

Overview

St. Petersburg is one of the largest cities in Europe by population and is an important city for anyone operating in Russia, CIS and the Caucasus. Its proximity to European nations makes it a gateway for those wishing to do business in different regions, including Scandinavia.

St. Petersburg is also a key location for those in the manufacturing, automotive, infrastructure, technology, retail and maritime industries. With a highly developed automotive cluster, the North West region can lay claim as the automotive manufacturer's hub in Russia. The city's dynamically growing commercial real estate market includes high-grade office, trade and warehouse spaces. Infrastructure and PPP projects are also booming. But demand remains high, making St. Petersburg a prime place for investment.

Dentons knows the market in St. Petersburg intimately, having first opened our office in 1993, and offers you the benefits of working with a truly global firm—innovation, drive, advice and cross-border support across Russia, CIS and the Caucasus. We offer you more than 25 Russian and international lawyers on the ground and access to a network of leading local law firms in the Russian regions.

Look to us for integrated advice on corporate, M&A, real estate and construction, intellectual property and information technology, telecom and media, litigation and dispute resolution, competition, employment, PPP, financing and compliance issues. Our long-standing presence and size, combined with our global reach, enables us to successfully handle your complex high-profile transactions in the region.

Representative Experience

- **Garsdale (Yota Group):** Advice in respect of various financial arrangements with major Russian and international banking institutions.
- **Largest search engine in Russia:** The IP team gained hard-fought victories in the court of first instance (the Moscow Court of Arbitration) and the Appellate court after defending the largest search engine in Russia. The claim against the client was submitted by Eksmo Publishing House, requesting compensation for violation of Eksmo's exclusive rights to Marina Serova's *The Witch's Stone*, as well as requesting that the client be forced to cease such violation by deleting the illegally uploaded part of Marina Serova's work from the client's search engine database. The respondent rejected the claim. After examining the circumstances of the case, the courts established that, as a search engine services provider, the respondent did not itself upload any data, but simply provided the user with information on the location of data that had been uploaded by a third party at a specific Internet address. Not seeing any violation of the exclusive rights of the claimant in the actions of the respondent, both courts ruled to dismiss the claimant's claim. The case, to some extent, set a precedent for search engines operating in Russia.
- **Magnetto Wheels:** Advice to a leading European auto wheel producer on corporate, contract and employment issues for a joint venture project in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- **Morgal Investments:** The Russian branch of an Israeli-based investment firm: advice in connection with a sale of land plots (approx. 430,000 square meters) located in St. Petersburg, Russia, to a leading Russian development company for further construction of multi-purpose (residential and commercial) premises and related transport, engineering and social infrastructure. Dentons services included, inter alia, complex legal structuring of the deal, preparation and negotiation of the transactional documents.

- **One of the world's leading automobile manufacturer:** Advice on several greenfield construction projects in St. Petersburg including: due diligence on land plots including zoning issues, legal assistance in connection with drafting construction and equipment supply agreements, interaction schemes with suppliers, other matters relating to the construction and operation of the assembly plant; negotiations with the city of St. Petersburg regarding the granting of land rights, having the project recognised as strategic for St. Petersburg, and negotiating and drafting a package of agreements with the city of St. Petersburg, including a Memorandum of Understanding.
- **Renova-Stroy Group:** Legal support on the conclusion of a second development contract in St. Petersburg to build a new residential complex on Petrovsky Island, including drafting all the transaction documentation, carrying out complex due diligence of the property (land plots and buildings in the historical part of St. Petersburg) and the corporate status of the rights holder. This deal shows that the team's experience in real estate transactions is sufficient for projects of any degree of difficulty.
- **Rosatom:** One of Russia's largest state corporations: development of internal intellectual property policy documentation. This work is part of a global system of knowledge management being developed for the Russian Federation nuclear sector.
- **Rusnano:** Russia's state corporations empowered to fostering the growth of the nanotechnology industry in Russia: advice on further development of IP and innovation legislation in Russia.
- **The world leader in the animation industry and a large television channel:** Advice on numerous issues in Russia, including:
 - establishing a dedicated company for film and TV production
 - TV licensing and contracts with telecom and TV operators
 - the new interim broadcasting license procedure
 - expenses of an over-the-air broadcaster for paying royalties in connection with rebroadcasting a mandatory channel
 - IP issues relating to a contest on the channel
 - IP issues relating to online radio.

This is a good demonstration of how our team combines unique knowledge and service lines, and our familiarity with the technical details of the client's work. This is a combination which most law firms are unable to offer.

- **Vkontakte:** Advising one of the largest Eastern European social network on almost all legal aspects of the company's activities in Russia. For years our team has handled a large number of high-profile litigation cases for the client regarding the network's liability for illegal audio and video content uploaded by users. Some court decisions for these cases set precedents in Russia and have been actively discussed in mass media sources. Our work demonstrated our ability to handle highly complex litigations to the benefit of our clients. In addition to a series of litigation mandates, our team has recently advised the client on data protection issues, corporate, employment, and general commercial issues. We have also achieved a recognition of the VKontakte logo as a well-known trademark in the Russian Federation.

Your Key Contacts

Russia, CIS and the Caucasus



Victor Naumov
Office Managing Partner,
St. Petersburg
D +7 812 325 8444
victor.naumov@dentons.com