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## Goodrich launches maritime and energy practice

Published 30 November 2006

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David Enriquez

Mexican law firm [Goodrich, Riquelme y Asociados](#) has launched a new practice spanning maritime and offshore energy law, the first such department in Mexico.

The firm has not hired new lawyers for the practice, instead nominating partner David Enríquez to head it, with fellow partners David H Brill and Ricardo Lan and associate Carlos Morán. But Brill says he does not rule out further expansion.

Brill explains the thinking behind the dual-track practice. "Mexico's shallow-water oil reserves are running dry, and Pemex will have to begin deep water exploration," he says. "This requires unique technology and large amounts of investment - meaning huge numbers of very lucrative contracts will be signed with foreign companies. We want to be a part of that."

Part of the strategy for the new practice is to build links with European companies and law firms - Carlos Morán is stationed in London working with salvage operators, insurers and others.

The firm has been involved in maritime work for some time - Enríquez helped draft Mexico's new maritime law, which came into effect in July. "The new law aims to grant legal certainty to the industry both by updating marine insurance, maritime sales, and coastal trade regime; and by establishing a full set of new proceedings especially designed for maritime claims," he says. "This should foster increased investment in the sector."

The firm has also worked on one of the largest commercial salvage operations in maritime history, when the APL Panama ran aground on Christmas day last year. [As reported in LATINLAWYER](#), the total value for vessel and cargo was estimated at over US\$150 million.

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