

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	SARTORIUS R&D II
Project Number:	2020-0210
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	The promoter is a leader in developing innovative tools and technologies enabling its customers to cover key steps in drug development and production. The project concerns the promoter's RDI activities during the period 2020-2023.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) according to the EU EIA Directive (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU): i) the research activities are not listed in any of the annexes of the said directive, and ii) the project will be carried out in existing facilities already authorised for similar activities and volumes.

The R&D activities of the project will be managed and carried out by the promoter's existing R&D staff in Germany and in other European countries. All these sites are ISO 9001 certified (Quality Management). In addition, all the promoter's major manufacturing sites worldwide are certified ISO 14001 (Environmental Management). The project's R&D activities are a central part of the promoter's operations and, as such, will be embedded in the existing organisational and management structure. The operating procedures in place are in line with best industry standards.

A part of the project focuses on the development of single-use products that are used in modern biopharmaceutical production plants to replace conventional "stainless steel based" manufacturing systems. Use of plastics often provides not only economic benefits but also considerable ecological advantages, especially as less water (up to 70% less) and energy (up to 60% less) are consumed than needed for cleaning of reusable equipment. Particularly in the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industries, single-use plastic products moreover provide vital safety benefits for patients.

¹ 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 CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 16/07/2020

Although single-use products have clear environmental benefits in terms of energy and water consumption, their use also generates more waste. Even though waste resulting from biopharmaceutical single-use technologies accounts for only around 0.01% of the volume of annual plastic waste generated, the question of responsible use of plastics is increasingly being raised in the biopharma industry as well, given the steady growth of this market.

In March 2020, Sartorius was the first company in its sector to sign the European Plastics Pact². The objective of this public-private coalition is to improve use and recycling of plastics and thus to reduce usage of new plastic. Sartorius is developing a strategy for plastics that is oriented toward the four aspirational objectives of the European Plastics Pact: 1) Reusability and recyclability; 2) Responsible use of plastics; 3) Collection, sorting and recycling; 4) Use of recycled plastics.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter has a strong focus on energy saving. Its four sites in Germany are ISO 50001 certified (Energy Management System). The promoter is also continuously putting a lot of effort to reduce water consumption and to recycle materials and chemicals that are necessary in manufacturing.

In addition, the promoter has a strong safety culture and good operating and HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) procedures in place. Sartorius HSE management system is in line with the requirements and guidance from the German Occupational Health and Safety Agency.

Sartorius is in full compliance with the Global Product Strategy initiative of the European Community Regulation on Chemicals (REACH). In addition, in Germany and in several other European countries, Sartorius takes back old electronic equipment from its customers and arranges for environmentally friendly recycling of these instruments.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project presents potentially high health and other benefits for the wider society. Considering the above, and the promoter being fully compliant with the applicable EU directives, regulations and standards across all business lines and processes, the project is deemed acceptable for the Bank's financing under environmental and social terms.

² <https://europeanplasticspact.org/>