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Agenda item 8

Consideration of applications for approval of plans of work for exploration, if any

Application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules by Blue Minerals Jamaica Limited

Executive summary*

1. On 4 June 2020, Blue Minerals Jamaica Limited (BMJ) submitted an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone in the Pacific Ocean to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, pursuant to the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area.
2. According to the application, BMJ is a privately owned enterprise and is sponsored by the Government of Jamaica. Its place of registration and principal place of business is Kingston, and it is subject to the jurisdiction of Jamaica.
3. The total area covered by the BMJ application is 74,916 km², comprising parts of reserved areas in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone contributed by UK Seabed Resources Ltd., the Government of the Republic of Korea and Interoceanmetal Joint Organization. The area is subdivided in four blocks. The largest block, block A, is located in the central area of the Fracture Zone, while the three smaller blocks are in the eastern part of the Fracture Zone.
4. The size of each block is as follows: block A covers an area of 44,959 km², block B an area of 16,858 km², block C an area of 9,482 km² and block D an area of 3,617 km².
5. In accordance with regulation 19, BMJ has paid the application fee of \$500,000 to the International Seabed Authority.¹
6. BMJ has submitted a plan of work to run a fully funded five-year exploration campaign in its designated area. Activities will include the collection of mineral data and the development of oceanographic and environmental studies.

* Submitted by the applicant.

¹ The Authority received the payment on 4 June 2020.



7. BMJ will adopt a staged exploration programme that will generate regional-scale geological, geotechnical and environmental data across all four blocks during the first exploration cruise, with subsequent cruises generating progressively higher-resolution data in selected blocks.
 8. BMJ has contracted professionals with prior experience in geological, oceanographic and environmental studies in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone to ensure the highest standard of performance.
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