Luxembourg, 21st July 2015

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	BENTELER LIGHTWEIGHTING - RSFF AND COHESION
Project Number:	2013-0647
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	The project concerns the promoter's RDI activities on powertrain downsizing, lightweight materials, structures and components, as well as advanced manufacturing fibre-reinforced composite components for the automotive sector. The project purpose is to enable the promoter to maintain its competitiveness as an innovative and reliable automotive Tier-1 supplier.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]:	no

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

The RDI activities included in the project are not specifically covered by Annexes I & II of the EU Directive 2011/92/EU, and therefore not subject to mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment. The proposed investments will take place mainly inside existing buildings at facilities already being used for similar activities, which will not change their scope due to the project and therefore not require an EIA.

The implementation of the project will bring indirect environmental benefits through lower CO_2 emissions, in the form of lighter and with increased efficiency and safety components for automotive. Overall, the project is considered acceptable for the Bank financing.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The implementation project will bring significant indirect environmental benefits in terms lower CO_2 emissions at vehicle usage level, through lighter, more efficient components and processes. Nevertheless it is important to mention that, at the current stage of the technology, fibre-reinforced composite process techniques do generate some indirect environmental concerns linked to material waste (still, rest of carbon fibre is wasted when forming the parts) and recyclability (fibre-reinforced composites can only be partially reused in a degraded level). Although relevant, this remark should not block the use and development of such technology but rather foster its RDI activities to investigate and solve these issues while further improving the material properties. Until these issues are solved, it is expected that

[1] Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100 000 tons CO_2e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tons CO_2e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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CFRP technology will be limited to low production volumes and will only spread to high volume production afterwards.

The promoter's project existing plants and buildings are ISO14001 and ISO TS16949 certified. The promoter has state-of-the-art plants, highly automated, well organised and focused on efficiency and on resources and costs optimization.

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