



## Legal and Technical Commission

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda\*

### Consideration of applications for approval of plans of work for exploration

## Application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules by Impossible Metals Bahrain W.L.L.

### Executive summary\*\*

1. On 8 September 2025, Impossible Metals Bahrain W.L.L. (IMB) submitted an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone in the Pacific Ocean to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, pursuant to the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area ([ISBA/19/C/17](#), annex).
2. According to the application, IMB is a limited liability company duly incorporated and registered under the laws of Bahrain and is sponsored by Bahrain. Its place of registration and principal place of business is Manama, and it is subject to the jurisdiction of Bahrain.
3. The total area covered by the application is 74,761 km<sup>2</sup>, comprising parts of the reserved areas in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone contributed by the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources, Yuzhmorgeologiya., Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd., the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer, the Government of the Republic of Korea and UK Seabed Resources Ltd.
4. The application area is subdivided into six blocks, namely blocks A–F. Block A covers an area of 11,509 km<sup>2</sup>, block B an area of 6,479 km<sup>2</sup>, block C 25,840 km<sup>2</sup>, block D 7,925 km<sup>2</sup>, block E 9,604 km<sup>2</sup> and block F 13,403 km<sup>2</sup> (see annex).
5. In accordance with regulation 19 of the regulations, IMB has paid the application fee of \$500,000 to the Authority.<sup>1</sup>
6. IMB will use a staged approach to develop sufficient confidence in the mineral resource, engineering and minerals harvesting solution, environmental baseline and potential impacts, and economics, to enable a transition to an application for an exploitation licence.

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\* [ISBA/31/LTC/L.1](#).

\*\* Submitted by the applicant.

<sup>1</sup> The Authority received the payment on 8 September 2025.



7. IMB has also submitted a detailed programme of activities for the first five-year exploration campaign in its designated area. Activities will include regional bathymetry, environmental and geological surveys across all six blocks during the first two years. These will be followed by detailed geological and environmental surveys, sampling, engineering tests and economic studies in the selected area of interest, impact reference zone and preservation reference zone for the following three years. IMB will engage entities with relevant experience in geological, oceanographic and environmental studies in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone to implement its first five-year programme of activities.

## Annex

### Application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone by Impossible Metals Bahrain W.L.L.

