



Legal and Technical Commission

Distr.: Limited
25 June 2013

Original: English

Nineteenth session
Kingston, Jamaica
15-26 July 2013

Application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation

Executive summary*

1. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation has applied for approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, pursuant to the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese crusts in the Area (hereinafter “the Regulations”) as contained in document ISBA/18/A/11.
2. The applicant’s details are as follows:

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation
4/6, Bolshaya Gruzinskaya St., Moscow, 123995, Russian Federation

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E-mail: admin@mnr.gov.ru; gagel@mnr.gov.ru; arcsor@mnr.gov.ru.
3. The applicant’s designated representative is Denis G. Khramov, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation. His contact details are the same as those above.
4. The applicant is a State party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (hereinafter “the Convention”), having deposited its instrument of ratification on 12 March 1997.
5. The applicant has elected to contribute a reserved area, pursuant to article 9 of annex III to the Convention, in accordance with regulation 17 of the Regulations.

* Submitted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation.



6. The area under application, located within the Magellan Mountains of the Pacific Ocean, is divided into two areas of the seabed, consisting of 150 blocks each. Each of the two areas has a total surface of 3,000 km². Each of the two areas is located on neighbouring seamounts, which are within a geographical zone not exceeding 550 kilometres by 550 kilometres. Each of the two areas is comprised of clusters of cobalt crust blocks which are arranged in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 4 of regulation 12. Each group of blocks consists of five contiguous blocks of 20 km² in size. The area under application covers a total surface of 6,000 km². The coordinates and the general location of the area under application are provided in the application.

7. The application area is a part of the international seabed area and is beyond the limits of national jurisdiction of any State.

8. The applicant has ensured that the proposed application area does not overlap with reserved areas already delineated or with those claimed by other States parties, State enterprises or natural or juridical persons.

9. The applicant has paid the amount of \$500,000 as the fixed fee for processing an application at the time of its submission, as set out in paragraph 1 (a) of regulation 21.

10. The applicant undertakes to comply with the relevant provisions of the Convention and the rules and regulations of the relevant organs of the Authority and terms of its contract with the Authority. The written undertaking is signed by the applicant's designated representative in compliance with regulation 15.

11. The applicant confirms that it will conduct its exploration activities in accordance with the relevant provisions as set out in part V of the Regulations and with the principles relating to the preservation of the marine environment as set out in the Convention.

12. The following technical documents and information are submitted in the application:

(a) Information relating to the location of the reserved area, exploration and assessment of cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts of the area, as specified in the application;

(b) A layout of the explored area;

(c) A chart of the location of the area under application, with the boundaries of the blocks;

(d) A list of the geographical coordinates of the corners of the blocks under application;

(e) Maps of locations for each guyot where the parameters of cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts were measured;

(f) Maps of the crust thickness in sampling locations for each guyot under application;

(g) Results of the assessment of the predicted resources for each area;

(h) A summary map of tonnage and grades of cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts for each guyot under application;

- (i) A catalogue of coordinates and depths of the dredging locations for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts with the data about crust thickness and the content of their main commercial components;
- (j) A catalogue of coordinates and depths of the drilling locations for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts with the data about crust thickness and the content of their main commercial components;
- (k) A catalogue of coordinates of photo and video lines;
- (l) A certificate of sponsorship issued by the sponsoring State (Russian Federation);
- (m) A statement of the financial capability of the applicant to carry out the proposed plan of work for exploration;
- (n) A description of the technical capability of the applicant to carry out the proposed plan of work, its previous experience and expertise;
- (o) A description of the equipment and methods expected to be used for carrying out the proposed plan of work for exploration;
- (p) A plan of work for exploration;
- (q) A programme of activities for the immediate five-year period;
- (r) A training programme;
- (s) A programme for oceanographic and environmental baseline studies;
- (t) A preliminary assessment of potential impact of the proposed exploration activities on the marine environment;
- (u) A description of the financial and technical capabilities of the applicant to respond to any incident or activity causing serious harm to the marine environment;
- (v) A description of proposed measures for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution;
- (w) A schedule of anticipated yearly expenditures in respect of the programme of activities for the immediate five-year period;
- (x) Information about previous contracts having been awarded to the applicant;
- (y) A written undertaking by the applicant;
- (z) A document certifying that the signee has been authorized to act on behalf of the applicant.
