

Aerospace & Defence



The Alerion Aerospace and Defence team, led by Frédéric Saffroy, helps its clients across the entire spectrum of commercial law, from product inception to full-scale series production and beyond. Our team covers:

- Research & Development and Intellectual Property (NDA, R&D agreements, cooperation agreements, licensing)
- Project structuring (consortium and JV, private-public partnerships)
- Procurement and sourcing (raw materials and components, outsourcing, sub-contracting, subcontracted manufacturing)
- Manufacturing, supplying and services (long term supply agreements, MRO and other support services, training services, with both Prime contractors, or with French Defence Procurement Agencies (DGA, SIMMAD, etc.) and/or international Defence Agencies (OC-CAR, NATO)
- Exporting/importing dual-use goods and Military goods (French, European and US regulations)
- IT Services and Cybersecurity, Technology transfers and off-set
- M&A, restructuring and reorganization

Alerion advises its clients in various highly regulated and competitive public or private sectors, understanding the legal requirements associated with the challenges they face in their daily business operations.

Our team will provide you with the help you need at every step and every level of your activity, with extensive experience and a great understanding of activities related to Aerospace and Defence.

Alerion Aerospace and Defence team works hand in hand with our Intellectual property, Digital and technology law, Public Law, Data protection, Corporate, Tax, Employment, Compliance & Regulatory, Competition, Insurance and Litigation departments to coordinate the various aspects of complex transactions in this sector, thus providing secured advices and considering all the technical, financial and regulatory requirements.



Expertise

We are comfortable in all various areas, and we provide legal solutions for the above-mentioned fields of intervention in accordance with your specific needs:

Space

- Space Law (International, European and French);
- Space industry: launchers, satellites and space vehicles,
 - Launch services.
 - Earth observation and imaging.
 - Satellites services (broadcasting, telecommunication, positioning, etc.).

Aeronautics

- Manufacturers (aircrafts, rotary aircrafts, UAV) and Tier 1 suppliers;
- Regulation (airworthiness).

Naval

- Naval systems designers and manufacturers.

Land systems

- Vehicles (Main Battle Tanks, armored vehicles, assault bridges);
- Weapons and ordnance (artillery systems, ammunitions, missiles and explosives).

Electronics and communications

- C4I (Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence);
- Mapping, Geolnt, positioning and navigation hardware and software;
- Imaging/optronic, display, cyphering and communication interception;
- Cyberdefence and security.

Private security activities

- Services agreements (sites and facilities security agreements);
- Registration process with CNAPS.

Work highlights

- Assisting a French company exporting Military ships in relation to International Sanctions against Russia following invasion of Crimea
- Assisting a European leader in Aerospace & Defence for the reorganization of its Military Aircraft division and its Maritime Surveillance division
- Negotiation of procurement agreements with the French Defence Procurement Agency (DGA, part of the French MoD) for a Nordic manufacturer of weapons
- Assistance to a Nordic Association of Defence Industries in relation to French Government schemes to support export of Military goods
- Assistance to a US manufacturer in relation to Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in France and compliance of their French subsidiary with DGA's requirements regarding suppliers to the French MoD
- Assisting a European leader in Aerospace & Defence for the reorganization of its Earth Observation division and the negotiation of agreements with the State for National Security purposes
- Assisting a European leader in Aerospace & Defence for the reorganization of the industrial and contractual schemes in Space Transportation operations and for the acquisition of 100% of Arianespace, including agreements with the State for National Security purposes
- Assistance to a Franco-German Ordnance manufacturer for its compliance in Export Control (French and US regulations)
- Assistance to a Franco-German manufacturer of communication monitoring systems in relation to Export Control regulations and Customs investigation
- Assistance to a French Tier One supplier to the French and European defence industry (Land systems, Naval Systems and Space Systems) for its Export Control compliance programme (dual use and Military goods)
- Assistance (FDI matter) to an Indian investor in acquiring a French manufacturer of special products for Naval Systems
- Assisting a Franco-German Ordnance manufacturer in relation to its ITAR compliance program in France
- Assisting a French leader in Special Gas & Energy in relation to its EAR and ITAR compliance program in France for the Artemis space program (ground stations on the Moon)
- Assisting a European leader in light UAV for its Export Control matters within and outside the European Union
- Assistance to a French Quantum computing company for its Export Control compliance programme (France, EU and USA)
- Assistance to a French manufacturer of Space propulsion systems for its Space related contracts (R&D, supply, integration, launches, etc.)
- Assistance to a European aircraft engines manufacturer in relation to airworthiness and integrity of aircraft spare parts regulations
- Assistance (FDI matter) to a European investor in acquiring a French manufacturer of special products for Army/Navy Special Forces, SWAT Police and Rescue Services

Recent publications (in French)

- New Space: the pitfalls of export controls, La Tribune, 11 April 2024
- Towards a control of European outbound investments, Option Finance, 1 September 2024
- The interests of Defence in French Space Law: the letter and the spirit, French Review of Air and Space Law, December 2024
- The French State can requisition a private satellite, Le Figaro Economie, 27 January 2025
- The Space sector confronted with the Defence economy, Air & Cosmos, 20 February 2025



Frédéric Saffroy

Partner

fsaffroy@alerionavocats.com