



Legal and Technical Commission

Distr.: General
13 January 2014

Original: English

Twentieth session
Kingston, Jamaica
14-25 July 2014

Consideration of applications for approval of plans of work for exploration deferred from the nineteenth session of the International Seabed Authority

Note by the Secretariat

1. The purpose of the present note is to inform the members of the Legal and Technical Commission of the status of the following applications for approval of plans of work for exploration that the Commission considered in closed meetings at its session in July 2013.

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Sponsoring State</i>	<i>Date of receipt</i>	<i>Resource</i>
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation		6 February 2013	Cobalt-rich crusts
UK Seabed Resources Ltd.	United Kingdom	8 February 2013	Polymetallic nodules
Government of India		26 March 2013	Polymetallic sulphides
Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte. Ltd.	Singapore	19 April 2013	Polymetallic nodules (reserved area)

2. In 2013, the Commission made no recommendations to the Council on those applications and decided to resume consideration of them as a priority item at its next meeting in 2014.

3. The Commission considered first the application submitted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation. Following an oral presentation of the application, the Commission raised questions for clarification and requested its Chairman to forward them to the Secretary-General for onward transmission to the designated representative of the applicant. Responses were provided to the Commission. On 12 July 2013, the Commission decided to set up a



technical working group to assess the potential commercial value of the data in order to draft recommendations on the area to be allocated to the contractor and on the area to become a reserved area. After deliberations, the Commission decided to defer consideration of the application, in particular on the issues of the data supplied by the applicant and the methodology applied by the technical working group for the calculation of the commercial value of the two areas identified in the application.

4. The Commission also considered the applications submitted by UK Seabed Resources Ltd., the Government of India and Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte. Ltd. Following an oral presentation of each of those applications, members of the Commission asked questions to each applicant to clarify certain aspects before continuing a detailed examination of each application. Following its initial consideration, the Commission decided to request the Chair of the Commission to transmit a list of questions to each of the three applicants in writing. Responses were received from all applicants. Copies of those responses will be made available to the Commission in February. At the July meeting, the Commission had no time to consider the written responses provided by the three applicants and agreed to defer consideration of the applications to its next meeting.

5. No further substantive information has been provided by any of the four applicants since the last meeting of the Commission, nor has any member of the Commission submitted any additional comments or views in writing. The Secretary-General has informed each applicant that the Commission will resume consideration of the applications in February 2014. Applicants were also informed that their physical presence would not be required, but they were requested to designate a point of contact.

6. It is recalled that the Commission is required to consider and make recommendations to the Council in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, and the relevant rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority. Applications will be examined in the order in which they were received. It is also recalled that the Commission is required to consider applications expeditiously and to submit its report and recommendations to the Council at the first possible opportunity.
