It's always with great sadness when one has to write an article such as this, but with it comes the happy memories that the person in question gave to us and the joy they brought into our lives.

Jack Tramiel, founder of Commodore International, passed away on April 8th 2012 aged 83. Tributes have been pouring in across many forum boards and news sites* regarding the passing of this pioneer of the home computer industry and astute businessman. Under the leadership of Tramiel, Commodore brought us (to mention a few) the C64, PET and Vic20. After being ousted by his own company, he bought Atari where he would go on to launch the successful Atari ST range of computers.

The computer industry today has much to thank Commodore and Jack Tramiel for - they made computers accessible to the masses due to being able to deliver a high quality computer and also drive their prices down and undercut the competition. A lot of this was due to Jacks quest to have full vertical integration within the company, not relying on external manufacturers for their components. This was evident from the (hostile) acquisition of MOS Technology which gave Commodore the ability to produce custom chips with ease and enable a sound business strategy.

Jack was a truly inspirational man, in both respects of his personal background and his business success.

Our thoughts go out to his family, friends and former colleagues.

Thanks for everything Jack - where would the industry be now without you?

*footnote - except for BBC News - shame on you.

{jcomments on}