

MARA

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuiri
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

Maritime Usage Licence (MUL)

Application for a Declaration as to whether or not a MUL is required (Form DMUL)



**Important information:**

Applicants are strongly advised to read the "Guidance Note for Applicants applying for a Maritime Usage Licence" before completing this application.

The application form and supporting documentation, including confirmation of payment of fee, must be submitted to licence@mara.gov.ie.

Complete this form electronically using the free text and tick boxes provided, free text boxes will expand as required. Responses should, in so far as is possible, clearly and concisely address the information requested. Where appropriate, supporting documentation may be submitted for assessment, providing that any information relevant to the application is clearly referenced in the application form.

Before completing this form, the declaration and consent at the end of the application form should be read.

A declaration does not negate obligations under other regulations in the Irish maritime area, and the onus is on the applicant to ensure that they comply with all relevant regulations.

Application Fee:

An application fee of EUR €500 applies for a Declaration as to whether or not a MUL is required.

The application fee must be paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).

MARA bank account details are provided upon request by email to licence@mara.gov.ie

Proof of application fee payment /confirmation of funds transfer must be provided with the application documentation.

Complete application documentation and fee must be submitted to licence@mara.gov.ie.

Privacy Policy:

MARA may require applicants to provide certain personal data in order to carry out its legislative and administrative functions. MARA will treat all personal data that an applicant provides in accordance with MARA's obligations under data protection legislation, including the Data Protection Act 2018 (as amended) and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). A Privacy Statement explaining how MARA, as the Data Controller, will process the personal data the applicant provides, how that information will be used and what rights the applicant may exercise in relation to its personal data, is available in this link: [Privacy Policy - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#).

Freedom of Information/Access to Information on the Environment

MARA is a public body for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, as amended (the "FOI Act") and is also subject to the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007-2018 (the "AIE Regulations") and MARA may be required to disclose information and records provided by the applicant in response to a request made under the FOI Act and/or the AIE Regulations, subject to applicable exemptions. Where the applicant considers that any information supplied to MARA is commercially sensitive, confidential or otherwise exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act or the AIE Regulations, the applicant must clearly identify such information at the time. Notwithstanding this, the final decision on disclosure rests with MARA, in accordance with the applicable legislation. The applicant must, upon reasonable request and within a reasonable timeframe, provide all necessary assistance and cooperation to MARA in connection with any request for information made under the FOI Act and/or AIE Regulations.

Confidential/Commercially Sensitive Information

Applicants are asked to consider if any of the information supplied by them in their application to MARA is commercially sensitive and/or confidential. The applicant should clearly identify and separate the specific sections of their application containing such information. The applicant should specify the reasons for its confidentiality/sensitivity with regard to the FOI Act and/or AIE Regulations.

**Form DMUL – Application for a Declaration as to whether or not a MUL is required under
Section 115(1) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MAP Act)****Part 1 Details of Applicant for Declaration****1.1 Applicant Details**

The name and address should be of a legal or natural person.	
Full legal name of Applicant	Jeanne.Achieng
Full legal name of Company/Organisation (if applicable)	EirGrid Interconnector DAC
Applicant Address: In the case of a legal person, these details must be as currently listed in the Companies Registration Office (CRO). In the case of a non-profit entity, which is a registered charity, these details must be as currently listed in the Register of Charitable Organisations.	
Address line 1	EirGrid plc,
Address line 2	The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road
Address line 3	Ballsbridge,
City/Town	Dublin
Eircode	D04 FW28
Applicant Email Address	Jeanne.Achieng@Eirgrid.com
Applicant Phone Number	
If the Applicant is a legal person, Company Registration Office Number. A copy of the Certificate of Incorporation (certified copy provided by CRO) and a list of Directors must be provided as Attachment 1.1.	CRO Number: 473045
If the Applicant is a non-profit entity, which is a registered charity, the Registered Charity Number	N/A

Attachment 1.1 included (if required).

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐



1.2 Authorised Contact Person (if different from above)

The Authorised Contact Person will be the person that MARA will contact in relation to any aspect of this application. The Authorised Contact Person can be a person within the Company/Organisation, or a person (agent) nominated by the Applicant

Authorised Contact Name	Aodhfin Coyle
Authorised Contact Position	Senior Consultant
Email	Aodhfin.coyle@intertek.com
Telephone	+44 (0) 7793462976



Part 2 Details of Maritime Usage

2.1 Proposed Maritime Usage

A. Provide a brief description of proposed Maritime Usage.

Additional information can be provided as Attachment 2.1.

East-West Interconnector (EWIC) is a high-voltage direct current (HVDC) submarine and subsoil power cable that connects the electricity grids of Ireland and Great Britain. Developed by the Irish national grid operator, EirGrid, the EWIC began commercial operation in 2012.

A foreshore license, which was essential for the project's construction in Irish waters, was in place since December 2010. The interconnector has a capacity of 500 MegaWatts (MW) and a total length of approximately 260 kilometres (km), with 186 km of the cable running under the Irish Sea.

As part of the permitted activities under the EWIC Licence, targeted geophysical and visual inspection surveys are required periodically along the existing EWIC subsea cable route between Ireland and the UK.

A proposed inspection survey is being undertaken by EIDAC in 2026 to inspect the EWIC cable and cable protection (the "Facilities" under the Foreshore Licence) to assess the condition of the cable and the surrounding seabed environment.

The inspection survey will utilise the following non-intrusive geophysical techniques:

- **Multibeam Echosounder (MBES):** Will be used to acquire high-resolution bathymetric data and characterise seabed morphology. For the anticipated survey water depths, the system would typically operate at a frequency of approximately **400 kHz**, although MBES systems are available across a broader frequency range of **200 to 500 kHz**, depending on survey requirements and environmental conditions
- **Side Scan Sonar (SSS):** To image the seabed surface and detect any features or anomalies associated with or near the cable route. The operating frequency of this device is typically 300kHz to 900kHz.
- **Ultra-Short Baseline Positioning (USBL):** To enable precise positioning of the deployed survey equipment relative to the vessel and cable. The operating frequency of this device is typically 19kHz to 34kHz.

The inspection survey operations will be conducted by a dedicated survey vessel operating within a defined corridor along the cable route, from the point of landfall at Rush (Co. Dublin) to beyond the limit of the Irish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to the cable landfall in the UK. The survey will be centred on the cable Route Position List (RPL) and a 50 metre (m) exclusion zone either side of the cable will be proposed to allow for vessel operations and navigational safety.

All proposed activities are non-intrusive, temporary in nature, of short duration, and will not involve any physical disturbance of the seabed. The survey will be carried out in accordance with all applicable legal, maritime safety and industry best practice requirements.

Notice will be provided to relevant stakeholders, including MARA, the Maritime Safety Office, fisheries organisations, commercial and recreational fishers, and other marine users. A Notice to Mariners will be published prior to the commencement of the inspection surveys to inform marine stakeholders of the survey activities and timing.



B. Have you attended a Pre Application Meeting in respect of this proposed activity?

Yes ☒ No ☐

C. Attachment 2.1 included.

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

2.2 Type of Activity

A. Is the activity one that is covered in Schedule 7 of the MAP Act?

Yes ☐ No ☒

B. If **yes**, select the activity type below:

The Applicant should refer to the MUL Guidance Note for Applicants before completing this section.	
1. Dredging (including dredging involving the use of a device to remove any material, whether or not suspended in water, from one part of the seabed to another part of the seabed) other than— (a) dredging carried out to create a new harbour, berth or waterway, or to deepen existing facilities in order to allow access for larger ships, or (b) dredging ancillary to development authorised under Planning and Development Act 2000 (the Act of 2000), whether or not it involves the removal of any material from the sea or seabed.	☐
2. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of scientific discovery or research.	☐
3. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.	☐
4. The installation or placement of navigational markers or aids to navigation, or both, not undertaken or authorised by the Commissioners of Irish Lights.	☐
5. The installation of non-permanent platforms, pontoons or slipways.	☐
6. The deposit of any substance or object, either in the sea or on or under the seabed, from— (a) a vehicle, vessel (including a craft capable of travelling on, in or under water, whether or not self-propelled), boat, aircraft or marine structure (other than a pipeline), (b) a container floating in the sea, or (c) a structure on land constructed or adapted wholly or mainly for the purpose of depositing solids in the sea.	☐
7. The use of a vehicle, vessel (including a craft capable of travelling on, in or under water, whether or not self-propelled), boat, aircraft, marine structure (other than a pipeline) or floating container to remove any substance or object from the seabed.	☐
8. The use of explosives not related to development authorised under the Act of 2000 and not requiring authorisation under any other enactment.	☐
9. The maintenance of any cable, pipeline, oil, gas or carbon storage facility structure that does not require an authorisation (whether the authorisation takes the form of the grant of a licence, consent, approval or any other type of authorisation) under any other enactment in order to be undertaken.	☐
10. The harvesting, disturbance or removal of seaweed, whether growing or rooted on the seabed, or deposited in or washed up thereon by the action of any one or more than one of the following:	☐



(a) tides; (b) winds; (c) waves.	
11. The deposit, construction or removal of any mooring not requiring authorisation under any other enactment.	☐
12. (a) The removal of beach material from, or the disturbance of beach material in, the maritime area otherwise than in the course of the ordinary or reasonable recreational enjoyment of the maritime area. 12 (b) In this paragraph, "beach material" means sand, clay, gravel, shingle, stones, rocks, mineral substances, seashells, coral and maerl and any flora, in or on the surface of the seabed or suspended in the water of the maritime area, and includes outcrops of rock or any other mineral substance above the surface of the seabed.	☐
13. The laying or installation of telecommunications cables or ducting by or between coastal States where such cables or ducting pass through the exclusive economic zone (as construed in accordance with the Act of 2021) or the continental shelf but do not land in the State.	☐
14. A maritime usage specified, for the purposes of this paragraph, in regulations made under section 113(2)."	☐

C. If **no**, describe the purpose of the proposed Maritime Usage:

The Foreshore Licence (**FS004527**) authorises EIDAC to inspect both the EWIC Cables and the EWIC Cable Protection. The inspection techniques involve the use of geophysical and visual survey equipment along the EWIC cable route from Ireland to the UK. The geophysical and visual survey equipment and inspection techniques used are similar in nature to the techniques and equipment used for marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the 2000 Act, but the inspection surveys are not for the purposes of site investigation or for the purposes of information an application for development permission.

Furthermore, the proposed inspections were authorised in 2010 and relate to the authorised EWIC that has been in operation pursuant to the Foreshore Licence and all other necessary consents since 2012. Periodic inspections of the EWIC cables and cable protection materials have been required since 2012 not only under the Foreshore Licence but also pursuant to EIDAC and EirGrid's obligations under the Electricity Regulation Act 1999, as amended, and the EWIC Interconnector Operator Licence issued by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities under the 1999 Act.

Accordingly, the authorised routine inspection of the EWIC Cable and associated cable protection within Irish waters does not constitute a maritime usage within the scope of Schedule 7 and therefore does not require a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL).

2.3 Duration

- A. Indicate the overall duration of the proposed activity. Indicate the duration of any individual activities included in the overall activity. Give reasons for the proposed durations. Indicate any seasonal, vessel or other schedule constraints.



Additional information can be provided as Attachment 2.3.

Survey activities are planned to take place from September 2026 onwards, subject to weather windows and vessel availability. The total survey duration along the entire EWIC cable route corridor between Ireland and the UK is anticipated to be up to 25 days, including 15 days contingency to accommodate operational pauses, weather delays, or mitigation-driven shutdowns. The duration of the inspection surveys within the Irish maritime area is expected to be approximately 6 days plus some contingency for weather or other delays.

B. Attachment 2.3 included.

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

2.4 Describe the area and location of proposed Maritime Usage

A. State the total size of the Maritime Area (in m², ha or km², as appropriate), which is the subject of the application.

5395.49Ha

Provide the distance in kilometres and direction of the main body of the proposed Maritime Usage area from the shore at its closest point.

0km

B. Attach map outlining the proposed Maritime Area(s). If the application relates to more than one area, each area should be labelled on the accompanying maps/drawings and its area provided. The map(s)/drawing(s) should be included as Attachment 2.4. List the attached map/drawing number(s) and map/drawing name(s) in the space below.

Please note that GIS Shapefiles may be required depending on the nature of the activity. Map(s)/GIS Shapefiles must comply with 'MARA Technical Mapping Guidance Notes for MAC/MUL Applications in the Maritime Area under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MAPA)'.

EWIC Inspection Area Map 1 Drawing no: P2226-LOC-003)

C. Attachment 2.4 included.

Yes ☒ No ☐



2.5 Ownership

- A. Is any part of the Maritime Area within the proposed site in private ownership?

Yes ☐ No ☒

- B. If yes, indicate on a drawing/map the area concerned in relation to the proposed maritime usage area and provide a letter confirming that the Applicant has obtained all necessary consents from the relevant owner(s).
- C. Is the Applicant aware of any actual or claimed legal rights or interests held by third parties in the proposed site that may be affected by the proposed Maritime Activity?

Yes ☐ No ☒

- D. If yes, indicate on a drawing/map the area concerned in relation to the proposed maritime usage area and provide a letter confirming that the Applicant has obtained all necessary consents from the relevant owner(s) of such legal rights or interests.
- E. The letter(s) and drawing(s)/map(s) referred to in B and D above should be included as Attachment 2.5. List the attached letters, map/drawing number(s) and map/drawing name(s) in the space below.

- F. Attachment 2.5 included.

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

2.6 Planning permission and/or other authorisation(s)

- A. Does the proposed Usage require planning permission and/or other authorisation(s), or is it ancillary to or part of a development which requires planning permission and/or other authorisation(s)?

Yes ☐ No ☒

- B. If yes, what is the status of the planning and/or other authorisation(s)? If applicable, provide a brief description of the proposed development, to which the proposed Maritime Usage is ancillary.

Provide the file reference number(s) and link(s) to the websites where information on the planning and/or other authorisation application(s) and/or planning permission/ authorisation(s) can be obtained.

N/A



C. Has a planning application been submitted?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If **no**, do you intend to submit a planning application?

Yes ☐ No ☒

i. Was an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) submitted?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If **no**, provide evidence of consent authority screening out from requirement as Attachment 2.6.

ii. Was an Appropriate Assessment (AA) or Natura Impact Statement (NIS) submitted?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If **no**, provide evidence of consent authority screening out from requirement as Attachment 2.6.

iii. Decision Date and Status:

N/A

iv. Appeal Status (if any):

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

v. Expiry Date of Permission:

N/A

D. Does the development have exempted development status claimed?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If **yes**, provide evidence of a Planning and Development Act Declaration of Exemption from the relevant planning authority:

vi. Application Reference Number:



N/A

vii. Name of Planning Authority:

N/A

viii. Date granted:

N/A

E. Does the development have other authorisations e.g. Foreshore Consents or Dumping at Sea?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If **yes**, provide evidence:

i. Consent Type:

Foreshore licence - FS004527

ii. Name of Granting Authority:

Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government

iii. Date granted:

20th December 2010

iv. Was an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) submitted?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If **no**, provide evidence of consent authority screening out from requirement as Attachment 2.6.

ix. Was an Appropriate Assessment (AA) or Natura Impact Statement (NIS) submitted?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If **no**, provide evidence of consent authority screening out from requirement as Attachment 2.6.

v. Expiry Date of Authorisation:

08/11/2109

vi. Current Status:



MARA

An tUdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuiri
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

Valid



Declaration and Consent

I declare that all information provided with this application, including this completed form and all attachments confirmed as included in the application checklist, is correct at the time of submission and that I will notify MARA of any changes to this information that may arise during the application process. MARA may, by notice in writing given to the applicant, require the applicant to provide in the specified form, by affidavit or otherwise, such additional information in relation to any matter to which the application relates as MARA reasonably considers necessary to assist it to determine the application.

By submitting this application form, I agree that certain details provided may be published on MARA's website and that the information provided in this form will be processed and retained by MARA and may be shared with bodies appropriate to assessing aspects of this application in furtherance of consideration of the granting of a MUL in accordance with the MAP Act.

This consent relates to this application and to any further information provided by us, or on our behalf, for the purposes of this application.

Name of Signatory:

Errol Close

Position held:

Director, EIDAC

Date:

3rd September 2026

Signed for and on behalf of the Applicant:

[Redacted Signature]

**Application Checklist**

Complete the below application checklist

Section No.	Document	Required	Submitted
Application Form			
Part 1	Applicant Details	Yes	☒
Part 2	Details of Maritime Usage	Yes	☒
Declaration and Consent	Signed Declaration and Consent	Yes	☒
Application Checklist	Application Checklist	Yes	☒
Fee	Confirmation of Payment of Fee	Yes	☐
Supporting Documentation			
1.1	Attachment 1.1 – Certificate of Incorporation and List of Directors	Yes (if applicable)	☒
2.1	Attachment 2.1 – Proposed Maritime Usage	Yes (if applicable)	☐
2.3	Attachment 2.3 – Duration	Yes (if applicable)	☒
2.4	Attachment 2.4 – Area & Location	Yes (if applicable)	☒
2.5	Attachment 2.5 – Ownership Details	Yes (if applicable)	☐
2.6	Attachment 2.6 – Planning Permission/Exemptions	Yes (if applicable)	☒

Please return completed applications, by email, to: licence@mara.gov.ie