

→ Space & Satellite

Sheppard Mullin delivers cutting-edge legal advice and support to innovative companies in the space and satellite industry. Our experienced team guides businesses of all sizes, whether they are emerging start-ups or established industry leaders. We are respected for our deep knowledge and practical approach, working closely with each client to understand their unique needs. Through collaboration, we develop effective and forward-thinking solutions that help space and satellite companies navigate complex legal challenges. By partnering with Sheppard Mullin, space and satellite companies gain the legal tools and trusted advocacy they need to grow, adapt and thrive in a rapidly evolving market.

What We Do:

Regulatory

We help clients obtain operating authority and licenses for satellites, earth stations, launch vehicles and other space-based operations and services. We have experience securing approvals from the FCC, NOAA and FAA, gaining market access in foreign jurisdictions and acquiring approvals at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). We help clients gain access to frequency bands, manage corporate regulatory issues, secure experimental or temporary authorizations and participate in important rulemaking proceedings.

Commercial Contracts

We review, structure and negotiate contracts relating to GEO and NGSO satellite procurements, satellite launches, satellite capacity leases, hosted payloads, ground infrastructure and antennae.

Investment, Corporate and M&A

We frequently advise investors – both strategic and financial – on the acquisition of space and satellite companies and assets, including structuring complex financing arrangements and equity investments.

National Security & CFIUS

We counsel foreign companies and investors with respect to complex transactions and investments in the United States that could trigger review by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). We provide clients with strategic advice, lead the preparation of CFIUS filings and navigate the CFIUS review process until successful clearance of the transaction. We provide practical guidance on export controls and BIS/DDTC matters, OFAC sanctions and other national security regulations to ensure compliance with sensitive and complex legal restrictions.

Litigation and Arbitration

We defend and prosecute complex, multi-jurisdictional disputes involving space and satellite businesses and assets in the United States and abroad.

Government Contracts

We advise clients on all aspects of contracting with the United States Government, including FAR, SBIR and OTAs.