Focused on water in the Middle East

A legal team with global expertise

The water industry is facing a number of issues across the globe. These include population growth and increased demands for water alongside climate change and the consequential effects on availability of water resources. In the Middle East, huge investment has been made in water infrastructure over recent years, but more remains to be done in relation to both the treatment and the distribution of water. To be successful, a water project requires support from lawyers who understand the water industry and the issues that it faces.

A quality service

At Eversheds, we have a dedicated focus on the Middle East water sector. Our team of lawyers combines skill sets from numerous legal disciplines and possesses an in-depth knowledge of the sector and the complex regulatory environment within which it operates.

We work with our clients to analyse issues in the context of the changing regulatory framework and provide guidance to the best, most innovative solution.

Global and innovative

We are the largest international law firm in the Middle East in terms of geographic coverage, with offices in Abu Dhabi and Dubai (the United Arab Emirates), Amman (Jordan), Baghdad and Erbil (Iraq), Doha (Qatar) and Riyadh (Saudi Arabia). Our team has the strength and depth to ensure the successful delivery of projects and transactions.

As an integrated group across the Middle East and the rest of the world, we have extensive experience of managing cross border matters and working in politically sensitive countries and emerging markets.

Global strength is matched by an innovative attitude. We believe that we have a responsibility to help you manage your legal budgets. When it comes to pricing, we offer a number of options including blended rates, menu pricing and project based fees, ensuring you receive the most appropriate level of legal advice and value for money.

Areas we cover

We advise our water sector clients on a host of issues, including:

• project structuring and transactions
• commercial contracts and outsourcing
• dispute resolution
• construction and EPC contracts
• legal contract project management
• employers and public liability claims
• environmental regulation and prosecutions
• HR
• procurement strategy for major capital expenditure projects
• real estate development
• portfolio asset management
• renewable energy projects.
Examples of work within the Middle East water sector

Tim Armsby
Head of Energy and Infrastructure,
Middle East Region

Advised:
• Qatar General Electricity and Water Co (Kahramaa) in relation to:
  - its strategies for the improvement and expansion of electricity and water supply in Qatar including the extension of Ras Abu Fontas “A2” facility
  - its Facility D Project
  - its new project for the supply of industrial desalinated water at Ras Laffan Industrial City.
• The Egyptian Ministry of Finance with respect to:
  - the PPP for the design, financing, construction and operation of a secondary treatment stage for the Abu Rawash wastewater treatment plant, and the operation and maintenance of the existing primary treatment facilities
  - the PPP for the design, construction, finance and operation of a wastewater treatment plant to be established in the 6th of October Governorate.
• A potential bidder and separately an investor on the New Cairo wastewater PPP project.
• AES in relation to the Barka Independent Water and Power Project (IWPP), a 427 MW power and 3,800 m3 per hour water project with a value of US$ 450 million.

Gurmeet Kaur
Head of UAE Projects, Dubai

Advised:
• A government related developer in the UAE in relation to the procurement of five wastewater treatment plants for their various developments including Waterfront, Palm Jebel Ali, International City, Jumeirah Golf Estates and Mina Rashid. Work included drafting the RFP, concession agreement and related agreements such as the land lease, direct agreements with financiers, participating in evaluation and negotiating with bidders.
• Dubai Maritime City Authority in relation to the procurement, development and financing on a non-recourse basis from system revenues of a district cooling plant and a wastewater plant (industrial and domestic treatment plant) for Dubai Maritime City.
• Aqualia as consortium member of the winning consortium in the first PPP Wastewater Project in Egypt, the New Cairo Wastewater Project.
• Abengoa Water on their bid for a reverse osmosis desalination project in Namibia on a BOOT basis.

Independent comment
“For the quality of the work, knowing our business and understanding of this part of the world, I highly recommend them.”
Chambers 2013

Key contacts

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EENE.095_V1 01/14

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