

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: Spire (EGFF)  
Project Number: 2019-0497  
Country: Luxembourg  
Project Description: The project concerns the European part of Spire's capital expenditures and R&D activities to further develop the cubesat platform, to launch new cubesats for a full worldwide service offerings and to develop new innovative software applications tailored to the customer needs in shipping, aviation, government and weather prediction. The project will comprise the period from 2019 to 2022.

EIA required: No

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: No

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The main activities financed by the Bank concern the development of software applications as well as the design, assembly and launch of small satellites (typical weight of about 4 Kg). These activities take place within existing R&D facilities. The launch of the satellites is done by specialised companies that operate launchers in Europe, Asia or America. Due to its small size, such satellites will be launched in many cases as additional payload together with the main payload such as heavy satellites.

Such project activities do not fall under Annexes I or II of the EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, and are therefore not subject to mandatory Environmental Impact Assessments.

The R&D and satellite manufacturing does not include handling of harmful substances as the satellites do not have an own propulsion system. The satellites will operate in low earth orbits and their positions are actively shared to avoid any collisions with other spacecrafts in those orbits. In addition, the decommissioning at the end of the lifetime will be done in a coordinated manner by gradually lowering their orbit before burning them entirely in the atmosphere.

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<sup>1</sup> Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20 000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 29 May 2020

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The satellite fleet will collect on a worldwide basis through its different sensors various types of basic weather data from space and also on the ground. Such data will be supplied to national weather agencies but also used in an own weather model. All this will help to improve the modelling and better predict the adverse weather events and their impact on the general public as well as the aviation and shipping sector.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Considering the above, the project is acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental and social terms.