

HILL DICKINSON

Oil and natural gas capabilities



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Introduction

We advise a wide range of UK and international clients on oil and gas matters, including exploration and production companies, oil majors, commodity houses, insurers and reinsurers, P&I clubs, offshore contractors through to owners of FPSOs, platforms, rights and other offshore craft and installations.

We assist our clients in a wide range of oil and gas matters, including:

- Equity capital raising through the issue of equity through the junior stock markets
- Debt capital raising using trade finance, listed bonds or convertible debt facilities
- Collaborations including joint ventures, shareholder agreements, farm in/outs or consortium agreements
- Processing and transportation, including off-take agreements, contracts of carriage by sea, processing throughput agreements and port services agreements
- Acquisition or renewal of land rights for the development of oil and gas infrastructure, including gas storage facilities, wells and pipelines
- Planning and consenting advice in respect of oil and gas activities, trespass issues and related injunctions
- Drafting and implementing contracts for the physical sale of oil and gas
- Health and safety, personal injury, freedom of information requests, data protection, intellectual property and rig-hire contracts
- Commercial disputes, shipping fraud, asset tracking and seizure actions
- Advice in respect of the construction of oil and gas storage facilities or tankers
- Advising on oil and gas contracts including the construction of new facilities, the maintenance of existing facilities and the drilling and decommissioning of existing wells



Our clients in the oil and gas sector

Hill Dickinson acts as a trusted adviser to businesses, organisations, institutional funders and individuals across the globe and from a wide range of market sectors, instructing on non-contentious advisory and transactional work through to all forms of commercial litigation and arbitration.

The firm prides itself on fostering the strongest client relationships and adding value through innovation. We consider our clients as partners and strive to enhance your business by understanding and providing solutions to risk, innovation and market expansion.

Some of the firms' clients that operate in the oil & gas sector include:

- Abu Dhabi National Oil Company
- Advanced Energy Systems (ADES) Group
- Addax Energy SA
- ADM International
- Angus Energy plc
- Attis Oil & Gas
- BB Energy
- Bibby Line Group
- Bilfinger Salamis Ltd
- Bilfinger UK Ltd
- BP Oil International
- BP Shipping
- Capital Oil & Gas Limited
- Cargill International SA
- Cofco Resources SA
- Doriemus PLC
- Essar Oil
- Gotham Energy
- Griffith & Armour
- Gunvor SA
- Horizon International Trading
- Horse Hill Developments Ltd
- Hyde Energy Group
- Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co Ltd
- Intership
- Laskaridis Shipping Co
- Moorhouse Developments Ltd
- National Grid plc
- Noble Resources SA
- Northern Gas Networks Ltd
- Optima Energy
- Panoro Energy
- Phillips 66
- Reabold Resources Plc
- Shell Ship Management
- Stobart Group
- Thomas Miller & Co Limited
- UK Oil and Gas (UKOG)
- Vitol SA

Recent examples of our corporate & commercial work in the oil and gas sector include:

- Advising ADES International Holding PLC, a leading oil and gas drilling and production services provider in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), on its acquisition of 31 rigs from Weatherford International plc for US\$ 287.5 million
- Hill Dickinson advises Reabold Resources Plc on £24m institutional placing
- Advising AIM listed UK Oil & Gas PLC on its acquisition from Nasdaq listed Tellurian Investments LLC for £12 million in cash and shares of 35% interest in the Horse Hill oil field as well as numerous placings and other legal matters
- Advising on \$90m joint venture in respect of two oil tankers for leading global commodity house
- Advising Georgian oil and gas explorer Block Energy PLC on its admission to AIM and its significantly over-subscribed placing which raised gross proceeds of £5 million and a follow on £12 million placing
- Advising on multimillion dollar contracts with oil producers on behalf of offshore service providers
- Advising on hundred million dollar oil drilling contracts on behalf of rig owners
- Advising an oil major on its transportation documentation
- Advising in relation to the drafting of a bespoke cooperation agreement relating to a term contract for the supply of crude oil products, which also involved the clients providing financing in the chain of supply
- Advising Solo Oil PLC on a placing and open offer
- Advising on numerous farm-ins, farm-outs and joint-operating agreements for a number of UK onshore oil & gas companies including related disputes
- Advising Great Bear Petroleum on the sale of its Alaston oil assets for US\$33 million
- Advising on the financing and security of oil sectors assets on behalf of asset owners
- Reviewing and advising an E&P company in relation to works and services contracts for a site in Tunisia
- Advising a contractor in relation to matters arising during the construction of a gas plant on the Shetland Islands
- Drafting and negotiating LOGIC contracts for the decommissioning of an onshore well
- Obtaining injunctions against environmental protestors on behalf of UK on-shore producers
- Advising on a \$28m claim in respect of the refurbishment of a Trinidad based oil rig against a global provider of offshore drilling services
- Acting for UK exploration companies in respect of judicial review proceedings in respect of planning decisions



Our approach

We are committed to providing the highest quality service through a real understanding of our client’s business priorities and requirements together with a common sense and commercial approach to every matter.

Technical expertise is a ‘given’ the key to our success is in continually adding value to our clients’ businesses.

We do this by:

















- Working in partnership with clients, realising that the success of our client’s business is the success of our business
- Focusing on the business critical issues in any transaction and not being distracted by issues that are peripheral to getting the deal done. We use common sense to decipher what is most important to our client
- Communicating effectively and promptly with our client, fostering a strong working relationship through the transaction and beyond
- Providing solutions not posing problems, dispensing pragmatic legal advice and an innovative, commercial approach
- Providing direct access to Partners and senior lawyers, with competitive hourly rates ensuring continuity of communication and service
- Proactively managing transactions, using proven deal-management skills to drive the process.
- Dedicating resources so the client benefits from the diverse skillsets of a large team at all times

Language Capabilities

Our specialist lawyers have a broad range of language capabilities, both conversational and written. Fluent language capabilities include:

- French
- Italian
- Spanish
- Polish
- Albanian
- Lithuanian

Our team

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Our wider legal offering

Banking

The banking team covers all aspects of banking and finance, including asset finance, acquisition finance, security, surety bonds, swaps and other capital market products. Two members of the banking team are recognised as leaders in their field.

Commercial litigation

Our commercial litigation team has a strong reputation and we seek to ensure that we give our clients the best advice in all litigation-related matters.

Commercial litigation is an area in which the firm has a reputation for adopting a firm yet progressive attitude, and for providing a sound, common-sense approach to dispute resolution.

Commodities

We have extensive experience in contentious and non-contentious matters arising from the international sale and transportation of commodities. Our expertise covers a broad range of commodities, including softs, oils, their by-products, energy and metals.

An intimate knowledge of trade associations' standard forms, rules and practices and extensive experience of High Court disputes enable us to offer clients an unparalleled service. We act for shippers, traders and end-users as well as their insurers, and we advise trade associations such as the ICA, SAL and RSA as well as working alongside Gafta and FOSFA.

Corporate

Our corporate team advises on all forms of private and public capital raising through debt and equity. It also regularly acts on public and private mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures.

Employment

The employment team advises on all non-contentious and contentious employment and HR matters, acting primarily for employers on employment contracts, remuneration issues, modern slavery, HR policies, and in prosecuting and defending claims in the employment tribunals and courts. We also provide training to clients in the form of tailored seminars and workshops, as well as online support.

Intellectual property

Intellectual property protection and technology transactional issues can be significant factors in the success of a business or organisation. We have a truly full-service offering to our clients, including the full range of legal services needed to register, protect, promote and enforce IPRs.

Real estate

The highly regarded national real estate team provides expert advice on all contentious and non-contentious property matters, including leases, sales, leaseback acquisitions, property development and investment financing, and property joint ventures. We have also advised a number of oil and gas companies in respect of trespass issues in respect of their drill sites.

Regulatory

Our regulatory team provides an integrated corporate regulatory service, which is founded on vast experience of dealing with all relevant regulators including the Competition Commission, UK Oil & Gas Authority and Office of Fair Trading

This team advises on compliance strategy and procedures, in addition to confronting regulatory authorities in the courts and specialist tribunals.

Planning and environmental

Planning and environmental matters are often controversial and require careful consideration. Skilful management and experienced guidance in such cases has earned the firm's planning and environmental team an enviable reputation. We have advised oil & gas explorers in respect of their planning issues.

Shipping and logistics

Hill Dickinson has one of the largest maritime practices and has more than 100 dedicated marine legal experts, many with first-hand industry experience, including eight former mariners and two yacht masters.

In particular, we have specialist expertise in respect of cargo, freight and logistics whether by boat, rail, air or road.

Personal Injury

Our personal injury team has an unrivalled reputation in dealing with personal injury claims from minor incidents to major events involving fatal or serious injuries. We also advise on investigations, public enquiries, emergency planning, health and safety training and criminal proceedings. Our team provides advice on a myriad of tax-related areas, including corporate transactions, employee remuneration, property transactions, returning value to shareholders, estate planning for inheritance tax management, use of trusts and foreign domiciliaries.

Construction & Engineering

Our team is experienced in standard (LOGIC) onshore/offshore and bespoke oil and gas contracts, providing contract risk reviews, advice, negotiation and drafting. We also offer a dispute avoidance and resolution service for all aspects of the industry including the construction of new facilities and the repair and maintenance of existing facilities.



Why Hill Dickinson?

We believe that there is a wide range of excellent reasons for choosing to work with Hill Dickinson. We do not merely act as legal service providers; we take an active interest in the business objectives of each individual client.

Below, you will find advantages of partnering with us:

- We have a national and international reputation as a quality firm providing high-quality legal advice
- We will provide fee earner resource at all levels, but in particular, there will be a very high degree of partner involvement
- We will provide a dedicated and focused core team that will not change. This team has worked together for many years, aiding the productivity of its operating systems
- We have extensive experience working with and opposite international companies
- We have robust experience acting for a wide range of buyers and sellers, including PLCs, large private companies, and SMEs
- We consistently identify solutions to transactional problems and any issues that may arise



HILL DICKINSON

About Hill Dickinson

Hill Dickinson LLP is a leading and award-winning international commercial law firm with more than 950 people including over 200 partners and legal directors.

The firm delivers advice and strategic guidance spanning the full legal spectrum, from non-contentious advisory and transactional work, to all forms of commercial litigation. The firm acts as a trusted adviser to businesses, organisations and individuals within a wide range of specialist market sectors.

hilldickinson.com/commodities