



## Government Contracting

Our government contracting clients, whether they be in the public or private sector, must contend with ever-changing laws and rules and regulations, including procurement, data protection and, of course, Brexit.

This, coupled with the intense pressure on governments to tackle major budget deficits and debt burdens, means that both running and participating in major projects, whether they be related to organisational change, competitions for contracts or otherwise, can be incredibly complex.

The procurement gauntlet can often be complicated and the timescales imposed are often a challenge (particularly when internal pressures require a project to be completed in very short timelines). From a supplier perspective, competition is often fierce, bid costs are high and the financial terms imposed on contractors are demanding.

To help our clients, from both sides of the fence, meet these varied challenges, our government contracting practice has grown to become one of the largest of its kind in the world. Unlike many others, we act for both governments and global contractors on major projects, including on contracting and procurement requirements.

We have been a longstanding and leading advisor on major change projects in government and are proud to have worked alongside government at the forefront of a number of major innovative projects and deals over recent years.

We provide tailored advice and legal services on virtually every aspect of government contracting and public procurement, from bid strategy through to potential challenge. These services include preparation of strategic alliance agreements and teaming arrangements; bid protests and challenges; and contract administration and claims. Our lawyers also litigate contract disputes and claims involving contractors.

In the UK, DLA Piper is appointed to Crown Commercial Service's (CCS) Legal Services Panel on two Lots - Lot 1 - General Legal Advice and Services (GLAS) and Lot 2 - Finance and Complex Legal Services. DLA Piper is one of only two firms to be named as a supplier on both Lots.

In the UK, we have a broad team of over 100 lawyers who bring best of breed experience in a number of areas and sectors. A small example of our experience includes:

- **Contracts** - we lead the market in advising Government on major contracts, such as outsourcing, shared service and joint ventures. We have advised Cabinet Office and other Departments on three complex outsourcing shared services projects by way of joint venture (i) Shared Services Connected Limited - a pan-HMG back office joint venture service delivery vehicle to transform existing services to a shared platform for over 12 Government Departments; (ii) Integrated Debt Services Limited - provision of a one-stop-shop for Government providing debt analysis and collection; and (iii) Crown Hosting - establishment of a portfolio of "on demand" hosting services at different levels of accreditation. We have also advised on many day-to-day contracts such as advice to on management services agreements by which Government companies provide services to third parties. We have also advised a Government Department for many years on the establishment of multiple and varied frameworks, including travel services, non-permanent staff, energy metering, consultancy services, fleet and office supplies. This included advice on precedent contracts

and variations, transfers and interpretation of contract provisions.

- **Competition law** - Our Competition team has been on hand to advise a variety of public sector clients over recent years on a range of competition law issues which arise during the course of Government projects. We act on a full range of non-contentious and contentious Competition/Antitrust matters, including commercial agreements, abuse of dominance, behavioural and strategic advice, multi-jurisdictional and national merger control, competition investigations and enforcement, including cartel related work, compliance audits and programs, including dawn raid training, competition litigation, competition regulatory matters and State Aid.
- **Corporate** - Our intimate knowledge of corporate law is applied with significant Government sector knowledge. We are trusted advisors to Government, having acted on some of the most complex and innovative transactions undertaken in the public sector in recent years, including we on a multi-million pound acquisition of a designer and supplier of specialist vehicles and protection system integrations to various Government Departments.
- **Dispute Resolution** - We have worked with Government over many years and therefore we bring, for both public and private sector clients, a deep understanding of how Government litigates and how it decides when not to litigate. Our team has very close links to our commercial and contracting colleagues to provide seamless advice if on-going contracts become contentious. Above all, we have access to the resource and expertise of one of the largest dispute resolution practices in the world.
- **Employment** - Our team advises both public and private sector employers on a daily basis on the application of TUPE (and COSOP where appropriate) in the context of first and subsequent generation outsourcings, as well as on sales and acquisitions and a multitude of other projects in between. We have a wealth of experience in dealing with complex redundancy and restructuring programmes for many of our clients. We are used to dealing with a high level of media and employee/trade union scrutiny on the way in which these exercises are handled. We frequently advise on strategy for managing changes to terms and conditions of employment, in both unionised and non-unionised environments, and have particular expertise in the options for dealing with changes in the shadow of a TUPE transfer. We are experienced in handling industrial relations issues and are proud to work on ground-breaking projects.
- **Real Estate** - We have a wide range of experience in advising on core Real Estate, Real Estate Finance and Real Estate Litigation matters. We have previously advised various Government Departments on the acquisition and fit out of properties, projects to make buildings available for use by SMEs, sales and advising on shared space/collaborative agreements.

## NEWS

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### DLA Piper advises Azrieli Group on acquisition of Norwegian data centre developer

21 July 2021

DLA Piper has advised Israeli real estate investor Azrieli on its acquisition of Green Mountain, a Norwegian data centre developer, for NOK7.6 billion.

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### DLA Piper advises on maiden USD bond offering by Indonesian state-owned infrastructure and finance special mission vehicle

25 May 2021

DLA Piper has advised PT Sarana Multi Infrastruktur (Persero) (SMI), a State-Owned Enterprise whose entire share capital is owned by the government of the Republic of Indonesia through the Ministry of Finance., and the arrangers and dealers in respect of a maiden US dollar bond offering.

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### Recognition in China Business Law Awards 2021

19 May 2021

DLA Piper has been recognised by China Business Law Journal in the annual China Business Law Awards 2021 in nine categories, including best international law firm.

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### DLA Piper advises Avation Plc on complex five year bond extension

6 May 2021

DLA Piper has advised Avation PLC (LSE: AVAP) (Avation), the London-listed commercial passenger aircraft leasing company, on its discussions with noteholders, their lawyers and financial advisers to achieve a successful maturity extension on its USD350 million 6.5% senior notes by more than five years from May 2021 to October 2026.

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### **DLA Piper advises Hangzhou Qiantang New Area Construction and Investment Group on its debut USD300m international bond issue**

26 August 2020

DLA Piper has successfully advised Hangzhou Qiantang New Area Construction and Investment Group Co., Ltd. (Hangzhou Qiantang New Area Construction and Investment Group", a Chinese state-owned enterprise (SOE), on the issue of a USD300 million 3.20 percent senior unsecured corporate bond due 2023.

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### **DLA Piper advises Katoen Natie on the acquisition of Nijhof Wassink**

7 July 2020

DLA Piper has advised Katoen Natie, an international logistics service provider and port operator, on the acquisition of the warehousing activities of Nijhof-Wassink in Poland, a family-owned company specialising in logistics.

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### **DLA Piper advises Air China on HKD39 billion recapitalization plan for Cathay Pacific**

11 June 2020

DLA Piper has advised Air China Limited on its participation in the recapitalization plan for Hong Kong based airline Cathay Pacific Airways Limited, in the amount of HKD39 billion.

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### **DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2020**

30 April 2020

DLA Piper is proud to announce that 67 lawyers have been promoted to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of April 1, 2020 in the United States and May 1, 2020 for EMEA and Asia Pacific. The promotions have been made across many of the firm's practice areas in 35 different offices throughout 13 countries.

Across the firm's practices globally, Corporate saw the largest intake of new partners with 19 promotions, followed by Litigation and Regulatory with 15. Intellectual Property and Technology and Finance and Projects had ten and eight promotions respectively, while there were six in Real Estate. Tax and Employment both had four, and there was one in Restructuring.

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### **DLA Piper lawyers named Acritas Stars**

10 March 2020

Acritas has named over 200 DLA Piper lawyers as 2020 Acritas Stars. Now in its fourth year, Acritas Stars highlights the stand-out lawyers in private practice as nominated by clients around the world. More than 3,000 senior in-house counsel feed into the nomination process to give a comprehensive view of highly recommended lawyers across the globe.

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