


I. ANNEX

ISA Contract for Exploration – Public Information Template

 Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries	Type of resource: Polymetallic Nodules
	Name of Contractor: Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Government of the Republic of Korea
Sponsoring State: [Republic of Korea]	Contract Start: April 27, 2021
	Contract End: April 26, 2026
	Location: Sejong Government Complex, 94, Dasom 2-ro, Sejong Special Self-governing City, 339-012, Republic of Korea

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Introduction

The information contained in this ISA Contract for Exploration – Public Information Template is made available to the public in response to the request by the Council of the ISA to make contracts publicly available, subject to restrictions on confidential information, industrial secrets and proprietary data.

The content of the present template is in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for [*Polymetallic Nodules in the Area*] [*ISBA/19/C/17*] (the “Regulations”).

1. Contract Information

Type of resource	Polymetallic Nodules
Name of Contractor	Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Government of the Republic of Korea
Contract Start	April 27, 2021
Contract End	April 26, 2026
Location	Sejong Government Complex, 94, Dasom 2-ro, Sejong Special Self- governing City, 339-012, Republic of Korea
Contract Area (km²)	74,988.4

2. Coordinates and Illustrative Chart of the Exploration Area

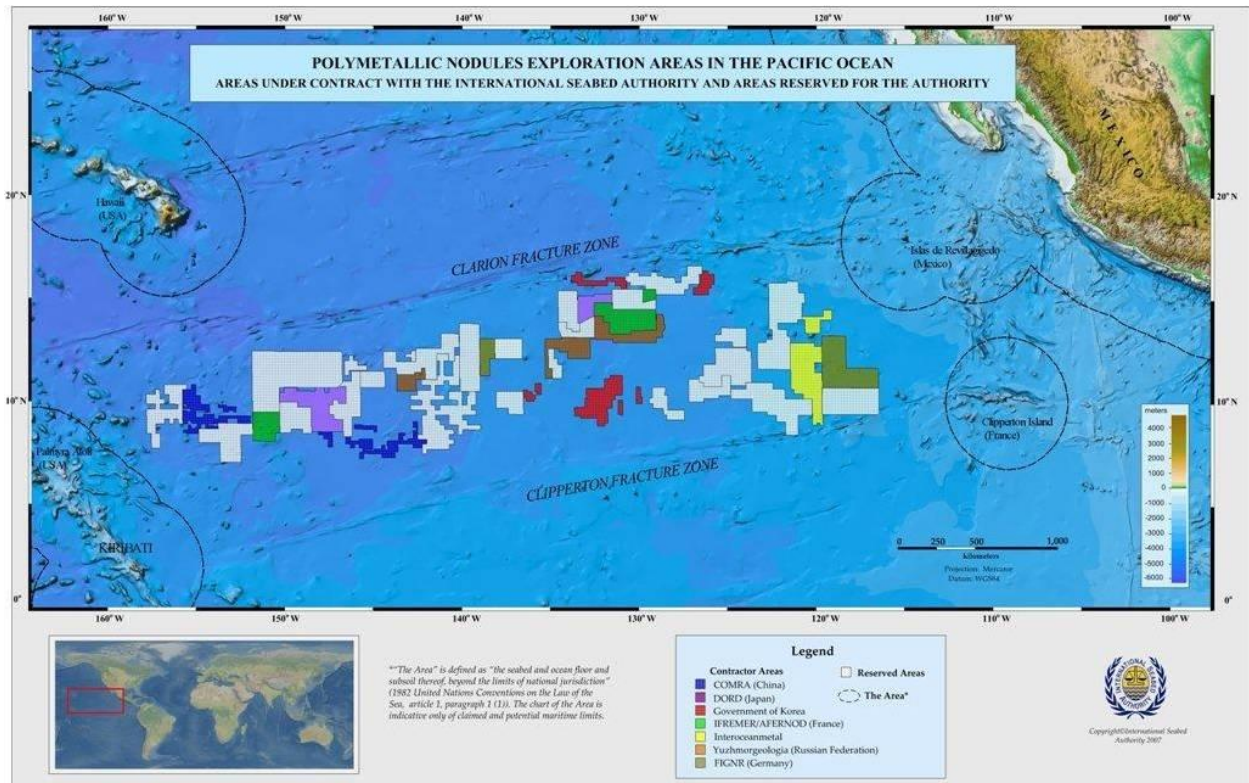
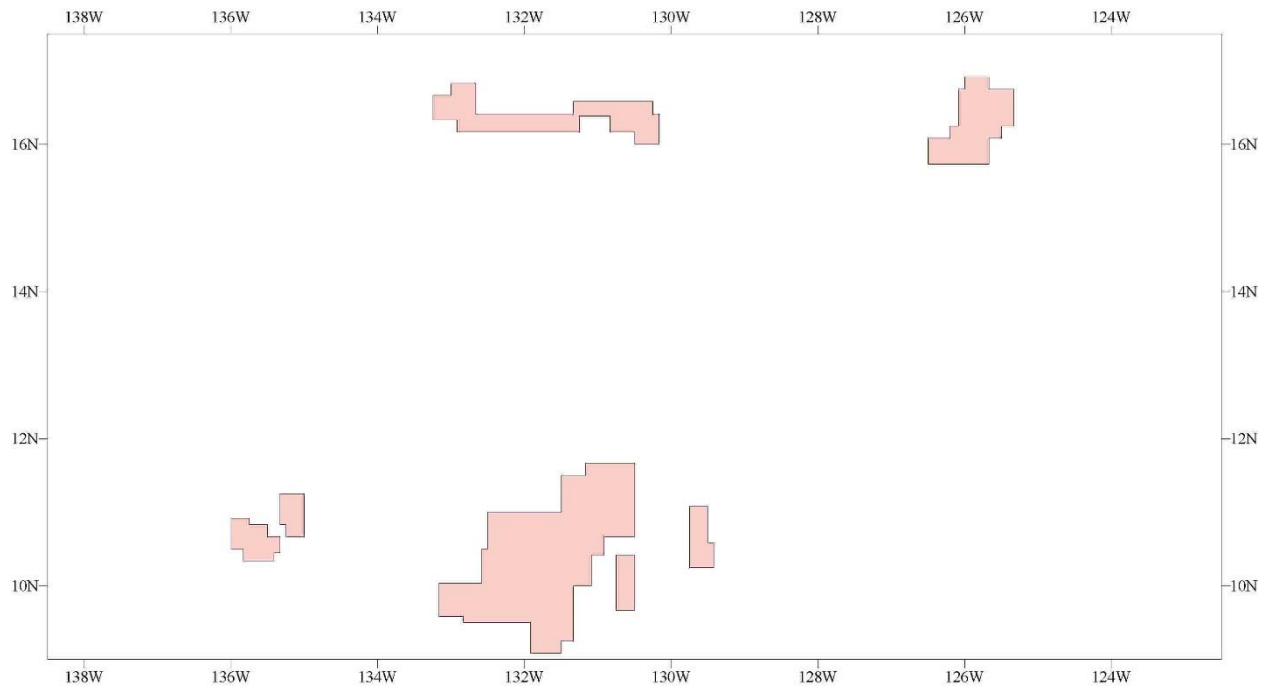
I. Exploration area located between 16° 55'N, 125° 20'W and 9° 05'N, 136° 00'W

	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°W)		Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°W)
KR1-1	16° 55'	126° 00'	KR1-10	15° 44'	126° 30'
KR1-2	16° 55'	126° 40'	KR1-11	16° 05'	126° 30'
KR1-3	16° 45'	125° 40'	KR1-12	16° 05'	126° 12'
KR1-4	16° 45'	125° 20'	KR1-13	16° 15'	126° 12'
KR1-5	16° 15'	125° 20'	KR1-14	16° 15'	126° 05'
KR1-6	16° 15'	125° 30'	KR1-15	16° 45'	126° 05'
KR1-7	16° 05'	125° 30'	KR1-16	16° 45'	126° 00'
KR1-8	16° 05'	125° 40'	KR1-17	16° 55'	126° 00'
KR1-9	15° 44'	125° 40'			
KR2-1	16° 50'	133° 00'	KR2-12	16° 10'	130° 50'
KR2-2	16° 50'	132° 40'	KR2-13	16° 23'	130° 50'
KR2-3	16° 25'	132° 40'	KR2-14	16° 23'	131° 15'
KR2-4	16° 25'	131° 20'	KR2-15	16° 10'	131° 15'
KR2-5	16° 35'	131° 20'	KR2-16	16° 10'	132° 55'
KR2-6	16° 35'	130° 15'	KR2-17	16° 20'	132° 55'
KR2-7	16° 25'	130° 15'	KR2-18	16° 20'	133° 15'
KR2-8	16° 25'	130° 10'	KR2-19	16° 40'	133° 15'
KR2-9	16° 00'	130° 10'	KR2-20	16° 40'	133° 00'
KR2-10	16° 00'	130° 30'	KR2-21	16° 50'	133° 00'
KR2-11	16° 10'	130° 30'			
KR3-1	11° 05'	129° 45'	KR3-5	10° 15'	129° 25'
KR3-2	11° 05'	129° 30'	KR3-6	10° 15'	129° 45'

KR3-3	10° 35'	129° 30'	KR3-7	11° 05'	129° 45'
KR3-4	10° 35'	129° 25'			
KR4-1	10° 25'	130° 45'	KR4-4	9° 40'	130° 45'
KR4-2	10° 25'	130° 30'	KR4-5	10° 25'	130° 45'
KR4-3	9° 40'	130° 30'			
KR5-1	11° 40'	131° 10'	KR5-14	9° 30'	132° 50'
KR5-2	11° 40'	130° 30'	KR5-15	9° 35'	132° 50'
KR5-3	10° 40'	130° 30'	KR5-16	9° 35'	133° 10'
KR5-4	10° 40'	130° 55'	KR5-17	10° 02'	133° 10'
KR5-5	10° 25'	130° 55'	KR5-18	10° 02'	132° 35'
KR5-6	10° 25'	131° 05'	KR5-19	10° 30'	132° 35'
KR5-7	10° 00'	131° 05'	KR5-20	10° 30'	132° 30'
KR5-8	10° 00'	131° 20'	KR5-21	11° 00'	132° 30'
KR5-9	9° 15'	131° 20'	KR5-22	11° 00'	131° 30'
KR5-10	9° 15'	131° 30'	KR5-23	11° 30'	131° 30'
KR5-11	9° 05'	131° 30'	KR5-24	11° 30'	131° 10'
KR5-12	9° 05'	131° 55'	KR5-25	11° 40'	131° 10'
KR5-13	9° 30'	131° 55'			
KR6-1	11° 15'	135° 20'	KR6-5	10° 50'	135° 15'
KR6-2	11° 15'	135° 00'	KR6-6	10° 50'	135° 20'
KR6-3	10° 40'	135° 00'	KR6-7	11° 15'	135° 20'
KR6-4	10° 40'	135° 15'			
KR7-1	10° 55'	136° 00'	KR7-8	10° 27'	135° 25'
KR7-2	10° 55'	135° 45'	KR7-9	10° 20'	135° 25'
KR7-3	10° 50'	135° 45'	KR7-10	10° 20'	135° 50'

KR7-4	10° 50'	135° 30'	KR7-11	10° 30'	135° 50'
KR7-5	10° 40'	135° 30'	KR7-12	10° 30'	136° 00'
KR7-6	10° 40'	135° 20'	KR7-13	10° 30'	136° 00'
KR7-7	10° 27'	135° 20'			

II. Illustrative chart of the exploration area



3. Plan of Work

I. Objectives and types of activities

The objectives of the program of activities during the second five-year extension period are two-fold. The first objective is to quantify the reserves of the polymetallic nodules using deep-towed side scan sonar and deep-sea video camera and the selection of a mineable area within the contract area. The second objective is to understand physical, chemical, and biological properties of the contract area both, in the pelagic and benthic environment following the recommendations for the guidance of contractors for assessment of the possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for marine minerals in the Area (ISBA/25/LTC/6/Rev.1).

The Contractor will prioritise assessment of biological community and recognized gaps in benthic faunal identification at higher taxonomic level and assessment of their spatial distribution. The Contractor thereby plans to investigate benthic megafaunal species structure and diversity using photographs previously acquired using high-resolution deep-sea camera from cruises in 2018 and 2019, and perform taxonomic identification through standardized method such as image annotation software BIIGLE.

It is further planned to sample zooplankton community to understand its vertical distribution and composition. However, due to major changes in logistics and cruise scheduling for exploration in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19, the Contractor will not be able to perform Multiple Opening-Closing Net Environmental Sampling System (MOCNESS) sampling. This is related to the technical incapability of towing the MOCNESS on R/V Onnuri that is the only available research vessel for this project. Alternatively, it is planned to use the Open-Closing Norpac net, although it may not be as efficient as MOCNESS, to collect zooplankton at depths below 1,000 m, if ship-time allows.

Another objective is to measure levels of trace metals in dominant taxa in muscle or target organs. This analysis would complement the inadequate trace metal data that the Contractor currently has from only two species collected in 2014. The Contractor plans to measure sediment community oxygen consumption using benthic lander. It is anticipated to carry out additional environmental studies in areas with higher uncertainties and knowledge gaps before applying for the exploitation rights in the future.

4. Programme of Activities and Exploration Expenditure

I. Agreed 5-year Programme of Activities

5-year Programme of Activities	First	Second	Third	Extension
General Objectives	Objective		Description	
	Quantification of the polymetallic nodule reserve		Apply a newly developed conversion equation formulated using high-resolution backscatter data from deep-towed side scan sonar (DTSSS) and deep-sea video camera imagery acquired from the representative area (500 km ²) within the contract area (KR5)	
	Selection of a mineable area within the contract area		Utilize high-resolution topographic data and backscattered intensities acquired from DTSSS	
	Conduct environmental baseline study		i) Analyse physical and chemical oceanographic properties in the water column at selected sites using the conductivity-temperature-depth (CTD) system equipped with a LADCP, PAR, fluorescence, DO, turbidity, and pH sensors and water samplers; ii) Measures sediment community oxygen consumption; iii) Determine benthic megafaunal species structure and diversity based on photographic transects at the lowest possible taxonomic level with the standardized taxonomic identification method such as image annotation software BIIGLE; iv) Understand vertical distribution of zooplankton community abundance and composition using an Open-Closing Norpac net; v) Measure levels of trace metals in dominant taxa, and	

II. Results achieved during reported year [#]: [year]

Annual objectives and activities			
Year	No.	Agreed Objectives	Objective: Completed, Modified, Postponed or Replaced
Year 1	[1]	Acquire high-resolution backscatter data using DTSSS in representative areas within our contract area to quantify the reserves of the polymetallic nodules.	Completed
	[2]	Measure sediment community oxygen consumption using benthic lander.	Completed
	[3]	Analyse physical and chemical properties in the water column using CTD.	Completed
	[4]	Sampling of benthic organisms in epibenthic layers using epibenthic sledge.	Completed
	[5]	Acquire samples of sediments and microbes using multiple corer and box corer.	Completed
	[6]	Understand vertical distribution of zooplankton community composition and abundance.	Completed
Year 2 to 5	[1]	Estimate nodule abundance in representative areas (500 km ²) within our contract area by applying a newly developed conversion equation that utilizes high-resolution backscatter data from 120 kHz DTSSS and seafloor photos from deep-sea camera.	Completed
	[2]	Improve mineral assessment to categories necessary for resource/reserve definition using previously acquired DTSSS data and metal content analysis of nodule samples retrieved from free fall grab and box corer from the contract area.	Completed
	[3]	Selection of a mineable area within the contract area using high-resolution topographic data and backscattered intensities acquired from DTSSS.	Not completed yet

	[4] Determine benthic megafaunal species structure and diversity based on photographic transects with the standardized taxonomic identification method such as image annotation software BIIGLE.	Some of the results have been reported, and the remaining results will be reported in the following year.
	[5] Measure levels of trace metals in dominant taxa.	Completed

5. Training Programme

Schedule 3 of Annex III of the Regulations.

I. Training Programme

Type of training	Deployments to ISA Secretariat in Kingston	ISA Deep Dive E-learning Programme
Institutions	Korea Institute of Ocean Science & Technology (KIOST) and ISA Secretariat	ISA Secretariat
Duration	Two (2) trainees for 3 months in 2024	Four (4) placements in 2024 and four (4) placements in 2025
Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training within Compliance Assurance and Regulatory Management Unit (CARMU), Training within Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources (OEMMR) 	Deep Dive is the first and only e-learning experience exclusively devised by an intergovernmental institution to address all elements of the legal regime set out in Part XI of UNCLOS, the 1994 Agreement, and the rules, regulations and procedures adopted by ISA, covering technical and scientific aspects.
Fields	Contract document management and processing, Environmental Management	The programme's interdisciplinary approach will provide participants with the analytical, scientific and technical skills needed to apply creative solutions to issues relevant to activities in the Area.
Qualification required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluency in English. Experience in writing technical and other reports. Less than 40 years old, including for: <p>CARMU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's degree or equivalent in mining, mineral processing, engineering, or a related field; or Bachelor's degree with two years relevant experience in mining, mineral processing, metallurgy, or related industry in lieu of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluency in English. A bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline or five (5) years of relevant experience in lieu of a bachelor's degree Less than 45 years old

	<p>advanced university degree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimum of two years of relevant experience in the mining industry, public administration with a mining authority/regulator, or geological survey is preferred. • Working experience from regulatory compliance, contract, or negotiations with a general understanding of sustainable contract management is an advantage. <p>OEMMR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's degree or equivalent in environmental sciences (e.g. oceanography, biology), or a related field; or • Bachelor's degree along with two years' experience related to environmental management or spatial planning. • Knowledge and experiences related to deep-sea biodiversity conservation, marine protected areas /or marine spatial planning. 	
Financing	The Contractor will cover all relevant costs, including transportation, accommodations, and meals.	The Contractor will cover all relevant costs, including course fee for Deep Dive.

II. Trainings conducted up to reported year [#]: [year]

Start year	End Year	Name of Trainee	Nationality	Gender	Type of Programme	Details	Duration
[-]	[-]	[-]	[-]	[-]	[-]	[-]	[-]

III. Completed Trainings per Year

	[Name of the programme described in the Contract]	[Name of the programme described in the Contract]	[Name of the programme described in the Contract]
Year 1			
Year 2			
Year 3			
Year 4			
Year 5			

6. Standard clauses

STANDARD CLAUSES FOR EXPLORATION CONTRACT

SECTION 1 DEFINITIONS

1.1 In the following clauses:

(a) “Exploration area” means that part of the Area allocated to the Contractor for exploration, described in schedule 1 hereto, as the same may be reduced from time to time in accordance with this contract and the Regulations;

(b) “Programme of activities” means the programme of activities which is set out in schedule 2 hereto as the same may be adjusted from time to time in accordance with sections 4.3 and 4.4 hereof;

(c) “Regulations” means the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area, adopted by the Authority.

1.2 Terms and phrases defined in the Regulations shall have the same meaning in these standard clauses.

1.3 In accordance with the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, its provisions and Part XI of the Convention are to be interpreted and applied together as a single instrument; this contract and references in this contract to the Convention are to be interpreted and applied accordingly.

1.4 This contract includes the schedules to this contract, which shall be an integral part hereof.

SECTION 2 SECURITY OF TENURE

2.1 The Contractor shall have security of tenure and this contract shall not be suspended, terminated or revised except in accordance with sections 20, 21 and 24 hereof.

2.2 The Contractor shall have the exclusive right to explore for polymetallic nodules in the exploration area in accordance with the terms and conditions of this contract. The Authority shall ensure that no other entity operates in the exploration area for a different category of resources in a manner that might unreasonably interfere with the operations of the Contractor.

2.3 The Contractor, by notice to the Authority, shall have the right at any time to renounce without penalty the whole or part of its rights in the exploration area, provided that the Contractor shall remain liable for all obligations accrued prior to the date of such renunciation in respect of the area renounced.

2.4 Nothing in this contract shall be deemed to confer any right on the Contractor other than those rights expressly granted herein. The Authority reserves the right to enter into contracts with respect to resources other than polymetallic nodules with third parties in the area covered by this contract.

SECTION 3 CONTRACT TERM

3.1 This contract shall enter into force on signature by both parties and shall remain in force for a period of fifteen years thereafter unless:

(a) The Contractor obtains a contract for exploitation in the exploration area which enters into force before the expiration of such period of fifteen years; or

(b) The contract is sooner terminated, provided that the term of the contract may be extended in accordance with sections 3.2 and 17.2 hereof.

3.2 Upon application by the Contractor, not later than six months before the expiration of this contract, this contract may be extended for periods of not more than five years each on such terms and conditions as the Authority and the Contractor may then agree in accordance with the Regulations. Such extensions shall be approved if the Contractor has made efforts in good faith to comply with the requirements of this contract but for reasons beyond the Contractor's control has been unable to complete the necessary preparatory work for proceeding to the exploitation stage or if the prevailing economic circumstances do not justify proceeding to the exploitation stage.¹

3.3 Notwithstanding the expiration of this contract in accordance with section 3.1 hereof, if the Contractor has, at least 90 days prior to the date of expiration, applied for a contract for exploitation, the Contractor's rights and obligations under this contract shall continue until such time as the application has been considered and a contract for exploitation has been issued or refused.

SECTION 4 EXPLORATION

4.1 The Contractor shall commence exploration in accordance with the time schedule stipulated in the programme of activities set out in schedule 2 hereto and shall adhere to such time periods or any modification thereto as provided for by this contract.

4.2 The Contractor shall carry out the programme of activities set out in schedule 2 hereto. In carrying out such activities the Contractor shall spend in each contract year not less than the amount specified in such programme, or any agreed review thereof, in actual and direct exploration expenditures.

¹ Pursuant to the decision of the Council contained in ISBA/26/C/51, the Contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules between the Government of the Republic of Korea and the International Seabed Authority is extended for a period of five years.

4.3 The Contractor, with the consent of the Authority, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, may from time to time make such changes in the programme of activities and the expenditures specified therein as may be necessary and prudent in accordance with good mining industry practice, and taking into account the market conditions for the metals contained in polymetallic nodules and other relevant global economic conditions.

4.4 Not later than 90 days prior to the expiration of each five-year period from the date on which this contract enters into force in accordance with section 3 hereof, the Contractor and the Secretary-General shall jointly undertake a review of the implementation of the plan of work for exploration under this contract. The Secretary-General may require the Contractor to submit such additional data and information as may be necessary for the purposes of the review. In the light of the review, the Contractor shall make such adjustments to its plan of work as are necessary and shall indicate its programme of activities for the following five-year period, including a revised schedule of anticipated yearly expenditures. Schedule 2 hereto shall be adjusted accordingly.

SECTION 5 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

5.1 The Contractor shall take necessary measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution and other hazards to the marine environment arising from its activities in the Area as far as reasonably possible applying a precautionary approach and best environmental practices.

5.2 Prior to the commencement of exploration activities, the Contractor shall submit to the Authority:

(a) An impact assessment of the potential effects on the marine environment of the proposed activities;

(b) A proposal for a monitoring programme to determine the potential effect on the marine environment of the proposed activities; and

(c) Data that could be used to establish an environmental baseline against which to assess the effect of the proposed activities.

5.3 The Contractor shall, in accordance with the Regulations, gather environmental baseline data as exploration activities progress and develop and shall establish environmental baselines against which to assess the likely effects of the Contractor's activities on the marine environment.

5.4 The Contractor shall, in accordance with the Regulations, establish and carry out a programme to monitor and report on such effects on the marine environment. The Contractor shall cooperate with the Authority in the implementation of such monitoring.

5.5 The Contractor shall, within 90 days of the end of each calendar year, report to the Secretary-General on the implementation and results of the monitoring programme referred to in section 5.4 hereof and shall submit data and information in accordance with the Regulations.

SECTION 6 CONTINGENCY PLANS AND EMERGENCIES

6.1 The Contractor shall, prior to the commencement of its programme of activities under this contract, submit to the Secretary-General a contingency plan to respond effectively to incidents that are likely to cause serious harm or a threat of serious harm to the marine environment arising from the Contractor's activities at sea in the exploration area. Such contingency plan shall establish special procedures and provide for adequate and appropriate equipment to deal with such incidents and, in particular, shall include arrangements for:

- (a) The immediate raising of a general alarm in the area of the exploration activities;
- (b) Immediate notification to the Secretary-General;
- (c) The warning of ships which might be about to enter the immediate vicinity;
- (d) A continuing flow of full information to the Secretary-General relating to particulars of the contingency measures already taken and further actions required;
- (e) The removal, as appropriate, of polluting substances;
- (f) The reduction and, so far as reasonably possible, prevention of serious harm to the marine environment, as well as mitigation of such effects;
- (g) As appropriate, cooperation with other contractors with the Authority to respond to an emergency; and
- (h) Periodic emergency response exercises.

6.2 The Contractor shall promptly report to the Secretary-General any incident arising from its activities that has caused, is causing or poses a threat of serious harm to the marine environment. Each such report shall contain the details of such incident, including, inter alia:

- (a) The coordinates of the area affected or which can reasonably be anticipated to be affected;
- (b) The description of the action being taken by the Contractor to prevent, contain, minimize and repair the serious harm or threat of serious harm to the marine environment;
- (c) A description of the action being taken by the Contractor to monitor the effects of the incident on the marine environment; and
- (d) Such supplementary information as may reasonably be required by the Secretary-General.

6.3 The Contractor shall comply with emergency orders issued by the Council and immediate measures of a temporary nature issued by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Regulations, to prevent, contain, minimize or repair serious harm or the threat of serious harm to the marine environment, which

may include orders to the Contractor to immediately suspend or adjust any activities in the exploration area.

6.4 If the Contractor does not promptly comply with such emergency orders or immediate measures of a temporary nature, the Council may take such reasonable measures as are necessary to prevent, contain, minimize or repair any such serious harm or the threat of serious harm to the marine environment at the Contractor's expense. The Contractor shall promptly reimburse the Authority the amount of such expenses. Such expenses shall be in addition to any monetary penalties which may be imposed on the Contractor pursuant to the terms of this contract or the Regulations.

SECTION 7 HUMAN REMAINS AND OBJECTS AND SITES OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR HISTORICAL NATURE

The Contractor shall immediately notify the Secretary-General in writing of any finding in the exploration area of any human remains of an archaeological or historical nature, or any object or site of a similar nature and its location, including the preservation and protection measures taken. The Secretary-General shall transmit such information to the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and any other competent international organization. Following the finding of any such human remains, object or site in the exploration area, and in order to avoid disturbing such human remains, object or site, no further prospecting or exploration shall take place, within a reasonable radius, until such time as the Council decides otherwise after taking account of the views of the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization or any other competent international organization.

SECTION 8 TRAINING

8.1 In accordance with the Regulations, the Contractor shall, prior to the commencement of exploration under this contract, submit to the Authority for approval proposed training programmes for the training of personnel of the Authority and developing States, including the participation of such personnel in all of the Contractor's activities under this contract.

8.2 The scope and financing of the training programme shall be subject to negotiation between the Contractor, the Authority and the sponsoring State or States.

8.3 The Contractor shall conduct training programmes in accordance with the specific programme for the training of personnel referred to in section 8.1 hereof approved by the Authority in accordance with the Regulations, which programme, as revised and developed from time to time, shall become a part of this contract as schedule 3.

SECTION 9 BOOKS AND RECORDS

The Contractor shall keep a complete and proper set of books, accounts and financial records, consistent with internationally accepted accounting principles. Such books, accounts and financial records shall include information which will fully disclose the actual and direct expenditures for exploration and such other information as will facilitate an effective audit of such expenditures.

SECTION 10 ANNUAL REPORTS

10.1 The Contractor shall, within 90 days of the end of each calendar year, submit a report to the Secretary-General in such format as may be recommended from time to time by the Legal and Technical Commission covering its programme of activities in the exploration area and containing, as applicable, information in sufficient detail on:

- (a) The exploration work carried out during the calendar year, including maps, charts and graphs illustrating the work that has been done and the results obtained;
- (b) The equipment used to carry out the exploration work, including the results of tests conducted of proposed mining technologies, but not equipment design data; and
- (c) The implementation of training programmes, including any proposed revisions to or developments of such programmes.

10.2 Such reports shall also contain:

- (a) The results obtained from environmental monitoring programmes, including observations, measurements, evaluations and analyses of environmental parameters;
- (b) A statement of the quantity of polymetallic nodules recovered as samples or for the purpose of testing;
- (c) A statement, in conformity with internationally accepted accounting principles and certified by a duly qualified firm of public accountants, or, where the Contractor is a State or a State enterprise, by the sponsoring State, of the actual and direct exploration expenditures of the Contractor in carrying out the programme of activities during the Contractor's accounting year. Such expenditures may be claimed by the contractor as part of the contractor's development costs incurred prior to the commencement of commercial production; and
- (d) Details of any proposed adjustments to the programme of activities and the reasons for such adjustments.

10.3 The Contractor shall also submit such additional information to supplement the reports referred to in sections 10.1 and 10.2 hereof as the Secretary-General may from time to time reasonably require in order to carry out the Authority's functions under the Convention, the Regulations and this contract.

10.4 The Contractor shall keep, in good condition, a representative portion of samples of the polymetallic nodules obtained in the course of exploration until the expiration of this contract. The Authority may request the Contractor in writing to deliver to it for analysis a portion of any such sample obtained during the course of exploration.

10.5 The contractor shall pay at the time of submission of the annual report an annual overhead charge of \$47,000 (or such sum as may be fixed in accordance with section 10.6 hereof) to cover the Authority's costs of the administration and supervision of this contract and of reviewing the reports submitted in accordance with section 10.1 hereof.

10.6 The amount of the annual overhead charge may be revised by the Authority to reflect its costs actually and reasonably incurred.²

SECTION 11 DATA AND INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED ON EXPIRATION OF THE CONTRACT

11.1 The Contractor shall transfer to the Authority all data and information that are both necessary for and relevant to the effective exercise of the powers and functions of the Authority in respect of the exploration area in accordance with the provisions of this section.

11.2 Upon expiration or termination of this contract the Contractor, if it has not already done so, shall submit the following data and information to the Secretary-General:

(a) Copies of geological, environmental, geochemical and geophysical data acquired by the Contractor in the course of carrying out the programme of activities that are necessary for and relevant to the effective exercise of the powers and functions of the Authority in respect of the exploration area;

(b) The estimation of mineable areas, when such areas have been identified, which shall include details of the grade and quantity of the proven, probable and possible polymetallic nodule reserves and the anticipated mining conditions;

(c) Copies of geological, technical, financial and economic reports made by or for the Contractor that are necessary for and relevant to the effective exercise of the powers and functions of the Authority in respect of the exploration area;

(d) Information in sufficient detail on the equipment used to carry out the exploration work, including the results of tests conducted of proposed mining technologies, but not equipment design data;

² It is recalled that the Council, in its decision relating to the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2019-2020 (see ISBA/24/C/21), decided to increase the annual overhead charge referred to in section 10.5 of the standard clauses for exploration contracts from \$47,000 to \$60,000, effective 1 January 2019. Most recently, the Council, in its decision relating to the annual overhead charge referred to in section 10.5 of the standard clauses for exploration contracts (See ISBA/26/C/28), decided to increase the annual overhead charge from \$60,000 to \$80,000, effective 1 January 2022.

(e) A statement of the quantity of polymetallic nodules recovered as samples or for the purpose of testing; and

(f) A statement on how and where samples are archived and their availability to the Authority.

11.3 The data and information referred to in section 11.2 hereof shall also be submitted to the Secretary-General if, prior to the expiration of this contract, the Contractor applies for approval of a plan of work for exploitation or if the Contractor renounces its rights in the exploration area to the extent that such data and information relates to the renounced area.

SECTION 12 CONFIDENTIALITY

Data and information transferred to the Authority in accordance with this contract shall be treated as confidential in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.

SECTION 13 UNDERTAKINGS

13.1 The Contractor shall carry out exploration in accordance with the terms and conditions of this contract, the Regulations, Part XI of the Convention, the Agreement and other rules of international law not incompatible with the Convention.

13.2 The Contractor undertakes:

(a) To accept as enforceable and comply with the terms of this contract;

(b) To comply with the applicable obligations created by the provisions of the Convention, the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority and the decisions of the relevant organs of the Authority;

(c) To accept control by the Authority of activities in the Area as authorized by the Convention;

(d) To fulfil its obligations under this contract in good faith; and

(e) To observe, as far as reasonably practicable, any recommendations which may be issued from time to time by the Legal and Technical Commission.

13.3 The Contractor shall actively carry out the programme of activities:

(a) With due diligence, efficiency and economy;

(b) With due regard to the impact of its activities on the marine environment; and

(c) With reasonable regard for other activities in the marine environment.

13.4 The Authority undertakes to fulfil in good faith its powers and functions under the Convention and the Agreement in accordance with article 157 of the Convention.

SECTION 14 INSPECTION

14.1 The Contractor shall permit the Authority to send its inspectors on board vessels and installations used by the Contractor to carry out activities in the exploration area to:

- (a) Monitor the Contractor's compliance with the terms and conditions of this contract and the Regulations; and
- (b) Monitor the effects of such activities on the marine environment.

14.2 The Secretary-General shall give reasonable notice to the Contractor of the projected time and duration of inspections, the name of the inspectors and any activities the inspectors are to perform that are likely to require the availability of special equipment or special assistance from personnel of the Contractor.

14.3 Such inspectors shall have the authority to inspect any vessel or installation, including its log, equipment, records, facilities, all other recorded data and any relevant documents which are necessary to monitor the Contractor's compliance.

14.4 The Contractor, its agents and employees shall assist the inspectors in the performance of their duties and shall:

- (a) Accept and facilitate prompt and safe boarding of vessels and installations by inspectors;
- (b) Cooperate with and assist in the inspection of any vessel or installation conducted pursuant to these procedures;
- (c) Provide access to all relevant equipment, facilities and personnel on vessels and installations at all reasonable times;
- (d) Not obstruct, intimidate or interfere with inspectors in the performance of their duties;
- (e) Provide reasonable facilities, including, where appropriate, food and accommodation, to inspectors; and
- (f) Facilitate safe disembarkation by inspectors.

14.5 Inspectors shall avoid interference with the safe and normal operations on board vessels and installations used by the Contractor to carry out activities in the area visited and shall act in accordance with the Regulations and the measures adopted to protect confidentiality of data and information.

14.6 The Secretary-General and any duly authorized representatives of the Secretary-General, shall have access, for purposes of audit and examination, to any books, documents, papers and records of the

Contractor which are necessary and directly pertinent to verify the expenditures referred to in section 10.2 (c).

14.7 The Secretary-General shall provide relevant information contained in the reports of inspectors to the Contractor and its sponsoring State or States where action is necessary.

14.8 If for any reason the Contractor does not pursue exploration and does not request a contract for exploitation, it shall, before withdrawing from the exploration area, notify the Secretary-General in writing in order to permit the Authority, if it so decides, to carry out an inspection pursuant to this section.

SECTION 15 SAFETY, LABOUR AND HEALTH STANDARDS

15.1 The Contractor shall comply with the generally accepted international rules and standards established by competent international organizations or general diplomatic conferences concerning the safety of life at sea, and the prevention of collisions and such rules, regulations and procedures as may be adopted by the Authority relating to safety at sea. Each vessel used for carrying out activities in the Area shall possess current valid certificates required by and issued pursuant to such international rules and standards.

15.2 The Contractor shall, in carrying out exploration under this contract, observe and comply with such rules, regulations and procedures as may be adopted by the Authority relating to protection against discrimination in employment, occupational safety and health, labour relations, social security, employment security and living conditions at the work site. Such rules, regulations and procedures shall take into account conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organization and other competent international organizations.

SECTION 16 RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY

16.1 The Contractor shall be liable for the actual amount of any damage, including damage to the marine environment, arising out of its wrongful acts or omissions, and those of its employees, subcontractors, agents and all persons engaged in working or acting for them in the conduct of its operations under this contract, including the costs of reasonable measures to prevent or limit damage to the marine environment, account being taken of any contributory acts or omissions by the Authority.

16.2 The Contractor shall indemnify the Authority, its employees, subcontractors and agents against all claims and liabilities of any third party arising out of any wrongful acts or omissions of the Contractor and its employees, agents and subcontractors, and all persons engaged in working or acting for them in the conduct of its operations under this contract.

16.3 The Authority shall be liable for the actual amount of any damage to the Contractor arising out of its wrongful acts in the exercise of its powers and functions, including violations under article 168 (2) of the Convention, account being taken of contributory acts or omissions by the Contractor, its employees,

agents and subcontractors, and all persons engaged in working or acting for them in the conduct of its operations under this contract.

16.4 The Authority shall indemnify the Contractor, its employees, subcontractors, agents and all persons engaged in working or acting for them in the conduct of its operations under this contract, against all claims and liabilities of any third party arising out of any wrongful acts or omissions in the exercise of its powers and functions hereunder, including violations under article 168 (2) of the Convention.

16.5 The Contractor shall maintain appropriate insurance policies with internationally recognized carriers, in accordance with generally accepted international maritime practice.

SECTION 17 FORCE MAJEURE

17.1 The Contractor shall not be liable for an unavoidable delay or failure to perform any of its obligations under this contract due to force majeure. For the purposes of this contract, force majeure shall mean an event or condition that the Contractor could not reasonably be expected to prevent or control; provided that the event or condition was not caused by negligence or by a failure to observe good mining industry practice.

17.2 The Contractor shall, upon request, be granted a time extension equal to the period by which performance was delayed hereunder by force majeure and the term of this contract shall be extended accordingly.

17.3 In the event of force majeure, the Contractor shall take all reasonable measures to remove its inability to perform and comply with the terms and conditions of this contract with a minimum of delay.

17.4 The Contractor shall give notice to the Authority of the occurrence of an event of force majeure as soon as reasonably possible, and similarly give notice to the Authority of the restoration of normal conditions.

SECTION 18 DISCLAIMER

Neither the Contractor nor any affiliated company or subcontractor shall in any manner claim or suggest, whether expressly or by implication, that the Authority or any official thereof has, or has expressed, any opinion with respect to polymetallic nodules in the exploration area and a statement to that effect shall not be included in or endorsed on any prospectus, notice, circular, advertisement, press release or similar document issued by the Contractor, any affiliated company or any subcontractor that refers directly or indirectly to this contract. For the purposes of this section, an "affiliated company" means any person, firm or company or State-owned entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, the Contractor.

SECTION 19
RENUNCIATION OF RIGHTS

The Contractor, by notice to the Authority, shall have the right to renounce its rights and terminate this contract without penalty, provided that the Contractor shall remain liable for all obligations accrued prior to the date of such renunciation and those obligations required to be fulfilled after termination in accordance with the Regulations.

SECTION 20
TERMINATION OF SPONSORSHIP

20.1 If the nationality or control of the Contractor changes or the Contractor's sponsoring State, as defined in the Regulations, terminates its sponsorship, the Contractor shall promptly notify the Authority forthwith.

20.2 In either such event, if the Contractor does not obtain another sponsor meeting the requirements prescribed in the Regulations which submits to the Authority a certificate of sponsorship for the Contractor in the prescribed form within the time specified in the Regulations, this contract shall terminate forthwith.

SECTION 21
SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF CONTRACT AND PENALTIES

21.1 The Council may suspend or terminate this contract, without prejudice to any other rights that the Authority may have, if any of the following events should occur:

(a) If, in spite of written warnings by the Authority, the Contractor has conducted its activities in such a way as to result in serious persistent and wilful violations of the fundamental terms of this contract, Part XI of the Convention, the Agreement and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority; or

(b) If the Contractor has failed to comply with a final binding decision of the dispute settlement body applicable to it; or

(c) If the Contractor becomes insolvent or commits an act of bankruptcy or enters into any agreement for composition with its creditors or goes into liquidation or receivership, whether compulsory or voluntary, or petitions or applies to any tribunal for the appointment of a receiver or a trustee or receiver for itself or commences any proceedings relating to itself under any bankruptcy, insolvency or readjustment of debt law, whether now or hereafter in effect, other than for the purpose of reconstruction.

21.2 The Council may, without prejudice to section 17, after consultation with the Contractor, suspend or terminate this contract, without prejudice to any other rights that the Authority may have, if the Contractor is prevented from performing its obligations under this contract by reason of an event or condition of force majeure, as described in section 17.1, which has persisted for a continuous period exceeding two years, despite the Contractor having taken all reasonable measures to overcome its inability to perform and comply with the terms and conditions of this contract with minimum delay.

21.3 Any suspension or termination shall be by notice, through the Secretary-General, which shall include a statement of the reasons for taking such action. The suspension or termination shall be effective 60 days after such notice, unless the Contractor within such period disputes the Authority's right to suspend or terminate this contract in accordance with Part XI, section 5, of the Convention.

21.4 If the Contractor takes such action, this contract shall only be suspended or terminated in accordance with a final binding decision in accordance with Part XI, section 5, of the Convention.

21.5 If the Council has suspended this contract, the Council may by notice require the Contractor to resume its operations and comply with the terms and conditions of this contract, not later than 60 days after such notice.

21.6 In the case of any violation of this contract not covered by section 21.1 (a) hereof, or in lieu of suspension or termination under section 21.1 hereof, the Council may impose upon the Contractor monetary penalties proportionate to the seriousness of the violation.

21.7 The Council may not execute a decision involving monetary penalties until the Contractor has been accorded a reasonable opportunity to exhaust the judicial remedies available to it pursuant to Part XI, section 5, of the Convention.

21.8 In the event of termination or expiration of this contract, the Contractor shall comply with the Regulations and shall remove all installations, plant, equipment and materials in the exploration area and shall make the area safe so as not to constitute a danger to persons, shipping or to the marine environment.

SECTION 22 TRANSFER OF RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

22.1 The rights and obligations of the Contractor under this contract may be transferred in whole or in part only with the consent of the Authority and in accordance with the Regulations.

22.2 The Authority shall not unreasonably withhold consent to the transfer if the proposed transferee is in all respects a qualified applicant in accordance with the Regulations and assumes all of the obligations of the Contractor and if the transfer does not confer to the transferee a plan of work, the approval of which would be forbidden by article 6, paragraph 3 (c), of annex III to the Convention.

22.3 The terms, undertakings and conditions of this contract shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns.

**SECTION 23
NO WAIVER**

No waiver by either party of any rights pursuant to a breach of the terms and conditions of this contract to be performed by the other party shall be construed as a waiver by the party of any succeeding breach of the same or any other term or condition to be performed by the other party.

**SECTION 24
REVISION**

24.1 When circumstances have arisen or are likely to arise which, in the opinion of the Authority or the Contractor, would render this contract inequitable or make it impracticable or impossible to achieve the objectives set out in this contract or in Part XI of the Convention or the Agreement, the parties shall enter into negotiations to revise it accordingly.

24.2 This contract may also be revised by agreement between the Contractor and the Authority to facilitate the application of any rules, regulations and procedures adopted by the Authority subsequent to the entry into force of this contract.

24.3 This contract may be revised, amended or otherwise modified only with the consent of the Contractor and the Authority by an appropriate instrument signed by the authorized representatives of the parties.

**SECTION 25
DISPUTES**

25.1 Any dispute between the parties concerning the interpretation or application of this contract shall be settled in accordance with Part XI, section 5, of the Convention.

25.2 In accordance with article 21 (2) of Annex III to the Convention, any final decision rendered by a court or tribunal having jurisdiction under the Convention relating to the rights and obligations of the Authority and of the Contractor shall be enforceable in the territory of any State party to the Convention affected thereby.

**SECTION 26
NOTICE**

26.1 Any application, request, notice, report, consent, approval, waiver, direction or instruction hereunder shall be made by the Secretary-General or by the designated representative of the Contractor, as the case may be, in writing. Service shall be by hand, or by telex, fax, registered airmail or e-mail containing an authorized signature to the Secretary-General at the headquarters of the Authority or to the designated representative. The requirement to provide any information in writing under these Regulations is satisfied by the provision of the information in an e-mail containing a digital signature.

26.2 Either party shall be entitled to change any such address to any other address by not less than ten days' notice to the other party.

26.3 Delivery by hand shall be effective when made. Delivery by telex shall be deemed to be effective on the business day following the day when the "answer back" appears on the sender's telex machine. Delivery by fax shall be effective when the "transmit confirmation report" confirming the transmission to the recipient's published fax number is received by the transmitter. Delivery by registered airmail shall be deemed to be effective 21 days after posting. An e-mail is presumed to have been received by the addressee when it enters an information system designated or used by the addressee for the purpose of receiving documents of the type sent and it is capable of being retrieved and processed by the addressee.

26.4 Notice to the designated representative of the Contractor shall constitute effective notice to the Contractor for all purposes under this contract, and the designated representative shall be the Contractor's agent for the service of process or notification in any proceeding of any court or tribunal having jurisdiction.

26.5 Notice to the Secretary-General shall constitute effective notice to the Authority for all purposes under this contract, and the Secretary-General shall be the Authority's agent for the service of process or notification in any proceeding of any court or tribunal having jurisdiction.

SECTION 27 APPLICABLE LAW

27.1 This contract shall be governed by the terms of this contract, the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority, Part XI of the Convention, the Agreement and other rules of international law not incompatible with the Convention.

27.2 The Contractor, its employees, subcontractors, agents and all persons engaged in working or acting for them in the conduct of its operations under this contract shall observe the applicable law referred to in section 27.1 hereof and shall not engage in any transaction, directly or indirectly, prohibited by the applicable law.

27.3 Nothing contained in this contract shall be deemed an exemption from the necessity of applying for and obtaining any permit or authority that may be required for any activities under this contract.

**SECTION 28
INTERPRETATION**

The division of this contract into sections and subsections and the insertion of headings are for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation hereof.

**SECTION 29
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS**

Each party hereto agrees to execute and deliver all such further instruments, and to do and perform all such further acts and things as may be necessary or expedient to give effect to the provisions of this contract.