



28 May 2024

Re: MaresConnect project - Application for a licence under Part 5 of the MAP Act 2021 for: Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.

To whom it may concern,

We have been informed that MaresConnect Ltd. intend applying to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority for a licence under Part 5 of the MAP Act 2021 for: Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.

The MaresConnect project, a proposed 750 MW electricity interconnector between Ireland (Greater Dublin Area) and the United Kingdom (Bodelwyddan, Wales), would deliver on key Irish energy policy goals and commitments:

- Commitment 5 of the National Policy Statement on Electricity Interconnection¹ commits to supporting a further connection to Great Britain by 2030.
- Action 13 of the Energy Security Package² envisages the successful completion and integration of additional electricity interconnections by 2030.
- The MaresConnect project has been included in Irelands draft National Energy and Climate Plan for 2022-2030. The final plan is to be submitted to the European Commission in June 2024.
- The project has been included as project 349 in the ENTSO-E (2022) Ten Year Network Development Plan and under the 2024 draft list (final list due in June), ³as such has been identified as a project with pan-European significance.

¹ <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/265251/7b3080d8-fa48-4011-9a77-1580abf8a9ff.pdf#page=null>

² <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/278473/4919d4e2-44ea-454a-855a-0229eeda4f4f.pdf#page=null>

³ [Entso-e | Explore the TYNDP \(entsoe.eu\)](https://entsoe.eu/en/entsoe-e/Explore-the-TYNDP/)



The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) issued direction to EirGrid in January to assess a connection for MaresConnect project. The CRU will be commencing its Initial Project Assessment (IPA) of MaresConnect in Q2 2024.

The project is also currently undergoing regulatory assessment by Ofgem in the UK in the Initial Project Assessment of the third cap and floor window for electricity interconnectors with a decision anticipated in Summer 2024.

The project is well progressed in its development and regulatory journey and it is considered to have a realistic prospect of delivery by 2030.

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications therefore strongly supports this project's licence application.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the official.

Emmet Deegan

International and Offshore Energy Division

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications