



Maritime Emergency Response Plan

Project: Highlander



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Configuration Page

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
ADSB	Automatic Dependence Surveillance-Broadcast
AIS	Automatic Identification System
RCC	Range Control Centre
HMCG	His Majesty's Coast Guard



1. Purpose & Scope

This Emergency Response Plan defines the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency arising during the launch, splashdown, or recovery of the launch vehicle.

The plan applies for the duration of the launch window and associated marine operations and is coordinated by Exotopic's Range Control Centre (RCC).

This plan covers marine-related emergencies only and should be read in conjunction with:

- The Maritime Communications Plan
- The project Risk Assessment

2. Emergency Management and Responsibilities

All emergency situations arising during launch, splashdown, or recovery operations will be managed by Exotopic's Range Control Centre (RCC), which will act as the central coordination authority for the duration of the launch window.

The following principles apply throughout all phases of the operation:

- Safety of life takes precedence over mission objectives
- The mission will be placed on hold or aborted where safety-critical conditions are not met
- Launch and recovery operations will not proceed unless the maritime exclusion zone is confirmed clear
- HM Coastguard (HMCG) will be notified where there is any risk to life, navigation, or the marine environment

The mission will be placed on hold under any of the following conditions:

- Loss of communications with any key mission asset, including boundary or recovery vessels
- A non-participating marine vessel entering or remaining within the exclusion zone
- Any other condition assessed by the RCC as presenting an unacceptable risk

In such cases, the RCC will attempt to resolve the issue, including re-establishing communications or clearing the exclusion zone. The launch or recovery operation will not resume until the issue has been resolved and all safety conditions are re-confirmed by the RCC.

Where communications with a key mission asset cannot be promptly restored, or where an encroaching vessel does not respond to requests to leave the exclusion zone, HMCG will be notified and further actions will be taken in coordination with them.

All emergency actions, decisions, and communications will be logged by the RCC.

3. Site Description & Areas of Interest

3.1. Site Overview

Exotopic operates its Range Control Centre (RCC) from Machrihanish Airbase, located on the west coast of the Kintyre peninsula in Argyll and Bute, Scotland. The site is a former military airbase with a large, low-utilisation airfield and extensive safety distances, making it a suitable site for launch and range operations.



- 1 Exotopic Workshop
- 2 MACH Lab
- 3 Building 124
- 4 Explosives Storage
- 5 MACC Office
- 6 Residential Area
- 7 Machrihanish Golf Club
- 8 Mach Dunes Golf Club
- 9 MACC Site
- 10 Campbeltown Airport
- 11 Farmland



Figure 1 – Site Map

The airbase is situated approximately 3.5 miles west of Campbeltown and has direct coastal access to the Atlantic, with open sea to the west. The surrounding maritime area is sparsely trafficked relative to major shipping routes, though local fishing and recreational vessels may operate in the vicinity.

The RCC at Machrihanish provides centralised command, control, and communications for range activities, including coordination with boundary and recovery vessels and external authorities such as HM Coastguard (HMCG).

3.2. Maritime Operating Area

Launches are conducted from a coastal location at Machrihanish, with trajectories directed west over open sea. Splashdown is planned to occur in near-shore waters to the west of the airbase, within a defined operating area established for each mission.

A temporary maritime exclusion zone will be established for the duration of launch and recovery activities. The exclusion zone will be promulgated via Notice to Mariners (NOTMAR) and actively monitored using boundary vessels, AIS, radar, and VHF communications.

The surrounding maritime area has relatively low traffic density, though fishing vessels and recreational craft may be present. Boundary vessels will be tasked with monitoring for encroachment and initiating vessel clearance procedures where necessary.



3.3. Areas of Interest & Emergency Considerations

Key areas of interest for maritime emergency response include:

- The splashdown area and immediate surrounding waters
- Boundary vessel positions defining the exclusion zone
- Transit routes between the operating area and Campbeltown harbour

Campbeltown harbour is the nearest port and provides access for support, recovery, or refuge if required. In the event of a maritime incident, loss of vehicle integrity, or uncontrolled debris, the RCC will coordinate response actions and notify HMCG in accordance with this plan.

Environmental and navigational risks are managed through predefined exclusion zones, continuous monitoring, and recovery planning aimed at minimising the risk to third-party vessels and the marine environment.

4. Contact Information

4.1. Onshore Emergencies

In the event of an onshore emergency arising at Machrihanish Airbase or during onshore support activities, the emergency services will be contacted via standard UK emergency procedures.

Where possible, at the first indication of an emergency, any individual with the ability to contact the emergency services directly should do so immediately. The RCC may be used as a coordination and communication route, but direct contact with emergency services should take priority where available.

- Emergency Services (Police / Fire / Ambulance): 999
- Local Hospital:
 - Campbeltown Hospital
 - Approx. 6 miles/13 minutes drive from Machrihanish Airbase site
 - Approx. 2 minutes drive from Campbeltown Harbour

The Machrihanish Airbase site team will provide access, escort, and site-specific information to emergency responders as required.





Figure 2 - Emergency Response Locations

4.2. Offshore Emergencies

For any offshore or maritime emergency, including risk to life, vessel incidents, or navigational safety issues, **HM Coastguard (HMCG)** will be the primary external authority.

- **HM Coastguard (Emergency):** 999 – ask for Coastguard
- **HM Coastguard (Routine / Coordination):** via RCC or boundary vessels (VHF)

The Range Control Centre (RCC) will coordinate all offshore emergency communications, including:

- Initial notification to HM Coastguard
- Coordination with boundary and recovery vessels
- Provision of situational awareness, vessel positions, and recovery status

All maritime emergency communications and actions will be logged by the RCC.

4.3. Personnel Involved

If established direct communication channels cannot be reached by the involved party, this table should be used to identify and contact the appropriate individual using the provided phone numbers.



Table 1 Key Personnel Points of Contact in an Emergency

Role	Name	Phone Number
MACC Site Manager	Cara Clements	[Redacted]
Range Operations Manager	Cameron McGregor	[Redacted]
Launch Operator	Rohan Hean	[Redacted]

