startups secure funding and by mentoring for numerous accelerator programs. His reputation is built on asking difficult questions and helping startups find answers.

What Steve Hopes to Bring to the Role

Steve aims to bring his extensive experience as an "industry connector" and his deep understanding of the UK's technology infrastructure to the committee. He is committed to the

mission of a "free and open Internet". Specifically, he can contribute by:

Advising on Policy and Regulation: Leveraging his experience with Ofcom and the Communications Act to inform the committee's work with government and other organisations.
Fostering the UK Internet Ecosystem: Using his background in connecting startups with investors and his role as a mentor to support the next generation of internet innovators.
Enhancing Communications: Applying his media training and experience on the UKNOF Communications Committee and blogging activities to help articulate the Internet Society's message to a wider audience.
Strategic Vision: Utilising his background as Head of Product Futures at THUS , where he was responsible for the long-term product roadmap, to help guide the strategic direction of ISOC UK/England.

Steve is also a big supporter of diversity and inclusion as both parents were refugees from Nazi Germany (his father having survived Auschwitz, Mittelbau-Dora and Bergen-Belsen).

Thanks

Steve