

TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ICT | AFRICA

Gide has played a key role for over fifteen years in the extensive development of the Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector on the African continent.

The firm has acquired long-standing and significant experience in assisting governments and regulatory authorities in liberalising the telecommunications sector. For several years now, Gide has advised investors on most key financing and restructuring deals and mergers & acquisitions in the sector.

Our Main Areas of Expertise

Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

Gide has drafted the laws, decrees and orders applicable to the telecommunications, audiovisual and electronic transactions sectors in over twenty countries throughout Africa. These include French-speaking countries in the northern, central and western parts of the continent, as well as Portuguese-speaking countries such as Mozambique and English-speaking countries such as Tanzania and Malawi. Our lawyers assist the main pan-African operators on key regulation topics.

Grant of Licences

Gide plays a leading role in the granting of GSM licences and is regularly consulted on the opening up to competition of international gateways, value-added services, 3G, fixed line telecommunication networks and services.

Public-Private Partnerships

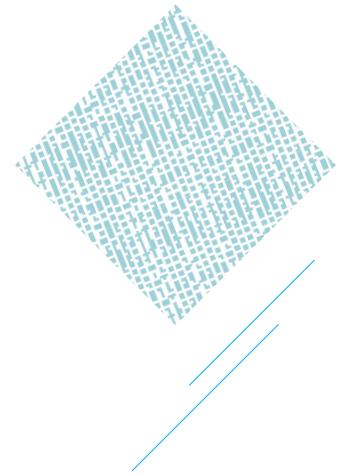
Gide has played an active role in the main public-private partnership operations that successfully led to the financing and implementation of broadband fibre optic infrastructures, whether international submarine cables (ACE, WACS, SAT3, EASSY, etc.) or domestic backbone infrastructure.

Mergers & Acquisitions / Privatisations

Gide has extensive sector experience in telecommunications and frequently assists national bodies on a regulatory level. As such, the firm's skills are often in demand to advise investors on the sale or acquisition of telecommunications operators on the African continent. Gide also acts on most incumbent operator privatisations.

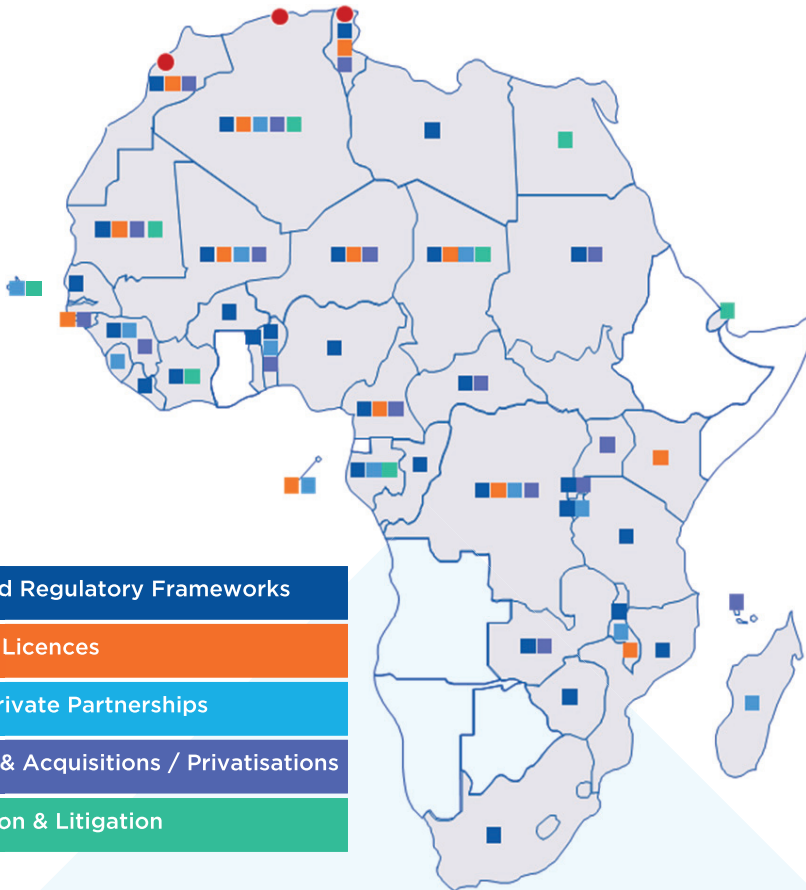
Dispute Resolution

Gide regularly acts in telecommunications sector disputes before national courts or international arbitral tribunals thanks to its multi-sector teams that combine in-depth knowledge of the telecommunications sector and of many sub-Saharan African countries, and specific international dispute resolution skills.



ALGIERS
BEIJING
BRUSSELS
CAIRO
CASABLANCA
ISTANBUL
LONDON
NEW YORK
PARIS
SHANGHAI
TUNIS
WARSAW

Our experience in the Telecommunications & ICT sector in Africa covers the entire continent - bar seven countries.



- Legal and Regulatory Frameworks
- Grant of Licences
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Mergers & Acquisitions / Privatisations
- Arbitration & Litigation

“Widely respected for its expertise across francophone Africa, with an impressive depth of experience in a variety of jurisdictions. Well regarded for its expertise across an array of transactional and regulatory matters in the TMT space, with an excellent track record acting for public authorities, corporate clients and government entities.”

Chambers Global 2018

“Gide Loyrette Nouel A.A.R.P.I. ‘has a very strong understanding of the IT and technology space as a whole with vast experience in dealing with start-ups and fast-growing companies’. Practice co-head Olivier Cousi focuses on telecoms work and recently advised the national telecoms authority of Benin on the country’s legal framework and the introduction of new legislative provisions, as well as assisting the government of Cape Verde with arbitration proceedings against the national telecoms provider concerning regulatory compliance.”

Legal 500 EMEA 2018

“Advises a number of domestic and international telecoms providers, with a particular focus on the African market. Acts on both contentious and non-contentious mandates, ranging from arbitration to regulatory compliance. Represents clients in negotiations for a variety of agreements within the telecoms sector. Clients praise the team’s multidisciplinary approach. Another source underlines the team’s good understanding of the client’s needs. Acted for the Economic Community of West African States on creating guidelines to evaluate significant market powers within the telecoms sector. Advised the State of Cape Verde on an arbitration concerning the compliance of telecom services provided by Cabo Verde Telecom.”

“Olivier Cousi specialises in media, entertainment and telecoms. He is active on IP law and the regulation of electronic communications in both France and Africa. He is described as ‘a rigorous lawyer with a certain intellectual agility,’ while another source compliments him on ‘his ability to adapt to the local context.’”

Chambers Europe 2018

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