

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. The launches are planned to take place over a period of four days from 16th to 30th of June 2024 with precise dates to be announced in due course. Four launches of small suborbital rockets are planned.

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 landing in the sea in one piece maximum 53.5 km down range to the west. The other three, after reaching maximum altitude, will descend by parachute. The dry weight of the largest of these is 52 kg. It is not expected that any of the vehicles will break up 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

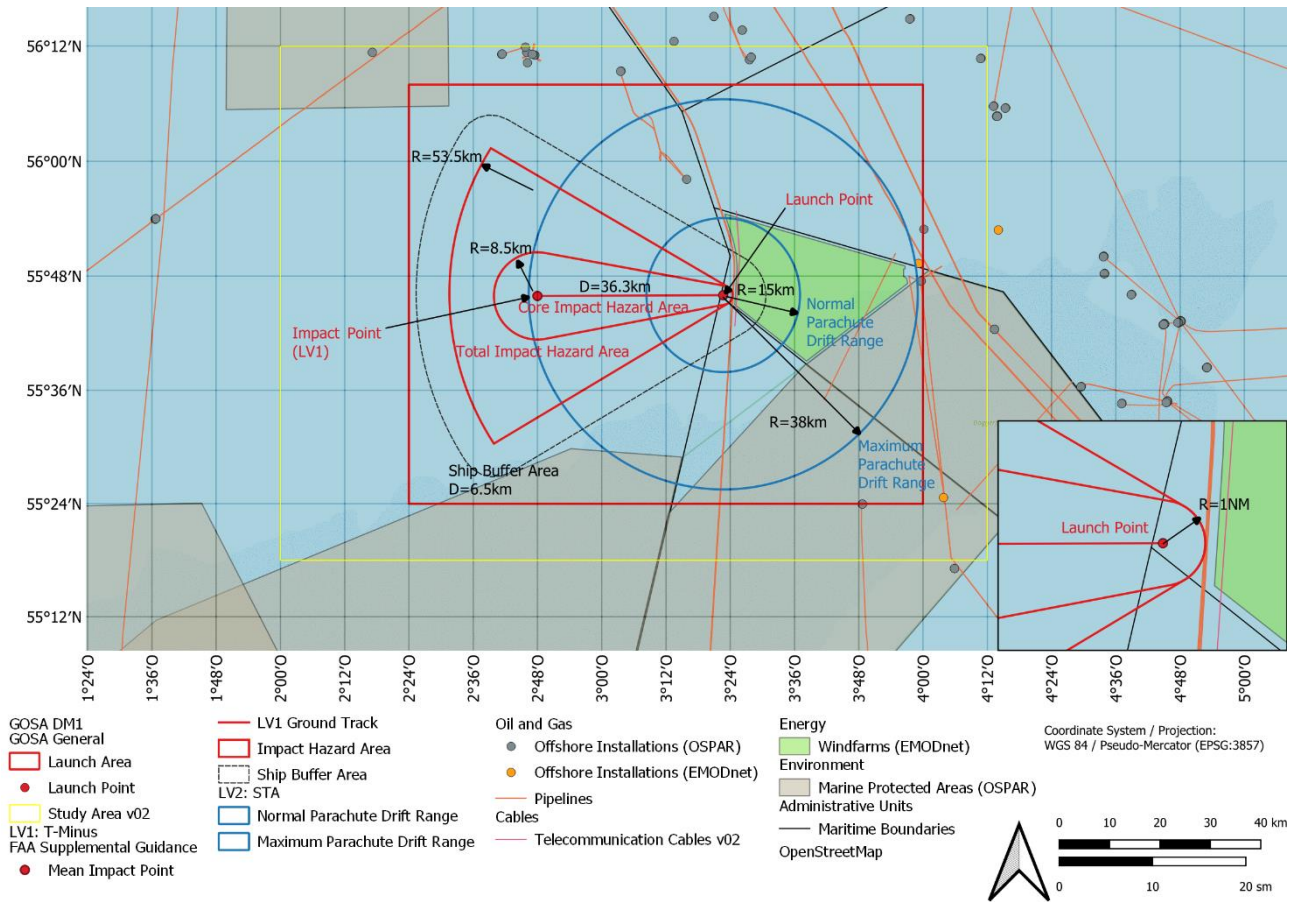
004° 00.0°E

The launches and exclusion zone will be publicised via:

- Temporary Notice to Mariners
- Navigational Warnings
- Securite Broadcasts via VHF
- Kingfisher Information Services (a service for fishing vessels)
- Fishery and Sailing Association Newsletter

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 16th and 30th June 2024 should be aware of these activities and manage their operations accordingly.



Launch Area Details