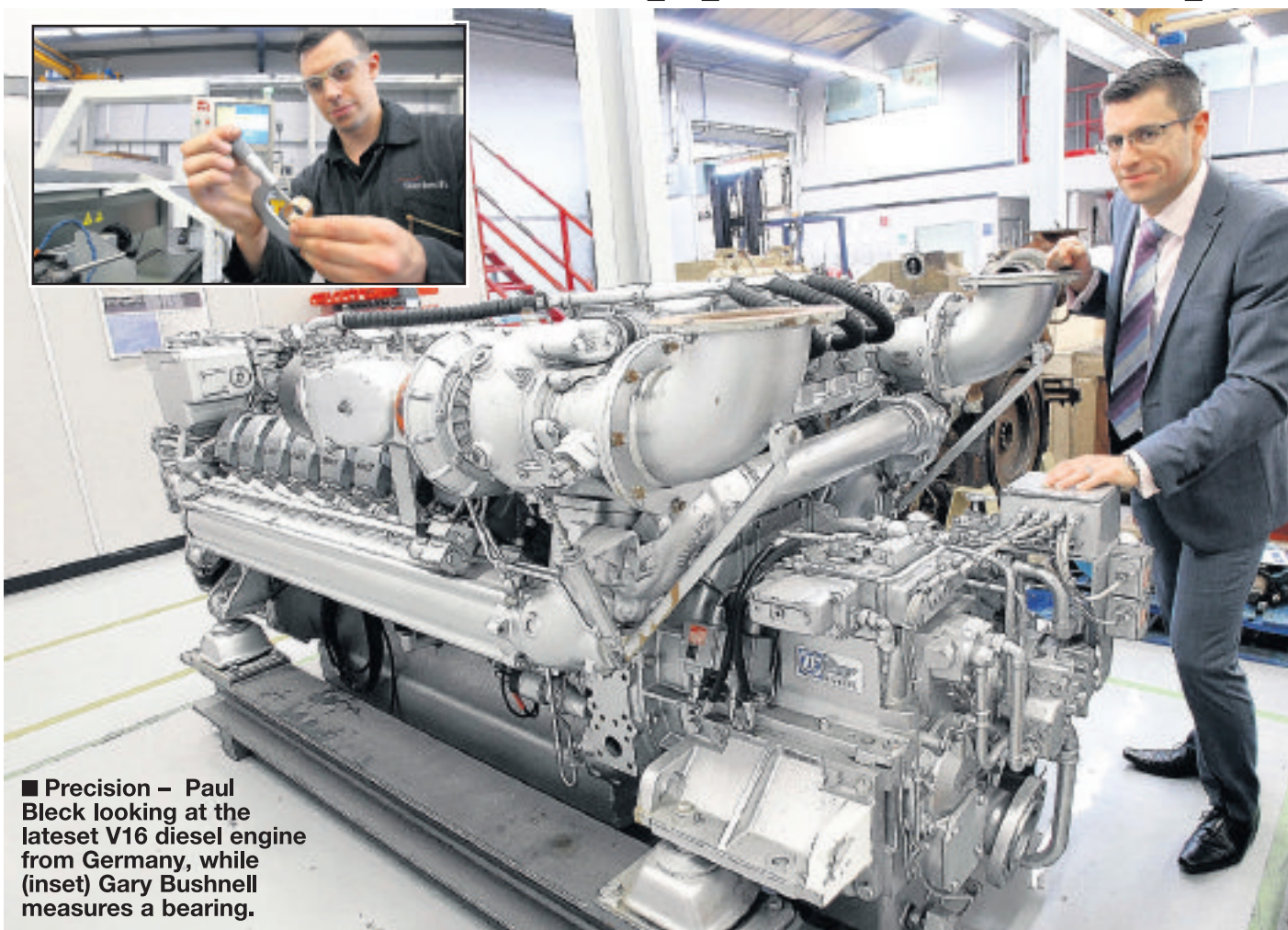


# We'll keep reinvesting in our business and apprenticeships



■ Precision – Paul Bleck looking at the latest V16 diesel engine from Germany, while (inset) Gary Bushnell measures a bearing.

By VANESSA MOON

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EVOLVING to meet customers' needs has led Bartech Marine Engineering to grow by 35 per cent in 12 months.

Bartech, based in Colchester, is hoping to recruit two new apprentices as a result of its growth, which it says is down to ensuring its services are available to a wider range of industries.

Paul Bleck, managing director, said: "We work closely with our customers and build long-term relationships with them, which means they will ask us to look at other projects they are working on.

"We have expanded through existing customers and opening our services up to new sectors."

Bartech was founded in 1987 by husband and wife team Gerald and Jane Barnett, Paul's parents-in-law, who started the company from their garage on Mersea Island.

With a long career in working with diesel engines behind him, Gerald decided he had the right combination of technical experience and an understanding of clients' needs to set up on his own.

The business eventually moved into its own building and nearly two years ago it moved into premises five times bigger in Port Lane.

Paul said: "We keep reinvesting back into the business to help it develop.

"Now it's about investing in our training and developing the teams who can continue to give the same level of support and expertise to our clients as we have always done.



They all had one thing in common – a passion for engineering, and we can help develop that passion and skills

"We need to be looking into the future now and providing this high level of engineering skill and expertise."

Bartech Marine Engineering is a specialist in diesel engine maintenance, repair, overhauls and upgrades.

It works with the marine industry and oil and gas clients, including Shell, to maintain and repair safety-critical equipment.

The company was recently named one of five UK Service Dealers, and the only one in East Anglia, for German engineering firm MTU.

The company is now an authorised partner

for servicing all MTU engines, which are used in marine, locomotive, power generation and offshore, across the region.

Paul said: "This contract puts us in a strong position to continue our growth and developing other, long-term partnerships.

"Our guys went to Germany for their training on the MTU engines so they could get access to all the technical information they needed to ensure they provide clients with the best support available."

To help the growth of the business Bartech held an open morning for potential apprentices and Paul says interest in working in the sector is on the increase.

He said: "Engineering has been evolving in the UK and while it hasn't had the same appeal among the younger generation, we were so happy to meet the youngsters who attended our open morning.

"They were from all types of backgrounds but they all had one thing in common – they had a passion for engineering and we can help develop that passion and skills."

While most of Bartech's work is in the UK, there is also scope to export their services overseas.

Paul said: "By expanding the range of services we provide and the equipment we have, we will be able to offer more to not just a wider range of manufacturers, but also work on a wider range of equipment for them."