2022

Valentia Island Energy Ltd

VI Energy

FORESHORE LICENCE APPLICATION

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An Roinn Tithíochta,
Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing,
Planning and Local Government

Investigative Foreshore Licence Application (Offshore Renewable Energy)

Please indicate project category as appropriate:

Wave:

[ ]

Tidal:

[ ]

Wind:

[X]

Other:

Please specify:

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Applicant Name and Address:

Full Name of Applicant (not Agent): [redacted]
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Eircode: V23 RX74

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Applicant's Legal Advisor:

Name: TBC
Address: TBC
Phone No: TBC
E-mail address: TBC

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.** The overall Valentia Island Energy Ltd Project relates to an offshore floating wind farm at a proposed location off the coast of Valentia Island, county Kerry off the southwest coast of Ireland. **Site Selection Process:** A multi-criteria analysis of National constraints to the selection of appropriate development areas for ORE was commissioned by Valentia Island Energy Ltd. From this analysis a proposed development site was identified. The Valentia Island Energy team recognise there are no constructed ORE sites closer to shore but believe strongly in the potential of offshore floating technology and its potential to alleviate visual impact concerns while generating sustainable energy responsibly. These assessments culminated in the identification of a development area located both inside and outside the 12nm limit which are deemed to have potential for the development of Offshore Renewable Wind Energy, for the following reasons: • Suitable water depths for floating wind technology • Appropriate Wind Resource/Speed • Suitable seabed morphology • Suitable Wave conditions • Avoids heavy marine traffic • Proximate and accessible deep-water port It should be noted the Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2014 allows for the granting of Investigatory Foreshore Licences inside the 12NM limit and, as such, this application relates only to the area within that jurisdiction. The area marked outside of the Investigation Area will require a separate Investigatory Licence Application to the Licencing Authority in due course. **The Overall Project & Possible MW output of final development** Valentia Island Energy Ltd will take a phased approach to development which incorporates two development phases. **Phase 1 –** This phase consists of two (2) separate arrays occupying an area of c. 96 km² (Array A) and 138 km² (Array B) respectively. The sites will hold c. 92 turbines, with c. 56 located in Array A, and the remaining c.36 in Array B. The arrays will utilise floating turbine technology and is estimated to generate c. 920 MW.

	Phase 2 – This phase of the project is located outside the 12 nm limit in an area occupying c. 161 km². This will also use floating turbine technology using c. 62 turbines, with an estimated power output of 620 MW. **The Investigation Area** The total extent of the Investigation Area being applied for under this foreshore licence application is c.474 km².
1.2	**Possible MW output of final development:** This overall project will be developed over two phases which together are expected to produce circa 1.5 GW of renewable energy. Phase 1 – c. 920 MW Phase 2 – c. 620 MW
1.3	**Type of surveys proposed (e.g. geophysical, geotechnical, archaeological, or benthic.)** **Geophysical**: Surveys to include, for example, Multibeam Echosounder, Side scan sonar (Sparker/Boomer), Sub-bottom profiler, Ultra High-Resolution Seismic Surveys, Magnetometer. **Geotechnical**: To include Cone Penetration Testing, Vibrocore sampling, Penetration tests, Borehole sampling, and sediment sampling. As set out in the 'Methods Statement and Programme of Works' document accompanying this application, the location of these surveys will be dependent on the results of the Geophysical Survey campaign. **Environmental**: Birds and Mammals, Benthic Ecology, Water quality, Fishery surveys and Archeological Survey **Metocean**: To include Floating LiDAR, Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler and Wave Buoy surveys. A full description of the proposed surveys can be found in the supporting document 'Methods Statement and Programme of Works'
1.4	**Survey methodologies and equipment to be used for each survey type proposed:** The table below sets out the purpose of each survey as well as the indicative number, location, and time of year each survey is expected to take place. For further details please see supporting documents; Valentia Island Energy Ltd 'Methods Statement and Programme of Works'.

	SURVEY	PURPOSE	SAMPLES / AREA	TIMING
Geop hysic	**MULTIBEAM ECHOSOUNDER (MBES)**	Water depth and seabed topography.	**Array site**	4-6 months per survey with additional time

		Side Scan Sonar (SSS)	Map seabed features and / or obstructions.	Over entirety of array area within 12 nautical mile limit. **Cable routes** Along each route with a 500m track size.	for interpretation and analysis. Note: many survey types can be run concurrently.
		Magnetometer	Map any metallic obstacles or hazards, including UXO.		
		Sub-Bottom Profiling (SBP)	Identify character of the shallow geology.		
	Geotechnical	**Boreholes**	Deep subsurface sampling – required at the centre of each floating mooring system.	**Array site** 1 borehole (or CPT) per turbine (at centre of mooring arrangement) = 92 samples **Cable routes** None	4-6 months per campaign, with additional time for lab analysis.
		Cone Penetrometer Tests (CPTs)	Strength profiles of seabed substrate.	**Array site** 1 borehole (or CPT) per turbine (at centre of mooring arrangement) = 92 samples **Cable routes** Every 1km along route up to MHWS	
		Vibrocore / Gravity Sampler	Subsurface sampling typically to 6 - 12m depth.	**Array site** None **Cable routes** Every 1km along route up to MHWS	
		Grab Samples	Description of uppermost seabed, ground truthing of geophysical interpretation.	To be determined following geophysical surveys and dependent on the quality of the shallow substrate sample collection from other survey types.	1 month additional to overall schedule if grab samples are required.
	Environmental	**Benthic Survey – Grab Samples, Possible Video Deployment**	Habitat characterisation.	**Array site** 39 samples **Cable routes** Approx. 1 every 2 km along each cable route.	2 -3 weeks depending on site layout / cable length.
		Echolocation Click Detectors (POD's)	Marine acoustic monitoring	**Array site** 4 POD's An additional 4 PODs are located outside of the array site	Up to 12 months pre-construction and/or baseline

METOCEAN	**FLOATING LIDAR**	Wind speed characteristics (plus range of metocean measurements).	**Array site** 2 floating Lidars	12 – 36 months total deployment.
	WAVE BUOYS	Wave height and spread.	**Array site** 4 wave buoys	
	ACOUSTIC DOPPLER CURRENT PROFILERS (ADCP's)	Subsurface wave and current measurements.	**Array site** 2 ADCPs	

In addition to the 'Schedule of Works', for additional details regarding survey methodologies and approach to the screening of survey works, see the following reports in the wider application pack:

- Environmental Licensing Report.
- Non-Statutory Environmental Report.
- Methods Statement and Programme of Works

1.5

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?

No structures will be erected on the foreshore.

1.6

Provide information on proposed mooring, marking, and lighting arrangements for any proposed deployment of instrument arrays.

Valentia Island Energy Ltd will comply with the requirements of the Commissioners of Irish Lights standard navigation safety as it relates to lighting, positioning, and mooring of all relevant buoys.

1.7

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).

This application has been assigned FS007365.

1.8

Indicative timing of the investigation works: (i) Start date (ii) Duration (iii) Any other information relevant to timing.

Many factors will impact the specific start and end date of each survey campaign. However, it is expected that survey works will be carried out on a phased basis between April and October of each year and over five years. These timeframes are subject to the granting of this Foreshore Licence Application, weather conditions and the timeframes set out by the successful tender for the various survey works.

The Geophysical and Environmental survey campaigns in addition to Bird and Mammal surveys beginning at the earliest point after the licence is issued. The Bird and Mammal survey will continue seasonally for a duration of two years while the Geophysical and Environmental surveys will run over three to six

	months per year. The Geotechnical survey will also take a phased approach to facilitate the detailed design process and will run over three phases, preliminary, interim, and final. The preliminary survey will be supplemented with a further survey campaign beginning at the same time the following year. All other timeframes are indicated in section 1.4 of this document and in the 'Methods Statement and Programme of Works' document submitted in support of this Foreshore Licence Application. The start dates, duration, and any other information relevant to timing will be made available and communicated to stakeholders appropriately once the tender process is complete and availability of contractors becomes apparent.
1.9	**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.** From the beginning of this development, Valentia Island Energy Ltd have considered other marine users and excluded, in so far as possible, areas of high marine traffic as having potential for development. However, geophysical, and geotechnical surveys may temporarily interact with the use of space of other marine users. Possible interactions with Marine activity over the investigation area and proposed development sites is identified in the supporting document 'Other Marine Users'. In all cases, Valentia Island Energy Ltd will issue marine notices to the Maritime Safety Directorate as well as actively engaging with local fishing organisations, fisheries representative groups and local harbour authorities to notify other marine users of our presence and schedule of work. The feedback from this engagement will further allow Valentia Island Energy Ltd to minimize inconvenience to other marine users. A Fisheries Liaison Officer has been retained and will carry out stakeholder engagement with BIM, local fisheries groups, aquaculture companies, fish producer organisations and the SFPA among others, informing stakeholders of the survey timelines and assessing potential impact which will then be mitigated where possible. The survey campaigns will also be fully compliant with the Foreshore Licence, Commissioners of Irish Lights IALA navigational standards and the Irish Coast Guard Navigational Safety broadcasts.
1.10	**Describe any consultations undertaken to date with other foreshore users.** Valentia Island Energy Ltd have completed a stakeholder engagement strategy in preparation for stakeholder engagement. This strategy adapts as a result of each engagement and is focused on understanding the concerns of interested stakeholders and mitigating potential impact. Letters will be issued to a number of statutory and non-statutory consultees informing them of the project and this Foreshore Licence Application.

1.11	**Describe any consultations undertaken to date with other consent authorities e.g., planning authority, Commission for Energy Regulation etc.** Letters will be issued to a number of statutory and non-statutory consultees informing them of the project and this Foreshore Licence Application.
1.12	**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:** Letters will be issued to a number of statutory and non-statutory consultees informing them of the project and this Foreshore Licence Application.
1.13	**Describe briefly any support received or under application with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) or other State Agency:** None.

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

2.1 **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:**

Please see "Foreshore Licence" Map accompanying this application.

2.2 **Geographic coordinates of the area under application, where the area can also be identified on the Ordnance Survey map, specify Ordnance Survey coordinates also.**

Simplified Coordinate list (coastline removed) provided below with a full coordinate list provided in the Methods Statement and Programme of Works.

OBJECTID	ITM POINT: X	ITM POINT: Y	WGS84 POINT: X	WGS84 POINT: Y
1	402845.6205	576559.9826	-10.86552571	51.90625133
2	402830.2094	576560.2668	-10.86574956	51.90624843
3	402845.6233	576559.9765	-10.86552567	51.90625128
4	402845.6205	576559.9826	-10.86552571	51.90625133
5	409378.2036	576439.4958	-10.77063371	51.90744173
6	409386.4489	576439.3465	-10.77051393	51.90744321
7	435536.7139	589346.9793	-10.39699446	52.03169921
8	438521.7335	596895.3811	-10.35709744	52.10037018
9	439292.2426	597340.4329	-10.34607039	52.10459155
10	439983.678	599167.32	-10.33684384	52.12119976
11	440736.386	598424.106	-10.3255137	52.11474191
12	440221.084	597113.0821	-10.33241644	52.10281856
13	440409.0998	596228.7207	-10.3292603	52.09493
14	439104.9004	592930.2685	-10.34672319	52.06492812
15	443446.7206	597411.1691	-10.28550722	52.10641765
16	444679.0106	597972.7737	-10.26778846	52.11180908
17	445287.924	599053.286	-10.25939627	52.12168463
18	446022.417	598453.825	-10.24840772	52.1165053
19	445524.3873	596680.9844	-10.2548702	52.10044308
20	439048.9737	589997.904	-10.34615759	52.03857528
21	453434.2556	591907.7616	-10.13744987	52.05971819
22	454551.096	597551.5458	-10.12358048	52.11070866
23	455097.0617	597788.6096	-10.11571602	52.11298137
24	455539.962	599217.293	-10.10986015	52.12593062
25	456367.0254	598974.9051	-10.09768727	52.12396874
26	456096.7808	597634.9481	-10.10106495	52.11186199
27	456500.813	597100.7777	-10.09494515	52.10716858
28	455332.0781	591195.0274	-10.10949158	52.05381439
29	456294.8958	588656.0008	-10.09439555	52.03125696
30	455654.187	587964.3181	-10.10343496	52.02487736
31	455644.999	588045.287	-10.10360289	52.0256023
32	455638.121	587961.159	-10.10366757	52.0248448
33	455523.1041	587994.3028	-10.10535638	52.0251126
34	455428.617	588352.412	-10.1068835	52.02830484
35	455428.746	588406.613	-10.10690451	52.02879175

	36	455389.884	588475.296	-10.10749946	52.0293986
	37	453756.8265	589932.9049	-10.13190436	52.0420639
	38	436631.005	587660.314	-10.38025577	52.01687422
	39	410646.2605	574746.2638	-10.75129635	51.89267081
	40	411741.6645	568239.4921	-10.7318559	51.83461766
	41	411340.8915	559034.6582	-10.73266086	51.75183188
	42	410311.0466	558101.5189	-10.74705071	51.74310563
	43	401420.8557	558388.2643	-10.87578993	51.74260216
	44	400454.0182	559427.4676	-10.89036823	51.75158882
	45	400454.1636	559430.9952	-10.89036815	51.75162054
	46	401185.9089	575378.0702	-10.88893442	51.89505103
	47	400209.2472	577518.2433	-10.90434643	51.91391557
	48	400093.3434	575798.6644	-10.90503204	51.89843638
	49	399579.5525	568175.9324	-10.90806815	51.82981824
	50	398497.8255	567246.3725	-10.92320116	51.82108419

2.3 **Delineate proposed site on relevant Admiralty Chart.**

See "Foreshore Licence" Map.

2.4 **Relevant Local Authority:**

Kerry County Council.

2.5 **Location name and nearest townland name:**

The proposed investigation area is bounded by the High-Water Mark along the coast of County Kerry. The following townlands bound the investigation area directly and are listed from north to south.

- Acres
- Minard East
- Kilmurry
- Beenbane
- Lough
- Reenbeg
- Ballymore West
- Paddock
- Gortafoira
- Kells

2.6	**Distance from nearest other developments, including any offshore renewable energy developments on the foreshore:** There are zero (0) existing developments located in proximity to the investigation area of Valentia Island Energy Ltd.
2.7	**Distance from shore:** Investigation Area adjacent to shore. Array is located c.23km at the nearest point.
2.8	**Distance from nearest aquaculture operation:** There are zero (0) aquaculture sites within the Investigation Area. The closest Aquaculture operation outside the Investigation Area is c.0.15km at the closest point.
2.9	**Distance from any other sensitive location e.g., fish spawning ground, designated Shellfish Growing Waters.** There are eighteen (18) Aquaculture sites present within a 15km buffer of the Investigatory Area.The sites identified are predominantly close to shore and used for the cultivation of shellfish. Valentia Island Energy Ltd have engaged a fisheries liaison officer to engage with the local Aquaculture Operators, listen to their concerns and implement any measures needed to avoid potential negative impacts on the Aquaculture Sites in the area.

The table below shows the breakdown of nursery and spawning grounds by species type that fall within the Investigation Area.

Species	Spawning Ground	Nursery Ground
Atlantic Mackerel	Yes	Yes
Horse Mackerel	Yes	Yes
Atlantic Haddock	No	Yes
Atlantic Cod	No	Yes
Atlantic Hake	Yes	Yes
Atlantic Herring	Yes	Yes
Whiting	Yes	Yes
Blue Whiting	No	Yes
White Belly Angler Monkfish	No	Yes
Black Belly Angler Monkfish	No	Yes
Megrim	Yes	Yes

2.10 **Any other site details considered relevant:**

Please see 'Other Marine Users' Report.

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

3.1 Distance from nearest Natura 2000 sites (i.e., Special Protection Area (SPA) or Special Area of Conservation (SAC):

Special Protection Areas Name	Distance (km) from Investigation Area
Dingle Peninsula SPA [IE 004153]	0.00
Iveragh Peninsula SPA [IE 004154]	0.00
Castlemaine Harbour SPA [IE 004029]	3.24
Blasket Islands SPA [IE 004008]	6.19
Skelligs SPA [IE 004007]	12.32

Special Areas of Conservation Name	Distance (km) from Investigation Area
Blasket Islands SAC [IE 002172]	0.97
Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC [IE 000365]	2.32
Castlemaine Harbour SAC [IE 000343]	3.46
Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC [IE 002262]	7.48
Kenmare River SAC [IE 002158]	30.90

Please see relevant Appropriate Assessment Reports (NIS/SISAA) for further detail.

3.2

Name and location of Natura 2000 sites in or around the project area:

NAME & DESIGNATION	SITE CODE	LOCATION	COORDINATE
Dingle Peninsula SPA	IE 004153	Kerry	Latitude: 52.2145 Longitude: -10.2804
Iveragh Peninsula SPA	IE 004154	Kerry	Latitude: 51.9255 Longitude: -10.327
Castlemaine Harbour SPA	IE 004029	Kerry	Latitude: 52.11 Longitude: -9.94673
Blasket Islands SPA	IE 004008	Kerry	Latitude: 52.0879 Longitude: -10.5729
Skelligs SPA	IE 004007	Kerry	Latitude: 51.775 Longitude: -10.5266
Blasket Islands SAC	IE 002172	Kerry	Latitude: 52.0856 Longitude: -10.576

	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC	IE 000365	Kerry, Cork	Latitude: 51.9653 Longitude: -9.74405
	Castlemaine Harbour SAC	IE 000343	Kerry	Latitude: 52.1181 Longitude: -9.86863
	Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC	IE 002262	Kerry	Latitude: 51.9245 Longitude: -10.3169
	Kenmare River SAC	IE 002158	Cork/Kerry	Latitude: 51.7199 Longitude: -10.0543

Please see relevant Appropriate Assessment Reports (NIS/SISAA) for further detail.

3.3 All Natura 2000 sites which could potentially be affected by the proposed surveys as identified by application of the source-pathway-receptor methodology have been considered. Please see relevant Appropriate Assessment Reports (Supporting Information for Screening of Appropriate Assessment (SISAA)/ Natura Impact Statement (NIS)/ Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species) for further detail.

For the screening process, protected sites in the vicinity of the investigation area which could potentially be impacted by the surveys were identified. The different features of interest within these sites were then considered individually.

The possible effects on European Sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas) and their relevant Qualifying Interests/Species of Community Interest have been assessed in the Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment (See SISAA report).

The results of the Stage 1 Screening found significant effects on Annex II qualifying interests could not be ruled out for all potential impacts, therefore a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment will be necessary. As a result of this we have prepared the accompanying Natura Impact Statement (NIS). The NIS concludes that, in view of best scientific evidence and methods, there will be no adverse effects from the proposed survey on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, alone or in combination with other local projects. Further details on this conclusion can be found in the NIS report.

As outlined in the Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report, the employment of best practice measures will ensure that no marine mammals (non-qualifying interests) whose range overlap the survey area will be impacted by the proposed marine surveys.

It has, therefore, been objectively concluded following examination, analysis, and evaluation of the relevant information, including, in particular, the nature of the predicted impacts from the proposed marine surveys, that the proposed marine surveys will not have a significant negative effect on any Natura 2000 sites and will not adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, having regard to the qualifying interests of the relevant Natura 2000 sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and there is no reasonable

	scientific doubt in relation to this conclusion.

3.4	**Describe any measures proposed to mitigate possible impacts on Natura 2000 sites and other key marine receptors.** Mitigation measures set out to ensure that any impacts on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 will be avoided during the proposed project such that there will be no risk of adverse effects are provided in Section 5 of the Natura Impact Statement (NIS). **Document Ref :** ECI_Valentia_NIS_Rev 2
3.5	**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:** An assessment of Cumulative impacts: In-combination effects from other plans and projects is provided in section 5.4 of the Supporting Information for Screening of Appropriate Assessment (SISAA). See also section 6 of the Natura Impact Statement (NIS). **Document Ref:** ECI_Valentia_SISAA_Rev 2 ECI_Valentia_NIS_Rev 2

Part 4: Navigational Safety Considerations.

4.1	**Distance from shipping lanes at nearest point. Illustrate on the appropriate marine charts accompanying the application.** Areas containing heavy marine traffic were screened out during the constraint's assessment stage. The main vessel activity in the area is fishing activity, particularly during summer months. Please see report entitled 'Other Marine Users' which sets out marine traffic across the Investigation Area.
4.2	**If a safety zone for passage of shipping (including fishing and leisure boats) is sought, supply details and give reasons.** N/A
4.3	**If any 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.** N/A

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:

[redacted]

Name of Signatory (block letters):

[redacted]

Position Held:

Director, Valentia Island Energy Limited

Date: 14/12/ 2022

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)