

Application for a Maritime Usage Licence under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021

Important Information

Before completing this form please read the declaration and consent at the end of the application form

It is important to note that a change in applicant name will require a new application.

This application and supporting documentation should be submitted by email to licence@mara.gov.ie

Please complete the form electronically. Type details in the boxes provided, space will expand as you type.

Maritime Usage Licence:

Part 5 (sections 110 to 133) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MAPA) provides for the granting of maritime usage licences.

Section 112 of the Act states that the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) is the competent authority for the purposes of Part 5 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) regulations 2011 ([S.I No. 477 of 2011](#)) and appropriate assessments to which that Part applies.

Section 114 of the Act states that the Minister may by regulations provide for class of Schedule 7 usage to be exempted usage for the purposes of this Part.

[Schedule 7](#) of the Act lists the Maritime Usages that may be undertaken in the maritime area pursuant to licence.

[Schedule 8](#) of the Act lists the types of conditions that MARA may attach to a licence.

Privacy Policy:

MARA may require you to provide certain personal data in order to carry out our legislative and administrative functions. MARA will treat all personal data that you provide as confidential and will process your details in accordance with its obligations under data protection legislation, including the Data Protection Act 2018 and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

A Privacy Statement explaining how MARA, as the Data Controller, will process the personal data you provide, how that information will be used and what rights you may exercise in relation to your personal data, is available in this link: [Privacy Statement](#).

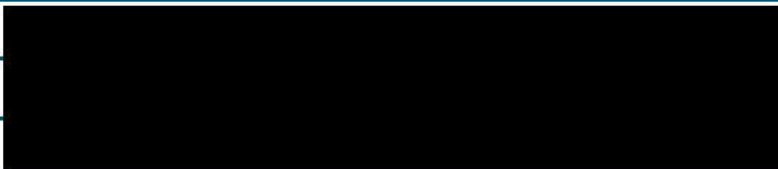
Freedom of Information (FOI)/ Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)

Applicants should be aware that under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2018, information provided by them to MARA may be liable to be disclosed.

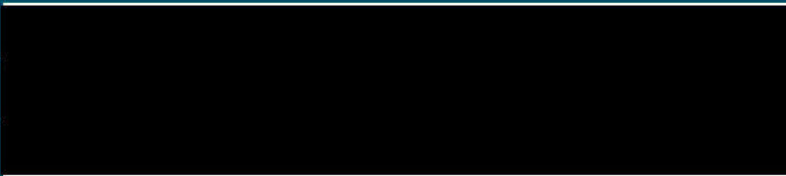
Applicants are asked to consider if any of the information supplied by them in their application should not be disclosed and clearly identify the specific sections of their application containing such information, specifying the reasons for its confidentiality/sensitivity. MARA will consult with applicants about this information before making a decision on any Freedom of Information/Access to Information on the Environment request received.

MARA
2nd Floor, Menapia House,
Drinagh Business Park,
Drinagh,
Wexford,
Y35RF29

www.maritimeregulator.ie

Part 1: Applicant Information	
1.1 Applicant Details	
Name of Applicant (the name that will appear on the licence)	Apollo Submarine Cable System Limited
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	Apollo Submarine Cable System Limited
Address/Company Address	The Connection, Newbury, Berkshire
Eircode/Postcode	RG14 2FN
Contact Name within Company/Organisation	
Contact Phone No.	
Contact Email Address	
Is the company registered in Ireland for tax purposes?	No

1.2 Contact Details (if different from above)	
Full Name	
Address	
Eircode/Postcode	
Contact Name	
Contact Phone No.	
Contact Email Address	

1.3 Agent Representing Applicant (if applicable)	
Person/Agency acting on behalf of Applicant	Alcatel Submarine Networks Ltd
Address	c/o Alcatel Submarine Networks Telegraph House Telecom Road Greenwich London UK
Eircode/Postcode	SE10 0AG
Contact Name (if applicable)	
Contact Phone No.	
Contact Email address	

1.4 Applicant's Legal Advisor (if applicable)	
Name/Company Name	
Address	
Eircode/Postcode	
Contact Name (if applicable)	
Contact Phone No.	
Contact Email address	

Part 2: Proposal Details (Attach additional documents as required)

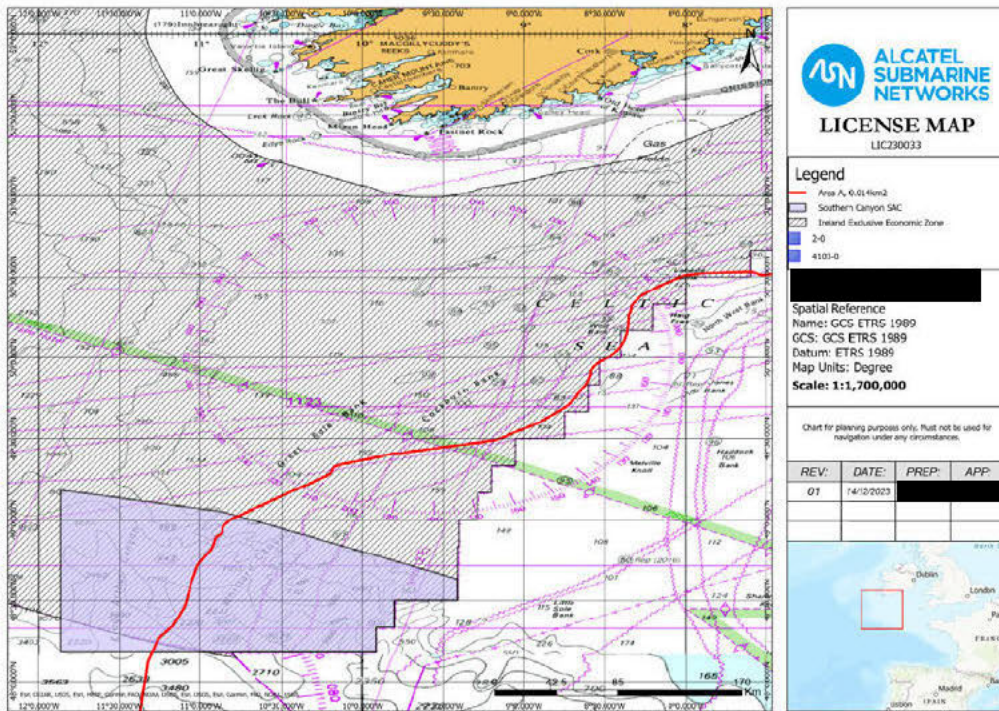
2.1 In relation to this application, have you previously applied for a declaration as to whether or not a licence was required for this usage? If so, please provide the reference number associated with that application.

LIC230033

2.2 Description of proposed Maritime Usage.

Installation of fibre optic subsea telecoms cable (and potential future telecoms maintenance activities)

2.3 Describe the nature and scale of any structure to be erected in the maritime area.



2.4 Indicative timing of the works/activity: (i) Start date (ii) Duration (iii) Any other information relevant to timing.

The 2Africa cable installation in Ireland's EEZ and the Southern Canyon was planned for December 2023, and now is being rescheduled for Q2 2024.

<p>2.5 Do the proposed maritime usages provide for public use, commercial use or private use? Provide details.</p>
<p>Private Use. At 45,000 km long, 2Africa will be one of the world's largest subsea cable projects and will interconnect Europe (eastward via Egypt), Asia (via Saudi Arabia), and Africa. The system will go live in 2023, delivering more than the total combined capacity of all subsea cables serving Africa today, with a design capacity of up to 180Tbps. 2Africa will deliver much needed internet capacity and reliability across large parts of Africa, supplement the fast-growing capacity demand in the Middle East and underpin the further growth of 4G, 5G and fixed broadband access for billions of people. Service providers will obtain capacity in carrier-neutral data centers or open-access cable landing stations on a fair and equitable basis at 2Africa landings. This will support healthy internet ecosystem development by facilitating greatly improved accessibility for businesses and consumers alike.</p>
<p>2.6 Could the proposed works restrict public use/enjoyment of the nearshore e.g. fishing, sailing, surfing, swimming, walking or other activities? Provide details.</p>
<p>No, the location is 127km from the nearest shoreline.</p>
<p>2.7 Please outline any engagements that have taken place with marine users or other stakeholders in the proposed area that may be affected by the proposal and attach supporting documentation where relevant.</p>
<p>We acknowledge the significance of the fishing industry in Ireland, and as part of our commitment, we have appointed a Fishing Liaison Officer to ensure that fishing communities are consulted about the project.</p>
<p>2.8 Describe briefly any consultations undertaken with other relevant authorities (e.g. Local Authority, Port/Harbour authority etc.) or State Agencies. e.g. National Parks & Wildlife Service, National Monuments Service of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>
<p>Pre-application meeting with MARA on the 7th November 2023 Pre-consultation discussions with NPWS and the nominated project ecologist have taken place during November 2023.</p>
<p>2.9 Please provide the reference number and title of any existing Foreshore licence you may hold within the footprint, or otherwise in the vicinity of the proposed Maritime Usage area.</p>
<p>N/A</p>

<p>2.10 Please provide the reference number of any current application for a Foreshore Licence to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Does this application for a foreshore licence relate to or impact any part of the maritime area the subject of this licence application? If so, please provide details of the foreshore licence application.</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>2.11 What environmental reports, if any, have you submitted with this application? (Supporting information for screening for Appropriate Assessment/ Natura Impact Statement/ Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species/ Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage Report)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appropriate Assessment (AA)• Natura Impact Statement (NIS)• Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report• Assessment of Impact of the Maritime Usage (AIMU)• Licence Map

Part 3: Location and Spatial Extent of Proposed Maritime Area
(Attach additional documents as required)

3.1 Total size of the proposed Maritime Area (in m², ha² or km², as appropriate).

Approximately max 0.014km² footprint of telecoms cable. (Cable diameter max 37.5mm with approx. 394km inside Ireland EEZ)

3.2 Please provide the distance of the main body of the proposed maritime area from the shore at its closest point in km.

The nearest point of cable is 127km offshore of Ireland's mainland.

3.3 Is any of the maritime area in the proposed site in private ownership? If yes please provide documentary evidence of same (e.g. folio).

No

3.4 Any other site details considered relevant:

No

Part 4: Maps and Drawings.

Please refer to [Technical Guidance](#) on map and drawing requirements.

4.1 Please draft a map, titled “Licence Map”, outlining the proposed Maritime Area in accordance with the Technical Guidance for Maritime Area Licence Applications and submit same with this application.

4.2 Please list any Admiralty Charts, Maps and/or other Drawings submitted with this application.

Licence Map attached is attached to this application.

Part 5: Fishing/Aquaculture Considerations:	
5.1	<p>Is the proposal located in proximity to any of the following: aquaculture operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designated Shellfish Growing Waters • fish spawning ground • other sensitive fisheries location <p>Please Illustrate on appropriate chart including distance in Km.</p>
<p>Please refer to Section 8 of the AIMU.</p>	
5.2	<p>Are there other potential impacts of the proposal on fishing/aquaculture in the area? If yes, please describe.</p>
<p>Yes, potential short-term disturbance. See mitigation measures below.</p>	
5.3	<p>Are there any measures proposed to mitigate potential impacts on fisheries or aquaculture? If yes, please describe.</p>
<p>Mitigation The proposed cable main lay should not result in the direct mortality of any fish species due to the slow-moving nature of the main lay vessel. The risk of insignificant short-term disturbance to known fish spawning areas through which the proposed route passes is highest in February, March, May and June. Therefore, the time frames for which the proposed cable main lay route would least impact known fish spawning activities are April, and July through January. Additionally, the risk of insignificant short-term disturbance to nephrops reproduction in FU2021 Labadie is highest in August and September and would be mitigated by avoiding cable main lay in this specific area during these months. No significant impacts on fish nursery areas are predicted.</p>	

Declaration and Consent:

The details provided here are correct to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that no works will be commenced, by the applicant or the applicant's agents on the proposed site, without a valid licence from MARA. The granting of any Maritime Usage Licence will not give rise on the part of the applicant to any expectation whatsoever for, right or entitlement to a grant of any future licence in respect of all or any part of any area of the Maritime Area.

By submitting this application form, the applicant agrees that the details provided (with personal contact details redacted) are to be published on MARAs website and also that the full information provided including contact details are to be processed and retained by MARA and shared with all relevant public authorities in furtherance of consideration for a Maritime Usage Licence under the MAPA.

I give consent to MARA and its agents to copy this application and to make (a redacted) copy available for inspection and copying by the public. This consent relates to this application, to any further information, or submission provided by the applicant or on the applicant's behalf and to the publication of the licence document.

Signed for and on behalf of the applicant:

[Redacted signature]

Name of Signatory (block letters):

[Redacted name]

Position Held:

Alcatel Submarine Networks

Date:

15 December 2023

Applicant Checklist	
Document	Included
Application Form (Parts 2 to 5 inclusive)	YES
Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) Report	YES
Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report	YES
Natura Impact Statement (NIS), if initially included	YES
Assessment of Impact of the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report	YES
Licence Mapping	YES
Other (Please list below)	

Other