

Venture Capital

Taylor Wessing LLP's venture capital group is made up of a team of over 25 corporate lawyers across the UK, France, Germany, Belgium and China. It advises a wide range of institutional investors, founders and companies seeking funding.

As one of the leading firms acting on venture capital transactions in the UK, Taylor Wessing is involved in matters ranging from early-stage investments, subsequent funding rounds, convertible debt interim fundings, through to trade sales and IPOs.

Besides our in-depth experience of structuring the corporate and tax law aspects of venture capital transactions, we bring our intellectual property expertise to bear as a key component of our advice on investments in the information technology, clean tech, biotechnology, materials, hardware, telecoms and other IP-rich sectors.

Our client base includes institutional investors, venture capital funds and corporate venturers based in the UK, US, France, Germany, elsewhere in Europe, Israel and the United States, as well as the founders and companies seeking funding.

Our services

Structuring

Experience gained through acting for a wide range of institutions, founders and early- and later- stage IP-rich companies gives us an in-depth understanding of the various transactional standpoints. This enables us to provide solutions which balance the often conflicting objectives of the parties, focusing on the parties mutual interests and not on individual positions.

The Taylor Wessing venture capital group always seeks to ensure that the investment process is as streamlined and cost-effective as possible. To this end we are regularly involved in industry-wide initiatives with other industry recognised participants.

Intellectual property protection

Our intellectual property group is one of the largest in Europe and has been consistently ranked as one of the top IP practices for more than ten years. Many of our lawyers have IT and science degrees, many have worked in-house and/or been seconded to technology companies. This technical and industrial knowledge enables us to have an in-depth understanding of the business, actual or potential, which has attracted the venture capital investor.

Due diligence

The venture capital group draws on the 750 lawyer resource of Taylor Wessing in London, Cambridge, Belgium, France and across Germany in due diligence reviews, including the ability to give specialist intellectual property, tax, employment, pensions and real estate advice.

Tax planning

Tax planning can be carried out through our tax group at the outset to ensure the most efficient and cost effective structures. We are experienced in advising venture capital trusts and structuring transactions to meet the particular needs of venture capital trusts.

Employee benefits

We have a specialist group to work with companies and investors to create appropriate employee packages, share option and long term incentive plans which have become an integral part of venture capital transactions.

Exit strategies

We have considerable experience in managing exits through trade sales, portfolio company mergers and IPOs. We are regularly involved in listings on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange, the Official List of the UK Listing Authority and various European and international stock exchanges including NASDAQ.

The international focus of Taylor Wessing means we advise overseas companies wishing to gain access to UK and European

securities markets. The role includes advising on the market generally including in respect of the recent changes in the UK regime and the EU Prospectus Directive. In addition to structural and transactional advice, securities lawyers at Taylor Wessing are able to advise on compliance issues especially in the context of new securities offerings.

“The firm enjoys a market-leading venture capital practice, which is distinguished by "breadth of quality and attention to detail across the whole team"”

Chambers and Partners: Best of the UK 2009

Funds formation

We combine regulatory, corporate and finance expertise to provide a full service to clients in the venture capital sector in structuring and setting up funds (either on-shore or off-shore and whether by way of partnership or corporate).

Following formation, we can also anticipate and advise on the regulatory, transactional and financing aspects which may affect the life and operation of the fund.

Taylor Wessing advises on on-shore (both authorised retail and non-retail) and off-shore (UCITS and non-UCITS) funds. Taylor Wessing has wide experience in the structuring, establishment and listing of many types of off-shore fund, including hedge funds, emerging markets funds, commodities and currency funds, guaranteed funds, property funds, private equity funds and global and single country securities funds. On the UK front, Taylor Wessing has experience establishing both authorised unit trusts (AUTs) and open-ended investment companies (OEICs) (including conversions from AUTs to OEICs) as well as investment trusts, and is able to provide both regulatory and tax advice in this area.

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

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

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

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

Munich
Türkenstr. 16
D-80333 Munich
Tel +49 (0)89 2 10 38 0
Fax +49 (0)89 2 10 38 300

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

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

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

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

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

Representative offices:

Alicante
Paseo Explanada de España
No. 1
4-Izda E-03002 Alicante,
Spain
Tel +34 (0)96 51 42 805
Fax +34 (0)96 52 00 248

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

Associated office:

**BSJP Legal
Warsaw**
Al. Armii Ludowej 26
PL-00-609 Warszawa
Tel. +48 (0) 22 579 89 00
Fax. +48 (0) 22 579 89 01

www.taylorwessing.com

Our team



Simon Walker
Cambridge
+44 (0) 20 7300 4745
s.walker@taylorwessing.com



David Mardle
Cambridge
+44 (0) 1223 446425
d.mardle@taylorwessing.com



Howard Palmer
London
+44 (0) 20 7300 4819
h.palmer@taylorwessing.com



Robert Fenner
London
+44 (0) 20 7300 4986
r.fenner@taylorwessing.com



Dr. Peter Hellich
Munich
+49 (0) 89 210 38 0
p.hellich@taylorwessing.com



Dr. Jens Wolf
Hamburg
+49 (0)40 3 68 03 154
E-mail j.wolf@taylorwessing.com



Hassan Sohbi
Frankfurt
+49 (0)69 9 71 30 375
h.sohbi@taylorwessing.com



Dr. Ernst-Albrecht von Beauvais LL.M.
Düsseldorf
+49 (0)211 83 87 271
a.beauvais@taylorwessing.com



Sven Michael Werner
Shanghai/Munich
+49 (0)89 2 10 38 230
s.werner@taylorwessing.com



Alan de Foucaud
Paris
+33 (0)1 72 74 18 17
a.defoucaud@taylorwessing.com



Nicolas de Witt
Paris
+33 (0)1 72 74 03 42
n.dewitt@taylorwessing.com



Jerome Smets
Brussels
+32 (0)2 289 60 43
j.smets@taylorwessing.com

Awards



European Venture Capital Journal Awards 2008
Law Firm of the Year



Lawyer Awards 2008
Technology, Media and Telecoms Team of the Year

“Top-notch TMT, life sciences and venture capital expertise come together at Taylor Wessing LLP to produce a top-tier practice.”

Legal 500: First tier firm 2009



Certificate No. EMS 532521

Taylor Wessing LLP is an ISO14001 environmentally certified partnership.

This marketing communication is printed on sustainably produced paper.

© Taylor Wessing LLP 2009

This publication is intended for general guidance only and no responsibility is accepted by Taylor Wessing LLP for any errors or omissions. The information in this publication should not be relied upon to replace professional advice on specific matters. Taylor Wessing LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales, registered number OC322935, with its registered office at 5 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3TW.

Taylor Wessing LLP operates in combination with associated legal entities in other locations.