



## Legal and Technical Commission

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### **Application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides by the Government of India**

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

1. The Earth System Science Organisation (Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India) is applying for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides, pursuant to the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Sulphides in the Area (ISBA/16/A/12/Rev.1).
2. The applicant's details are as follows:
  - (a) *Name*: Earth System Science Organisation (Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India);
  - (b) *Street address*: Ministry of Earth Sciences, Prithvi Ghavan, Lodi Road, New Delhi — 110003, India;
  - (c) *Postal address*: Same as above;
  - (d) *Telephone number*: 91 11 2462 9771;
  - (e) *Fax number*: 91 11 2462 9777;
  - (f) *E-mail address*: secretary@moes.gov.in.
3. The applicant's designated representative is Shailesh Nayak, Chair of the Earth System Science Organisation and Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India. His contact details are the same as those above.
4. The applicant is a State party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, having deposited its instrument of ratification on 29 June 1995.
5. The applicant elects to offer an equity interest in a joint venture arrangement in accordance with regulation 19.
6. The application area, located in the central Indian Ocean, covers 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> of area and consists of 100 blocks, each of 10 km by 10 km, which are grouped into

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\* Submitted by the Government of India.



five clusters, each containing from 15 to 30 blocks. The application area is confined within a rectangular area not exceeding 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> in size and where the longest side does not exceed 1,000 km in length. The coordinates and general location of the area under application are provided in the application.

7. The application area is a part of the international seabed area and is beyond the limits of national jurisdiction of any State.

8. The applicant has ensured that the proposed application area does not overlap with reserved areas already delineated or with those claimed by other States parties, State enterprises or natural or juridical persons.

9. The applicant agrees to make the payment of \$500,000 as the fixed fee for application at the time of submitting the application, as set out in paragraph 1 (a) of regulation 21.

10. The applicant undertakes to comply with the relevant provisions of the Convention and the rules and regulations of the relevant organs of the Authority and the terms of its contract with the Authority. The written undertaking is signed by the applicant's designated representative in compliance with regulation 15.

11. The applicant confirms that it will conduct its exploration activities in accordance with the relevant provisions as set out in part V of the Regulations and with the principles relating to the preservation of the marine environment as set out in the Convention.

12. The following technical documents and information are submitted in the application:

- (a) Information relating to the area under proposed application;
- (b) Charts of the location of clusters and blocks;
- (c) A list of coordinates of the corners of the 100 blocks under application;
- (d) A certificate of sponsorship;
- (e) A statement on the applicant's financial capability to carry out the proposed plan of work for exploration;
- (f) A description of applicant's technical capability to carry out the proposed plan of work for exploration, previous experience and expertise developed;
- (g) A description of equipment and methods expected to be used for carrying out the proposed plan of work for exploration;
- (h) A plan of work for exploration;
- (i) A description of applicant's financial and technical capability to respond to any incident or activity that causes serious harm to the marine environment;
- (j) A programme for oceanographic and environment baseline studies;
- (k) A description of proposed measures for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution;
- (l) A schedule of anticipated yearly expenditure for the immediate five-year period;
- (m) A training programme;
- (n) A written undertaking by the applicant.