

# Richard Forss

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## CTO | CIO

Technology executive with more than three decades of leadership across trading, brokerage and market-infrastructure environments. I have led enterprise-scale platform transformations, rebuilt governance and financial disciplines, and shaped global engineering and operations organisations across Europe and the UK.

My experience spans front-to-back trading technology, market data, risk systems, portfolio management, cloud and infrastructure, product delivery and operational resilience. I specialise in modernising fragmented or legacy estates into scalable, compliant and cloud-portable platforms capable of supporting institutional-grade throughput, regulatory scrutiny and enterprise governance.

Having operated in both major financial institutions and high-growth fintechs, I bring a balanced leadership profile – commercial discipline, technical depth, strong financial governance and a clear understanding of regulatory expectations at global scale.

I have led the design and delivery of trading, risk and portfolio-management platforms across multiple asset classes, working closely with front-office, risk and operations teams.

*UK Citizen and holder of a Swiss Residency Permit (No sponsorship required)*

## EXECUTIVE CAPABILITIES

### Technology Governance & Financial Control

- Designed and embedded EXANTE's end-to-end financial governance framework (annual planning, monthly controls, CapEx/OpEx classification, IFRS alignment).
- Established budgeting, scenario-planning and board-ready reporting standards comparable to global banks.

### Platform Modernisation & Scalability

- Defined and executed a multi-year roadmap to scale a global multi-asset brokerage across order routing, market data, risk, desktop/mobile platforms and post-trade automation.
- Delivered architectural simplification and 10x scalability in user capacity and order throughput.
- Modernised trading, risk and portfolio-management workflows, integrating pricing, analytics and order-lifecycle controls across asset classes.

### Operating Model & Organisational Transformation

- Transitioned Technology from feature-led delivery to a modern Product Operating Model with accountable squads, discovery practices and outcome-based governance.
- Built the PMO, delivery rhythms, capacity planning processes and RAG-based portfolio oversight.

### IT Operations, Reliability & Resilience

- Introduced a 99.99% uptime target across DevOps, SRE and Infrastructure; rebuilt observability, structured logging and incident management.
- Strengthened operational resilience to meet DORA, MiFID II, CySEC and HK SFC expectations.

### AI Strategy & Engineering Productivity

- Launched an enterprise AI strategy across engineering, operations and client-facing products.
- Achieved 20–30% productivity gains through workflow redesign, tooling and governance.

### Leadership & Organisational Development

- Built and led global organisations of 200+ staff across engineering, QA, operations, data and product.
- Implemented competency frameworks, performance standards and structured learning pathways.

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## Chief Technology Officer **EXANTE**

Jul 2024 – Present  
Cyprus / Zug / Remote

Leading the transformation of EXANTE's global brokerage and trading platform, serving retail, HNW, institutional and white-label clients in 60+ markets. Responsible for architecture, engineering, product, cybersecurity, market data and IT operations.

### Key contributions:

- **Leadership & Organisation:** Reshaped engineering and IT Operations; strengthened leadership capability and performance discipline.
- **Delivery & Governance:** Standardised planning, discovery, portfolio management and capacity forecasting.
- **Scalability & Architecture:** Redesigning core systems to enable 10x increases in user scale, order flow and data ingestion.
- **Stakeholder Alignment:** Re-established strong collaboration with front-office and white-label partners, improving platform adoption.
- **AI Integration:** Embedded AI across SDLC, testing, operations and client-facing tools.

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## Deputy Chief Technology Officer **Crypto Finance AG (Deutsche Börse Group)**

Feb 2023 – Jul 2024  
Zürich, Switzerland

Joined to strengthen governance, platform resilience and delivery across trading, custody and tokenisation businesses.

- Led the replacement of the trade-execution platform: strategy, business case, RFP, vendor selection and delivery.
- Modernised SDLC, automation, CI/CD and architectural standards.
- Established cross-functional engineering guilds (databases, messaging, GCP).
- Oversaw development of a security-critical hardware signing device integrated with HSMs for institutional-grade digital-asset custody.

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## Co-Founder & Chief Technology Officer **Covario AG**

Feb 2020 – Dec 2022  
Zug, Switzerland

Digital-asset prime brokerage serving HFT hedge funds, asset managers and family offices.

- Designed low-latency, high-throughput trading architecture.
- Built governance and risk frameworks for a planned FINMA securities-dealer licence.
- Led a 35-engineer organisation; developed academic talent pipelines.
- Worked closely with clients and investors on product direction.

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## Chief Technology Officer **Argentière Capital AG**

Oct 2012 – Sep 2019  
Zug, Switzerland

CTO of a US\$3.5bn global hedge fund covering equity volatility, fixed income, distressed and systematic trading.

- Built complete infrastructure (data centres, networks, trading systems).
- Led development of trading tools, portfolio and risk analytics, and cross-asset dashboards supporting front-office decision-making.
- Designed serverless AWS-based risk engine (20 hours → 20 minutes).
- Owned technology governance, board reporting and due diligence.

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## Freelance Consultant

Feb 2012 – Sep 2012

Designed the first REST API for the Imagine Trading System and delivered one of the industry's earliest iPad applications for portfolio and risk visibility.

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<b>Systems Director</b> <b>Arrowgrass Capital Partners LLP</b>	<b>Feb 2008 – Jan 2012</b> London, United Kingdom
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- Built the full trading and risk platform for an \$8bn Deutsche Bank spin-out.
- Established infrastructure, vendor strategy and operational processes.
- Led migration of proprietary trading models, systems and data from Deutsche Bank.

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<b>IT Director</b> <b>Deutsche Bank AG – OMNIS Hedge Fund</b>	<b>Oct 2004 – Feb 2008</b> London, United Kingdom
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- Built infrastructure and trading systems for the proprietary trading desk ahead of spin-out.
- Developed pricing, scenario and risk-calculation tools.

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<b>Project Manager / Senior Developer</b> <b>Deutsche Bank AG – Convertibles Trading Desk</b>	<b>Jun 1999 – Sep 2004</b> London, United Kingdom
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Designed and delivered the award-winning convertible-bonds analytics, pricing and trading platform.

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## EARLY CAREER

Bankers Trust – Warrants & Convertibles Trading | 1998–1999  
Union Bank of Switzerland – Equities Technology | 1994–1998  
NatWest Bank – Credit Card Services | 1993–1994  
Credit Suisse First Boston – Trading Technology | 1991–1993  
Citibank – Strategic Business Solutions | 1990–1991