

## AOC Gold Medal Award

### Authors

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- Erik Bamford

### Submission

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#### Introduction and Instructions

#### Nominator's Details

**Nominator's Name:**

Erik Alexander Bamford

**Nominator's Rank/Title:**

OF-4/LtCol / Branch Chief EW, Norwegian Armed Forces

**Nominator's Chapter Affiliation:**

Arctic Roost / AOC Board of Directors

**Nominator's Company:**

Norwegian Armed Forces

**Nominator's Job Title:**

OF-4/LtCol / Branch Chief EW, Norwegian Armed Forces

**Nominator's Address:**

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**Nominator's Country:**

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**Nominator's Phone:**

+4740437689

**Nominator's Email:**

erik-bamford@live.com

#### Nominee's Information

**Nominee's Name:**

Nataliia Kushnerska

**Nominee's Rank/Title:**

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

**Nominee's AOC Member Number:**

Not a member - not required

**Nominee's Chapter Affiliation:**

Not a member - not required

**Nominee's Company:**

Brave1

**Nominee's Job Title:**

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

**Nominee's Address:**

Kyiv, Ukraine

**Nominee's City:**

Kyiv

**Nominee's State/Province/County:**

Ukraine

**Nominee's Postal Code:**

N/A

**Nominee's Country:**

Ukraine

**Nominee's Phone:**

N/A

**Nominee's Email:**

NKushnerska@brave1.gov.ua

## Eligibility and Qualifications

**Nominee's Job Title and Organizational Level:**

Nataliia Kushnerska is the serving CEO for Brave1. Brave1 is a Government of Ukraine platform to bring together innovative companies with ideas and developments that can be used in the defense of Ukraine, launched on 26 April 2023.

## Leadership Requirements

**Leadership Contributions:**

Brave1 is utilising inventive ideas and the skills of people to create almost anything that will help Ukraine avoid losses and injuries to its forces and/or inflict losses on its enemies. For 2024 Brave1, under Nataliia Kushnerska's leadership developed, produced to scale and fielded 200+ projects in the defence of Ukraine. The industry cluster is not specific, or limited to

**Leadership Role Impact:**

Brave1 under Nataliia Kushneska has challenged and changed the development cycle for combat EW systems by altering the way requirements are put to industry, and how Brave1 as a bridge between the armed forces and industry set time and cost requirements to the deliveries and scalability of new EW capabilities. Western nations look for fail fast and spiral development, but Brave1 are facilitating and delivering at speed of relevance, inside the Russian aggressors OODA-loop for EMSO.

**Systemic or Long-term Impact:**

Brave1's approach have shown the impact of small technology start-ups relevance in war fighting, including within the field of EW. The approach have already become a beacon for smaller states by showing that the innovative process of a perceived underdog can alter the battle space.

**Influence on Policies and Doctrine:**

Nataliia Kushnerska's role as the COO and now the CEO has influenced the European view on defence technology and capability development, away from the post cold war legacy of large, few, costly and exquisite platforms, towards a view favouring quick, cheap, near-battle production capabilities. For capability areas like EW this (new) approach has been discussed for years, but never fully appreciated until companies like Brave1 delivered proof of concept.

**Additional Comments:**

Slava Ukraine!

## EW Community Awareness

**Magnitude of Contributions:**

Brave1 results for 2024 include 3200+ development, of which 230+ comply with NATO STANAGs. On behalf of the Ukrainian Government, Brave1 have produced defence capabilities at the magnitude of +40 million USD. Within the field of EW alone, Brave1 have clustered 140+ developers from across the Ukrainian defence industry, and facilitated 240+ unique EW developments thought out 2024. Of the EW capabilities delivered, there is a large quantum of

Counter-UAS EW systems, that have provided a low cost alternative to air- and missile defence systems in protecting against Russian one-way-drones.

**Community Recognition:**

AOC has for years provided the Ukrainians a platform to speak on the use of EW on the modern battle field. Nataliia Kushnerska, then as the COO of Brave1 supported AOC Europe in May 2024 with an eyeopening presentation on how Brave1 as concept and a facilitator managed to get small technology start-ups included in high-risk, low cost, quick impact projects. The presentation showcased a paradigm shift in how to approach the dynamics of the modern electromagnetic battle space.

**Proposed Award Citation****Proposed Award Citation:**

Mrs. Nataliia Kushnerska is recognized for her unwavering leadership and innovative approach to the development and fielding of relevant EW in support of the Ukrainian fight for freedom. As the CEO of Brave1, Kushnerska has challenged, and changed the dynamics of EW development, and therefore also EW's relevance on the front-line.

**Additional Documentation****Sign-Off**

Link to submission: <https://aoc.slayte.com/calls/detail/060b1ae4-63b9-11ef-90f4-0e0ce905385c/submissions/c6e6bfe4-d256-4792-8344-9c5d18a8d27b>