

in the offshore and renewable sector.

The team, headed by Andrew Barnes, senior partner at Howes Percival, includes corporate partner Robert Colman, planning partner Trevor Ivory, commercial property expert Joanna Nicholls, environmental and health and safety law expert Rebecca Carriage and employment law specialist Nicola Butterworth, who recently joined the firm from an Aberdeen-based energy specialist law firm.

The new team is a direct response to increasing demand for legal services from energy-related companies in the region that are expanding rapidly and developing into new markets. The team offers a full range of legal services from help with employment issues and regulatory compliance through to acquiring new premises and financing major corporate deals. The team can also advise on contractual disputes, competition law and intellectual property matters, insolvency and tax planning.

Andrew Barnes said: "The energy sector has long been a major driver of economic growth in the East of England – from offshore oil and gas to nuclear power and the newer renewable technologies, and the region is home to many energy businesses, from global players to the local supply chain. Many of those businesses already recognise the unique

"THE ENERGY SECTOR HAS LONG BEEN A MAJOR DRIVER OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND."

combination of legal excellence and sector knowledge that Howes Percival offers and so creating a formal group that is dedicated to supporting the sector to take advantage of new opportunities is a logical next step for us.

"The sector is expanding rapidly, which creates a demand for premises and financing as well as generating operational and staffing issues. Growing companies want to get on with the business of expanding so they need support from professional advisers who really understand the energy sector and the issues they face."

core hydraulic torque wrench, nut-splitter and flange spreading and alignment equipment.

Regional sales manager Nick Thomson explained: "Our being able to offer hydraulic bolt tensioning hire equipment represented an obvious progression for the company and we are looking also at one or two other potential product lines following feedback from clients. Now that we have established ourselves right at the heart of the East of England's energy sector, it is important that we can provide what the sector tells us it needs."

The company has engaged the services of Laurence Shahlaei, winner of Britain's Strongest Man 2012, to help promote its products and Laurence spent two days on the company's exhibition stand at the recent EEEGR SNS 2013 event.

Gee-Force celebrates first year in Great Yarmouth

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Hydraulic bolting specialist Gee-Force Hydraulics is celebrating its first year in Great Yarmouth with an additional line of hire equipment.

New supply arrangements mean that the company will now be offering hydraulic bolt tensioning equipment for hire alongside its



Managing director Graeme Cook said: "Laurence has already played a big part in helping us establish the company's presence in Great Yarmouth and we are looking forward to working with him as we build on our capabilities and profile. He is a powerful guy and lends an obvious synergy with our high force, high strength products.

"He was a big hit on our exhibition stand and we hope that our association with him can play its part in helping establish Gee-Force as the premier supplier of hydraulic bolting and related equipment in the East of England."

In conjunction with the equipment manufacturer SPX Bolting Systems, Gee-Force also provides advice and training in the competent and safe use of hydraulic bolting equipment.

Above: Weight for it: (from left) Graeme Cook, strong man Laurence Shahlaei and Ian Harris, of SPX Bolting, at Gee-Force's SNS2013 Exhibition stand



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