

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. Please complete form to a high level, i.e. give comprehensive answers to questions, answers which only reference supporting documentation are not sufficient.

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,

Part 1: Applicant Information	
1.1 Applicant Details	
Name of Applicant (the name that will appear on the licence)	EirGrid plc
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	EirGrid plc
Address/Company Address	The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
Eircode/Postcode	D04 FW28
Contact Name within Company/Organisation	██████████
Contact Phone No.	██████████
Contact Email Address	██████████@eirgrid.com
Is the company registered in Ireland for tax purposes?	Yes

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	RPS Group
Address	West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
Eircode/Postcode	A96 N6T7
Contact Name (if applicable)	██████████
Contact Phone No.	██████████
Contact Email address	██████████@rpsgroup.com

1.4 Applicant's Legal Advisor (if applicable)	
Name/Company Name	[REDACTED] Solicitor
Address	EirGrid plc – Transmission System Operator, Ireland. The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
Eircode/Postcode	D04 FW28
Contact Name (if applicable)	
Contact Phone No.	[REDACTED]
Contact Email address	[REDACTED]@eirgrid.com

<u>Part 2: Proposal Details (Attach additional documents as required)</u>	
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.
	No.
2.2	Specify the Maritime Usage(s) being applied for with reference to Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 as amended:
	<p>Of relevance to this site investigation project are the following activities within Schedule 7:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <i>Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.</i> 5. <i>The installation of non-permanent platforms, pontoons, or slipways.</i> 6. <i>The deposit of any substance or object, either in the sea or on or under the seabed, from-</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>a vehicle, vessel (including a craft capable of travelling on, in or under water, whether or not self-propelled), boat, aircraft or marine structure (other than a pipeline),</i> 7. <i>The use of a vehicle, vessel (including a craft capable of travelling on, in or under water, whether or not self-propelled), boat, aircraft, marine structure (other than a pipeline) or floating container to remove any substance or object from the seabed.</i> 11. <i>The deposit, construction or removal of any mooring not requiring authorisation under any other enactment.</i> 12. (a) <i>The removal of beach material from, or the disturbance of beach material in, the maritime area otherwise than in the course of the ordinary or reasonable recreational enjoyment of the maritime area.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (b) <i>In this paragraph, “beach material” means sand, clay, gravel, shingle, stones, rocks, mineral substances, seashells, coral and maerl and any flora, in or on the surface of the seabed or suspended in the water of the maritime area and includes outcrops of rock or any other mineral substance above the surface of the seabed.</i>
2.3	Description of proposed Maritime Usage.
	<p>The Maritime Usage proposed is for marine site investigation (SI) works to inform the engineering design and environmental assessments of a proposed 220kV electrical cable circuit crossing Dublin Bay from Blackrock Park to Shellybanks.</p> <p>The aim is to acquire data to a high quality and specification for the site (as summarised below) to provide a reliable basis for design development, and to support the consenting and construction phases.</p>

Survey Type	Survey Elements
Marine Geophysical Surveys	Drop-down camera/ video
	ROV
	Multi Beam Echosounder (MBES)
	Side Scan Sonar (SSS)
	Sub-bottom profiler (SBP)
	Magnetometer
	Ultrashort Baseline (USBL) acoustic positioning system
	Seismic Refraction
	Ground Penetrating Radar
	Drones/ UAV
Marine Environmental/ Ecological Surveys	Benthic sampling/ grab samples
	Water samples
	Conductivity, Temperature, Depth (CTD) water measurements
	Static underwater noise recorders
	Shipping and navigation surveys
	Marine archaeology surveys
	Marine habitat surveys
	Other ecological surveys
Metocean Surveys	Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP)
Geotechnical Investigations/ Surveys	Geotechnical Boreholes
	Vibro-core Sampling
	Cone Penetration Test (CPT)

Further details on the scope of surveys to be undertaken under the licence are contained in the *Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report* submitted with this application and the details provided in section 4.3 of this application form. For details on the timing of the surveys refer to Section 2.6 of this application form.

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

No permanent structures will be erected in connection with the proposed Maritime Usage as described above.

The geotechnical site investigations will utilise a specialist jack-up barge, which will provide a stable platform from which the required testing can be performed. This barge, and the associated drilling / testing equipment, will mobilise and demobilise to/from a nearby port at the start and end of the site investigations and will transit between the various test locations using either its own power or utilising a support vessel such as a tug-boat. On completion of the geotechnical site investigation works, this equipment will be removed from the site.

2.5 Proposed licence duration and reasons for proposed duration.

EirGrid propose a site investigation activities schedule that will be phased over a total of 2 years (24 months).

The intention is to begin the survey activities as soon as feasible following licence award, with a phased programme of investigations, capitalising on suitable weather windows over this time-period.

This licence duration was determined based on the need to complete a series of repeat geophysical surveys to determine seabed mobility over time.

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

<p>i. It is proposed to commence surveys as soon as feasible following grant of license with surveys envisaged to commence in April 2025</p> <p>ii. Up to 2 years (24 months)</p> <p>iii. It is planned to complete the site investigations on a phased basis with Phase One proposed to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental surveys in the intertidal area • Geophysical Surveys in both the marine and intertidal area <p>Phase Two is proposed to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Surveys in the marine area • Geotechnical Survey in both the marine and intertidal areas • MetOcean surveys <p>Further Phases which would include repeat geophysical surveys to be completed over the life of the Maritime Usage Licence in order to monitor seabed mobility over time.</p> <p>Further details on the timing of surveys to be undertaken under the licence are contained in the <i>Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report</i> submitted with this application.</p>
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2.7 Do the proposed maritime usages provide for public use, commercial use or private use? Provide details.

No. The maritime usages are for gathering information in support of an application for development in the marine area.

The ultimate use for the data is to inform the environmental assessment, detailed design and statutory application for a 220kv circuit that is required to reinforce the transmission network as part of EirGrid's Powering Up Dublin programme of work.

2.8 Could the proposed works restrict public use/enjoyment of the nearshore e.g. fishing, sailing, surfing, swimming, walking or other activities? Provide details.

Environmental Surveys – No impact on other marine users or stakeholders is anticipated.

MetOcean Surveys – No impact on other marine users or stakeholders is anticipated, the metocean equipment will be marked with a suitable buoy and notice to mariners will be issued.

Geophysical surveys – Limited impact on other marine users during periods of survey, survey vessel will have survey equipment deployed while underway and localised exclusion zone in immediate survey area may be required.

Geotechnical Surveys - Limited impact on other marine users, impact will be localised to the survey vessel / barge footprint plus an appropriate exclusion zone during survey and during transits. Surveys in the intertidal areas may include the barge being erected in areas which are accessible to the public at low tide and an exclusion zone may be required for safety, it is anticipated that each survey would be completed within two to three working days meaning this would be a short lived high localised disruption.

<p>2.9 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>EirGrid's Powering Up Dublin (PUD) programme has been subject to extensive public and stakeholder engagement activities consistent with EirGrid's six step Framework for Grid Development which outlines a series of activities to be carried out at each step to inform, engage and consult with stakeholders and facilitate their participation in the project development process.</p> <p>From the outset the PUD programme study area included an offshore section comprising the South Dublin Bay; and an offshore cable option was one of the 12 route options presented to the public as part of an 8-week consultation on the Emerging Best Performing Route Options. In February 2023, EirGrid announced the offshore cable option as its Best Performing Option for the Carrickmines to Poolbeg circuit.</p> <p>Each consultation event and/or announcement adopts a wide range of measures from media campaigns, business and community forum events, webinars, online survey, in-person events or engaging with one of the dedicated PUD Community Liaison Officers (CLOs).</p> <p>EirGrid has inhouse expertise in the form of CLOs (including the dedicated PUD CLOs) and a Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) who have and will continue to actively engage with stakeholders in relation to the survey campaigns and as the project progresses more generally.</p> <p>Details of the engagement activities that have taken place with marine users and other stakeholders is set out in Chapter 22 of the <i>AIMU Report</i>, which accompanies this application.</p>
<p>2.10 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>The PUD project team has conducted extensive stakeholder consultation throughout the wide PUD programme development process to include Dublin Port, Dublin City Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, and interested coastal and marine bodies, utility and service providers, other developers within the south Dublin Bay marine area (e.g. Codling), as well as residents and business in the wider area. EirGrid has sought a meeting with NPWS and NMS in relation to the site investigations and is awaiting same.</p> <p>Details of consultations that have taken place with marine users and other stakeholders is set out in Chapter 22 of the <i>AIMU Report</i>, which accompanies this application.</p>
<p>2.11 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>2.12 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>EirGrid have no current applications for Foreshore Licence.</p>

2.13 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)

The following environmental reports and support documents are submitted with this application;

- Supporting information for screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA)
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)
- Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species
- Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage Report (AIMU)

<u>Part 3: Location and Spatial Extent of Proposed Maritime Area</u> (Attach additional documents as required)	
3.1	Location of proposed Maritime Usage
The location of the proposed Maritime Usage is Dublin Bay South - as indicated on application drawing CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG2502 Proposed License Area Map.	
3.2	Total size of the proposed Maritime Area (in m², ha or km², as appropriate).
As indicated on application drawing CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG2502 - Area is approximately 2101 hectares	
3.3	Please provide the distance of the main body of the proposed maritime area from the shore at its closest point in km.
The main body of the proposed maritime area is directly adjacent the shoreline.	
3.4	Is any of the maritime area in the proposed site in private ownership? If yes please provide documentary evidence of same (e.g. folio).
Yes - folio DN44335F. The area associated with this folio is highlighted on the proposed license area map.	
3.5	Any other site details considered relevant:
N/A	

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 submit GIS Shapefiles, in accordance with the Applicant Technical Guidance Note and submit same with this application.
4.3	Please list any Admiralty Charts, Maps, GIS Shapefiles and/or other Drawings submitted with this application.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG2502 Proposed Licence Area Map● CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG2503 Maritime Usage License Indicative Locations Map – Geotechnical● CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG2504 Maritime Usage License Indicative Locations Map - Benthic Samples● CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG2505 Maritime Usage License Indicative Locations Map – MetOcean Deployment● CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG3001 - Aquaculture sites and designated shellfish waters● CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG3002 - Fish Spawning Grounds● CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG3004 - Inshore Fishing Activity● List GIS Shapefiles<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ MUL240010

Part 5: Fishing/Aquaculture Considerations:	
5.1	<p>Is the proposal located in proximity to any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aquaculture operation • designated Shellfish Growing Waters • fish spawning ground • other sensitive fisheries location <p>Please Illustrate on appropriate chart including distance in Km.</p> <p>There are no aquaculture sites, designated shellfish waters or other sensitive fisheries locations within Dublin Bay or its environs, this is illustrated on attached drawings CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG3001 and CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG3004.</p> <p>There are three known nursery grounds for commercially important fish species including: cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>), haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) and horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>) found within Dublin Bay, these are shown on attached drawing CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG3002. Although the SI works overlap these areas, it is anticipated the SI works will not have a significant impact on the nursery grounds for these commercial species.</p> <p>Refer to Section 8 of the <i>AIMU Report</i>, which accompanies the application for more detail.</p>
5.2	<p>Are there other potential impacts of the proposal on fishing/aquaculture in the area? If yes, please describe.</p> <p>Sea angling occurs all along the coast including boat angling and shore angling (ERFB, 2009).</p> <p>Refer to Section 8 of the <i>AIMU Report</i>, which accompanies the application for more detail.</p>
5.3	<p>Are there any measures proposed to mitigate potential impacts on fisheries or aquaculture? If yes, please describe.</p> <p>Yes. Mitigation for Fisheries and Aquaculture includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non- invasive techniques (SSS, multibeam, drop-down video) will be analysed to enable micro-siting or avoidance of sensitive sites. • Slow lowering of the equipment through the water column to reduce potential impact plumes from the seabed (SSC) and reduce chances of equipment damage. • Control measures for the general protection of watercourses and response to environmental incidents and accidents, including requirements for the storage of hazardous and waste construction materials, the usage of spill kits. <p>Refer to Section 8 of the <i>AIMU Report</i>, which accompanies the application for more detail on potential impacts on Fishing / Aquaculture and all relevant mitigation measures.</p>

Declaration and Consent:

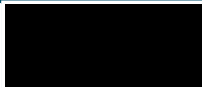
The details provided here are correct to the best of my knowledge.

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 MARA's 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 supporting documentation submitted with the application, to any further information, or submission provided by the applicant or on the applicant's behalf, including any supplementary material submitted in response to a notice to determine notice in respect of this licence application, and to the publication of the licence document.

Signed for and on behalf of the applicant:

 _____

Name of Signatory (block letters):

 _____

Position Held:

Team Lead

Date:

5th November 2024

Applicant Checklist	
Document	Included
Application Form (Parts 2 to 5 inclusive)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Natura Impact Statement (NIS), if initially included	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assessment of Impact of the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schedule of Works	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Licence Mapping (including GIS Shapefiles)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please list below)	

Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG2503 Maritime Usage License Indicative Locations Map – Geotechnical • CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG2504 Maritime Usage License Indicative Locations Map - Benthic Samples • CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG2505 Maritime Usage License Indicative Locations Map – MetOcean Deployment • CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG3001 - Aquaculture sites and designated shellfish waters • CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG3002 - Fish Spawning Grounds • CP1146-RPS-00-XX-DR-C-DG3004 - Inshore Fishing Activity • List GIS Shapefiles: MUL240010