



Investigative Foreshore Licence Application (Offshore Renewable Energy)

Please indicate project category as appropriate:

Wave:

Tidal:

Wind:

Other:

Please specify:

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Applicant Name and Address:

Full Name of Applicant (not Agent): Kinsale Offshore Wind Limited

Company/Organisation: Inis Offshore Wind Limited

Address: Unit 74, Penrose Wharf, Penrose Quay, Cork

Eircode: T23 HF51

Applicant Contact Details:

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E-mail address: [REDACTED]@inisoffshorewind.ie

Nominated Contact (Where different from above):

Name: [REDACTED] (in addition to Applicant above)
Address: Royal HaskoningDHV, Marlborough House, Marlborough Crescent, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4EE, United Kingdom. Registered Office: Westpoint, Peterborough Business Park, Lynch Wood, Peterborough, PE2 6FZ
Phone No: [REDACTED]
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Applicant's Legal Advisor:

Name: [REDACTED]
Address: Philip Lee, 7-8 Wilton Terrace, Dublin 2, Ireland
Phone No: +353 (0) 1 2373700
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Part 1: Proposal Details (Attach additional documents as required)

1.1**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.**

Inis Offshore Wind (funded by the Temporis Aurora Fund, backed by ISIF) with the support of Warwick Energy has identified projects that could support the Irish Government's Climate Action Plan and 5 GW capacity targeted for 2030. This same team is behind the applications for Leinster, Wicklow, Kerry and Munster projects listed at 1.7 below.

An extensive site selection process and feasibility study was undertaken in late 2020 (including analysis of water depth, wind data, existing wind farms, oil and gas, munition dumps, designated sites, protected habitats and species, seascape, shipping, aviation, fisheries, cables and pipelines, military areas, shipwrecks and aggregate resource constraint considerations) and through this site selection process, this site was identified. This site has been selected with the intention of achieving first power before 2030, namely that fixed bottom foundations can be used at this location.

The application for a foreshore licence for Kinsale Offshore Wind Limited is to survey a new area for a proposed fixed foundation offshore wind project (the "Kinsale Project") in the Celtic Sea approximately 13km off the coast of Cork at the nearest point. The Kinsale Project would be for a development of an offshore wind farm with a likely capacity of around 1000MW. The site will use fixed foundation technology (either XXL Monopiles, Jacket/Tripods or a mixture of both). These technologies are proven, fundable and available now.

The Foreshore Licence application is to undertake the surveys and site investigations to inform development and project design for the proposed site.

The proposed foreshore licence area covers the wind farm array area only. A separate Foreshore Licence will be applied for to cover transmission requirements (e.g. export cables and landfall) in 2022.

Site Investigation Objectives

The SI objectives are provided in the accompanying **Schedule of Works** document. However, the high-level objectives of the works proposed under this Foreshore Licence application are as follows:

- To gather further information on seabed and sub-seabed conditions.
- To gather sufficient geotechnical data on the stability of soils, sediments, clays and gravels to allow the characterisation of the sub-seabed strata to inform design.
- To collect accurate wind and metocean (wave, current, tide and water levels) information.
- To provide the project team with baseline information on the environmental conditions at the site, including marine ecology, bird, mammals and benthos.
- To provide the project team with information on the archaeological conditions at the site.

	<p>In order to meet the above objectives various Site Investigation (SI) works and monitoring device deployments are required, for which a Foreshore Licence is required.</p>
<p>1.2</p>	<p>Possible MW output of final development:</p> <p>The proposed offshore wind farm is expected to have capacity of around 1000MW. The capacity is not finalised and is subject to further detailed design work including investigation into grid and turbine technologies.</p>
<p>1.3</p>	<p>Type of surveys proposed (e.g. geophysical, geotechnical, archaeological or benthic.</p> <p>The proposed surveys are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geophysical surveys e.g. multibeam echosounder (MBES), magnetometer, sub-bottom profiler, ultra-short baseline (USBL), side scan sonar (SSS); • Archaeological surveys (covered by geophysical surveys above); • Subtidal surveys e.g. grab sampling for sediment type and sediment quality (contaminants) analysis; • Marine benthic ecology flora and fauna surveys e.g. grab sampling at locations determined by the marine ecology survey, drop-down video, still photographs; • Seabird and marine mammal boat based and aerial surveys, although these do not fall under the Foreshore Act (including elasmobranchs, turtles and jellyfish); • Deployment of wind and current resource measurement devices e.g. metocean and floating LiDAR, Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCP) and Wave Buoys and marker buoys at each location; and • Geotechnical surveys and investigations (boreholes, cone penetration testing and vibrocores or grab samples). <p>Note that Seabird and marine mammal surveys have been included, but the Applicant's preference would be for aerial surveys (i.e. digital imaging).</p>
<p>1.4</p>	<p>Survey methodologies and equipment to be used for each survey type proposed:</p> <p>Contracts have not yet been awarded for these surveys, however proposed and likely vessels, equipment, and methods are expected to be employed. Details of anticipated survey methodologies and equipment have been provided in the Schedule of Works which is contained with the Supporting Information submitted with this application.</p>

<p>1.5</p>	<p>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?</p> <p>This application is for survey activities only. No permanent structure shall be erected as part of these works.</p> <p>Deployment of a temporary wind and current resource measurement devices including metocean and floating LiDAR, Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) and Wave Buoys may be deployed along with moorings and anchors within the foreshore licence survey area.</p> <p>Duration of deployments is expected to be between 12 and 36 months (in any one deployment, not in the aggregate). All equipment will be removed once the surveys are complete. Full removal of equipment will be undertaken once surveys are complete and so will not be permanent structures.</p> <p>A jack-up barge (JUB) may be required to undertake geotechnical boreholes but this would be temporary. The number of legs used for the operations is dependent on seabed conditions, waves and current strength.</p> <p>Geophysical surveys will be conducted over a period estimated of 3 months and following this, a benthic survey campaign over a similar timeframe where sediment samples from the seabed will be taken.</p> <p>Exact details of the vessels to be used for surveys will not be determined until a subcontractor is confirmed, however likely and proposed vessels, equipment and methods are expected to be employed as described in the accompanying Schedule of Works.</p> <p>Given the potential for delays due to poor weather conditions and potential timing restrictions this application relates to the possibility of site investigations taking place over a five-year period.</p> <p>Further details of the proposed surveys are provided in the accompanying supporting information document.</p>
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<p>1.6</p>	<p>Provide information on proposed mooring, marking and lighting arrangements for any proposed deployment of instrument arrays.</p> <p>The exact location, survey instruments and arrangements for the moorings and lighting is not known at this stage (indicative locations are provided in the supporting information). Positioning will be based upon the result of the geophysical data and following archaeological analysis (full good practice measures in regard to underwater archology are given in the accompanying Schedule of Works).</p> <p>Prior to deployment, final locations, marking and lighting will be agreed with the Commissioner of Irish Lights and will be agreed in consultation with the relevant department within the Irish Maritime Directorate within the Department of Transport.</p> <p>We will also apply to the Commissioner of Irish Lights for Statutory Sanction. All site investigation works and instrument deployments within the foreshore licence survey area will comply with CIL standard navigational safety requirements with regard to lighting, positioning and mooring.</p>
<p>1.7</p>	<p>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)).</p> <p>Four other applications for foreshore licences have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wicklow Sea Wind Limited FS007163 - Application to undertake offshore wind site investigation surveys • Leinster Offshore Wind Limited FS007162 – Application to undertake offshore wind site investigation surveys • Kerry Offshore Wind Limited FS007363 - Application to undertake offshore wind site investigation surveys • Munster Sea Wind Limited FS007366 - Application to undertake offshore wind site investigation surveys
<p>1.8</p>	<p>Indicative timing of the investigation works: (i) Start date (ii) Duration (iii) Any other information relevant to timing.</p> <p>Indicative timings of the surveys are detailed in the Schedule of Works.</p>

<p>1.9</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The surveys will cover the array area only so there will be no restrictions on public access or use of the beach or nearshore. Interactions during the survey are unlikely as the proposed site is not heavily used by the public.</p> <p>Vessel traffic is greater in the southern section of the site, however the site is out with the higher density shipping associated with Cork (passing to the east of the boundary as well as inshore from the site). Standard good practice will be followed including local Notice to Mariners and stakeholder consultation requesting that vessels keep a safe distance from the works. We will ensure that all vessels taking part in the survey works will comply with marine certification requirements.</p> <p>The proposed site is used by the fishing industry. An experienced Fisheries Liaison Officer has been appointed to ensure that any inconvenience caused to either static and mobile fishing activity, or any other activity, is minimised. In addition to issuing a Notice to Mariners, we will notify the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority to inform small fishing vessels of the surveys.</p>
<p>1.10</p>	<p>Describe any consultations undertaken to date with other foreshore users.</p> <p>Irish Whale and Dolphin Group were contacted and we requested data from them to inform this application.</p> <p>A Fisheries Liaison Officer has been appointed and provided an introduction of the project to the industry. Engagement with local fishermen will then continue once validation of this application is confirmed.</p>
<p>1.11</p>	<p>Describe any consultations undertaken to date with other consent authorities e.g. planning authority, Commission for Energy Regulation etc.</p> <p>A pre-application meeting with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage was undertaken on the 4th November 2021.</p>

1.12	<p>Describe briefly any consultations undertaken with relevant authorities (e.g. county council, port/harbour authority etc) or State Agencies e.g. National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), National Monuments Service (NMS) of Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht:</p> <p>National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Irish Whale and Dolphin Group data was used to inform the Screening Natura Impact Statement.</p> <p>A meeting has taken place with the National Monuments Service to discuss the requirements regarding archaeology and the licence requirements which are built into the applications documents.</p> <p>Further consultation will be undertaken in due course.</p>
1.13	<p>Describe briefly any support received or under application with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) or other State Agency:</p> <p>N/A</p>

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

2.1	<p>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:</p> <p>(i) the entire area;</p> <p>Please see 'Foreshore Licence Map' for a map of the area being applied for.</p> <p>(ii) the hectarage involved below the line of high water of medium tides clearly marked in RED and</p> <p>16,683 ha</p> <p>(iii) the area of foreshore involved in metric measurements (i.e. hectares, metres squared or square kilometres etc).</p> <p>166.83km²</p>
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2.2

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.

ID Longitude (WGS84) Latitude (WGS84)

1	08° 29' 43.2446"W	51° 29' 00.2537"N
2	08° 12' 42.4300"W	51° 33' 51.3074"N
3	08° 11' 09.9675"W	51° 30' 25.1007"N
4	08° 29' 46.5777"W	51° 24' 10.2172"N

ID Easting Northing (ITM)

1	565596.735	525756.689
2	585316.803	534655.006
3	587081.278	528278.469
4	565471.729	516795.335

2.3	Delineate proposed site on relevant Admiralty Chart. Please see 'Foreshore Licence Map'.
2.4	Relevant Local Authority: Cork County Council
2.5	Location name and nearest townland name: Kinsale, Co. Cork
2.6	Distance from nearest other developments, including any offshore renewable energy developments on the foreshore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerald Offshore Wind is adjacent to the proposed survey area to the south of the foreshore licence survey area. • Inis Ealga Marine Energy Park is approximately 15km to the east of the foreshore licence survey area. • Celtic Interconnector is approximately 40km to the east of the foreshore licence survey area.
2.7	Distance from shore: The boundary of the proposed survey area is approximately 13km from the closest point on shore.
2.8	Distance from nearest aquaculture operation: The closest licenced aquaculture operation is over 20km away from the foreshore licence survey area.
2.9	Distance from any other sensitive location e.g. fish spawning ground, designated Shellfish Growing Waters, Data available from the Marine Institute shows that there are spawning grounds for Haddock within the Survey area. Other data shows there are spawning areas that overlap the Survey area including whiting, herring, horse mackerel, cod and nephrops (Ellis <i>et al.</i> , 2010 and Coull <i>et al.</i> , 1998).
2.10	Any other site details considered relevant: The baseline environment and potential impacts to receptors are outlined in the EIA Screening Report provided as part of this application.

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

3.1	<p>Distance from nearest Natura 2000 sites (i.e. Special Protection Area (SPA) or Special Area of Conservation (SAC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Head of Kinsale SPA located approximately 14km from the survey area. • Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC, approximately 20km from the survey area.
3.2	<p>Name and location of Natura 2000 sites in or around the project area:</p> <p>Please see the Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) provided with this Licence Application where connectivity with European sites is identified.</p>
3.3	<p>Describe potential impacts of the site investigations on Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>A SISAA and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been undertaken for this foreshore licence application to determine the likely significant effects, if any, of the proposed site investigation survey work, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, on European sites and their conservation objectives. The SISAA and NIS are provided in the supporting Information.</p>
3.4	<p>Describe any measures proposed to mitigate possible impacts on Natura 2000 sites and other key marine receptors.</p> <p>Please see the Schedule of works for full details of requirements and measures to reduce possible impacts.</p>
3.5	<p>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:</p> <p>Please see Section 7 of the SISAA where other plans and projects are identified and a review of potential plans and projects including project programmes (where known) was undertaken to identify plans and projects that could have the potential for in combination effects due to the timeframes and spatial nature of the works (which are taken account of in the EIA screening, SISAA and NIS).</p> <p>Due to the temporal and spatial scale in combination effects on Natura 2000 sites are not anticipated.</p>



Part 4: Navigational Safety Considerations.

4.1	Distance from shipping lanes at nearest point. Illustrate on the appropriate marine charts accompanying the application. High density shipping is illustrated in Figure 1 in the Foreshore Licence Supporting Information - Schedule of Works . Vessel traffic is higher in the southern section of the site, with higher density shipping associated with Cork passing to the east of the boundary as well as inshore from the site. The nearest designated Traffic Separation Scheme is located at Fastnet Rock over 60km from the foreshore licence survey area.
4.2	If a safety zone for passage of shipping (including fishing and leisure boats) is sought, supply details and give reasons. No safety zones are sought. A Notice to Mariners will request that vessels remain at least 500m radial distance from the survey vessels and any instruments.
4.3	If a 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. No formal restrictions are sought. Mariners and local fishermen will be notified of the details of temporary vessels surveys and deployment of any instruments in the area and requested to maintain a safe distance of at least 500m.

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, Planning and Local Government 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:

SENIOR OFFSHORE PROJECT MANAGER

Date: 22/12/2021

Return completed applications to:

Marine Environment and Foreshore Section
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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

Email a copy of application documents: Foreshore@housing.gov.ie