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John Swinney MSP, Scotland's Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth was in Thurso today to open Caithness Renewables Ltd's new office, Renewables @ No.10, and announce that Harper Macleod LLP is the first to sign up to use the facility.

Harper Macleod LLP is one of Scotland's largest law firms and an award winning specialist in renewable energy. The firm opened its first office in the Highlands in 2004, with a team of 18 staff now working in Inverness.

The continued expansion in the Highlands is a reflection of the positive business environment in the region, which is already seeing direct and indirect boosts from renewable energy projects.

Playing a major part in the development of over 1000MW of renewable energy generation and having a client list that includes some of the country's largest businesses and high profile brands, Harper Macleod brings extensive experience to the Caithness business community.

Providing services to individuals and businesses of all sizes in areas including Banking & Finance, Employment & HR, Energy & Renewables, Business Advisory and much more, Harper Macleod is aiming to continue growing it's presence in the Highlands.

John Swinney Finance Secretary said:

""The Scottish Government and our enterprise agencies are doing all we can to retain Scotland's position as the most supportive environment for business in the UK. We recognise the huge contribution that businesses of all sizes make to our economy and that is why we want to create a thriving business community across Scotland.

"The opening of Caithness Renewables' new offices will provide business advice and support to Scotland's growing renewables sector. Businesses in Caithness have decades of experience and knowledge in the oil, gas and nuclear power and this makes them ideally placed to meet the needs of Scotland's growing renewable energy sector."

Chris Kerr, Lead Partner of Harper Macleod's Highlands operation, is excited at the opportunities the new office will provide:

"When we opened our office in Inverness in 2004, we knew that the Highlands and Islands would be a key part of our firm's growth.

"The north of Scotland is set to play a major role in marine renewables and with our unrivalled experience in this sector; we're looking forward to working with the Caithness business and local communities."

Caithness Renewables' Director, Thurso engineer, Louise Smith, who decided to establish a user friendly base for incoming renewable energy businesses, came up with the 'Renewables @ No.10' idea. She said "I welcome Harper Macleod to the area and hope that our businesses grow together during the next exciting decade for renewable energy. The hot desking facility

gives incoming businesses the opportunity to get a feel for the area in a supportive environment and we look forward to welcoming other companies to Caithness on this basis."

Trudy Morris, Chief Executive of Caithness Chamber of Commerce said:

"Harper Macleod has supported the Chamber in Caithness for a number of years and has seen the opportunities this area provides.

"We are delighted that they are opening an office here to further support the Caithness business community and we wish them every success in their continued growth."



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