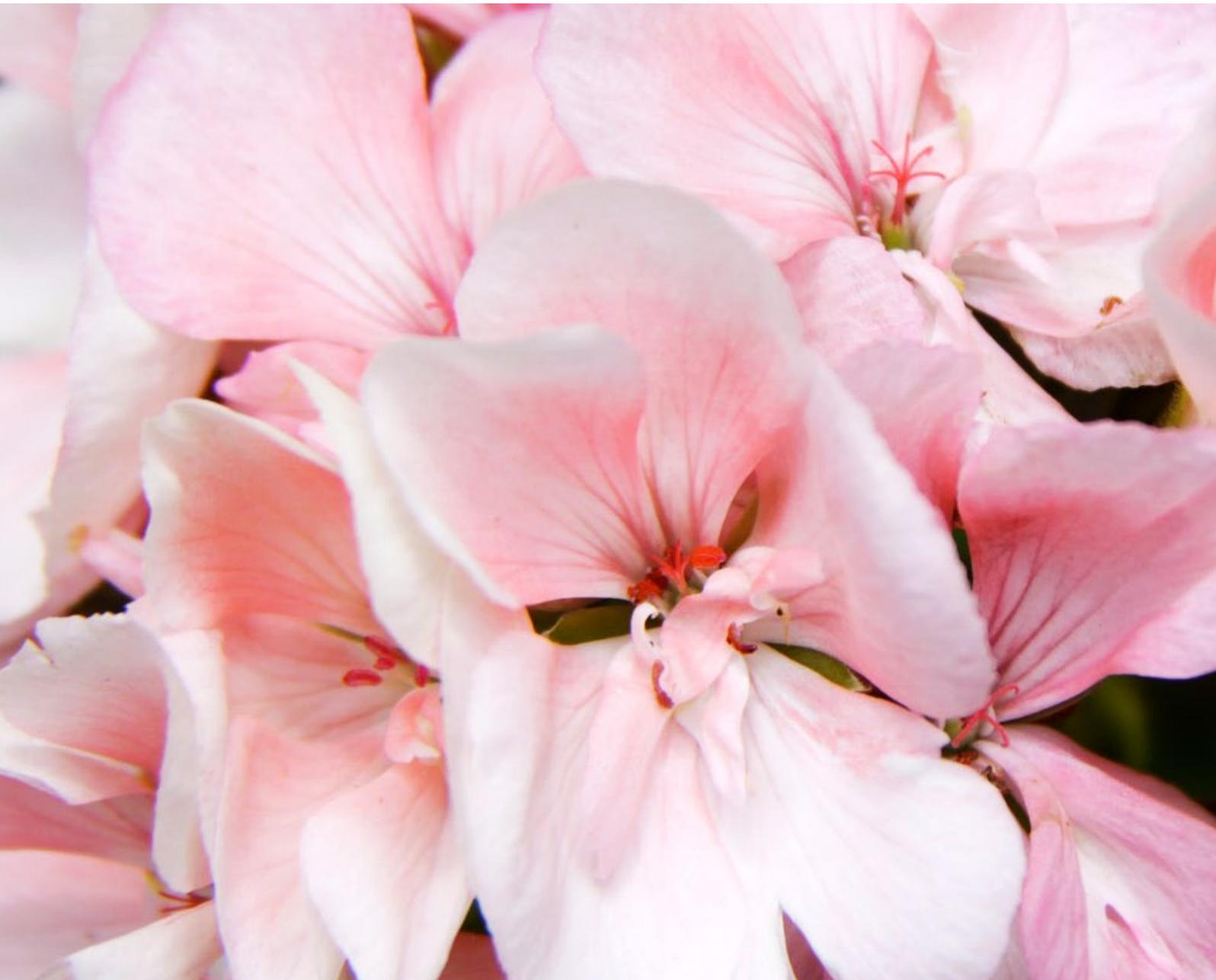


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# Complex Tech and Construction Disputes can Now Turn to New specialized DIFC Courts Division

**DUBAI** - The region's technology and construction companies can now choose to have their most complex commercial disputes resolved by a specialized division within the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts.

The new Technology and Construction Division (TCD) draws on specialist judges and a new set of industry-specific rules to fast-track dispute resolution, providing greater certainty to businesses in court. The Division will only hear technically complex cases. Examples in the construction sector might include complicated engineering disputes or claims arising out of fires. Technology-related cases could include liability for cybercrime incidents, disputes over the ownership and use of data, and issues relating to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence or connected cars.

Parties located anywhere in the world are able to opt-in to the DIFC Courts' jurisdiction, if both parties agree in writing. Requests to have claims heard by the TCD are made as part of the initial filing, with the Courts' decision based on the written evidence provided.

DIFC Courts Chief Justice Michael Hwang said: "The TCD has been designed around the particular characteristics of highly complex technology and construction disputes, which can be resolved much more speedily and efficiently with the oversight of specialist judicial expertise. This new division is another foundation stone in our work to build the courts of the future, and an important new service for businesses operating in two key sectors of the UAE economy."

The TCD was established following a one-month consultation with the region's legal community. Their feedback and suggestions have been reflected in the division's rules, which are published today on the DIFC Courts website.

The construction and technology sectors are both key to the local and regional economies. According to a recent BMI study, the total value of building and construction contracts in the MENA region will touch \$300 billion by 2019. Meanwhile, research from Gartner projected IT spending in the MENA region will reach \$155.5 billion in 2017.

The TDC will be headed by Justice Sir Richard Field, who brings 20 years of experience handling complex disputes in the London courts. A British national, he joined the DIFC Courts in 2015 following his tenure as Judge in Charge of the Commercial Court in London.

Commenting on his appointment, Sir Richard Field said: “It is a privilege to be chosen to lead the TCD, which represents an important addition to the UAE’s dispute resolution infrastructure. By forming a specialist division to handle complex – and sometimes new – types of construction and technology disputes, the DIFC Courts are working to secure businesses both now and in the future.”

The Division launches in the same week as the DIFC Courts implement a new web-based case management system developed in-house. Building on existing e-registry capabilities, the new system enables users to access case management information from their mobile phones, tablets and other electronic devices in real time.

Specific features include the ability to upload heavy bundles of documents; an entirely electronic, easy-to-use Small Claims Tribunal (SCT) section; faster and easier search ability of PDF case documents; integration with Emirates Identity Authority enabling verification of court users through their Emirates ID; and an interactive case plan that is automatically updated when documents are filed.

The DIFC Courts are among the world’s leading courts for technological innovation. In 2016, they launched the Smart SCT, enabling parties to resolve disputes from any location by participating via smartphone. In July, this was named among the world’s Top 10 Court Technology Solutions by the US-based National Association for Court Management.

***Source: DIFC Courts Website ([difccourts.ae](http://difccourts.ae))***





## TAG-Legal Facilitates Business Registration of Investors at RAK

**RAS AL KHAIMAH-** Due to the rapid growth Ras Al Khaimah Free Trade Zone (RAK) is witnessing, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Legal (TAG-Legal) announces its readiness to assist new investors in registering their businesses at one of the free zones that is continuously developing in the Emirates.

Last year, TAG-Legal witnessed an increasing demand on registering businesses at RAK in which investors were provided with a full range of services of registration and leasing services, in addition to post-establishment services of changing the company's structure, type, activities, capital or partners in accordance with the local laws, amending memorandum and article of association, drafting related agreements, mergers and acquisitions, advisory on changing laws relating to their business' specialization, and all needed maintenance work.

Among many competitive advantages provided by RAK Authority, the area enjoys a strategic location near to the city of Dubai and it follows a system of four Parks that are specially designated to meet the needs of businesses, the Business Park, the Technological Park, the Industrial Park, and RAK Academy Zone.

TAG-Legal and its team of experts are ready to assist our clients and new clients in setting a new establishment or opening a branch with ease. For further details, please contact **TAG-Legal at: [uae@tag-legal.com](mailto:uae@tag-legal.com)**





# TAG-Legal: Be Proactive and Alert UAE Customs of your TM Infringements

**DUBAI** - As a growing business in the UAE, protecting your trademark is becoming more and more a necessity than a luxury across the local markets to secure your brand, profitability and company reputation and while many brand owners register their trademarks to protect them and enforce their Intellectual Property, UAE's competitive market calls for a more comprehensive plan to achieve that purpose, which can be achieved by stopping infringing products from entering the country.

Trademark owners put their trust in Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Legal (TAG-Legal) relying on our expertise and cordial relations with the Customs authorities to assist them in filing complaints before the Customs against any suspected shipment.

Our team will then notify the client and provide the appropriate legal advice on further actions based on the facts of the matter.

It is worth mentioning that the registration of the trademark before the Customs is required before filing any complaint.

For further details and inquiries on requirements, business owners are welcomed to contact TAG-Legal at: [uae@tag-legal.com](mailto:uae@tag-legal.com)





# Vat Implementation Regulations approved in KSA

**RIYADH** - The Board of Directors of the General Authority of Zakat and Tax (GAZT), chaired by Minister of Finance Mohammed Al-Jadaan, has approved the VAT implementation regulations ahead of the introduction of VAT in the Kingdom on Jan. 1, 2018.

The regulations, which build on the GCC Unified VAT Agreement and Saudi VAT Law, govern all aspects of the implementation of VAT in Saudi Arabia.

The regulations include 79 articles, divided in 12 chapters, and set out the scope of taxation for certain goods and services, explain registration rules and eligibility of businesses for VAT, zero-rated and exempted supplies, the treatment of imports and exports, among other areas.

The regulations were finalized following a public consultation and are available on the VAT.GOV.SA website, launched by GAZT last month.

The new website features a range of resources to help businesses prepare for VAT, including video tutorials, guidelines and information packs on every aspect of the registration and readiness process.

“Businesses of all sizes have much to do to prepare for the introduction of VAT and GAZT is ready to support them through the process,” said Governor of GAZT Suhail Abanmi.

“Ensuring businesses understand the implications of VAT — and the steps needed to prepare - is a priority for GAZT. I urge all businesses to look closely at the regulations and their preparations for VAT, and the resources we have developed,” he added.

VAT is being introduced in Saudi Arabia on Jan. 1, 2018, as part of the GCC Unified VAT Agreement.

*Source: Saudi Gazette*





# Increase in Patent Maintenance Fees in Russia

**MOSCOW** – Pursuant to a Resolution issued by the Russian Government, the official fees for patent maintenance will be increased in the Russian Federation by two phases, as from October 6, 2017.

For more information, please contact AGIP office in Russia at the following address:

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P.O. Box 119602, Moscow, Russian Federation

Telephone: International: +7 (495) 437-23-27 - Local: 8 (495) 437-23-27 +7 (917) 525-12-32

Fax: +7 (495) 437-23-27

Email: [russia@agip.com](mailto:russia@agip.com)

Contact: Dina V. Al-Momani (Mrs.)

*Source: AGIP News*





## New VAT Rate Applied in Lebanon

**BEIRUT** – The Lebanese Parliament approved an increase in the VAT rate from 10% to 11% with effect from October 1, 2017.

Accordingly, our invoices for jobs done in Lebanon, issued as of the aforesaid date, will reflect the new VAT rate.

*Source: AGIP News*



# Where We Operate

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# TAG Legal



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