

14 February 2017

Mr. Robert Hickey
Marine Planning and Foreshore Section,
Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Govt.,
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Ref: FS 006566



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**Re: Galway Bay Marine and Renewable Energy Test Site
Foreshore Lease Application – Response to Water and Marine
Advisory Unit’s Engineering Report**

Dear Mr. Hickey,

I refer to the report of the Water and Marine Advisory Unit dated 13th February 2017.

As noted in the report, the purpose of the lease application “*is to allow for the upgrade of the current site infrastructure and the deployment of a wider range of renewable energy devices and novel marine sensors and technologies*”. Details for all proposed test site infrastructure and device dimensions were provided in Section 4.3 of the accompanying Environmental Report.

The Water and Marine Advisory Unit’s report also notes that “*this foreshore application applies to all of the prototype test devices as outlined within the submitted application documents.*”

The report correctly identifies that “*the proposed development on site can be separated into three categories; long term infrastructure, recurring short term infrastructure, and test and demonstration devices*” as detailed in the advisors report.

A wide variety of wave, tidal and floating wind devices have the potential to be deployed at the site, and they may be either floating or mounted to the seabed. The types of devices that could be deployed include ocean energy convertors and components, marine technology test and demonstration experiments, scientific instruments and sensors.

With reference to Foreshore Issues (Technical elements) in the Water and Marine Advisory Unit’s report, the Marine Institute welcomes the opinion that “*Engineering is satisfied that the proposed project will have minimal impacts on coastal processes*”.

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The Marine Institute notes the recommendation:

“that on an annual basis an Annual Report be submitted to the Minister outlining details of all test device types which were used at the test site, locations where deployed, timelines for their operations, name of developer and a brief outline and summary as to the outcome of the test device operation.”

The Marine Institute commits to submitting an Annual Report to the Minister.

The Marine Institute acknowledges and accepts that:

“Any devices not covered in the current submitted Foreshore Application will require a separate Foreshore Licence in advance of their deployment within the Test Site. It will be the responsibility of Marine Institute as holders of the Foreshore Licence (when/if granted) for the Test Demonstration Site to make the application on behalf of the developer who intends to deploy these test devices within the test site area and submit any incumbent additional Environmental/Scientific reports/documents where considered necessary to back up the application”

The Marine Institute commits to providing a Lease map with the requested unique reference Drawing Number, certified and dated to make it suitable for Lease Purposes. The map will be at appropriate scale on A3.

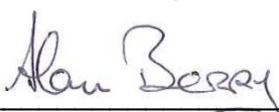
The Marine Institute welcomes that:

“Engineering has no objections to the granting of a Foreshore Lease/License to the Marine Institute for the upgrading of the existing marine renewable energy test device site in Galway Bay for 1 Long term infrastructure on site, 2 Recurring Short Term Infrastructure, 3 Test and Demonstration Devices as outlined in the submitted application documents, and associated cables and cabling in connection therewith subject to the following conditions:”

The Marine Institute will comply with all the conditions defined in the Water and Marine Advisory Unit’s report.

As the purpose of the Foreshore Application is to allow for the upgrade of the current site infrastructure and the deployment of a wider range of renewable energy devices and novel marine sensors and technologies the Marine Institute would request that Condition I of the Water and Marine Advisory Unit’s report be amended from “wave energy devices as set out in the Application Documents” to “site infrastructure, energy devices, marine sensors and technologies as set out in the Application Documents” to reflect the nature of the Foreshore Application.

Yours sincerely,



Marine Institute