An element of quality
Our global hydrogen practice
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Introduction

Our global hydrogen practice provides insights into the issues shaping the hydrogen economy.

As hydrogen plays an increasingly important role in the energy transition, our multi-disciplinary team can help you take advantage of emerging opportunities and develop strategies to manage risk and deliver value.

With deep experience across all aspects of the hydrogen value chain, we provide advice and solutions on the full range of corporate, commercial, finance, regulatory, construction, employment, real estate, environment, planning, health and safety, intellectual property, tax, competition, disputes and insurance matters for the hydrogen industry.

Eversheds Sutherland is one of the largest global law firms in the world. With some 5,000+ people, including more than 750 partners and 3,000+ lawyers, we are committed locally but connected globally via more than 70 offices based in the world’s major economic centers. We have a proven track record of delivering consistently high-quality legal services across jurisdictions.

See our hydrogen hub for more content and thought leadership.
Supporting the hydrogen value chain

With decades of experience in related sectors and in the development of other emerging industries, Eversheds Sutherland is well equipped to meet the needs of a wide range of hydrogen industry participants. From production and distribution through to end use applications, we have the experience and capability at each stage of the hydrogen value chain to support you in achieving your business objectives.

Whether it is the manufacture of hydrogen technologies, the development of hydrogen production plants or the use of hydrogen-powered transport, we can help you navigate the various challenges of the growing hydrogen economy. This includes structuring new business models, sourcing finance, protecting intellectual property and dealing with evolving regulatory frameworks.
Eversheds Sutherland has been at the forefront of the development of the CCUS industry in the UK and is currently mandated to assist consortium members in respect of both the Humber and HyNet projects.

Through our long-standing relationship with National Grid, Eversheds Sutherland was involved in the proposed development of the White Rose oxy-power plant and carbon storage project, which (at the time) was the first proposed CCUS project in the UK. We assisted National Grid in obtaining relevant regulatory approvals and structuring arrangements for the construction and operation of the proposed CO2 transmission and storage infrastructure. As a “first-in-kind” project, we drew on our deep experience with interconnectors, offshore wind and oil and gas projects to implement measures that minimised full-chain risks given the split development structure between the supply and storage facilities while also offering insights as to workable operating models.

Our most recent experience in UK CCUS includes advising clients with respect to:

- structuring joint operating and co-development arrangements for CO2 capture and transmission operations and facilities
- regulatory and licensing arrangements under the Energy Act 2008 for carbon dioxide storage and appraisal, including joint application arrangements
- technical services arrangements for pre-FEED and FEED studies
- grand funding arrangements, including from UK Research and Innovation under Phase 2 of the Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge scheme

In addition to our UK-based experience, Eversheds Sutherland is also active in the US CCUS market. We are currently appointed as lead counsel to a not-for-profit electric generation and transmission cooperative in respect of the development of the largest proposed CCUS project in the US. Our role has included advising on the full spectrum of development, environmental, construction, real estate and intellectual property aspects of the project as well as assisting with innovative fiscal and tax structuring to take advantage of incentives under section 45Q of the Internal Revenue Code. We have also recently acted for a capital solutions provider in the acquisition of interests in two separate CCUS facilities in Texas.
Energy systems and storage

Our global Energy team advises utilities, developers, ESCOs, generators, network operators, funds, lenders and high-demand end users on a wide variety of grid management services, as well as the development and operation of energy storage projects. We are recognized as global leaders in the field of energy storage and have pioneered a number of innovative solutions, including Europe’s first energy storage PPA and the world’s first energy storage equity fund. We advise on all legal aspects of energy systems products and storage projects including regulatory and licensing requirements, connection and offtake arrangements, flexible supply contracts, optimization services, ancillary and balancing arrangements (including for frequency control, operating reserves and load management), corporate structuring, debt and equity financing, project development and renewable energy incentives.

Transport

Our Transport and Automotive team consists of over 150 lawyers worldwide and is at the cutting-edge of the development and use of fuel cell technology. From OEMs, technology suppliers, manufacturers and distributors through to freight and logistics companies, infrastructure owners and municipal transport authorities, we work with a broad cross-section of clients across all modes of transport including heavy vehicles and material handling equipment. We offer a full range of multi-jurisdictional corporate, finance, regulatory, tax, commercial contracts, intellectual property and litigation services and have particular experience in R&D joint ventures, product liability, telematics services and the development of charging and refueling infrastructure.

Chemicals

We advise a wide range of market participants across the spectrum of base chemicals, petrochemicals, speciality chemicals, polymers and fertilizers and represent 11 of the top 20 companies listed in the ICIS Top 100. Our experienced Chemicals team understands the key strategic and commercial issues impacting the chemical industry and offer advice and solutions on a variety of sector-specific matters including portfolio management, strategic alliances, warehousing and logistics, sales and marketing, asset development and financing, intellectual property protection, supply chain disputes and regulatory compliance including under REACH, CLP and TSCA.

Buildings and heating

We advise property developers, asset managers, ESCOs, EESPs, manufacturers, technology suppliers and engineering companies on the use of fuel cell technology for behind-the-meter power and heating solutions in the commercial and residential building sector. With experience in smart buildings, micro-cogeneration, back-up and uninterruptible power supply, demand side response arrangements and energy efficiency incentives, we offer a full range of corporate, real estate, finance, product liability, data security, technology licensing, energy regulatory and commercial services.

Heavy industry

Our Industrials Sector team is recognized by Acritas as a top 10 brand globally and represents one quarter of all diversified industrial companies in the Fortune 500, and over 50% of the sector in the FTSE 350. Our clients rely on our industry knowledge and experience as they face new market challenges and adopt new technologies to improve their products. We offer full service capability across the globe and have particular sector experience in cross-border M&A, strategic litigation, compliance, technology licensing and intellectual property, health and safety, supply chain and competition issues.

See the Eversheds Sutherland website for more details on our experience and credentials in the above practices
Examples of our hydrogen work

Some examples of our recent hydrogen experience include advising:

- a global energy generator in relation to a potential growth equity investment into a hydrogen technology company
- an investment fund on a joint venture for hydrogen co-location
- a UK-based energy utility on its participation in the development of a large-scale CCUS and blue hydrogen production project
- the development of technology for hydrogen production offshore and multiple floating offshore wind and hydrogen production projects
- an international energy company on the proposed brownfield expansion of a methane reforming plant
- large-scale offshore hydrogen project composed of a 300MW offshore wind farm feeding into a central platform and producing up to 20,000 tonnes of green hydrogen per year in Germany. Joint counsel for merger control
- an IGC on the acquisition of a portfolio of industrial gas (including hydrogen) assets in the Middle East
- a US-based developer of hydrogen storage solutions on patent prosecution and counselling matters
- a multinational chemicals company on its UK planning and environmental approvals for the development of salt cavern hydrogen storage
- a developer on the first 10MW floating offshore wind and hydrogen production demonstration project
- the lead sponsor in the development of a hydrogen production and solar-gas hybrid power plant complex
- a renewable energy developer on the construction of hydrogen electrolyser units
- on the structuring of several PE closed-end funds (Luxembourg and Cayman Islands) for clean hydrogen infrastructure investments
- gas network operators in the UK, Ireland and Germany on the commercial arrangements for hydrogen blending in gas networks and development of above-ground installations and blend points
- a gas network operator on the construction of 85km of onshore high-pressure dedicated hydrogen pipelines
- a large multi-national engineering company on its joint venture arrangements for the research and development of hydrogen fuel cell technology
- a multinational equipment manufacturer on the acquisition of a US-based hydrogen compressor business
- municipal governments in the UK, Germany and the Netherlands on the procurement and licensing of hydrogen transport technologies
- various US-based fuel distribution companies on compliance with renewable fuel content requirements and tariff exemptions for hydrogen-based fuels
- an integrated transport company on arrangements for the construction and operation of hydrogen refuelling stations
- an industrial gases business on liquid hydrogen and compressed hydrogen gas supply and transportation arrangements
- an industrial products business on arrangements for the development of hydrogen fuel cell technology
- a chemicals company on various hydrogen projects for the supply of technology electrolyser equipment and hydrogen JVs

Hydrogen Refuelling Station Project

Our team assisted a local municipal authority in the UK with this innovative project for the construction, maintenance and supply of hydrogen refuelling stations for a fleet of hydrogen powered buses. This was part of the local authority’s new transport strategy to improve air quality and reduce emissions through the investment in greener transport. Our mandate included working with the client’s in-house legal and commercial teams to devise an appropriate and cost effective procurement strategy that aligned with broader policy goals and fleet requirements as well as the drafting and negotiation of relevant commercial agreements and real estate leases. Our in-depth experience with electric charging stations for other e-mobility solutions also enabled us to assist the client identify and address a range of issues early in the process.
Your contacts

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Our global footprint

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Our global hydrogen practice

US
- Atlanta
- Austin
- Chicago
- Houston
- New York
- Sacramento
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Washington DC

Africa
- Angola
  - Luanda
- Mozambique
  - Maputo
- South Africa
  - Durban
  - Johannesburg
- Tunisia
  - Tunis
- Mauritius
  - Port Louis
The extensive experience of the team is best exemplified by their ability to tackle complex problems and overcome difficult challenges.

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