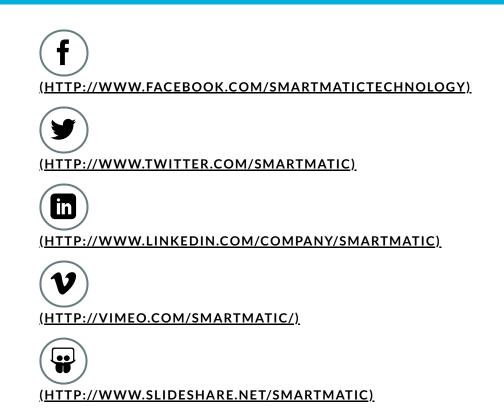MENU

Mark Malloch-Brown and Antonio Mugica launch SGO

London, UK, 24th November 2014.- Antonio Mugica and Lord Mark Malloch-Brown today announce a new venture, SGO, built on the extraordinary success of Smartmatic, the world's leading voting technology provider. Mugica, Smartmatic's CEO and co-founder, will continue in this role in the enlarged group. Lord Malloch-Brown will become chairman. He will be joined on SGO's board by Sir Nigel Knowles, Global CEO of DLA Piper, renowned entrepreneur David Giampaolo and Roger Piñate, Smartmatic's COO.

"The launch of our new group, coupled with Mark, David and Nigel's arrival on the board, reflects our widening vision and our ambition to harness the talents of our staff outside election technologies and consulting" said Antonio Mugica. "Led by this inspiring group of individuals, we will continue to make substantial investments in our core business and technology but over the coming months, as SGO, we will be rolling out a series of new ventures built on the fascinating work we are doing in other areas such as biometrics, online identity verification, internet voting and citizen participation, e-governance and pollution control."

Since it was founded in 2000, Smartmatic has grown into a global business, transforming elections around the world by guaranteeing total integrity in election solutions from registration, to vote count, through to results proclamation, backed by unrivalled technology and project management. The company has been involved in more elections (over 3,500) than any of its competitors; registered and counted over 2.3 billion votes in five continents, and developed its own innovative technology that sets a worldwide standard.

Commenting on his appointment, Malloch-Brown said, "When I discovered Antonio and his team I saw three extraordinary assets: an elections business that could help restore faith in democracy but which despite being the largest in the world remains too little known; a network of software

engineers and scientists who were not closeted in the typical IT clusters near comfortable university campuses but were out there in the field, designing products that work in every corner of the world; and third, an exciting wave of solutions with the potential to change people's lives."

Malloch-Brown was head of the UN Development Programme for six years. During that time he established its Democracy and Good Governance practice and made it UNDP's leading global specialisation. "Throughout his career Mark has insisted that solutions to development challenges start with successfully empowering people through voting and participation. I cannot imagine a more committed campaigner to lead our Board and, together with Nigel and David, to represent us going forward", said Mugica.

© 2018 Smartmatic

Sitemap (/sitemap/)
Terms of use (/terms-of-use/)
Privacy policy (/privacy-policy/)

Tech start-ups

Lord Mark Malloch-Brown to chair election technology group SGO

Veteran diplomat to chair company that sees opportunity in enabling fair voting processes

Murad Ahmed, European Technology Correspondent NOVEMBER 24, 2014

Lord Mark Malloch-Brown is set to become chairman of the world's leading provider of election technology this week.

The peer and veteran diplomat, whose career has seen him serve as deputy secretary-general of the UN, vice-president of the World Bank, and UK Foreign Office minister, will be announced as chairman of SGO, a new venture based in London.

SGO will be the parent company to Smartmatic, a company that provided evoting machines for recent elections in Brazil and the Philippines, which says it has about 50 per cent share of the global election technology market. In the coming year, it will launch three new companies, each working on spin-off products to tackle issues such as biometric identification, internet voting and climate change.

Lord Malloch-Brown said he would step into the chairman's seat at the new venture because he believed encouraging fair elections in emerging nations was the best way to fulfil international development goals.

"There's nothing more powerful in terms of reallocating resources among the poor than effective democracy which allows the poor a political voice," he said.

Since leaving the political and diplomatic world, Lord Malloch-Brown has previously been chairman of FTI Consulting, the public relations group, and also sits on boards for a number of corporate and charitable groups.

He may also provide the elections tech company with political clout in the world's corridors of power, with Smartmatic's devices proving controversial in some places.

In 2007, the company sold its US subsidiary after lawmakers in the country raised concerns about foreign ownership of a group that works in a sensitive industry. Smartmatic was founded by Venezuelan entrepreneurs in 2000, which has led to accusations it could be linked to the regime of Hugo Chávez, the late president who had a tempestuous relationship with the US. The company has always denied this.

Lord Malloch-Brown said he had "kicked the tyres" and was "satisfied that this is a high-quality business".

"This is a company that begun in Venezuela where elections have been very controversial," he added. Antonio Mugica, chief executive, "from the beginning has had to be more Catholic than the Pope. His systems, sales and marketing have had to be impeccable. There is no room for anything but the gold standard on this, because his competitors and disappointed [political] candidates would just descend on him."

Mr Mugica, who will also be chief executive of SGO, said Smartmatic had average annual revenues of about $250m and had been profitable for more than a decade. He added that its commercial success would be used to provide SGO with a "war chest" of about $140m. The funds will be used to launch new enterprises, fund acquisitions and for research and development.

SGO's board will also include Nigel Knowles, chief executive of DLA Piper, the law firm, and David Giampaolo, chief executive of Pi Capital, the London-based investment group.

Latest on Tech start-ups

How easy was it to use FT.com today?

Leave feedback

sgo (/)
sgo (/)

Lord Mark Malloch-Brown (Chairman)

Mark Malloch-Brown is a former number two in the United Nations as well as having served in the British Cabinet and Foreign Office. He now sits in the House of Lords and is active both in business and in the non-profit world. He also remains deeply involved in international affairs.

Mark served as Deputy Secretary-General and Chief of Staff of the UN under Kofi Annan. For six years before that he was Administrator of the UNDP, leading the UN's development efforts around the world. He was later Minister of State in the Foreign Office, covering Africa and Asia, and was a member of Gordon Brown's cabinet.

Other positions have included vice-chairman of George Soros's Investment Funds, as well as his Open Society Institute, a Vice-President at the World Bank and the lead international partner at Sawyer Miller, a political consulting firm. He also has served as Vice-Chairman of the World Economic Forum. He began his career as a journalist at The Economist.

In addition to his new role at SGO, Mark sits on several other commercial boards and remains a Senior Advisor to FTI Consulting, where he was previously Chairman for Europe, Middle East and Africa. He chairs the Boards of a number of non-profit boards including the International Crisis Group, the Open Society Foundation, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation and the Centre for Global Development.

Mark is also a Distinguished Practitioner of the Blavatnik School of Government at Oxford University and was formerly a visiting distinguished fellow at the Yale Centre for the Study of Globalisation. He has a number of honorary degrees.

He was knighted in 2007 for his contribution to international affairs. Mark is the author of "The Unfinished Global Revolution" and continues to write, broadcast and lecture about international issues.

|

Unknown Error

- Menu

failed to archive the URL. specifics of failure is unknown

- - **Back**

  - English
  - Español
  - Français
  - Português
- Search
- Search

  Go

- About
- Voting
- Testimonials
- Case studies
- News
- Contact

- Voting

- About
- Voting
- Testimonials
- Case studies
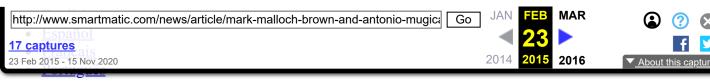- News
- Contact

Filter news

- All news

Share this

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Email
- Print

Search

Search

Go

Language

SMARTMATIC

[Home](#) > [News](#)

Filter news

- [All news](#)

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Print](#)
- [Email](#)

Featured case studies

- [2014 European Parliament elections: Estonia](#)
- [Brazil's general elections 2014](#)
- [Ecuador's sectional elections, 2014](#)

Have a question?

[Contact us](#)

Mark Malloch-Brown and Antonio Mugica launch SGO

London, UK, 24th November 2014.- Antonio Mugica and Lord Mark Malloch-Brown today announce a new venture, SGO, built on the extraordinary success of Smartmatic, the world's leading voting technology provider. Mugica, Smartmatic's CEO and co-founder, will continue in this role in the enlarged group. Lord Malloch-Brown will become chairman. He will be joined on SGO's board by Sir Nigel Knowles, Global CEO of DLA Piper, renowned entrepreneur David Giampaolo and Roger Piñate, Smartmatic's COO.

"The launch of our new group, coupled with Mark, David and Nigel's arrival on the board, reflects our widening vision and our ambition to harness the talents of our staff outside election technologies and consulting" said Antonio Mugica. "Led by this inspiring group of individuals, we will continue to make substantial investments in our core business and technology but over the coming months, as SGO, we will be rolling out a series of new ventures built on the fascinating work we are doing in other areas such as biometrics, online identity verification, internet voting and citizen participation, e-governance and pollution control."

Since it was founded in 2000, Smartmatic has grown into a global business, transforming elections around the world by guaranteeing total integrity in electoral solutions from registration, to vote count, through to results proclamation, backed by unrivalled technology and project management. The company has been involved in more elections (over 3,500) than any of its competitors; registered and counted over 2.3 billion votes in five continents, and developed its own innovative technology that sets a worldwide standard.

extraordinary assets: an elections business that could help restore faith in democracy which despite being the largest in the world remains too little known; a network of software engineers and scientists who were not created in the typical IT clusters near comfortable university campuses but were out there in the field, designing products that work in every corner of the world; and third, an exciting wave of solutions with the potential to change people's lives."

Malloch-Brown was head of the UN Development Programme for six years. During that time he established its Democracy and Good Governance practice and made it UNDP's leading global specialisation. "Throughout his career Mark has insisted that solutions to development challenges start with successfully empowering people through voting and participation. I cannot imagine a more committed campaigner to lead our Board and, together with Nigel and David, to represent us going forward", said Mugica.

- Facebook
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
- Tumblr
- Vimeo
- SlideShare

- English
- Español
- Français
- Português

- © 2015 Smartmatic
- Sitemap
- Terms of use