PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Communication from Ireland pursuant to Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions for granting and using authorisations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons

Announcement of 2011 Atlantic Margin Licensing Round

(2011/C 70/04)

In accordance with Article 3, paragraph 2(a) of the Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 1994, the Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources hereby gives notice of a change in regard to areas available for licensing offshore Ireland.

An area covering approximately 252 500 square kilometres in Ireland's Atlantic Margin has been designated a frontier area and has been selected for inclusion in the 2011 Atlantic Margin Licensing Round.

The Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources invites applications for licensing options in respect of acreage included in the 2011 Atlantic Margin Licensing Round. Applications should be principally for regular-shaped, continuous areas and should comprise areas that are equivalent to not less than one and not more than six complete blocks.

Applications should be clearly marked '2011 Licensing Round — Atlantic Margin' and should be addressed to 'The Secretary General, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Petroleum Affairs Division, 29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2, Ireland'. Applications must be received not later than 12 noon on Tuesday 31 May 2011.

In accordance with Article 5, paragraphs 1(a) and 1(b) of Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 1994, the Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources hereby gives notice the following citeria/scoring system will apply to applications received under the Round:

(a) the overall approach to the proposal to undertake an offshore exploration programme — 15 marks;

(b) the quality of the work programme proposed by the applicant (marks will only be awarded for firm commitments made) — 40 marks;

(c) the level of technical competence and offshore experience of the team that will manage and conduct the exploration programme — 30 marks;

(d) evidence of the financial capacity to fund the work programme proposed — 15 marks.

Applicants must achieve a pass mark of 50 % in the case of a, b and c above and must also demonstrate that they have the financial capacity to fund the work programme offered. Where relevant, previous performance by the applicant under any authorisations to which the applicant has been a party may be taken into account.

The specific terms relating to the 2011 Atlantic Margin Licensing Round along with a map of the acreage on offer and and guidelines for applications are available at the following link:

http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Natural/Petroleum+Affairs+Division/2011+Atlantic+Margin+Licensing+Round.htm

or by contacting:

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Dublin 2
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The receipt of an application will not create an obligation on the part of the Minister to grant a Licensing Option in respect of part or all of the area that is the subject of the application.

2011 Atlantic Margin Licensing Round — list of available blocks:

1/6(p), 1/7(p), 1/8(p), 1/9(p), 1/10(p), 1/11, 1/12, 1/13, 1/14, 1/15, 1/16, 1/17, 1/18, 1/19, 1/20, 1/21, 1/22, 1/23, 1/24, 1/25, 1/26, 1/27, 1/28, 1/29, 1/30

2/6(p), 2/7(p), 2/8(p), 2/9(p), 2/11, 2/12, 2/13, 2/14, 2/15(p), 2/16, 2/17, 2/18, 2/19, 2/20, 2/21, 2/22, 2/23, 2/24, 2/25, 2/26, 2/27, 2/28, 2/29, 2/30

3/11(p), 3/12(p), 3/13(p), 3/14(p), 3/15(p), 3/16, 3/17, 3/18, 3/19, 3/20, 3/21, 3/22, 3/23, 3/24, 3/25, 3/26, 3/27, 3/28, 3/29, 3/30

4/11(p), 4/12(p), 4/13(p), 4/16, 4/17, 4/18(p), 4/19(p), 4/20(p), 4/21, 4/22, 4/23, 4/24, 4/25, 4/26, 4/27, 4/28, 4/29, 4/30

5/16(p), 5/19(p), 5/20(p), 5/21, 5/24, 5/25(p), 5/26, 5/29, 5/30

6/26, 6/27(p), 6/28(p), 6/29(p)

8/1, 8/2, 8/3, 8/4, 8/5, 8/6, 8/7, 8/8, 8/9, 8/10, 8/11, 8/12, 8/13, 8/14, 8/15, 8/16, 8/17, 8/18, 8/19, 8/20, 8/21, 8/22, 8/23, 8/24, 8/25, 8/26, 8/27, 8/28, 8/29, 8/30

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12/2(p), 12/3(p), 12/4, 12/5, 12/7(p), 12/8(p), 12/9, 12/10, 12/11(p), 12/12(p), 12/13, 12/14, 12/15, 12/16(p), 12/17, 12/18, 12/19, 12/21, 12/22, 12/23, 12/24, 12/26, 12/27

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14/1, 14/2, 14/3, 14/4(p), 14/6, 14/7, 14/8, 14/9, 14/10(p)

16/1, 16/2, 16/3, 16/4, 16/5, 16/6, 16/7, 16/8, 16/9, 16/10, 16/11, 16/12, 16/13, 16/14, 16/15, 16/16, 16/17, 16/18, 16/19, 16/20, 16/21, 16/22, 16/23, 16/24, 16/25, 16/26, 16/27, 16/28, 16/29, 16/30

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18/1, 18/2, 18/3, 18/4, 18/5, 18/6, 18/7, 18/8, 18/9, 18/11, 18/12, 18/13, 18/14(p), 18/15(p), 18/16, 18/17, 18/18, 18/19(p), 18/20(p), 18/21, 18/22, 18/23, 18/24, 18/25(p), 18/26, 18/27, 18/28, 18/29, 18/30

19/2(p), 19/3(p), 19/4, 19/5, 19/7(p), 19/8(p), 19/11(p), 19/12(p), 19/16(p), 19/21, 19/22, 19/26

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27/1, 27/2, 27/3, 27/5(p), 27/6, 27/7, 27/8, 27/10, 27/11, 27/12, 27/13, 27/14, 27/15, 27/16, 27/17(p), 27/19, 27/21, 27/22(p), 27/24, 27/26, 27/27, 27/28

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(p) — part block

Updated list and map of the acreage on offer is available at the following link:

http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Natural/Petroleum+Affairs+Division/2011+Atlantic+Margin+Licensing+Round.htm