

JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT BETWEEN  
THE MINISTER FOR THE ECONOMY, INDUSTRY AND DIGITAL AFFAIRS OF THE FRENCH  
REPUBLIC AND THE  
FEDERAL MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ENERGY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF  
GERMANY  
CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF DEEP SEABED MINING

**THE MINISTER FOR THE ECONOMY, INDUSTRY AND DIGITAL AFFAIRS OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC** and the **FEDERAL MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ENERGY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY** hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Signatories",

- recognize the challenge to secure a sufficient and sustainable supply of mineral resources in the future in the light of a growing world population as well as an increasing industrial demand and production;
- underline their common interest in the exploration of deep seabed mineral deposits and in the future development of commercial deep seabed mining as an option to meet future demand for mineral raw materials;
- emphasize their commitment to the highest environmental standards for exploration and future exploitation of deep seabed minerals in order to ensure an effective protection of the marine environment;
- acknowledge the need for high standards of transparency in this field;
- recall the declaration on deep seabed mining of the G7 leaders at the summit on 7 and 8 June 2015 at Schloss Elmau;
- refer to their respective exploration contracts with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) as well as to the deep seabed mining potential in the French Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ);
- underline that both countries have an innovative industry which can develop and provide the technologies required to develop deep seabed mining in the respect of the marine environment;
- refer to the substantial and comprehensive activities in the field of exploration of the deep seabed mineral resources, including environmental data collection and research both Signatories have undertaken in their respective ISA exploration areas over the years;
- emphasize the importance of cooperation in the field of deep seabed mining at European and International levels;
- confirm their mutual interest in intensifying and reinforcing their cooperation in the field of deep seabed mining, on the basis of this Joint Declaration of Intent;
- note that France and Germany are both Members of the Council of the International Seabed Authority, as well as represented by national experts to the Legal and Technical Commission and to the Finance Committee;
- recognize that this Joint Declaration of Intent establishes a framework for this cooperation on subjects of mutual interest and that signatories will liaise as appropriate with other Ministers in charge of specific policy items and action; and have come to the following understanding:

## **1. OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this Joint Declaration of Intent is to intensify the existing cooperation in the field of deep seabed mining between the Signatories on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit. The cooperation is intended to be extended, as appropriate, to the examination of strategies towards the development of commercial deep seabed mining.

## **2. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

Cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent may include the following areas of common interest related to deep seabed mineral resources:

- a) consultation on issues related to of the International Seabed Authority;
- b) joint efforts and contributions to assist the International Seabed Authority in the development of the regulatory framework for mineral exploitation in the Area (the “mining code”);
- c) exploring possible forms of cooperation with regard to the potential impacts on the marine environment of activities on deep seabed related to the future exploitation of the minerals thereof;
- d) exploring possible forms of cooperation with regard to the development of deep seabed mining within the German and French ISA contract areas, as well as in the EEZ of France with a view to supporting contractors or mineral rights owners to develop future technologies and processes for deep seabed mining;
- e) exploring the opportunity and possibilities to involve other States or the European Union in selected cooperation activities;
- f) working, with the International Seabed Authority, for the adoption of sound regulations to effectively protect the marine environment from adverse effect of deep seabed mining in the Area;
- g) identifying and promoting joint activities with the objective to support the efforts of the German Deep Sea Mining Alliance (DSMA) and the French Maritime Cluster (FMC) as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding of 20 October 2015 on deep sea mining between DSMA and FMC;
- h) identifying and promoting joint activities in the fields of scientific research, including on the protection of the marine environment and on technology development, as well as
- i) other areas of mutual interest to be decided upon by the Signatories.

## **3. FORMS OF COOPERATION**

The forms of cooperation under this Declaration of Intent will be mutually decided upon by the Signatories.

## **4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- a) Cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent will be subject to and dependant upon the availability of funds and resources from each Signatory.
- b) The Signatories should bear the costs that they each incur unless otherwise agreed in writing.

## 5. LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

The Signatories do not intend for this Joint Declaration of Intent to create any legally binding obligations under international law.


Signed in Bremerhaven on 20 October 2015

FOR THE MINISTER FOR THE  
ECONOMY, INDUSTRY AND DIGITAL  
AFFAIRS OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical line, with a small 'y' shape at the end.

ALAIN LIGER,  
INGENIEUR GENERAL DES MINES  
SECRETAIRE GENERAL  
COMITE POUR LES METAUX  
STRATEGIQUES

FOR THE FEDERAL MINISTER FOR  
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ENERGY OF  
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style, appearing to read 'Thomas Gäckle'.

MINDIRIG DR. THOMAS GÄCKLE,  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL  
RAW MATERIAL POLICY