

European Offshore Spaceport – Test launches in the North Sea

GOSA (German Offshore Space Alliance) is planning rocket launches from a floating platform in the North Sea this summer. This is part of a commercial development programme being undertaken to offer a mobile launch pad for launch vehicles with payloads of up to typically 1-2 tons in the future.

Up to four launches of small suborbital rockets are scheduled to take place within five consecutive days within the period of 8th July to 19th July 2024, with precise dates to be announced in due course.

The launches will take place within defined launch windows (TBC) as per below table.

	UTC	CEST (UTC +2h)
Launch Window 1 (weekdays and weekends)	04:30 – 07:30	06:30 – 09:30
Launch Window 2 (weekends only)	17:00 – 19:00	19:00 – 21:00

The launch platform will be located approximately east of Newcastle, north-east of the Dogger Bank windfarms in approximate position 55 46.0' N 003 22.7' E.

The first launch vehicle has a dry weight (before fuelling) of appr. 15 kg and it will travel ballistically, land in the sea in one piece, break up on impact and the resulting debris will sink. It will land maximum 53.5 km down range to the west.

The other three, after reaching maximum altitude, will descend by parachute and land within a maximum drift range of 38km. The dry weight of the largest of these is 52 kg. It is not expected that any of these three launch vehicle will break apart after launch so no scattered debris is anticipated.

During the days of the launches a maritime exclusion zone will be in place in the hazard area, which is bounded by coordinates as follows:

55° 24.0'N

56° 08.0'N

002° 24.0' E

004° 00.0'E

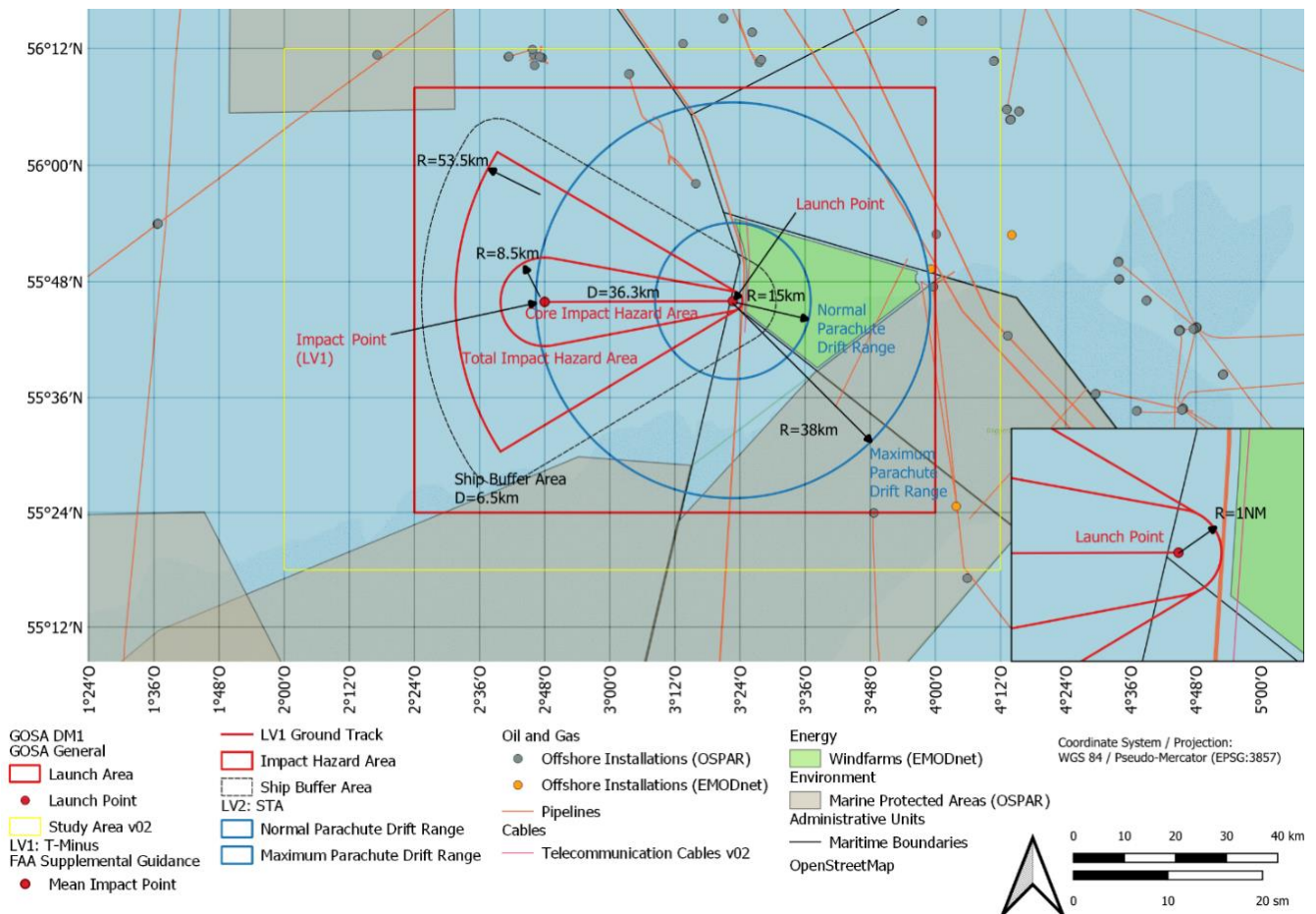
For further details please refer to the Marine Management Organisation Public Register, case ref: MLA/2024/00130.

The launches and exclusion zone will be publicised via:

- Temporary Notice to Mariners (**2533(T) / 2024**)
- Navigational Warnings
- Securite Broadcasts via VHF
- Kingfisher Information Services (a service for fishing vessels)
- Fishery and Sailing Association Newsletter
- E-Mail Notification to relevant stakeholders

A guard vessel will be on station to warn any approaching vessels to keep clear. For more details regarding the hazard area see attached visualisation "Launch Area Details".

Vessels planning to operate within the above hazard area between 15th June and 30th August 2024 should be aware of these activities and manage their operations accordingly.



Launch Area Details

2533(T)/24 NORTH SEA — General information.
Source: GOSA

- *Four rockets are due to be launched from position 55° 46' .00N. , 3° 22' .70E. between 15th June and 30th August 2024.
- The launch type will be a vertical launch of sounding rockets from an anchored vessel.
- One rocket will be launched westwards on a ballistic trajectory and is expected to travel a maximum of 53.5 km.
- Three rockets will be launched westwards and will descend by a parachute system, they are expected to travel a maximum of 38 km.
- The rockets and parachutes are expected to splash down, and there may be other space debris, within a temporary splash down area bounded by the following positions:
56° 08' .00N. , 2° 24' .00E.
56° 08' .00N. , 4° 00' .00E.
55° 24' .00N. , 4° 00' .00E.
55° 24' .00N. , 2° 24' .00E.
- The area around the launch site and the splash down area are extremely hazardous and all mariners are advised to avoid these areas during the launch period.
- More precise dates and details of the launch will be promulgated through the MSI service, and Coastguard VHF and MF MSI Broadcast from 5 days before the launch.
- A guard vessel will be in attendance.
- Contact Range Safety Officer, Christopher Mieschendahl on +49 421 51721 811 10 for further details.
- Mariners are advised to navigate with caution in the area.
- *Former Notice 1957(T)/24 is cancelled.

*Indicates new or revised entry

(WGS84 DATUM)

Chart(s) affected — 2 — DE50 — 267 — 268 — 272 — 1405 — 1422 — 2182B — 2182A — 4140 — 5615_23

Notice to Mariners