

May 27, 2024

Mr Michael Lodge  
Secretary-General  
International Seabed Authority  
Kingston  
Jamaica

Dear Secretary General,

**Re: Application for observer status**

As in accordance with Article 169 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority (ISA), (ISBA/A/6), and the guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with the ISA (ISBA/25/A/16), I write, on behalf the International Manganese Institute (IMnI), an independent, self-governing, non-profit entity, to request observer status at the ISA.

[The International Manganese Institute \(IMnI\)](#) is the global trade association representing the whole manganese value-chain, including manganese producers, users, traders and recyclers. Manganese is a metal mostly used in steel and electric batteries. Founded in 1975 as a not-for-profit association, and headquartered in Paris, France, the IMnI represent [more than 120 Member-companies](#) based in 30+ countries.

Manganese being one of the metals contained in deep-sea polymetallic nodules, the IMnI Members are very interested in the decisions of the ISA.

To which end please find attached, as an annex, details of the International Manganese Institute (IMnI) as per the requirement of Enclosure 1 of the aforementioned guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations.

Yours sincerely,

Aloys  
d'Harambure  
IMnI Executive  
Director

## **A. Information about the organization**

**1. Name of organization:** International Manganese Institute (IMnI)

**2. Address of headquarters:** 11 rue Dulong, 75017 Paris, FRANCE

**3. Addresses of all branches and/or regional headquarters:** no other offices

**4. Telephone number:** 0033 6 33 47 42 10

**5. Fax number:** none

**6. Email address:** info@manganese.org

**7. Name, title and contact details of focal point:** Aloys d'Harambure, Executive Director,  
adharambure@manganese.org

**8. Background information on the organization:** The International Manganese Institute (IMnI) is the global trade association representing the whole manganese value-chain, including manganese producers, users, traders and recyclers. Manganese is a metal mostly used in steel and electric batteries. Founded in 1975 as a not-for-profit association, and headquartered in Paris, France, the IMnI represent more than 120 Member-companies based in 30+ countries.

**9. Is the organization a member of, affiliated to or otherwise associated with another organization that has been granted observer status with the Authority?** no

**10. Is the organization affiliated to consultants of the Authority, contractors with the Authority, entities in connection with the law of the sea, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, research institutes or the mineral marketing and processing industry?** 2 of the 127 IMnI Member-companies of are involved in deep-sea mining projects (The Metals Company and Global Sea Resources)

**11. Relationships with intergovernmental organizations:** we provide information on Manganese when requested (mostly by the European Commission and United States Geological Survey (USGS))

**12. List of publications and/or other relevant documentation (sample only):**

<https://www.manganese.org/shop/>

**B. Interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly**

**13. Briefly outline how your organization intends to demonstrate its interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, including by answering questions 14 to 17 and by providing any other relevant information related to the application for observer status:** we will attend the sessions and meetings to better understand what is the potential of deep-sea metals mining, as many of the IMnI Member-companies are very interested in this

**14. Briefly outline whether and how the purposes or activities of the organization relate to the work of the Authority:** Manganese is a metal largely present in deep-sea polymetallic nodules, and the IMnI represents the global Manganese industry in all its forms

**15. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the work of the Authority, for example by providing specialized information, advice or expertise, or by identifying or helping to procure the services of experts or consultants:** we will be happy to provide information on Manganese, including production volumes, Carbon dioxide emissions of land-based Manganese mining, etc.

**16. Briefly outline whether and how your organization has the expertise and the capacity to contribute, within its field of competence, to the work of the Authority, in particular in connection with the law of the sea, the protection of the marine environment, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, technology, minerals processing and marketing, activities in the Area and marine scientific research in the Area:** we don't have expertise with the law of the sea or protection of the environment; we are a small team of just 4 employees at the IMnI (all based in Paris), but we are experts in Manganese in all its forms

**17. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the capacity-building programmes and initiatives of the Authority (e.g., Secretary-General's award, voluntary commitments of the Authority):** we will be happy to contribute to the activities of the ISA, including participating in meetings and Committee activities