



Press Release
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Law Firms HFW and Gates and Partners Announce Informal Alliance

LONDON - Specialist international insurance, trade and shipping law firm Holman Fenwick & Willan have today announced an informal alliance with newly-established aviation law specialist Gates and Partners.

Under the terms of the arrangement, HFW will support the Gates and Partners team in handling major aviation disasters and other areas using their team of marine disaster specialists and their network of foreign offices. Gates will support HFW in areas where they wish to rely on the Gates team's 40 years of aviation expertise. The complementary commercial practices of the two firms will also collaborate where appropriate.

Greg Gray, HFW's Managing Partner commented, "This is an important opportunity for the firm as we have been looking at ways to further develop work complementary to the core areas of our practice, such as in aviation. Sean Gates, Senior Partner at Gates and Partners, is the leader in the field of aerospace and will assist us in advancing our name in areas which complement our skills".

Sean Gates observed that "HFW is a professional and highly motivated firm with a clear vision of how to utilise its specialist capabilities in its core areas. I am looking forward to working with them and to strengthening our relationship to the benefit of our mutual clients."

HFW is one of the leading law firms in insurance, reinsurance and LLP trade; as well as a market leader in shipping, with offices in Asia and Europe. Gates and Partners is a new venture led by the former Senior Partner of Beaumont and Son, Sean Gates, voted world's best aviation lawyer for 2003 by Euromoney's prestigious *Best of the Best 2003* expert guide.