

## MONA OFFSHORE WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT

### Responses to The Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ1) Issued on 13 September 2024 ON BEHALF OF MICROSOFT IRELAND OPERATIONS LIMITED (Interested Party Reference number 20048557)

- **What consents / licences are required for the implementation of the proposed project?**

There are predominantly four consents / licences required for the implementation of the proposed submarine telecommunications cable project, being:

- A Marine Licence from Natural Resources Wales for the installation of the cable.
- Seabed lease from the Crown Estate to occupy the seabed within UK 12nm limits.
- Planning Permission for the Cable Landing station will be required from Conwy County Borough Council.
- A section 50 street works licence will be required for the installation of telecoms ducting in the public road to connect the subsea cable from the landfall to the Cable Landing Station and to national telecommunications networks.

We are currently examining any further permits required for submarine telecommunications cable. We shall be working with permitting consultants and relevant local authorities to establish full list of licenses required for project.

- **What are the anticipated timescales for securing the necessary consents and for construction of the proposed project?**

It is anticipated that the necessary consents in the UK will be secured by Q1 2026 and the installation of the subsea cable is proposed to commence in Q2 or Q3 2026.

- **What information exists in the public domain about the proposed project and its likely environmental effects?**

The project secured a marine licence for survey and site investigations from Natural Resources Wales in April 2024 (<https://publicregister.naturalresources.wales> ref: RML2413). The documentation submitted as part of that application includes maps, charts and co-ordinates of the proposed cable route. No specific information on the likely environmental effects of the installation of the submarine telecommunications cable is currently in the public domain. However, generic information on the environmental impact of cables is publicly available, such as the OSPAR Commission 2009 report, Assessment of the environmental impacts of cables. – Publication Number: 437/2009, 19 p. ([https://qsr2010.ospar.org/media/assessments/p00437\\_Cables.pdf](https://qsr2010.ospar.org/media/assessments/p00437_Cables.pdf)). Generally, the installation of subsea fibre optic cables is a low impact activity, which is very localised and of short temporary duration.

Further information about proposed project and its likely environmental effects will be detailed further in relevant planning application/licenses.



- **Do you wish to comment on the Applicant's response to your Written Representation, as set out in Table 2.7 of REP2-078?**

The Applicant's response to the Written Representation is noted and no further response is required.