You, LNG & Ince, in any case
In this fast-paced world you are seeking a pro-active business services partner that moves your company forward, someone who understands your challenges and the importance of commitment. Meet Ince, your trusted partner, in any case.

From our offices in Europe, the Middle East and Asia, our dedicated team of legal and business services professionals can guide you in developing and delivering on your roadmap for sustainable success and provide you with advice that will not only safeguard your business interests but ensure you reap commercial rewards.

Providing you with strategic guidance and well considered advice, we are renowned for the depth and breadth of our legal services and our understanding of the industries in which you operate. We recognise your needs and offer business focused legal services, together with advice that makes commercial sense.

One firm, in any case

With about 150 years of experience, we have cultivated a seamless ‘one-firm’ approach that is tailored to your personal needs and pairs you with the best legal and strategic business professionals in your field; whenever, wherever, and in any case.

Support, every step of the way

By leveraging our sector expertise, legal skills and market experience, you can feel safe in the knowledge that we will both handle complex legal issues on your behalf while providing you with expert strategic advice when the need arises.

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Ince is a pre-eminent shipping and maritime international law firm. Shipping has been at the heart of what we do since the firm’s inception and the practice covers every angle of the shipping industry: high-profile casualties, maritime disputes, ship finance, and corporate transactions for shipping companies.

Our firm is strong in both contentious and non-contentious shipping work: while we are traditionally associated with dispute resolution, the transactional side of the practice has grown. In addition, the firm has a leading shipping regulatory and compliance practice, covering areas such as competition, cyber security, fraud, employment, environmental regulations and shipping industry sanctions.

We are one of few firms that effectively marry both the wet and dry shipping disciplines. On the wet side, we attract the biggest casualty cases year on year. Alongside our legal experts, we offer the largest and highest quality mariner team of any firm, with our mariners all having seagoing experience on merchant ships including LNG vessels as well as Navy and passenger ships.

Our impressive international network comes with round-the-clock support to help shipping clients. From our first office in London in 1870, we now have 11 offices worldwide, including all the key shipping centres. Many of our partners have worked in one of the firm’s overseas offices, and many of our matters led out of London involve shipping lawyers from our other offices.

“"They have the strengths you would expect from a market leader: excellent partners, a strong market following, and an ability to recruit and retain good quality graduates.”
— Chambers & Partners UK
LNG transportation and vessel construction

We act for many of the world’s largest LNG vessel owners and operators. We provide advice on the construction, financing, sale and purchase, management and chartering of LNG vessels. In addition to providing commercial advice of this nature, we also advise on disputes involving the applicable contractual arrangements and offer a 24/7 International Emergency Response service which is on hand if a casualty or problem arises. Our practice fits hand in hand with our world leading shipping and transportation practice which is ranked number one in the standard industry directories.

- Negotiated en-bloc newbuilding contracts.
- Drafted and negotiated numerous LNG charterparties (both spot and long term).
- Drafted and advised on joint venture arrangements for vessels to be provided in various LNG tenders.
- Drafted and advised on LNG pooling arrangements and COAs.
- Incident response following LNG casualty and dealing with the immediate and ongoing legal disputes.
- Advised BW on the construction contracts for two LNG carriers.
- Advised longstanding client on FSRU newbuilding contract.
- Advised Golar LNG on FSRU newbuilding contracts at SHI.
- Advised vessel owners on numerous project tenders including Yamal, Cameron, Qatargas, RasGas and Enel LNG.

FSRU projects

Our Offshore Projects team has been heavily involved with floating regasification projects. Our expertise in this field is based on being at the forefront of offshore project work (FSOs, FPSOs and subsea installations) since the late 1970s. Our London led team has expertise in all aspects of the contracting, design, financing, construction, leasing, insurance and operation of Floating Storage and Regasification Units (FSRUs). We regularly advise on and qualify all related contracts including EPC, lease and charter arrangements, O&M arrangements, conversion contracts and the terminal/mooring arrangements (including advising on FIDIC and LOGIC based onshore and offshore construction contracts).

Our experience:

- Advised Golar LNG on its participation in the CI-GNL (Ivory Coast LNG) consortium, which has been awarded the rights to build and operate an LNG regasification terminal with an FSRU in the Ivory Coast.
- Represented Golar LNG in concluding Asia’s first FSRU project in West Java with a joint venture of Pertamina and PGN, which drew on a wide number of our specialist areas, including offshore contracting principles, EPCI for the mooring installation, insurance expertise, and advice on political risk and the use of Bilateral Investment Treaties.
- International legal counsel for the developer of a fast-track integrated LNG supply project involving the development and construction of an LNG jetty/mooring facility to supply regasified LNG to a local power plant at Port Qasim in Pakistan. Advised on contracts relating to (1) the construction of the interface infrastructure between FSU/FSRU and the local TSO (EPC basis); (2) operations (via third party O&M agreements); (3) LNG purchase and subsequent sale of regasified LNG; (4) installation of the FSU/FSRU by way of long term charters, leases or asset purchases; and (5) advised the developer on corporate and transactional issues relating to the project.
- Advised Golar LNG on the successful completion of an FSRU time charter with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan.
- Acted for contractors on a large number of Floating Storage and Regasification tenders and projects including in Indonesia, Argentina, India, Bangladesh, Brazil, Pakistan, Dubai, Lithuania and Italy. We have acted on all aspects of the tender process from pre-qualification through to project award.
- Advised an FSRU vessel owner on a time charterparty with a UAE government-owned energy company.
- Advised a leading provider in the floating LNG market on bid advice for an FSRU time charterparty with a Kuwaiti petroleum company.
- Advised an energy company on its bid for the provision of an FSRU for the Bahrain offshore LNG terminal.
- Advised a global shipping company regarding a joint venture vehicle to own and operate floating LNG regasification/power generation vessels and to market and develop LNG opportunities offshore Papua New Guinea – including preparation of JV, shareholders, tax and marketing agreements.
- Advised PGN in respect of the lease and operating agreement for FSRU Lampung in Indonesia.
- Advised a major LNG player on its potential FSRU investment in a developing country.
- Advised Golar LNG on Sub Saharan Africa’s first FSRU project. The deal with West Africa Gas, a joint venture between the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (60%) and Sahara Energy Resource Ltd (40%), will support their LNG import project in Ghana.
FLNG

Our lawyers are also at the forefront of developing the legal landscape for FLNG. Our expertise on FSRU and FPSO projects provides us with the perfect base to advise on the next generation of floating projects over the coming years.

- Advised in respect of FLNG construction contracts.
- Advised Golar LNG on its agreement of material commercial terms with Perenco Cameroon for the development of an FLNG export project near shore off the coast of Cameroon, utilising Golar LNG’s floating liquefaction technology (GoFLNG).
- Advised Buyers of FLNG barges from a Far Eastern shipyard.
- Advised on a major joint venture between our client, Golar LNG, a major owner of LNG carriers, FLNG and FSRU vessels, and Schlumberger, the world’s largest oilfield service company.
- Advised Golar LNG in relation to aspects of its FLNG project in Equatorial Guinea.

“The ‘first rate’ department has an ‘outstanding reputation in the market’, and is recommended for its ‘vast strength in depth’.”
— Legal 500

LNG trading

Our lawyers have advised on over 90 LNG Master Sales and Purchase Agreements (MSPAs) for many of the major energy suppliers for short term trade to long term Sale and Purchase Agreements (SPAs), and are fully familiar with the requirements of both Sellers and Buyers of LNG. Our specialist shipping knowledge enables us to advise parties to SPAs on all aspects of the trading relationship.

- Acted for a major national oil company on the drafting of a master LNG SPA for spot sales and a long term SPA for securing supplies to two FSRUs.
- Advised in respect of a transaction involving LNG SPAs with RasGas and Gas Sale and Purchase Agreements /Gas Transportation Agreements with Indian public sector undertakings GAIL, IOC, BPCL and HPCL.
- Advised wholesale purchasers in international arbitrations arising from complex price review disputes under high value, long term LNG SPAs.
- Advised the Buyer, an Emirati gas supplier, on several master LNG SPAS.
- Advised an Emirati gas supplier under a long term LNG SPA with an oil major.
- Advised the Seller, a Japanese trading and investment business, on an LNG MSPA.
- Advised a major LNG producer in Angola as Seller under a long term LNG SPA.
- Advised an oil major on a long term LNG SPA for LNG produced from an Australian gas project.
- DUSUP regularly enters into LNG Master Sales Agreements (MSA) with various providers and we have been responsible for reviewing DUSUP’s full suite of MSAs as well as providing regular and ongoing advice on the analysis and negotiation of new MSAs. We continue to assist DUSUP in the negotiation, drafting and interpretation of technically complex provisions in LNG MSAs and Gas Sale Agreements.
LNG finance

- Advised Golar LNG on their project financing arrangements with CSSC in respect of the Cameroon FLNG project, including the construction phase financing as well as the sale leaseback financings with CMBFL of the FSRUs Golar Eskimo and Golar Tundra.
- Advised Golar LNG on complex US$285 million and US$270 million sale and leaseback financings with CMBFL and US$187 million sale leaseback financing of their LNG Carrier Golar Crystal with CSL, as well as on the newbuild sale leaseback financing of four LNG carriers Golar Snow, Golar Ice, Golar Kelvin and Golar Glacier.
- Advised a syndicate of lending banks led by Nordea on the complex Eksportheditt backed US$412 million post-delivery financing of the FSRUs Höegh Gallant and Höegh Grace and the subsequent move of the FSRUs into position in Egypt and Colombia.
- Advised a syndicate of lending banks led by DNB on the complex ECA backed US$250 million post-delivery financing of the FSRU Independence and her subsequent move into position in Lithuania.
- Advised GasLog on a US$217 million sale and leaseback transaction involving a tri-fuel LNG carrier vessel.
- Acted as lead legal counsel to a syndicate of banks, led by SMBC, as Coordinating Bank, with respect to two non-recourse term loan facilities of US$180 million each provided to BW Pavilion LNG for the purpose of acquiring two newbuild LNG vessels (the BW Pavilion Vanda and BW Pavilion Leeara) built at Hyundai Heavy Industries.
- Represented the lenders in connection with a US$135 million loan to post-delivery finance an LNG regasification vessel.
- Advised a consortium of lenders based in Tokyo, London and Paris on the US$461 million financing of three LNG carriers (construction and delivery) owned by a consortium of shipowners and chartered to an Indian public sector undertaking.
- Represented a US oil major in relation to the construction, financing and chartering of four LNG carrier vessels and ongoing advice in relation to their LNG shipping requirements.
- Represented the arrangers of a US$280 million loan financing the construction of two LNG regasification vessels.
- Advised arrangers of a US$600 million syndicated loan facility for the construction of two LNG shuttle and regasification vessels designed to be used for the offshore discharge of regasified LNG through subsea pipelines.
- Advised in connection with a project to finance and build eight LNG tankers in Spain.
- Advised a major international bank on spot LNG trading and vetting of vessels.
- Acted for an affiliate of one of the world’s largest independent owners/operators of LNG carriers, in the acquisition of 50% of two LNG vessel owning companies.
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Insurance

As well as our litigation and emergency response teams, we regularly advise on the insurance implications of the LNG trade, including political risk, hull and machinery, P&I, war risks – piracy, CAR and other specialist insurances.
In any case, in any industry

We advise clients in a variety of sectors, including maritime, aviation & travel, energy & infrastructure, commodities & trade, TMT, gaming & better, leisure, hospitality & retail, insurance, real estate and private wealth & family.

How we work

Our priority is to equip you with the know-how and support you need to make the right decisions for your business. We are experts at clarifying complex solutions, taking the guesswork out of potential challengers before they arise. We are known for turning complex solutions into comprehensive explanations.

LNG floating project experience