



## Legal and Technical Commission

Distr.: General  
11 January 2019

Original: English

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### Twenty-fifth session

Legal and Technical Commission session, part I  
Kingston, 4–15 March 2019

Item 9 of the provisional agenda\*

**Consideration of applications for approval of plans of work for exploration, if any**

### **Application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules by the Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation**

#### **Executive summary\*\***

1. On 21 December 2018, the Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Corporation (BPHDC) submitted an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the western 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. BPHDC is a State-owned enterprise affiliated with the Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China and is ultimately governed by the law of that country. In accordance with the law of the People's Republic of China on the exploration and development of deep-sea resources, BPHDC is qualified to carry out the activities of exploration of and exploitation for polymetallic nodules in the Area.
3. The area covered by the application is located in the western Pacific Ocean and has a total area of 148,250 km<sup>2</sup>. It consists of nine blocks, namely blocks C-1 to C-5 and blocks M-1 to M-4. Block C-1 covers an area of 26,112 km<sup>2</sup>, block C-2 an area of 11,370 km<sup>2</sup>, block C-3 an area of 14,620 km<sup>2</sup>, block C-4 an area of 7,337 km<sup>2</sup>, block C-5 an area of 5,725 km<sup>2</sup>, block M-1 an area of 12,903 km<sup>2</sup>, block M-2 an area of 23,667 km<sup>2</sup>, block M-3 an area of 33,322 km<sup>2</sup> and block M-4 an area of 13,194 km<sup>2</sup>.
4. In accordance with regulation 16, the area covered by the application is divided into two parts, A and B, with equal estimated commercial value, one of which is to be allocated to the International Seabed Authority as the reserved area. Area A consists of four blocks with a total area of 74,052 km<sup>2</sup>, namely blocks C-1, C-2, M-1 and M-2. Area B consists of five blocks with a total area of 74,198 km<sup>2</sup>, namely blocks C-3 to C-5, M-3 and M-4. Detailed information on the area may be found on pages 30–41 of the Chinese version of the application.
5. In accordance with regulation 19, BPHDC has paid the application fee of \$500,000 to the International Seabed Authority.<sup>1</sup>

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\* [ISBA/25/LTC/L.1](#).

\*\* Submitted by the applicant.

<sup>1</sup> The Authority received the payment on 24 December 2018.

