

Market engagement on import cables for renewable energy trading projects

Submitting information

In October 2013 The Crown Estate confirmed its current intentions as regards renewable energy trading projects.

We are now inviting developers with plans for renewable energy trading projects to the UK to provide information for their cable corridors to The Crown Estate. Developers are asked to provide the following details:

1. A written summary of the project and infrastructure requirements
 - a. Volume and source of generation
 - b. Number, capacity and specification of power cables.
2. A written summary of project status. To include detail of consents, financing, development work, survey and route planning.
3. A plan and spatial data for the corridor in which cable infrastructure and associated works (both temporary and permanent) will be located and your rationale for the route and width of the proposed corridor.
4. An overview of any desktop analysis, supporting data and any survey work done in connection with the proposed corridor and route. Or if planned the timeframe on which those works will occur.
5. A written description of the landing including any constraining factors (such as physical conditions) which might limit the volume and location of infrastructure and other works in the area.
6. A written description of other seabed users (of which you're aware) on or in proximity to the proposed cable corridor.
7. The estimated timeframe to construction and operation.

The high level information requested at this time will provide The Crown Estate with a baseline of information from which it can establish the need (or not) for a dedicated market-wide leasing / licensing process. Respondents should note that the request for information above forms part of an engagement exercise and not a formal leasing / licensing process. The requested information is intended to inform The Crown Estate's approach but should not be taken to indicate the full extent of what might be required by The Crown Estate within such a leasing / licensing process. Full terms of any such process will be published in due course.

Submissions for the points identified above should be no greater than 6 sides of A4 (excluding spatial data) and we trust this gives an impression for the level of detail needed at this initial stage. Our preference is for spatial data as an ESRI shapefile in a WGS84 projection (EPSG code: 4326) however, the cable corridor as a coordinate list in WGS84 decimal degrees to 6 decimal places is also acceptable.

Spatial data and the written commentary identified by points 1-6 should be submitted together and can be sent to renewableenergytrading@thecrownestate.co.uk.

Submissions should be made by close of business on **7 February 2014** – information received after this date may not be considered at this time.

The Crown Estate intends to use the information supplied by respondents only for the purposes set out here. However, respondents should note that The Crown Estate is bound by the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). Accordingly, all information provided to The Crown Estate is potentially disclosable pursuant to an information request under the FOIA and/or EIR. Respondents may therefore wish to clearly identify any data supplied to The Crown Estate which is considered to be commercially sensitive.

The data will be inserted into The Crown Estate's Marine Asset Resource System (MaRS) and a proximity check performed. The proximity check identifies any existing and planned projects on or near to the proposed cable(s), it allows us to get an impression for how proposed routes might interact and from this if a spatial conflict exists. This spatial assessment is an important step toward us confirming our process to grant seabed rights for this type of infrastructure and will be discussed with individual developers at the appropriate time.