

LawtechUK chooses delivery partners for Lawtech Sandbox and Dispute Resolution Platform

- PA Consulting has been selected to help design and establish the Lawtech Sandbox pilot.
- A consortium of researchers from University of Oxford, Resolve Disputes Online, Jur and Oxford Computer Consultants has been selected to carry out the feasibility study and develop a proof of concept for a tech-enabled dispute resolution platform for SMEs.
- The next steps are to design the Lawtech Sandbox with a range of industry participants and to undertake a research and feasibility study for the SME Dispute Resolution Platform.

14th August 2020: LawtechUK, the government-backed initiative within Tech Nation, to help transform the UK legal sector through technology, has chosen PA Consulting and a consortium of researchers from the University of Oxford, Resolve Disputes Online, Jur and Oxford Computer Consultants as their initial delivery partners to design the Lawtech Sandbox and Dispute Resolution Platform respectively - two key projects announced as part of the LawtechUK launch in May.

London headquartered PA Consulting has been selected as the partner to help design a pilot version of the Lawtech Sandbox for testing by the end of the year. The Lawtech Sandbox aims to enable greater innovation in the legal sector and accelerate the development of new and advanced methods of legal services delivery using technology. PA Consulting will bring their experience of working on the Financial Conduct Authority, Civil Aviation Authority, and Information Commissioner's Office sandboxes, to help achieve these aims.

Researchers from the University of Oxford, Oxford Computer Consultants, Resolve Disputes Online, and Jur have been selected to carry out the feasibility study and develop a proof of concept for the SME Dispute Resolution Platform. The consortium brings together partners from industry and academia, with extensive and diverse experience in research, online dispute resolution, project delivery and innovative technology, in the UK and internationally. The feasibility study will establish user needs, and the appropriate mechanisms for resolution and enforcement, with the aim of providing a technology-enabled environment that offers small to medium size enterprises an alternative, elective method to resolve late payments, and help address the £11.6bn paid in litigation fees and the £50bn in late payments arising each year.

LawtechUK received a wide range of submissions as part of a rigorous procurement process. The submissions displayed a high standard of excellence, depth of experience and capability, and interest in advancement of the sector overall.

Quotes

Jenifer Swallow, Director of LawtechUK at Tech Nation comments: "We are delighted with the response to our RFPs and the quality and quantity of organisations who responded. It has been great to see the level of capability and commitment, which is an encouraging sign for lawtech and transformation of the legal sector overall. This made for two tough decisions, but we are glad to

have selected excellent partners who bring a range of strengths and experience to these foundational projects, and we thank everyone who engaged through the process. We look forward to building on the energy to date, to move the Lawtech Sandbox and SME DR Platform forward with our partners towards delivery.”

Chris Burn, Innovation and Regulatory expert at PA Consulting comments: “At PA Consulting we believe in the power of ingenuity to build a positive human future in a technology-driven world. With our 77-year history of pioneering innovation we are pleased to be supporting LawtechUK in their design of a sandbox to accelerate innovation in the UK legal sector, with the ambition of driving the development of new and advanced methods of legal service delivery using technology.”

Mimi Zou, researcher from University of Oxford, on behalf of the Consortium: “We are delighted to be working with LawtechUK to explore the feasibility of an ODR platform for UK SMEs and to develop a proof of concept. Our consortium is a diverse and interdisciplinary team of industry and academic experts in ODR and innovation in government digital services. Our vision is to develop forward-thinking human-centred solutions that UK SMEs and other stakeholders can rely on to resolve disputes easily and efficiently.”

About Tech Nation

Tech Nation is the growth platform for tech companies and leaders. Tech Nation fuels the growth of game-changing founders, leaders, and scaling companies so they can positively transform societies and economies. We provide them with the coaching, content, and community they need for their journey in designing the future. Tech Nation has years of experience facilitating and helping UK tech companies scale, both at home and abroad. Over 20 cohorts and 600 companies have successfully graduated from Tech Nation’s growth programmes. Alumni include Skyscanner, Darktrace, and Monzo.