



Space & Satellite Practice

The emergence of novel space-related technologies has not only led to the rapid evolution of the space and satellite industry, but also created unique legal, regulatory, and contractual challenges.

Davis Wright Tremaine's deep knowledge of the satellite and space industry comes from our experience as both in-house and outside counsel representing high-profile companies in the space economy. This experience provides us with an in-depth understanding of the technical, business, and regulatory issues faced by companies seeking to deploy innovative satellite systems and space-based technologies.

We offer our clients guidance and industry insight to help them execute their business plans, structure complex agreements, and mitigate regulatory risks. We work with companies ranging from early stage startups to well-established satellite companies, ensuring that they successfully navigate challenges and seize opportunities.

The core services we offer to clients operating in, investing in, providing services to, or financing companies in the satellite sector include:

Space-related Commercial Contracts

Structure, negotiate, and analyze space-related commercial contracts, including satellite procurement, launch services, satellite capacity, and ground station contracts.

Regulatory

Provide guidance on and help clients obtain licenses and authorizations under regulations applicable to satellites and satellite-related technologies, including FCC, ITU, NOAA, and U.S. export control (EAR; ITAR) regulations.

Space-related Finance, M&A, and Investment Transactions

Advise industry participants and investors on acquisition agreements, financings, financial restructurings, joint venture agreements, and other strategic agreements involving satellite companies and space projects.

U.S. National Security

Advising on U.S. national security regimes relevant to foreign investment in U.S. satellite companies and assets, including national security reviews conducted by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States and the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector.

Representative Satellite Experience:

- Advised non-geostationary orbit (NGSO) and geostationary orbit (GSO) satellite operators on satellite-related commercial agreements, including launch services agreements, procurement contracts, satellite capacity lease agreements, and orbital slot use agreements.
- Advised a U.S.-headquartered provider of satellite ground station services on transactional matters and global telecom and radiofrequency regulations.
- Advised synthetic-aperture radar earth observation satellite operator on FCC, U.S. export control, and NOAA licensing and compliance matters, and helped this operator apply for and obtain FCC Part 5 experimental authorization and various U.S. export control authorizations.
- Represented Norwegian NGSO satellite operator in various FCC licensing and rulemaking proceedings, and helped this operator apply for and obtain FCC U.S. market access authorization.
- Advised financing sources and creditors of NGSO and GSO satellite operators on the FCC's C-band auction and the framework for satellite operators to obtain accelerated relocation payments to clear C-band frequencies.
- Advised Indonesian satellite operator on ground station and procurement contracts related to a broadband satellite to be deployed and operated pursuant to a strategic agreement with the Indonesian government.
- Advised UK-headquartered NGSO satellite operator on FCC, CFIUS, U.S. export control, and other regulatory matters, including assisting this operator in applying for and obtaining FCC U.S. market access authorization, developing U.S. export control policies and procedures and applying for U.S. export control authorizations, and obtaining CFIUS safe harbor approval for foreign investment.
- Advised asteroid mining company on FCC, U.S. export control, and NOAA licensing and compliance matters related to its proposed constellation of Earth observation satellites, including assisting this operator in applying for and obtaining NOAA and U.S. export control licenses and authorizations.
- Advised Hong Kong-based GSO satellite operator on FCC, U.S. export control, and commercial matters.

Contact us to obtain a business proposal or to engage a member of the **Space & Satellite Team** for a specific project or service.



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