

Secretary General Michael Lodge
International Seabed Authority
Kingston, Jamaica

Trondheim, March 21, 2023

Application for observer status for the Norwegian Forum for Marine Minerals (NMM) at ISA

A. Information about the organization

1. Name of organization: Norwegian Forum for Marine Minerals
2. Address: S.P. Andersens veg 15a, 7491 Trondheim, Norway, attn: Egil Tjøland
3. Same as (2)
4. Telephone: 0047 92613807
5. Fax number – not applicable
6. Email address: egil.tjaland@ntnu.no
7. Focal point: Egil Tjøland, Secretary General, address and contact details above.
8. The Norwegian Forum for Marine Minerals is an association of industry and research actors who work together to develop knowledge and expertise, and a Norwegian industry aimed at sustainable and responsible exploration and extraction of marine mineral resources.
9. NMM has no associations with other organizations granted observer status at ISA
10. NMM is not affiliated with consultants at ISA, contractors at ISA or entities in connection with the law of the sea. However, some members of NMM are working in the deep-sea mining industry and in research institutes.
11. There are no relationships with intergovernmental organizations.
12. No publications

B. Interests in matters under consideration by the Assembly

13. The Norwegian Forum for Marine Minerals (NMM - <https://marineminerals.no>) is an association of Norwegian industry and research actors who work together to develop knowledge and expertise, and a Norwegian industry aimed at sustainable and responsible exploration and extraction of marine mineral resources. Although mainly focused on the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS) NMM is also highly interested any issues and opportunities related to the management of marine minerals in the Area as defined by UNCLOS. NMM see common ground between NMM and ISA both with respect to the legal and regulatory regimes on the NCS and the Area as well as with respect to the technical and commercial capabilities needed for the sustainable and responsible exploration and extraction of marine mineral resources. The Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy is currently facilitating an opening process for the exploration of marine minerals on part of the NCS, and NMM has been an active actor in this process. Question 14-17 below further demonstrate NMMs interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly.

14. As elaborated briefly in question 13 above the purpose of NMM overlaps well with the purpose of ISA. NMM aims to develop knowledge and expertise that will contribute towards sustainable and responsible exploration and extraction of marine mineral resources. Although there will be geographical differences in marine environments and subsea minerals the knowledge and expertise needed is likely to a large degree to be coinciding.
15. Building on the answer in question 14 above. NMM, in this respect, offers to contribute to the total global knowledge required by sharing the knowledge and expertise developed within its organization. This either by a) providing specialized information, advice or expertise to any organs of, or any events organized by organs of, ISA, or b) when appropriate, contribute to identify, within NMM or externally, services of experts or consultants.
16. The administration of NMM, and its individual actors/partners, have extensive experience and expertise within a broad range of themes relevant for ISA covering legal and regulatory, research as well as industry specific themes. These actors/partners within NMM are listed on the organization's website: <https://marineminerals.no/partners/>. Further details on each partner can be provided upon request.
17. Upon gaining an observer status in ISA, NMM wants to learn about ISAs capacity building-programs and initiatives, with the intention to make a positive contribution to some of the programs/initiatives where the knowledge and expertise of NMM are most relevant and where the strategic goals and activities of NMM fit well with those of ISA.

Yours sincerely,


Egil Tjøland

Secretary General, Norwegian Forum for Marine Minerals