



## Irish Offshore Operators' Association

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Irish Offshore  
Operators'  
Association

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An Bord Pleanála  
64, Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

10<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Ref: 61.PA.0033

Dear Sir/Madam,

We refer to the above Planning Application from Galway Harbour Company regarding the extension of Galway Port.

The Irish Offshore Operators' Association (IOOA) is the representative body for companies exploring for and producing oil and gas offshore Ireland. Our Association currently has 14 member companies, up from 8 in 2011. This reflects the increased interest in the Irish Offshore, albeit modest at this time by international standards.

Should, however, existing drilling plans result in commercial discoveries, we would expect rapid growth in activity, both in exploration and in development projects. The existence of a further deep-water 24-hour port on the west coast, with easy access to communications, logistics, support services and amenities, would support such an increase in activity, in much the same way as has been seen along the east coast of Scotland. Under these circumstances, very significant and rapid growth could be expected in local employment and revenues. Conversely, the absence of adequate facilities could well hinder development along the Atlantic Margin.

IOOA therefore supports the Galway Harbour Company in their Planning Application regarding the extension of Galway Port.

Yours faithfully,

Fergus Cahill  
Chairman, IOOA

