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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction

Marine engineering survey contract for Marinus Link

The Tasmanian Government is pleased to announce that Australian company MMA Offshore has been awarded the \$5.5 million contract to carry out underwater engineering geotechnical surveys required to refine the Marinus Link cable route.

The Marinus Link interconnector is a proposed 1500 megawatt capacity undersea and underground electricity connection between Tasmania and Victoria, identified as a critical part of Australia's future electricity grid.

Marinus Link involves about 255km of undersea High Voltage Direct Current cable and about 90km of underground HVDC cable in Victoria.

The expert crew of the 87m survey ship 'TEK Ocean Spirit' will be based in Burnie for the duration of the 39 day survey program, with crew from Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia. The survey will commence in January 2022.

The awarding of this tender is another important step in progressing this vital and important project.

The survey will be conducted on about 110 sites across the proposed Marinus Link undersea route between Heybridge, in North-West Tasmania, and Warratah Bay, in South Gippsland, Victoria at sea depths of up to 80m.

The proposed Tasmanian HVDC converter station site for Marinus Link is the old Tioxide site at Heybridge and local residents will be able to observe this vessel doing survey work offshore over this summer.

Marinus Link is a key project to unlock Tasmania's deep storage potential, increasing reliability, keeping power prices low and contributing to a cleaner planet.

The Tasmanian Government is a strong supporter of this project and in addition to energy price savings and reduced emissions, Marinus will create 2800 jobs across Tasmania and Victoria, and attract billions of dollars of new investment to Tasmania by unlocking a pipeline of future renewable energy

development.