

15 April 2024

Our ref: 1623/JP/AM

PASA ref: 12/1/048

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir or Madam:

**NOTIFICATION REGARDING OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED SEARCHER SEISMIC SURVEY BASIC ASSESSMENT PROJECT, LOCATED OFFSHORE EXTENDING FROM APPROXIMATELY 256KM OFFSHORE OF ST HELENA BAY TO 220KM OFFSHORE OF HONDEKLIP BAY, OFF THE WEST COAST, SOUTH AFRICA.**

Searcher Geodata UK Ltd (hereafter referred to as the applicant - Searcher) has recently undertaken a 3D seismic survey offshore of the west coast of South Africa as part of the reconnaissance permit 12/1/043. The survey commenced in January 2024 and ceased in April 2024. Due to the fact that a Reconnaissance Permit can only be valid for 1 year the 043 permit will expire on the 10 November 2024.

Searcher was not able to complete the intended survey during the 2023-2024 season, due to the viable acquisition windows and vessel availability. Searcher has consequently applied for a new Reconnaissance Permit over the same area. A new Environmental Authorisation will be required in order for Searcher to continue under a new Reconnaissance Permit.

Searcher has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the required authorisation processes (including the statutory public participation), and to compile and submit the required documentation in support of application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GRN982 of 2014, as amended)- Listed Activity 21(b) (GNR 983): *Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a reconnaissance permit in terms of section 74 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity as contained in this Listing Notice or in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required to exercise the reconnaissance permit, excluding-(a) any desktop study; and (b) any aerial survey.*

Searcher proposes to undertake a 3D seismic survey off the West Coast of South Africa. The proposed project area is located between approximately 256 km offshore of St Helena Bay, extending north along the western coastline to approximately 220 km offshore of Hondeklip Bay. The survey area at the closest point is approximately 218 km offshore of the coast of the Western and Northern Cape. The survey area corner coordinate points are as follows (refer to attached locality map):

#	Longitude (E)	Latitude (S)	#	Longitude (E)	Latitude (S)	Note:
1	~14° 04' 01.4328"	~30° 14' 20.3646"	12	~13° 58' 47.2533"	~32° 10' 00.5402"	1: Indicative coordinates; the westernmost boundary of the permit area at sides 10-20 comprises the limit of the 200nm South African EEZ and is subject to change. 2: Indicative coordinates; the boundary of the permit area at sides 20-1 lie on the international median between Namibia and South Africa and is subject to change.
2	14° 16' 06.5743"	30° 27' 02.4644"	13	~13° 50' 17.2474"	~31° 53' 40.5803"	
3	14° 47' 37.1143"	31° 00' 01.3293"	14	~13° 47' 47.2497"	~31° 49' 20.6094"	
4	14° 53' 02.6665"	31° 05' 40.9497"	15	~13° 44' 07.2416"	~31° 42' 20.6158"	
5	14° 59' 56.5256"	31° 05' 40.9497"	16	~13° 41' 17.2488"	~31° 36' 40.6302"	
6	15° 09' 38.6339"	31° 05' 40.9497"	17	~13° 33' 07.2379"	~31° 15' 30.7137"	
7	15° 09' 38.8124"	31° 15' 01.0986"	18	~13° 28' 17.2401"	~31° 01' 20.7564"	
8	15° 09' 38.8811"	32° 00' 01.2222"	19	~13° 24' 37.2354"	~30° 50' 40.7684"	
9	15° 09' 38.9210"	32° 35' 25.5423"	20	~13° 21' 01.7084"	~30° 39' 24.9181"	
10	~13° 54' 25.9869"	~32° 35' 33.6389"	21	~13° 35' 39.2243"	~30° 32' 20.7014"	
11	~13° 54' 27.2447"	~32° 33' 10.4617"	22	~13° 47' 32.1985"	~30° 25' 05.6174"	

EIMS will be following the procedures defined in the EIA Regulations (GRN982 of 2014, as amended) for undertaking a Basic Assessment (BA) process. In accordance with Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, a public participation process will be undertaken. You are hereby invited to register and comment on the proposed project and application/s.

In order to ensure that you are identified and registered as an Interested and Affected Party and that your comments are captured, please submit your name, contact details, the reason for your interest or any comments, in writing or telephonically, to EIMS. Please note that only registered I&AP's will be directly informed of future project information and opportunities for participation. In order

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to avoid missing out on opportunities for public participation please submit I&AP registrations, or any queries, comments, or concerns with regards to this application, by 20 May 2024, to EIMS at:

Contact Person: Alex Msipa

EIMS Reference Number: 1623

Postal Address: P.O. Box 2083; Pinegowrie; 2123

Telephone: (011) 789 7170/ Fax: (086) 571 9047

E-mail: [Searcher48@eims.co.za](mailto:Searcher48@eims.co.za)



Additional documentation is available on the Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd website at the following link, or scan the QR code above. Please note that in the event that you are unable to access the website due to data constraints please contact EIMS for alternative arrangements.

<https://www.eims.co.za/2024/04/12/1623-searcher-seismic-survey-048-basic-assessment-project/>

Please include the project reference number **1623** in all correspondence.

Kind Regards,

Public Participation Team