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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 summary¹

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 the Kingdom of Bahrain and is sponsored by the Kingdom of Bahrain. Its place of registration and principal place of business is Manama in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and it is subject to the jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
3. The total area covered by the application is 74,761 km², comprising parts of the reserved areas in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone contributed by Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources., Yuzhmorgeologiya., Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd., Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer., Government of the Republic of Korea and UK Seabed Resources Ltd.
4. The application area is subdivided in six blocks, namely A-F. Block A covers an area of 11,509 km², Block B an area of 6,479 km², Block C an area of 25,840 km², Block D an area of 7,925 km², Block E an area of 9,604 km² and Block F an area of 13,403 km² (see annex).

* ISBA/31/LTC/L.1

¹ Submitted by the applicant.

5. In accordance with Regulation 19 of the Regulations, IMB has paid the application fee of \$500,000 to the International Seabed Authority.²
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 license.
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 the six blocks during the first two years. This 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.

² The Authority received the payment on 8 September 2025

Annex

