

Apply for a Band 1 marine licence

Project description

Project name

Marine Survey & Site Investigation Works SOBR2

Please provide a brief description of the proposed project, including location.

McMahon Design and Management Ltd (MDM) is working to identify the best cable route to support the proposed installation of a new subsea fibre optic cable system, SOBR2, which will link Ireland to the United Kingdom, from a landfall at Portmarnock, North Dublin to a landfall at Abergele, Conwy on the North coast of Wales. Only works carried out in Welsh waters are being considered in this marine license application as works carried out in Irish waters will be covered under the Irish regulatory system.

The site investigation (S.I.) works will be predominately composed of geophysical survey (considered to be exempt from requiring a marine licence) and geotechnical survey techniques, identified in Table 1. A cable route corridor of approximately 500 m width will be surveyed (hereafter referred to as the 'Survey Area').

The proposed S.I. works area boundary extends approximately 116.41 km out into the inner offshore waters of Anglesey from Abergele, North Wales with an overall area of approximately 10,620 ha. The S.I. survey area is indicated in Figure 1 and is comprised of the cable corridor and landfall locations. The cable corridor is not uniform in width but is predominately 500 m, with some sections varying between 400 – 700 m in width.

S.I. activities include:

- Seabed CPT's to 3m (offshore);
- Grab samples (2 per location) (offshore);
- Vibrocore/gravity core (120mm diameter) to 3m (offshore); and
- Slit Trenches, 0.8m to 1m in width, up to 2.5m in depth (intertidal area).

The exact locations of the above works within the cable corridor are not yet known as they will be informed by a preceding geophysical survey

Does the activity have an estimated project cost for marine works over £1 million? If yes, the activity is no longer eligible for a band 1 application and a band 3 application will be required.

No

Applicant details

To whom the licence will be issued. This must be a legal entity such as an individual, registered company/ charity or public body.

Title	Mr
Full name	Kevin White
Company or trading name	Project Engineer
Company Registration Number (if applicable)	Project Engineer
Name of contact or individual (if different)	As above
Position in company	Project Engineer
Address (provide registered company address if applicable)	15 The Seapoint Building, Clontarf Rd., Dublin 3.
	-
	-
Postcode	3
Telephone number	+35318536500
Email address	kwhyte@mdmeng.ie

Details of agent, contractor, vehicles and/or vessels used to carry out works

Agent details

This is who we will correspond with unless otherwise informed. If no agent is identified we will contact the applicant.

Title	Mrs
Full name	Louise Bridges
Company or trading name	APEM Ltd
Company Registration Number (if applicable)	APEM Ltd
Name of contact or individual (if different)	As above
Position in company	Marine Technical Specialist
Address (provide registered company address if applicable)	A17 Embankment Business Park
	-
	-
Postcode	SK4 3GN
Telephone number	+447775229494
Email address	l.bridges@apemltd.co.uk

Does the applicant wish to be included in all correspondence?

No

Will the works require the use of vessels?

Yes

Will the works require the use of any vehicles?

Yes

Proposed project details

Licensable period

Determination of applications will be based on the works taking place during these dates. Please ensure you have included an adequate contingency period. If works are not completed by the requested licence expiry date you may be required to submit a new application. Including a contingency period within your original application does not impact on the licence fee.

Start date (DD/MM/YYYY) 03/05/2024

Requested licence expiry date (DD/MM/YYYY) 16/12/2024

Please detail the location of the proposed project.

This should be either Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (i.e. SN 12345 67890) or Latitude and Longitude in decimal degrees to 4 decimal places (i.e. Lat 52.1234 Long -4.1234), defining the extent of the project. Please specify which coordinate system has been used and if using GIS co-ordinates, specify which projection has been used.

Lat Long

53.59343765 4.800512779
53.59479616 4.780018963
53.58905583 4.794781298
53.58317331 4.80871781
53.57693949 4.82200097
53.5739512 4.851506781
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UTM 30N WGS84

Method statement

Are the works within a sensitive area or one of the following activities: boreholes, replacement piles or beach management?

Yes

Band 1 method statement template

You can upload your method statement here or fill in the questions below.

- File: SOBR2 Works Methodology Statement & Correspondance.pdf - [Download](#)
- File: SOBR2 Survey Area.jpeg - [Download](#)
- File: SOBR2 HRA Assessment.pdf - [Download](#)

Please provide a brief summary of the application including location of the works (coordinates - lat/long, decimal degrees). For activities that cover a large area please provide coordinates of the approximate extent of works.

See attached
Shapefile previously sent for this project
The survey cost for the activities covered by the ML (i.e., in UK waters) for SOBR2 is approximately €195,000 or £168,000

Scope of works

Please provide a full description of all proposed works including: Sequence of works (mobilisation, marine works, site remediation (if required)) Estimated timing of works (duration, working hours, day/night, plus contingency) Plant, machinery or vessel required Estimated quantities (removals, deposits, construction materials)

See attached

Access and working areas

Please provide details of access to the site and working areas. This should include: Attached map of the access/egress route and working areas (annotated aerial image and/or OS map) Predicted plant/vehicle movements Storage areas for plant, equipment and materials (if required) Risks to navigation

See attached

Environmental mitigation

Please list appropriate mitigation measures to minimise impacts on the marine environment these may include: Pollution prevention and control procedure (guidance available on the NetRegs website) Spill response kits Minimise plant traffic Designated access and egress routes Storage of materials (fuel, chemicals, construction waste) Biosecurity (guidance available at <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A1294630.pdf>)

Note: To assist you, the following mitigation statements will be used as conditions within the licence. By signing this method statement you will be agreeing to adhere to these restrictions. If you are unable to do this, the application will not qualify as Band 1. All equipment, temporary structures, access tracks, waste and/or debris associated with the works will be removed on completion of the works. Bunding, storage facilities and spill kits will be employed to contain and prevent the release of fuel, oils and chemicals associated with the plant, refuelling and construction equipment into the marine environment. Plant, vehicles and machinery will not be refuelled on the foreshore. Coatings and treatments will be suitable for use in the marine environment and are used in accordance with best environmental practice. All equipment, materials, machinery and PPE used will be in a clean condition prior to their arrival on site, and upon removal from site, to minimise risk of introducing non-native species into the marine environment. In the event of removal of any sensitive species or habitat designated by NRW under Schedule 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, no further removals will occur at that location or within 20m of that location.

Please list your bespoke mitigations here:

See attached

Additional information

Please list any additional information that may help with the application:
Consents/permissions required List of plans or drawings attached to method statement
Emergency procedures Contact details

See attached

Materials of the project

Description of materials to be deposited seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)
(Please tick all that apply)

Other (please provide a description of materials):
No materials will be deposited

Delivery method of materials to site

If sea delivery, details of vessels to be used with a chart of proposed route and transshipment area is required. If delivery is by vehicle, the details about the proposed access route are required. Please indicate if you are providing details in a separate file.

N/A

Will the works involve removals seaward of MHWS?

Yes

Description of materials to be removed seaward of MHWS (Please tick all that apply)

Other

Description of objects/materials to be removed seaward of MHWS, including quantities to be removed.

A variety of seabed samples will be taken:

- 2432 Grab samples with an approximate 0.1m² sample area (2 per location) total volume = 0.320m³; and
- 1014 Vibrocore/gravity core (120mm diameter) to 3m depth (<3m core of material per sample) total volume = 0.560m³.

Additional information

Please provide the following:

You must include a suitably scaled extract of an Ordnance Survey Map or Admiralty Chart with location of project complete with north arrow and scale

If applicable, any construction plans and sectional drawings showing those proposed works below/seaward of MHWS, which should give details of the materials to be used (for beach replenishment the quantity, particle size and source of material to be deposited and deposit location is also required)

You must include details of correspondence with MCA, Trinity House and The Crown Estate

You must include any pre application advice/correspondence with NRW

Correspondence with RCAHWW (B1 removals only)

Please upload these below

- File: Admiralty Map SOBR2.png - [Download](#)
- File: MCA SOBR2 Correspondance Redacted.pdf - [Download](#)
- File: RCAHWW Correspondence Redacted SOBR2.pdf - [Download](#)
- File: TH SOBR2 Correspondance Redacted.pdf - [Download](#)

Please list below all supporting documents that have been submitted with this application.

Correspondence with Trinity House, MCA and RCAHWW

Method statement

Maps showing route

HRA RIAA Document

Statutory powers

Does the applicant have statutory powers to consent any aspect of the project? e.g. coast protection authority, dredging powers, statutory undertakers

No

Public register

Is there any information contained within or provided in support of this application that you consider should NOT be included on the Public Register on the grounds that its disclosure:

	Yes	No
Would be contrary to the interest of National Security?		X
Would prejudice to an unreasonable degree you, or some other person's commercial interest or those of a third party?		X

Application fee

Please provide the method of payment

BACS

Reference number (not BACS remittance no.)
PRCAPPAPEML102

Declaration

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information given in this application form and supporting documentation is true.

WARNING: It is an offence under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, under which this application is made, to fail to disclose information or to provide false or misleading information. This could invalidate any licence granted.

Name Kevin White
Date 15/02/2024
Position in company Project Engineer

If you would like a copy of your completed form, please add your preferred email address below:

l.bridges@apemltd.co.uk