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Application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts by the Government of the Republic of Korea

Executive summary¹

1. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Government of the Republic of Korea hereby submits an application to the International Seabed Authority for the approval of a plan of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts.

2. The present application is submitted pursuant to the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts in the Area ([ISBA/18/A/11](#), annex).

Applicant

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3. The Republic of Korea is a State party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, having deposited its instrument of ratification on 29 January 1996.

¹ Submitted by the applicant.



4. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Government of the Republic of Korea has elected to offer an equity interest in a joint venture arrangement in accordance with regulation 19 of the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts in the Area.
5. The application area of the Republic of Korea, located east of the Northern Mariana Islands, covers a total of 3,000 km². The area consists of 150 blocks of 20 km² each. Each block is rectangular in shape and measures either 5 km by 4 km or 10 km by 2 km. The blocks are distributed over nine seamounts and grouped into 13 clusters, each containing 5 to 21 contiguous blocks. All the blocks are geographically confined within an area of 550 km by 550 km.
6. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries ensures that the area in respect of which the application is made does not overlap with reserved areas already delineated or with those claimed by other States parties, State enterprises or natural or juridical persons.
7. The application area is a part of the international seabed area and is beyond the limits of the national jurisdiction of any State and claimed continental shelf.
8. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries agrees to make the payment of \$500,000 as the fee for application at the time of submitting the application, as set out in regulation 21, paragraph 1.
9. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries undertakes to comply with the provisions of the Convention and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority, the decisions of the relevant organs of the Authority and the terms of its contracts with the Authority.
10. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries will conduct its exploration activities in accordance with the relevant provisions set out in part V of the Regulations and with the principles relating to the protection and preservation of the marine environment set out in the Convention on the Law of the Sea.
