



TECHNOLOGY GROUP

Technology has an impact on every business, whether you are a sole trader, partnership, start up, established company or multinational global player. We work with businesses to help them react to the ever-changing technology issues that they face and to keep up with the influx of legal regulation and compliance.

Our services

We advise on all types of technology related agreements and regulations, including:

- technology transfer (licences and assignments of technical know-how, patents, trade marks, copyright, designs and confidential information)
- system and infrastructure development projects
- platform sharing
- software development and licensing agreements
- software licensing and software as a service agreements
- software development agreements
- infrastructure and business process outsourcing agreements
- hardware procurement and deployment
- data centres and connectivity
- e-commerce and digital marketing
- web compliance
- consumer law, competition law
- data protection, data processing and data storage
- IT dispute resolution
- regulatory and compliance
- dissemination of knowledge by way of legal updates or specialist legal workshops

Our team

Paris Smith has a team of specialist technology lawyers who understand the market drivers and legal issues faced by businesses in the technology sector.

We act for a range of clients in the tech sector, including IT service providers and software developers, software and hardware resellers, customers procuring IT solutions, high tech manufacturing and engineering companies, medical devices companies and other technology rich businesses.

Our technology team is staffed by seasoned professionals with City backgrounds and it is complemented by separate specialist IP, banking and corporate teams. By working together with our colleagues we can offer expert advice on all key areas relevant to technology businesses from funding arrangements, registration and protection of intellectual property rights, protection of secret know how, supply contracts and licensing, employment, capital raising and working towards exit.

We use our experience and expertise to help you apply practical legal solutions to your business arrangements and to secure value from your contracts whilst protecting your commercial interests. Together, we become part



of your team and bring speed, commercialism and cost effective advice to resolve issues and maximise investment.

Our services in more detail

Technology transfer (licences and assignments of technical know-how, patents, trade marks, copyright, designs and confidential information)

With our intellectual property expertise, we are perfectly placed to advise on protection strategy, the key to successful licensing.

We also deal with licensing and transfer of intellectual property rights and regularly provide advice on the competition law aspects of technology transfers and the application of the European technology transfer block exemption regulation.

Our recent work in the field of technology transfer includes advising clients on the transfer of knowledge (both public domain and confidential), technology, intellectual property and methodology for further development or exploitation in their specific market sectors. We have assisted our clients to negotiate and conclude agreements in the fields of enzyme research, chemical analysis, hydraulic pumping, military radar, aviation simulation and pharmaceutical dispensing.

System and infrastructure development projects

Having a reliable and up to date IT infrastructure in place is critical for all businesses. With the phenomenon of Big Data becoming an everyday challenge and software automating more and more routine business operations, IT capacity requirements increase continuously for all business no matter what their size.

Whether it is a systems integration agreement, a turnkey agreement, or a smaller scale more informal arrangement, we advise clients on the most appropriate contractual arrangements when replacing legacy systems and upgrading to a more modern platform. Data migration issues are always prevalent. We alert clients to the key risks in projects of this nature and help them secure protection against those risks.

Outsourcing and managed services agreements

We advise clients on IT outsourcing, business process outsourcing, and managed service agreements. We provide high quality cost effective advice for all sizes of business involved in an outsourcing or managed services arrangement.

We assist at all stages, from the initial structuring of a transaction through the tendering process to contract negotiation, transition, implementation and management as well as change control, renegotiation or re-tendering, dispute handling and exit planning.

The outsourcing team is supported by specialists in key ancillary legal areas, including, employment, data protection, intellectual property and dispute resolution.

Software licensing and software as a service

All businesses these days face the challenge of balancing their IT budgets whilst staying sufficiently up to date with changes in technology to remain competitive in their marketplace and support business growth. New models for the provision of software and IT capabilities in the cloud offer innovative ways to meet this challenge. However, these new models of IT procurement can bring new risks, whether it be around data security, service availability, access to data on termination or long term overall cost.

Whether you are involved in traditional software licensing, hosted application service provision or web-ready software as a service based models, we have the relevant expertise to help you analyse the risks and pros and cons of each. We assist you throughout the contractual process up to delivery and implementation.

Value Added Reseller Agreements

We have assisted numerous value added resellers with their contractual arrangements - from partnership agreements with original software licensors, to preparing or updating standard terms and conditions of supply of software, hardware and ancillary support services for use with customers.



IT support and maintenance agreements

We advise our clients on terms and conditions applicable to the provision of IT support services such as disaster recovery, backup, email archiving, remote systems monitoring and network maintenance, systems design and consultancy.

Software development agreements

Our team has particular experience of advising on software development in the gaming industry and financial services sector - both for developers and customers - and we understand the uncertainties of the software development process and issues that are important to both sides.

We help you to ensure that each project has a clearly defined scope, specification, timescales and outcomes. We can also advise in relation to more iterative based approaches to software development ("agile software development"). Discussing at the outset issues such as IP ownership, exclusivity and money means that the contract negotiation can be concluded quickly and cost-effectively.

We also advise clients on escrow arrangements in relation to source code for business critical software.

IT dispute resolution

We also assist when things don't quite go according to plan. We help pre-empt issues at an early stage before they halt the project and carry out risk assessments to identify problematic areas.

Our dispute resolution team has experience of dealing with IT contracts that have fallen apart, where IP has not transferred as anticipated and where disgruntled developers have called a halt to further development. Mediation and resolution is what we do - let us help.

E-commerce and data protection

Global e-commerce sales increase every year, and the ability to conduct business online, around the world, 24 hours a day, creates opportunities in almost all industry sectors. However, it also presents compliance challenges.

We assist clients with the legal aspects of a business's activities relating to e-commerce, be it entering into a web development agreement with a website designer, advising on compliance with new cookie legislation, drafting website terms and conditions to comply with the E-commerce regulations or drafting a website privacy policy to comply with data protection legislation.

We also advise on data protection and freedom of information in both the online and real world.

Dissemination of knowledge by way of legal updates or specialist legal workshops

Our workshops, blogs and tweets continue to be well received.

If you would like to sign up to receive our newsletter then please get in touch. Or if you would prefer a more tailored approach, we frequently prepare and deliver workshops for clients on the commercial application of specific areas of law.

Find out more

Please contact us to discuss your requirements or to find out more.



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