

MARS Landing Site: Proposed Route



Proposed Landing Site and Shore Facilities

The proposed landing site for the MARS cable is a vacant parcel located on the west side of Sandholdt Road at the road's northern terminus. This site is owned by the Applicant and would be used to land the MARS cable and to install shore facilities at the landing location.

To bring the MARS cable to shore, a 5-inch (12.7-cm) diameter steel pipe would be installed underground that would extend out into Monterey Bay from the shore landing site. This pipe would serve as conduit for the MARS cable. The pipe would extend from the shore landing site to a point on the seabed approximately 0.89 miles (1.4 km) to the northwest of the shore landing site. The pipe would be installed beneath the seabed by means of horizontal directional drilling (HDD), which is described in Section 2.2.6 of the EIR/EIS document.

The power conductors and the fiber in the MARS cable would terminate at the MARS Shore Facility. The Shore Facility would include the shore power supplies, breakers, hubs, and other equipment necessary to feed power and communications to the observatory cable. The Shore Facility would be housed in a 20-foot (6-m)-long ISO van, or similar structure, placed on a concrete slab constructed in accordance with applicable building codes.

Power would be supplied to the shore station structure from an existing overhead electrical distribution line adjacent to the Shore Facility site. The fiber optic cable would be installed in a conduit attached to an existing MBARI-owned fence that runs from the Shore Facility site to the MBARI research facility. The conduit is located on MBARI property and would interconnect with the MBARI laboratory through the MLML network system. MBARI has obtained permission to connect through the MLML computer network system back to Building D at MBARI's main facility, located on Sandholdt Road approximately 984 feet (300 m) to the south.

Project permit applications submitted by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

