



Assembly

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Request for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly on behalf of the International Marine Minerals Society

Note by the secretariat

1. On 30 June 2017, the International Marine Minerals Society submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, requesting observer status in the Assembly of the Authority. The text of the letter and additional information provided by the applicant are contained in annexes I and II to the present note.

2. In accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, non-governmental organizations with which the Secretary-General has entered into arrangements in accordance with article 169, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other non-governmental organizations invited by the Assembly that have demonstrated their interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, may participate as observers in the Assembly.

3. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the same rule further provide that observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule may sit at public meetings of the Assembly and, upon the invitation of the President and subject to approval by the Assembly, may make oral statements on questions within the scope of their activities, and that written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule within the scope of their activities that are relevant to the work of the Assembly should be made available by the secretariat in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are submitted.



Annex I

Letter dated 30 June 2017 from the Executive Board of the International Marine Minerals Society addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

The Executive Board of Directors of the International Marine Minerals Society respectfully requests that the Society be recognized by the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority as an observer to the Authority, under the provisions of rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

The International Marine Minerals Society is a professional society (non-profit 501(c)(6) corporation) whose members share a common interest in marine minerals as a resource for study and sound application to meet global demands for strategic minerals. Founded in 1987, the Society has a worldwide membership of individuals from industry, government agencies and academic institutions.

The primary objectives of the Society are:

- To promote and improve the understanding of marine mineral deposits within the province of the global ocean
- To aid in the interchange of information among members through networking and formal symposiums
- To encourage the prudent development of marine mineral resources and concern for the environment
- To encourage research in all aspects of marine minerals development

The Society is the primary sponsor of the Underwater Mining Conference, an international forum that brings together the marine mining community to exchange ideas and foster partnerships for research, exploration and mining ventures.

The Society has a strong interest in the work of the International Seabed Authority and is interested in becoming an official observer, given the following:

- (a) Members have an interest in marine minerals;
- (b) Many members are contractors;
- (c) Regulatory standards will be directly applicable to many members;
- (d) The Society developed the Code for Environmental Management of Marine Mining, an early significant multi-stakeholder effort towards the responsible management of marine minerals;
- (e) Members are involved in research in the Area;
- (f) Members are involved in developing the resources of the Area;
- (g) The Society has a broad portfolio of members and is unique in that it is a forum in which representatives of industry, academia, government agencies and non-governmental organizations can discuss and advance work relating to marine minerals;
- (h) The Underwater Mining Conference promotes discussions on environmental and technological issues relating to sea floor mineral development;
- (i) Several members of the Society have signed contracts with the Authority to carry out sea floor minerals exploration in the Area.

The Society believes that it can contribute a unique and valuable perspective to the management of resources and the organization and control of activities within the Area, and, accordingly, I request your support for our application for observer status.

(*Signed*) Samantha **Smith**
Executive Board Member
International Marine Minerals Society

Annex II

International Seabed Authority observer status request

1. Name of organization

International Marine Minerals Society (IMMS)

2. Office and email address

IMMS Administrative Office
Attn: Ms. Karynne Morgan
c/o University of Hawaii
1000 Pope Road, MSB 303
Honolulu HI 96822
Email: karynnem@hawaii.edu

3. Positions of the proposed primary representatives

We nominate the following IMMS Executive Board positions as the primary representatives of IMMS:

- President (position currently held by Dr. Robert Goodden; rgoodden@subseaminerals.com)
- Past-President (Dr. Samantha Smith; samantha@blueglobesolutions.com)
- Past Past-President (Dr. James Hein; jhein@usgs.gov)
- President-elect (to be determined)

4. Purposes of the International Marine Minerals Society

- To promote and improve the understanding of marine mineral deposits within the province of the global ocean
- To aid in the interchange of information among members through networking and formal symposiums
- To encourage the prudent development of marine mineral resources and concern for the environment
- To encourage research in all aspects of marine minerals development

5. History

IMMS was founded in 1987 and is the primary sponsor of the Underwater Mining Conference (formerly the Underwater Mining Institute), with the forty-sixth Conference to be held in Berlin in September 2017.

The Underwater Mining Conference is recognized as the world's premier event focused on sea floor minerals and is unique in that it brings together representatives of academia, government agencies, industry and non-governmental organizations to discuss the latest research, technology and environmental management issues relating to sea floor minerals and mining.

6. Recent activities

- IMMS sponsors and coordinates, along with the local host, the Underwater Mining Conference, which is held annually at different locations around the world
- IMMS produces an abstract volume of the oral and poster presentations made at each Conference, ensuring that the information shared at the meetings has wider reach

- IMMS publishes *Soundings*, an e-newsletter focused on highlighting recent developments relating to sea floor minerals (including academic, industrial and regulatory)
- IMMS is currently working with the International Seabed Authority to host a contractor's meeting in association with the Conference to be held in 2017 in Berlin
- IMMS has prepared submissions to the International Seabed Authority with regard to the development of a regulatory framework for mineral exploitation in the Area
- IMMS participated in the review of article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

7. Statement of the extent to which the purpose of the International Marine Minerals Society relates to that of the International Seabed Authority and the contribution that the Society can make to the progress of the Authority

The purpose of IMMS is promoting cooperation among its members who represent industry, academia and government agencies, as well as the applicable full range of scientific and engineering research. Nowhere else is this full spectrum of disciplines and expertise gathered to address the issues related to marine minerals and marine mining in a comprehensive and holistic manner.

IMMS has contributed to the responsible management of marine minerals by, among other things, developing the Code for Environmental Management of Marine Mining (available from www.immsoc.org/IMMS_code.htm). The Code consists of a statement of environmental principles for marine mining, followed by a set of operating guidelines for application as appropriate at specific mining sites. These guidelines are designed to serve industry, regulatory agencies, including the International Seabed Authority, scientists and other stakeholders as benchmarks for the development, implementation and assessment of environmental management plans and as advice on the best fit-for-purpose practices at sites targeted for marine minerals research, exploration and extraction. The principles and guidelines set broad directions in a context of shared values rather than prescribing specific practices. It is important to note that this is a voluntary code that industry, regulatory agencies, scientists and other stakeholders are encouraged to strive towards and use. The code is now available in the six United Nations languages, courtesy of the International Seabed Authority.

8. Structure

IMMS elects its Executive Board members from its membership. The Executive Board consists of six officers (President, President-elect, Past-President, Past Past-President, Treasurer and Secretary [and *Soundings* Editor]) and four directors. The officers and directors make up the voting members of the Executive Board. IMMS operates under a set of by-laws (available from www.immsoc.org/IMMS_downloads/IMMS_EB_Approved_BYLAWS_09_2014_Effective_20150101.pdf).

9. Members

IMMS members are truly global, with representatives from approximately 40 countries and all continents. The Society promotes participation by students to help to direct and train the next generation of scientists, engineers, legal experts, environmentalists and other relevant future workers in this remarkable global effort to provide the resources needed in an environmentally sound manner.

10. Affiliated organizations

University of Hawaii and a range of hosts over the years, including, for example, the University of Toronto (Canada), the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (New Zealand), the Korean Ocean Research and Development Institute (now known as the Korean Institute of Ocean Science and Technology), Imperial College London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Kiel University (Germany), the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (Japan), the Southern Production Association for Marine Geological Operations (Yuzhmorgeologiya) (Russian Federation), the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (China), the United States Geological Survey and many others.
