



## Investigative Foreshore Licence Application (Offshore Renewable Energy)

Please indicate project category as appropriate:

Wave:

☐

Tidal:

☐

Wind:

☒

Other:

Please specify:

### DATA PROTECTION

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### Applicant Name and Address:

Full Name of Applicant (not Agent): [REDACTED] – Project Director

Company/Organisation: Fuinneamh Sceirde Teoranta

Address: 3 Gullane Cottages, Clonakilty, County Cork

Eircode: P85 R260

### Applicant Contact Details:

Phone No: +353 (0) [REDACTED]

E-mail address: [REDACTED]@coriogeneration.com

**Nominated Contact (Where different from above):**

<b>Name:</b>
<b>Address:</b>
<b>Phone No:</b>
<b>E-mail address:</b>

**Applicant's Legal Advisor:**

<b>Name:</b> [REDACTED] (Arthur Cox)
<b>Address:</b> Ten Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, D02 T380
<b>Phone No:</b> + [REDACTED]
<b>E-mail address:</b> [REDACTED]@arthurcox.com

**Part 1: Proposal Details (Attach additional documents as required)**

<b>1.1</b>	<p><b>Provide background information on the project including reason and objectives of the site investigations, the site selection process and any proposals for future works at the site.</b></p> <p>Corio Generation and Ontario Teachers Pension Plan are the owners of Fuinneamh Sceirde Teoranta (FST) and are progressing the development of the Sceirde Rocks Offshore Wind Farm.</p> <p>Sceirde Rocks Offshore Wind Farm is a fixed bottom offshore wind farm off the West Coast of Ireland and under the Transitional Protocol is recognised as a Relevant or Phase One project. As such, Sceirde Rocks Offshore Wind Farm is a high priority project and it is anticipated that this project will be prioritised through the Foreshore License process, the MAC award process and subsequently will be one of the first projects eligible for the first ORESS-1 auction. Sceirde Rocks Offshore Wind Farm will be targeting an accelerated delivery programme for this offshore project to meet government renewable energy targets pre-2030. This application specifically relates to a foreshore license for site investigation activities in the wind farm array area only.</p> <p>The objective of the proposed Sceirde Rocks Offshore Wind Farm site investigations is to determine geotechnical, geophysical, metocean, wind resource and benthic characteristics within the Foreshore Licence Area. Details of the site investigations, and indicative locations, can be found in the 'Schedule of Activities' document submitted with this application.</p> <p>If the Foreshore Licence Application activities, together with desktop studies and stakeholder</p>
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	<p>engagement indicate the feasibility of developing an offshore wind farm, the project will be progressed at that point in accordance with the National Marine Planning Framework and other relevant legislation including the new consenting regime for offshore renewable energy being legislated for through the Maritime Area Planning Act (MAP).</p> <p>This Foreshore Licence Area in this application covers only the offshore array area. An additional foreshore licence application for the required offshore export cable route will be submitted separately in later 2022.</p>
<b>1.2</b>	<p><b>Possible MW output of final development:</b></p> <p>Currently the proposed output for the Sceirde Rocks Offshore Wind Farm will be 450MW.</p>
<b>1.3</b>	<p><b>Type of surveys proposed (e.g. geotechnical, archaeological or benthic).</b></p> <p>Details of the site investigations, and indicative locations, can be found in the 'Schedule of Activities' document submitted with this application.</p> <p><b>Wind Resource:</b> Floating LiDAR at 2 measurement locations.</p> <p><b>Metoccean:</b> Up to three metoccean measurement devices (for example wave buoys) may be deployed at three different locations covering extreme and site representative cases, to define wave height and direction.</p> <p><b>Benthic Ecology:</b> Sediment 'grab' sampling at up to 40 locations, water sampling and drop down video/camera surveys.</p> <p><b>Geotechnical:</b> Geotechnical investigation surveys including borehole sampling (using percussive and rotary coring techniques at up to 60 locations ), shallow sampling (using vibrocore techniques at up to 60 locations), cone penetration tests (at up to 60 locations) and down-hole acoustic imaging.</p> <p><b>Preliminary bathymetric and geophysical:</b> Multi-sensor survey to include some of the following: multibeam echosounder (MBES), side scan sonar (SSS), magnetometer, sub-bottom profiler (SBP) and ultra high resolution seismic (UHRS).</p>

**1.4****Survey methodologies and equipment to be used for each survey type proposed:**

Full details of survey methodologies, equipment, indicative locations and vessel requirements can be found in the 'Schedule of Activities' document submitted with this application.

SURVEY	METHODS	PURPOSE AND SCOPE
<b>Geotechnical</b>	Borehole Sampling	Provide geotechnical data to aid with preliminary engineering, foundation design and array layout. Up to 60No. boreholes will be required using Cable Percussive Sampling and/or Rotary Coring techniques. The borehole depths will not exceed 70m.
	Shallow Sampling	Shallow sampling (60No. locations) may be used to determine the near surface sediment properties. This could utilise a combination of grab samples, Vibrocores, and gravity cores. These techniques would typically range from 0.5 to 6m penetration and would extract a shallow sample for further lab testing and visual descriptions.
	Down-hole Acoustic Imaging	Imaging of rock structure within boreholes to determine the nature, orientation and spacing of rock discontinuities and assess zones of core loss.
	Cone Penetration Tests (CPT)	CPTs are used to derive in-situ geotechnical parameters. CPTs will be targeting Quaternary and pre-Quaternary sediments, where present. There may be up to 60No. CPT locations using Seafloor CPT methodology.
<b>Preliminary bathymetric and geophysical</b>	Contiguous acquisitions	Multi-sensor survey to include some of the following: multibeam echosounder (MBES), side scan sonar (SSS), magnetometer, sub-bottom profiler (SBP) and a seismic survey using Ultra High Resolution Seismic (Boomer/Sparker).
<b>Metocean</b>	Wave Buoy	Up to three metocean measurement devices (for

			example wave buoys) maybe deployed at three different locations covering extreme case and site representative cases, to define wave height and direction.
	<b>Wind resource</b>	Floating LiDAR Buoy	Floating LiDAR used to measure the wind resource within the Foreshore Licence Area. Up to two measurement locations considered due to the size of the area.
	<b>Benthic Ecology</b>	Drop Down Video/Camera	Drop down video surveys provide visual data on environment epibiota and sediment type, this will be used to provide an overview of the seabed habitat. Dive surveys may be required where a potential reef environment is identified.
		Water Sampling	Used to provide data on suspended sediment concentrations within the water column. This information will be used to inform decisions regarding coastal processes and sediment dynamics assessment. Data will be collected throughout the water column and over different tidal cycles
		Grab Sampling	Used to investigate sediment habitat types and determine physico-chemical characteristics (such as organic content and particle size) and macro-faunal analysis. Grab sampling typically conducted using 0.1 m <sup>2</sup> day grabs. Up to 40 grab sample stations (using day grab or van Veen grab) will be acquired across the site

1.5	<p><b>Describe the nature and scale of any structure to be erected on the foreshore for testing the suitability of the site. Is the structure proposed to be temporary or permanent?</b></p> <p>No permanent structures are proposed to be erected on the foreshore as part of this license submission. This application does include a number of temporary devices which may be anchored to or resting directly on the seafloor</p> <p>Full details of surveys including equipment and structures can be found in the ‘Schedule of Activities’ document submitted with this application.</p> <table><tr><td><b>Metocean</b></td><td>Wave Buoy</td><td>Up to three weighted / ‘anchored’ wave buoys may be deployed at three different locations covering extreme and site representative cases, to define wave height and direction.</td></tr><tr><td><b>Wind resource</b></td><td>Floating LiDAR Buoy</td><td>Floating LiDAR used to measure the wind resource within the Foreshore Licence Area. Up to two measurement locations considered due to the size of the area.</td></tr></table>	<b>Metocean</b>	Wave Buoy	Up to three weighted / ‘anchored’ wave buoys may be deployed at three different locations covering extreme and site representative cases, to define wave height and direction.	<b>Wind resource</b>	Floating LiDAR Buoy	Floating LiDAR used to measure the wind resource within the Foreshore Licence Area. Up to two measurement locations considered due to the size of the area.
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1.6	<p><b>Provide information on proposed mooring, marking and lighting arrangements for any proposed deployment of instrument arrays.</b></p> <p>Metocean site investigation will require the installation of up to three wave buoys. Wave buoys are designed to follow movement at the water surface and gather the relevant wave data. Each wave buoy is anchored to the sea floor using a length of highly elastic rubber chord and suitably sized anchor structure. The elasticity of this chord allows the buoy to ride and follow the movement of the water surface.</p> <p>A floating LiDAR system (FLS) is usually a small buoy moored using a gravity anchor.</p> <p>Marking, lighting and other navigational safety requirements will be in accordance with the requirements of the Commissioners for Irish</p> <p>Lights and Department of Transport, Marine Survey Office prior to deployment and will be compliant with International Association of Aids to Navigation (IALA) requirements.</p> <p>Navigational safety features will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unit colour – RAL 1023 Yellow;</li><li>• Radar reflector;</li><li>• Marine lantern;</li><li>• Redundant GPS Location;</li><li>• Drift alarm; and</li></ul>						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automated Identification System (AIS)</li> </ul>
<b>1.7</b>	<p><b>Has the applicant held or does the applicant hold any previous Foreshore Licences, Leases or applications over the area sought or over any other area? (Give details including Department's file reference number(s)).</b></p> <p>A foreshore licence was granted to Fuinneamh Sceirde Teo for site investigations in 2002 and this was subsequently extended in 2007 (to May 2008). In addition, a further foreshore licence application was submitted in 2008. Both these previous applications did not cover the same coordinates as the Foreshore Licence Area in this application.</p>
<b>1.8</b>	<p><b>Indicative timing of the investigation works: (i) Start date (ii) Duration (iii) Any other information relevant to timing.</b></p> <p>Following award of the foreshore licence, it is the intention that surveys will commence as soon as practicably possible with a stage programme of site investigations taking account of suitable weather conditions. It is currently anticipated that surveys will begin in late 2022 or early 2023.</p> <p>Details of the duration of the individual site investigation activities (preliminary geotechnical investigations, metocean, wind resource and benthic) are provided in the 'Schedule of Activities' document submitted with this application.</p> <p>Exact timings and durations of the surveys are unknown at this stage, until a suitable survey contractor has been appointed. Survey work is also very weather sensitive. Indicative site investigation durations provided in this application are:</p> <p>Geotechnical investigations = Several phases of 1-4 months each across a 5 year period</p> <p>Preliminary bathymetric and geophysical = Several phases of 2 to 3 months each across a 5 year period</p> <p>Benthic surveys = Several phases of 1-4 months each across a 5 year period</p> <p>Metocean = 12 to 24 months</p> <p>Wind Resource = 12 to 24 months</p>
<b>1.9</b>	<p><b>Describe any likely interactions with activities of the public or other foreshore users during the investigative works (e.g. fishing, aquaculture, sailing, and surfing). Describe any measures proposed to minimise inconvenience to other users.</b></p>

	<p>The proposed foreshore licence area does not overlap with any other foreshore licence area.</p> <p>Interactions of the site investigations with other foreshore users is provided in the Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report submitted with this application.</p> <p>Given the relatively small site area (141km<sup>2</sup>), the relatively short duration of activities, the low number of survey vessels in an already active shipping area, FST is confident the site investigations will not cause inconvenience to other sea users.</p>
<b>1.10</b>	<p><b>Describe any consultations undertaken to date with other foreshore users.</b></p> <p>A Fisheries Liaison Officer has been appointed and has begun engaging with the fishing community which will continue throughout 2022 prior to survey mobilisation to ensure effective communications during the planning and execution of the proposed surveys.</p>
<b>1.11</b>	<p><b>Describe any consultations undertaken to date with other consent authorities e.g. planning authority, Commission for Energy Regulation etc.</b></p> <p>A pre-application meeting with DHLGH was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021. No additional consultation specifically in relation to the site investigations has been undertaken.</p>
<b>1.12</b>	<p><b>Describe briefly any consultations undertaken with relevant authorities (e.g. county council, port/harbour authority etc) or State Agencies e.g. National Parks &amp; Wildlife Service (NPWS), National Monuments Service (NMS) of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage:</b></p> <p>A pre-application meeting with DHLGH was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021. No additional consultation specifically in relation to the proposed site investigations has been undertaken.</p>
<b>1.13</b>	<p><b>Describe briefly any support received or under application with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) or other State Agency:</b></p> <p>Not applicable</p>

**Part 2: Proposed Site. (Attach additional documents as required)**



<b>2.1</b>	<p><b>Delineate the proposed site in red on a latest edition map at a scale of 1:10 000 or larger scale if more appropriate and available, indicating:</b></p> <p>(i) the entire area;</p> <p>(ii) the hectarage involved below the line of high water of medium tides clearly marked in RED and</p> <p>(iii) the area of foreshore involved in metric measurements (i.e. hectares, metres squared or square kilometres etc).</p> <p>The Foreshore Licence Area location is provided on Figure 1 of the supporting 'Schedule of Activities' document.</p>
<b>2.2</b>	<p><b>Geographic co-ordinates of the area under application, where the area can also be identified on the Ordnance Survey map, specify Ordnance Survey co-ordinates also.</b></p> <p>The Foreshore Licence Area location and coordinates are provided on Figure 2 of the supporting 'Schedule of Activities' document.</p>
<b>2.3</b>	<p><b>Delineate proposed site on relevant Admiralty Chart.</b></p> <p>The Foreshore Licence Area location on relevant Admiralty Chart is provided on Figure 1 of the supporting 'Schedule of Activities' document.</p>
<b>2.4</b>	<p><b>Relevant Local Authority:</b></p> <p>Galway County Council</p>
<b>2.5</b>	<p><b>Location name and nearest townland name:</b></p> <p>The Foreshore Licence Area does not touch the coast at any location and is 5km from the coast at its closest point.</p> <p>The closest landfall location to the Foreshore Licence Application is Mainis and An Leathmhas (to the east), Teach Mór (to the south east) and Aillebrack (to the north).</p>

<b>2.6</b>	<p><b>Distance from nearest other developments, including any offshore renewable energy developments on the foreshore:</b></p> <p>The nearest known offshore renewable energy developments are:</p> <p>Galway Bay Marine and Renewable Energy Test Site (approx. 40km)</p> <p>Ilenn Offshore Wind Farm (approx. 45km)</p> <p>Inis West 2 Offshore Wind Farm (approx. 50km)</p> <p>Clarus Offshore Wind Farm (approx. 55km)</p> <p>Moneypoint Offshore Two (approx. 85km)</p> <p>Moneypoint Offshore One (approx. 90km)</p> <p>Inis West 1 Offshore Wind Farm (approx. 95km)</p>
<b>2.7</b>	<p><b>Distance from shore:</b></p> <p>The Foreshore Licence Area does not touch the coast at any location and is 5km from the mainland coast at its closest point.</p>
<b>2.8</b>	<p><b>Distance from nearest aquaculture operation:</b></p> <p>2.8km (Bradan Bia Teo)</p>
<b>2.9</b>	<p><b>Distance from any other sensitive location e.g. fish spawning ground, designated Shellfish Growing Waters,</b></p> <p>The Foreshore Licence Area lies within spawning grounds for Nephrops, Sprat, Mackerel and nursery grounds for White Belly Angler Monk, Cod, Blue Whiting, Haddock, Horse Mackerel and Mackerel.</p> <p>Full details of the environmental baseline relevant to the Foreshore Licence Area can be found in the Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report submitted with this application.</p>
<b>2.10</b>	<p><b>Any other site details considered relevant:</b></p> <p>Full details of the environmental baseline relevant to the Foreshore Licence Area can be found in the Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report submitted with this application.</p>

**Part 3: Nature Conservation Considerations (Attach additional documents as required)**

3.1	<p><b>Distance from nearest Natura 2000 sites (i.e. Special Protection Area (SPA) or Special Area of Conservation (SAC):</b></p> <p>The Foreshore Licence Area does not overlap with any Natura 2000 site. The closest SAC is the Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC (&lt;1km). The closest SPA is Slyne Head to Ardmore Point Islands SPA (&lt;1km).</p> <p>Full details of the Natura 2000 sites in proximity to the Foreshore Licence Area are provided in the “Report to inform Appropriate Assessment Screening” and “Natura Impact Statement” submitted with this application.</p>
3.2	<p><b>Name and location of Natura 2000 sites in or around the project area:</b></p> <p>Full details of the Natura 2000 sites in proximity to the Foreshore Licence Area is provided in the “Report to inform Appropriate Assessment Screening” and “Natura Impact Statement” submitted with this application.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Describe potential impacts of the site investigations on Natura 2000 sites.</b></p> <p>Please refer to the “Report to inform Appropriate Assessment Screening” and “Natura Impact Statement” submitted with this application which concludes that the site investigations alone, or in-combination with any other plan or project, will not have a likely significant effect on any Natura 2000 site.</p>
3.4	<p><b>Describe any measures proposed to mitigate possible impacts on Natura 2000 sites and other key marine receptors.</b></p> <p>As required by guidance, the assessment carried out in the “Report to inform Appropriate Assessment Screening” submitted with this application, has not taken into consideration any mitigation measures. The “Natura Impact Statement” submitted with this application provides details of the marine mammal mitigation measures that will be employed during execution of the surveys in line with DAHG 2014 guidance “Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters”. The NIS concludes that, when considering mitigation measures, the site investigations alone, or in-combination with any other plan or project, will not have a likely significant effect on any Natura 2000 site. Details of other best practice and control measures employed during execution of the site investigations are provided in the Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report submitted with this application.</p>

3.5	<p><b>Describe any other projects or plans for the area, anticipated or developed, that in combination with this proposal, may have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site:</b></p> <p>Please refer to the “Report to inform Appropriate Assessment Screening” and “Natura Impact Statement” submitted with this application which includes an assessment of the potential effects of the site investigations in-combination with any other plan or project.</p>
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## **Part 4: Navigational Safety Considerations.**

4.1	<p><b>Distance from shipping lanes at nearest point. Illustrate on the appropriate marine charts accompanying the application.</b></p> <p>Figure 11 within the Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report submitted with this application provides details of vessel density and shipping lanes across and in proximity to the Foreshore Licence Area. There are no high density shipping lanes that run through the Foreshore Licence Area with the most active shipping areas to the south east of the Foreshore Licence Area associated with vessel movements between Aran Islands, Rossaveal, Galway and Doolin.</p> <p>Standard navigation safety measures will also be implemented including publication of Notice to Mariners, arrangements for radio / nav-text broadcast warnings to be issued by the Irish Coast Guard, survey vessels will display lights, shapes and other internationally recognised identification or warning signals.</p>
4.2	<p><b>If a safety zone for passage of shipping (including fishing and leisure boats) is sought, supply details and give reasons.</b></p> <p>No safety zones are sought. Notice to Mariners will request that vessels remain at least 500m from the survey vessels.</p>
4.3	<p><b>If any temporal /spatial restrictions are sought on the use of any type of fishing gear or leisure activity within the area, provide details and justification for such restrictions and indicate location(s) on appropriate marine charts.</b></p> <p>A Fisheries Liaison Officer has been appointed to engage with the fishing community to ensure effective communications during the planning and execution of the proposed surveys. Where temporary removal of static fishing gear is necessary, agreements will be sought with relevant local fishers to minimise disruption.</p>

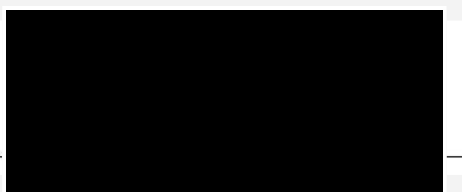
**Declaration and Consent:**

The details provided here are correct to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that no works will be commenced, by me or my agents on the proposed site, without the prior written consent of the Minister. The granting or refusal of any foreshore investigation licence will not give rise on the part of the applicant to any expectation whatsoever for, right or entitlement to a grant of any future foreshore permission in respect of all or any part of any area of foreshore.

By submitting this application form, I agree that the details provided (with personal contact details redacted) are to be published on the Department of Housing website and also that the full information provided including contact details are to be processed and retained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and shared with all appropriate Prescribed Bodies (as part of the Prescribed Bodies Consultation process) in furtherance of consideration for a foreshore Consent under the Foreshore Act 1933 (and Foreshore Amendment Act 2011).

I give consent to the Minister and his servants to copy this application and to make (a redacted) copy available for inspection and copying by the public. This consent relates to this application, to any further information, or submission provided by me or on my behalf and to the publication of the licence document

**Signed for and on behalf of the applicant:****Name of Signatory (block letters):****Position Held:**

Project Director

**Date**            **29/11/2022****Return completed applications to:**

Foreshore Section  
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
Newtown Road  
Wexford  
Y35 AP90

Enquiries to: [Foreshore@housing.gov.ie](mailto:Foreshore@housing.gov.ie) (Other contact details to be included in Guidance materials)

Email a copy of application documents: [Foreshore@housing.gov.ie](mailto:Foreshore@housing.gov.ie)