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Growing partnership takes four executive search specialists from rivals

The growth of burgeoning executive search partnership Hitchenor Wakeford has gathered pace with the appointment of four specialists from industry rivals – and an invitation for more to join.

The new arrivals are led by the highly experienced Jack Jenkins, who joins as a Partner leading the Industrial practice. Jack had been Partner in charge of Whitehead Mann's Birmingham office but left following the decision to close regional offices across the UK.

He has extensive experience in handling assignments ranging from Chairs and Chief Executives of plcs through to subsidiary Board level across all disciplines and business areas.

Also joining is David Fitt, arriving from Boyden as a Consultant in the Support Services practice. David has worked on behalf of large multinationals, family and private businesses and has also worked for Whitehead Mann, following an earlier career with Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

Rachel Smith, at Spencer Stuart for nine years, joins as a Consultant with the Professional Services and Private Equity practices. The former divisional company secretary at Kelda Group has many years experience of recruiting for public companies and private equity portfolio companies at Board and executive level, including Chair and NED positions.

Meanwhile Julia Collings has moved from Michael Page after six years there to further develop Hitchenor Wakeford's Interim Management business.

Jack, who was also Head of Recruitment for a FTSE 100 plc prior to his 15 years with GKR and WM, had not been short of offers once his availability became known. He explained why it was the approach by Hitchenor Wakeford MD John Wakeford which proved the most attractive.

Jack said: “It was flattering to get several calls but knowing John Wakeford, who had worked for Whitehead Mann previously, helped enormously. Meeting the other directors Adrian, David and Spencer convinced me that Hitchenor Wakeford had a similar value set to my own.

“Customer service, both for clients and candidates, is key. Teamwork, energy, passion, a focus on delivery - as well as making hard work enjoyable - are part of the Hitchenor Wakeford ethos. Now that I have met the rest of the Hitchenor Wakeford team I look forward to working with them.”

Jack added: “Hitchenor Wakeford is growing and profitable, with a sensible strategy. The goal is to become the headhunter of choice at a senior level for a portfolio of clients who value a rigorous search process from a boutique owned by the team. This model works - there are clients who prefer this approach to an impersonal global plc.

“Hitchenor Wakeford have recently recruited experienced executive search professionals from Spencer Stuart and Boyden, illustrating the power of their brand.”

Adrian Hitchenor, CEO of Hitchenor Wakeford, welcomed the new additions. He said: “Jack brings extensive experience of executive search at the highest level, having run a profitable regional office for Whitehead Mann. David and Rachel also join us from competitors, adding valuable experience and talent to our support services, professional services and private equity practices.

“We are always looking for the best talent in executive search to join and I would be happy to hear from any experienced practitioners who think they have got what it takes.”

The Hitchenor Wakeford Group was launched by Adrian Hitchenor, John Wakeford and David Tunna in 2006 and has already grown into a £3m-a-year business with 20 staff and offices in Leeds, Manchester and London. The company’s vision is to build the executive search firm of choice in every sector it operates in, and there are ambitious plans to open new offices in other regions.

- **For more information or to arrange to interview Adrian Hitchenor, contact Chris Jennings at chris@cian-pr.co.uk or on 07954 157939.**