



## Technology

DLA Piper works with many of the world's leading technology companies, offering advice throughout a broad range of areas - from corporate transactions to IP protection, patent law and litigation, and including regulatory, compliance, employment and contracting issues.

DLA Piper's global technology sector lawyers work across practice areas and offices to support technology clients wherever they do business. From startups to fast growing and mid-market businesses to mature global enterprises, our clients are companies that develop or create technology, are enabled by technology, or whose business model is fundamentally based on technology. Our technology sector clients include companies in the following areas:

- Software
- Computer hardware
- [FinTech](#)
- PayTech
- InsureTech
- [PropTech](#)
- [Artificial intelligence and robotics](#)
- [Blockchain](#)
- [Unmanned Aerial Systems and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles](#)
- [Telecommunications](#)
- Games and entertainment
- Online commerce and new media
- IT and outsourcing services
- CleanTech
- Semiconductors
- [Internet of Things](#)

We advise technology companies throughout the business life cycle. We help startups get organized and funded and assist both growing and established technology companies in employment matters, commercial and technology transactions and IP patent protection strategies.

Continued growth means a steady need for legal support in such areas as M&A, IPOs and dispute resolution. As companies expand their business internationally, we help with international tax planning, regulatory compliance, establishment of new entities and compliance with local laws for employment, benefit plans and company policies. For the largest companies, we partner with in-house legal departments, providing additional experience and capacity to address all these areas.

- More than 600 dedicated lawyers globally
- Ranked Band 1, Technology Media & Technology, (*Chambers Global*, 2020)

### PERSONNES-RESSOURCES

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### SERVICES RELIÉS

- Protection de la vie privé et accès à l'information
- Capital de risque et croissance
- Fiscalité internationale
- Technologies de l'information et télécommunication
- Fusions et acquisitions
- Litiges de brevets
- Brevets
- Capital d'investissement
- Gouvernance et sociétés publiques
- Technologies
- Prix de transfert
- Telecom

- Ranked Tier 2, Technology Transactions, (*US Legal 500*, 2020)
- Ranked Tier 1, Telecoms and Broadcast: Transactional and Regulatory (*US Legal 500*, 2020)
- Ranked #2 in brand "awareness" and #3 in brand "favorability" for global TMT sector (*Acritas*, 2020)
- Named one of the top five "Most Tech-Savvy Law Firms", (*BTI Consulting*, 2019)
- The only law firm to be ranked in the top five for venture capital, private equity, and M&A, (*Pitchbook*, 2019)
- #1 Global M&A deal volume for tenth consecutive year, (*MergerMarket*, 2019)
- #1 in Europe and #3 in the US
- #5 Most active global firm for VC deals (*Pitchbook*, 2019)
- #2 in Europe and #5 in the US
- Twice named "Law Firm of the Year" in corporate venture, (*Global Corporate Venturing*, 2015-2016)

## SECTEURS RELIÉS

- Media, Sport and Entertainment

## Sustainability and ESG

The global technology sector is poised to lead the transition to a sustainable future. Technology companies are accustomed to thinking ahead of the curve and innovating on Sustainability and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues in order to gain a market advantage and provide solutions to global social issues such as environmental issues and workplace diversity.

Pursuing sustainability is a relentless and complex process in which the yardsticks for success are constantly evolving. For smaller companies, aligning their business objectives with their sustainability vision is not always enough to ease the demands for commitments to ESG. For example, a company which develops renewable energy technologies may have a strong environmental sustainability agenda but still have gaps in its handling of wider social issues such as employment practices and community engagement. For larger companies there is an increasing expectation to not only maximize shareholder value but take a broader role in addressing society's most pressing issues.

### ETHICS AND INNOVATION

With businesses collecting more data, their understanding of consumers, employees and supply chains is changing. As businesses considerations account for both their investment performance as well as their social performance there is a convergence of business and human rights agendas. Issues related to business ethics, data management, privacy concerns, consumer litigation risks, and regulatory compliance are now all in play. High-profile data breaches in the industry have also heightened concerns not just about the security of data but the applications from it. Technology companies need to build the trust of stakeholders - for example, by improving data governance through audit processes to assure the integrity of data and by increasing accountability and transparency in use of consumer data. Other ethical issues concern fairness and influence. For example, AI and robotics can be used help to eliminate bias in hiring processes but, at a time when the focus on ensuring diversity has never been greater, AI learning has also been shown to foster implicit gender and racial bias.

### EMERGING COMPANIES AND VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Corporate investors are investing heavily in emerging companies that seize upon the opportunities ESG issues present. And start-ups understand that integrating ESG policies and practices into their business models allows them to attract these investments and create brand recognition, while laying the foundations for long-term value and growth.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Technology is essential for the transition to a net-zero low-carbon future. Innovations in cleantech, autonomous vehicles and drones may play a leading role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving on energy efficiency, accelerating demand for renewable energy, and finding solutions for the transformation of our energy systems. A familiar example: digitalization and cloud storage services are transforming business operations by reducing paper usage. The latest iteration of our biannual tech research survey, the European Technology Index 2020, reported that energy-efficient technologies are a key area of interest and growth in the sector.

However, while digital technologies are improving, they continue to face environmental issues, such as energy consumption, materials sourcing issues such as mining of rare minerals, and disposal of unrecyclable e-waste. The pressure to resolve these issues has been growing exponentially as technology integrates more thoroughly into our lives. Pressured by consumers, some companies are striving to mitigate environmental risks through improved product design, closer supply chain oversight and

product life cycle management.

## DIVERSITY IN TECH

Recent years have seen a marked trend in company responses to improving diversity and inclusion in the technology sector. As discussed in our recent TechLaw Podcasts, data-based findings revealing stark gaps in representation in major technology companies have driven policy shifts, public disclosures and changes in investment strategy across the sector. In particular, there has been a push to address the lack of gender representation both at the board level and in the workforce.

## THE DLA PIPER ADVANTAGE

DLA Piper's global technology sector assists companies of all sizes, from fledgling startups to global giants, wherever they are in their ESG journey. We partner with our clients to help them meet their ESG objectives, manage potential risks and leverage opportunities, and provide legal support in such areas as:

- Corporate Venture
- Data Protection, Privacy, and Security
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Global Governance and Compliance
- Public Company Corporate Governance
- Regulatory and Government Affairs
- Technology Transactions and Strategic Sourcing

In addition, our team of DLA Piper attorneys has extensive experience working with clients dedicated to ESG across the technology sector including:

- Agtech
- Artificial Intelligence
- Autonomous Vehicles
- Blockchain
- Cleantech
- Digital Transformation
- Edtech
- Fintech
- Healthtech
- Internet of Things

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To discuss the implications of these issues for your business, please contact our ESG leaders.