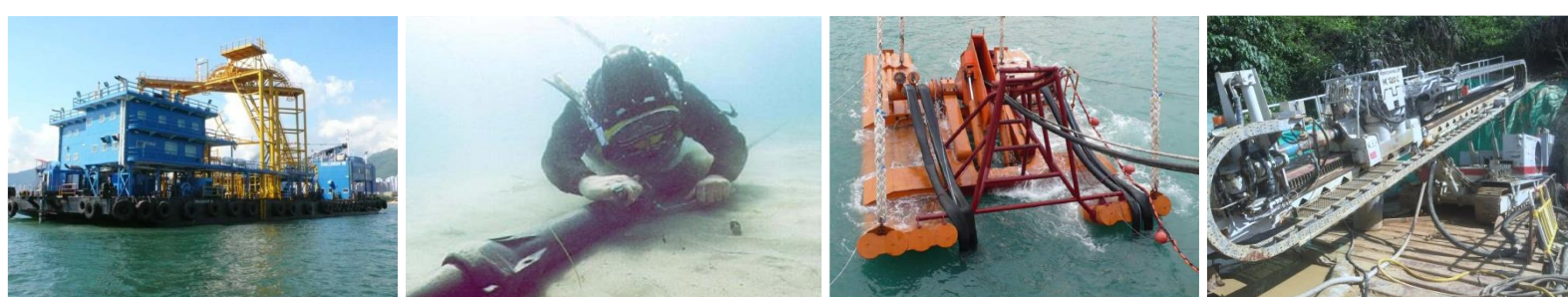




Independent Checker Report

Ultra Express Link

November 2019



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 In order to meet the rising demand for high speed and high capacity connectivity requirements from data centre operators, Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited (“HKT”) plans to construct a submarine cable, Ultra Express Link (UEL), linking Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate (“TKOIE”) and Siu Sai Wan at Chai Wan. The UEL not only provides robust, reliable, low latency, diversity and connectivity, but also fosters the development of TKOIE towards becoming Asia's data centre hub.
- 1.1.2 The Project is a Designated Project (DP) under Schedule 2 (Part I), item C.12 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO). As such, an Environmental Permit (EP) is required prior to commencement of construction.
- 1.1.3 The Project Proponent, HKT engaged SMEC Asia Limited (“SMEC”) to prepare a Project Profile for permission to apply directly for an EP. The Project Profile was approved and permission was duly given. EP No. EP-543/2017 was issued to HKT for the Project on 14 September 2017.
- 1.1.4 EP Condition 2.3 requires the Permit Holder (i.e. HKT) to engage an “Independent Checker” (IC) to supervise the implementation of all mitigation measures recommended in the Project Profile (Register No. PP-553/2017) and required in this Permit. In paragraph E.6.2 and E.6.3 of Appendix E to the Project Profile, the Project Proponent committed to carry out weekly noise monitoring and to report this to the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) each month.
- 1.1.5 This is the Independent Checker Report, which summarized on-site implementation status of mitigation measures.

1.2 Scope of the IC Works and Reporting Period

- 1.2.1 The scope of the IC works includes supervision of all mitigation measures recommended in the Project Profile and EP. The IC is also required to report to the Director in writing within one month upon completion of the construction works confirming full implementation of the mitigation measures and compliance of the conditions of the EP.
- 1.2.2 This report covers the entire construction period form 2 May 2019 to 17 October 2019.

1.3 Project Location

- 1.3.1 The Site is located next to the roundabout at Fu Hong Street in Siu Sai Wan (SSW). The existing noise climate surrounding the SSW Site is predominantly urban, with traffic noise from vehicles accessing the industrial buildings, godowns and the Island East Refuse Transfer Station to the west of the Site, and public buses serving residential developments to the east. The location of the Site and its surroundings are shown in *Figure 1-1*.

Figure 1-1 Location of SSW Site



Source: GeolInfo Map, Lands Department, Hong Kong Government (www.map.gov.hk)

2 SUBMISSION STATUS

2.1 Status of Project Environmental Licence/ Permits

2.1.1 The status of environmental licences/ permits of the Project is shown in **Table 2-1**.

Table 2-1 Summary of Environmental Licences/ Permits

Item	Environmental Licences/Permits Requirements	Expiry Date
1	Environmental Permit EP-553/2017 was granted from EPD on 4 August 2017	N/A
2	Construction Noise Permit (GW-RS0351-19) was approved on 24 April 2019	Valid from 26 April 2019 to 22 August 2019

2.2 Environmental Submission for the Project

2.2.1 The environmental submission for the Project are shown in **Table 2-2**.

Table 2-2 Summary of Environmental Submissions

Item	Description	Status
Para. E.6.2 of Appendix E of the Project Profile	Weekly noise monitoring shall be carried out during the Project works at SSW. A programme for noise monitoring shall be submitted to EPD for their review and approval prior to construction.	Completed The Programme was submitted to EPD on 24 April 2019.
	1 st Monthly Impact Noise Monitoring Report for May 2019.	Completed The Report was submitted to EPD on 30 May 2019.
	2 nd Monthly Impact Noise Monitoring Report for June 2019.	Completed The Report was submitted to EPD on 27 June 2019.
	3 rd Monthly Impact Noise Monitoring Report for July 2019.	Completed The Report was submitted to EPD on 1 August 2019.
	4 th Monthly Impact Noise Monitoring Report for August 2019.	Completed The Report was submitted to EPD on 4 September 2019.
	5 th Monthly Impact Noise Monitoring Report for September 2019.	Completed The Report was submitted to EPD on 30 September 2019.
	6 th Monthly Impact Noise Monitoring Report for October 2019.	Completed The Report was submitted to EPD on 22 October 2019.

2.3 Summary of Complaints and Prosecutions

2.3.1 No environmental complaint was received during the construction period of the Project.

3 SUPERVISION AND MONITORING STATUS

3.1 Site Inspection

3.1.1 According to condition 2.3 of the EP, the appointed independent checker shall supervise the implementation of all mitigation measures recommended in the Project Profile and required in the EP. As such, regular site inspection was conducted once a week to confirm the proper implementation of mitigation measures. The IC's site inspection findings are summarised in **Table 3-1**.

Table 3-1 Summary of Site Inspections

Date	Observations	Status
7 May 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
14 May 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
21 May 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
28 May 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
4 June 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
11 June 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
18 June 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
25 June 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
2 July 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
8 July 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
16 July 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
24 July 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
29 July 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
6 August 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
12 August 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
20 August 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
26 August 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
3 September 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
10 September 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
17 September 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
23 September 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
2 October 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil

8 October 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil
17 October 2019	No adverse environmental issues were observed.	Nil

3.1.2 Throughout the entire construction period, full compliance of the mitigation measures stated in the Project Profile and the EP were observed.

3.2 Programme of the Construction Works

3.2.1 Major source of construction noise associated with the Project are predominantly generated by PME used for HDD works and construction of the Beach Manhole at the Site. The entire construction programme for the Project span from early May 2019 to mid Oct 2019.

3.3 Summary of Monitoring Results

3.3.1 Two residential developments were identified in the Project Profile, within 300m radius of the Site, namely Harmony Garden (Blocks 1-3) and Island Resort (Blocks 1, 2 and 9). Both of which are considered to be Noise Sensitive Receivers (NSRs) under the *Technical Memorandum on Environmental Impact Assessment Process* (EIAO-TMO). Therefore, six representative NSRs were identified as impact noise monitoring locations as provided in **Appendix A**.

3.3.2 Weekly impact noise monitoring during the Project works at Siu Sai Wan was conducted. Construction noise level in terms of the A-weighted 30 minute equivalent sound pressure level ($L_{eq(30min)}$) in decibels dB(A) was measured at the six NSRs during normal construction working hours (i.e. 0700-1900 Monday to Saturday). Details of the impact noise monitoring methodology and results can be referred to the Monthly Impact Noise Monitoring Report of May to October 2019. A total of 23 occasions of impact noise monitoring were conducted and the monitoring results were summarised in **Table 3-3**.

Table 3-2 Summary of Impact Noise Monitoring Results in Reporting Period

NSR ID	Noise Standard for Daytime Construction (dB(A))	Baseline Monitoring $L_{eq(30-min)}$ (dB(A))	Impact Monitoring $L_{eq(30-min)}$ (dB(A))	Exceedance
N1	75.0	60.4	60.1-64.4	No
N2		65.1	62.7-69.9	No
N3		66.6	58.3-68.8	No
N4		65.2	64.9-70.9	No
N5		66.2	65.7-71.3	No
N6		58.9	58.6-62.4	No

3.3.3 All impact noise readings at the off-site NSRs in the reporting period are within the noise standard, i.e. 75 dB(A). No exceedance of the noise standard for daytime construction activities was recorded in the reporting period.

4 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1.1 SMEC has been engaged by HKT to act as an Independent Checker to carry out regular site inspection and impact noise monitoring of the construction of the Project at the Siu Sai Wan site.
- 4.1.2 This IC Report confirmed that all required mitigation measures have been implemented and EP conditions have been complied with during Project construction. During the Reporting Period, no adverse environmental issues, complaints nor non-compliance were recorded.
- 4.1.3 Regular impact noise monitoring was undertaken during the construction period at the six identified NSRs, i.e. N1-N6. All impact noise readings at the off-site NSRs were found to be within the 75dB(A) noise standard. No exceedance of the noise standard for daytime construction activities was recorded during the reporting period.
- 4.1.4 Therefore, full implementation of mitigation measures and compliance of the EP were confirmed through the regular IC site inspection and impact noise monitoring.

APPENDIX A

Location of Representative NSRs

