

**Company:** Algolia, San Francisco, CA

**Company Description:** Algolia is an API-First Search and Discovery platform that empowers builders to compose experiences at Internet scale to predict what customers want with blazing fast search and the best application browse experience leading to more remarkable Discovery. More than 11,000 companies including Under Armour, Lacoste and Zendesk rely on Algolia to manage over 1.5 trillion search queries a year.

**Nomination Category:** Individual Awards Categories

**Nomination Sub Category:** Best Female Entrepreneur – Consumer Products –11 to 2,500 Employees

**Nomination Title:** Bernadette Nixon



1. Which will you submit for your nomination in this category, a video of up to five (5) minutes, explaining the achievements since July 1, 2023 of the nominated woman, OR written answers to the questions? (Choose one):

Written answers to the questions

2. If you are submitting a video of up to five (5) minutes in length, provide the URL of the video here, OR attach it to your entry via the "Add Attachments, Videos, or Links to This Entry" link above, through which you may also upload a copy of your video. If you are submitting written answers to the questions for this category, provide them in the spaces below:

3. Briefly describe the nominated individual: history and past performance (up to 200 words):

**Total 188 words used.**

Bernadette Nixon is a dynamic and entrepreneurial CEO with a proven ability to scale global businesses. At Algolia, she has brought her strategic vision and growth-focused leadership to the forefront, guiding the company through significant milestones. Under her direction, Algolia raised \$150 million in Series D funding in 2021, boosting its valuation to \$2.25 billion—nearly four times its previous value. She further accelerated the company's momentum with the acquisition of Search.io in 2022 and led it to industry recognition in Gartner's 2024 Magic Quadrant for Search and Product Discovery.

Before joining Algolia, Bernadette was CEO of Alfresco, where she revitalized the company's go-to-market approach, introduced innovative products, and assembled a high-performing team that fueled growth. Her extensive leadership experience spans major organizations including SDL PLC, OpenText, Metastorm, CA Technologies, and even the United Nations in Geneva, showcasing her versatility and global impact.

With a BA in Business Studies and Marketing from the University of Hertfordshire, Bernadette combines academic grounding with a visionary mindset. Her career is marked by bold decisions, strategic growth initiatives, and a commitment to excellence—making her a standout leader in the tech industry.

4. Outline the nominee's achievements since July 1 2023 that you wish to bring to the judges' attention (up to 250 words):

**Total 201 words used.**

Under the visionary leadership of CEO Bernadette Nixon, Algolia has undergone a remarkable transformation into a powerhouse of innovation, culture, and inclusion. Nixon has not only shaped a dynamic and diverse leadership team but also steered the company through an extraordinary phase of growth and achievement.

During her tenure, Algolia's valuation soared fourfold to \$2.5 billion, punctuated by a landmark \$150 million Series D funding round. Under her strategic direction, Algolia acquired Search.io, a pivotal move that enabled the company to become the first—and only—provider to offer hybrid keyword and vector search within a unified platform, redefining the future of semantic search.

Her leadership has been instrumental in catapulting Algolia to the forefront of industry recognition. The company has earned top positions in major analyst reports including the Gartner Magic Quadrant for Product Search and Discovery, IDC MarketScape for Knowledge Discovery, and The Forrester Wave for both Search and Discovery and Cognitive Search.

Further cementing her forward-thinking legacy, Nixon spearheaded the launch of Generative AI Search, transforming the e-commerce experience. Algolia concluded the year with over 50 prestigious industry accolades, including rankings on the Forbes Cloud 100, Inc. 5000, and multiple Comparably awards—a glowing reflection of Nixon's extraordinary impact.

5. Explain why the achievements you have highlighted are unique or significant. If possible compare the achievements to the performance of other players in your industry and/or to the nominee's past performance (up to 250 words):

**Total 239 words used.**

Bernadette Nixon's achievements as CEO of Algolia are especially significant when viewed in the context of the company's evolution and the broader search industry landscape. Algolia began as a niche mobile app search engine and made a bold pivot to become a search-as-a-service platform—a strategic decision that laid the foundation for its current success. Under Nixon's leadership, this vision was dramatically accelerated.

She led the company through a \$150 million Series D round that quadrupled its valuation to \$2.5 billion—an exceptional milestone for a vertical SaaS company, especially in a space dominated by giants like Google and Elastic. While many search providers struggle to modernize, Nixon steered Algolia to be the first to offer hybrid keyword and vector search on a single platform, a breakthrough that has put the company ahead in the AI-native era.

Operationally, Algolia now processes nearly 2 trillion searches annually—more than any other hosted search engine—proving the speed, scale, and global demand for its real-time capabilities. Its API-first, developer-centric approach and blazing-fast performance (results in milliseconds) have made it the go-to platform for more than 17,000 companies across retail, e-commerce, and tech.

Unlike many of its competitors, Algolia has consistently ranked as a leader in analyst reports from Gartner, IDC, and Forrester. With over 50 industry accolades and inclusion in the Forbes Cloud 100, Nixon's leadership not only solidified Algolia's market position but set a new bar for what's possible in search technology.

6. Reference any attachments of supporting materials throughout this nomination and how they provide evidence of the claims you have made in this nomination (up to 250 words):

**Total 85 words used.**

Following are a few of our awards and recent customer announcements. Our content can be found on: <https://www.algolia.com/about/news/>

We are excited to share all our incredible growth and achievements over the past year, but here are a few examples (see below):

Customers:

<https://www.algolia.com/about/news/algolia-s-ai-search-enables-jd-sports-to-elevate-e-commerce-experience/>

<https://www.algolia.com/about/news/global-kitchen-appliance-brand-breville-brews-up-a-new-ecommerce-experience-with-algolia/>

Award:

Algolia honored with the AI Breakthrough Award for “Best Overall AI Platform for Search Platform” <https://www.algolia.com/about/news/algolia-wins-2024-ai-breakthrough-awards-for-best-overall-ai-search-platform/>

Analyst recognition:

Gartner MQ Leader in June 2025

<https://www.algolia.com/about/news/algolia-retains-leader-spot-in-g2-s-grid-report-for-enterprise-search-software-for-15th-consecutive-time/>

## Attachments/Videos/Links:

[Bernadette Nixon](#)



[REDACTED FOR PUBLICATION]