



Technology

Taylor Wessing's Technology Group advises and assists clients on all technology related matters, whatever their scale or scope. Our clients come from the UK and all over the world, particularly the US.

Voted Technology Law Firm of the Year at the UK Technology Innovation & Growth Awards 2007.

*Top rated in IT
Legal 500 (2007)*

"Taylor Wessing solely targets high-end technology and life sciences work, for which it is among the best in Europe."

Legal 500 (2007)

Our practice covers more than just "IT" - it spans the broadening range of information, communications and business process technology and the convergence of telecoms, broadcasting and IT.

As technology touches all areas of business, we have adopted a multi-disciplinary approach with our well respected intellectual property and technology lawyers regularly combining with our corporate finance and international corporate partners.

Through regularly acting for technology companies our lawyers have developed an understanding of their culture, the response times required, the need for a pragmatic approach and, above all, appreciation of how to deliver legal services in a user friendly, pro-active way.

The technology group

The partners in the group come from all sections of the firm. The nature of the group's practice makes it ideally placed to make introductions to venture capitalists, private funds and institutions seeking to invest in technology companies.

US links

Taylor Wessing has links and working relationships with the majority of the major US law firms specialising in technology work.

Pan-European services

Taylor Wessing provides a pan-European service to its client base through its offices in Germany, Belgium and France, as well as a number of specialist law firms with whom it has been working for many years.

Our services

All technology companies, whether start-ups or multinationals, are highly complex businesses. This is due to a number of factors, including rapid technical change, innovative business models, and often also high intellectual property content and complex funding structures.

Corporate finance

These companies often need to raise finance, whether from private or public sources. Our corporate finance lawyers have extensive experience of raising funds through venture capital, initial public offerings and secondary issues of equity and debt securities both in the UK and US. We also advise on employee packages, including share option plans and long-term incentive plans.

International corporate

Many of our clients are being established as subsidiaries or branches of overseas companies. We have considerable experience in advising on the appropriate vehicle for setting up in the UK and understand the need to meet the requirements of the overseas company, whilst at the same time considering the practical implications for the inward investor.

Ownership and use of rights

We regularly work for technology businesses and those running, starting, purchasing or investing in them. This means we understand how to ensure that our clients own, have appropriate rights to use and can protect the intellectual property rights which underpin the business concerned. Our advice and the work we do reflects this understanding.

Due diligence

Whenever funds are being raised, or a business in the technology sector is being bought or sold, it is vital to review the ownership of or right to use relevant intellectual property rights, the way in which those rights have been exploited and the extent to which they can be protected. Assessing these factors, upon which the value of the business depends, will help identify areas of potential weakness and will enable action to be taken before the transaction is completed to secure or protect appropriate rights. By having lawyers who understand the business and the field of technology in which it operates, as well as being experienced in the relevant fields of law, we are able to ensure that proper due diligence is carried out and that our advice reflects these issues.

Supply, procurement and exploitation

Deals involving the supply, procurement or exploitation of a piece of technology must reflect the commercial requirements and needs of both the supplier and customer. Projects are facilitated by ensuring that all relevant issues are discussed and agreed at the outset and that the resulting contract reflects the commercial reality and strikes an appropriate balance between the parties involved. We add value to projects by ensuring that the parties have reached a clear understanding of each other's requirements and abilities. By identifying potential issues and ensuring that they are dealt with and by advising on suitable processes to be adopted, we help to put together arrangements which are clear, reasonable and practical.

Outsourcing and management

It is sometimes more efficient for technology users to outsource to expert service providers, or to have those service providers manage their facilities. In order to be successful, these arrangements need to result from a process in which the user's needs and the supplier's ability to fulfil them are identified clearly and in detail. All of the related issues (such as employment and employees' rights, use of third party technology, ongoing problem resolution, how to deal with eventual termination and other such factors) must be discussed, resolved and reflected in the agreement. Our thorough understanding and substantial experience of these transactions and the related technology enables us to help both users and suppliers conduct this essential process, identify and resolve the important issues and put together a clear, balanced and effective agreement so as to underpin a successful ongoing relationship.

Intellectual property rights protection

Without appropriate protection of its intellectual property a technology company can lose its business. Accordingly, we are very proactive in advising our clients on intellectual property protection plans. These cover the whole range of potential rights, including copyright, database right, patents, trade marks, rights in confidential information and semiconductor topography rights. It is also necessary to have employment and consultancy agreements which ensure that whatever is developed becomes the property of the company and not the individual.

Lead Partners - Technology



Christopher Jeffery
Intellectual Property
E-mail c.jeffery@taylorwessing.com



Glyn Morgan
Information Technology
E-mail g.morgan@taylorwessing.com



Simon Walker
International/Corporate
E-mail s.walker@taylorwessing.com



Adrienne Seaman
IT/Outsourcing
E-mail a.seaman@taylorwessing.com



David Kent
International/Corporate
E-mail d.kent@taylorwessing.com



David Mardle
Corporate
E-mail d.mardle@taylorwessing.com



Andrew Smith
Corporate
E-mail a.smith@taylorwessing.com



Tony Ghee
Technology and communications
E-mail t.ghee@taylorwessing.com



Paul Webb
International/Corporate
E-mail p.webb@taylorwessing.com



Graham Hann
Intellectual Property
E-mail g.hann@taylorwessing.com



Ted Mercer
Technology and communications
E-mail t.mercer@taylorwessing.com



Jason Rawkins
Intellectual Property
E-mail j.rawkins@taylorwessing.com



Peter Jackson
Corporate tax
E-mail p.jackson@taylorwessing.com



Andrew Granger
Employment
E-mail a.granger@taylorwessing.com



Rodney Dukes
Finance
E-mail r.dukes@taylorwessing.com

Berlin
Ebertstraße 15, 10117 Berlin
Tel +49 (0)30 88 56 36 0
Fax +49 (0)30 88 56 36 100

Brussels
Trône House, 4 Rue du Trône
B-1000 Brussels
Tel +32 (0)2 289 6060
Fax +32 (0)2 289 6070

Cambridge
24 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1JP
Tel +44 (0)1223 446400
Fax +44 (0)1223 446401

Dubai
P.O. Box 33675
28th Floor Al Moosa Tower II
Sheikh Zayed Road
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Tel +971 (0)4 332 3324
Fax +971 (0)4 332 3325

Düsseldorf
Benrather Straße 15
D-40213 Düsseldorf
Tel +49 (0)211 83 87 0
Fax +49 (0)211 83 87 100

Frankfurt a. M.
Senckenberganlage 20-22
D-60325 Frankfurt a. M.
Tel +49 (0)69 971 30 0
Fax +49 (0)69 971 30 100

Hamburg
Hanseatic Trade Center
Am Sandtorkai 41, 20457 Hamburg
Tel +49 (0)40 36 80 30
Fax +49 (0)40 36 80 3280

London
5 New Street Square
London, EC4A 3TW
Tel +44 (0)20 7300 7000
Fax +44 (0)20 7300 7100

Munich
Isartorplatz 8
D-80331 Munich
Tel +49 (0)89 2 10 38 0
Fax +49 (0)89 2 10 38 300

Paris
42 avenue Montaigne
75008 Paris
Tel +33 (0)1 72 74 03 33
Fax +33 (0)1 72 74 03 34

Representative offices:
Beijing
Unit 1503, Prosper Center, Tower 2
No. 5, Guanghua Road, Chaoyang
District, Beijing 100020, China
Tel +86 10 8587 5886
Fax +86 10 8587 5885

Shanghai
15th Floor United Plaza, Unit 1509
No. 1468, Nanjing West Road
200040 Shanghai, China
Tel +86 21 6247 7247
Fax +86 21 6247 7248

www.taylorwessing.com

A legal force for Europe

Based in the UK, France, Germany, Brussels and Dubai, as well as representative offices in Alicante, Beijing and Shanghai - Taylor Wessing LLP provides the full range of legal services to major corporations, financial and public institutions, growing enterprises and wealthy private clients.

Taylor Wessing has an enviable track record in serving knowledge-based and technology-orientated businesses. A market leader in intellectual property, the firm also has a strong market presence in corporate, finance and real estate.

A number of the lawyers have science degrees and many have worked in-house and/or been seconded to technology-based companies. The combined strengths of the team, including our knowledge of international intellectual property rights and our extensive international connections, means we are ideally placed to meet the needs of companies in the sector.

Our services

- **Corporate** - M&A, IPOs, private capital, tax, commercial law, inward investment, funds
- **Intellectual property** - patents, copyright, trade marks

- **Finance & projects** - banking, structured finance, major projects
- **Dispute resolution** - litigation, arbitration, mediation
- **Reconstruction and corporate recovery** - restructuring, work-outs, formal insolvency
- **Real estate** - investment, development, finance, planning & environment
- **Employment & pensions** - employee benefits, human resources, pensions, pensions litigation
- **Competition** - EU law and anti-trust
- **Regulatory** - public law, financial services
- **Private client** - international asset protection, tax and succession planning

Specialist services

- Mergers and acquisitions (domestic and international)
- Inward investment
- Company start-ups
- Strategic alliances and partnering
- Private and public offerings
- Debt, mezzanine and equity funding
- IP asset-specific funding
- Securitisation
- Financial services
- Funds creation
- Technology transfers

- Licensing
- Due diligence
- Competition law
- IP protection strategies
- Telecoms
- Outsourcing
- Data protection (privacy)
- Confidentiality and trade secret agreements
- Supply and procurement
- Software and hardware distribution
- Employment and immigration
- Consultancy agreements
- Non-compete covenants
- Employee incentive/stock option schemes
- IP rights enforcement
- Anti-piracy programmes
- Anti-virus programmes
- Supply/procurement dispute resolution
- Mediation
- Arbitration
- Litigation
- Tax planning (domestic and offshore)



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