

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Eutelsat Advanced Broadband Satellite
Project Number:	2019-0183
Country:	France
Project Description:	The project concerns the design, purchase and launch of a satellite for advanced broadband services including the ground segment components. The different data services, target residential and business customers in Europe, in northern Africa and also the Middle East region.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The promoter is a leading European satellite operator with a lot of experience in satellite design, purchasing and operation. The project elements with the highest risk of an environmental impact are the manufacturing and test of the satellite as well as the final launch into the geostationary orbit. Both elements are supplied from specialised and reputable European companies.

The activities of the project itself do not fall under the Annexes of the EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. System operations will be managed out of the existing facilities in Paris (for satellite control activities) and in Turin (for network operations). Only limited constructions will be required for the ground network located in external teleports, which will host and maintain satellite gateway antennas. Works for such new antennas will consist only in concrete floorings for the dish structure and shelters for local network equipment.

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, 4 November 2020

At the end of the satellite lifetime, the French regulation requires a re-orbiting and passivation of the spacecraft from its operational space position to a so-called graveyard orbit, which is an international recognised area in space for old geo stationary satellites. Therefore, additional propellant will be loaded on board to bring the satellite safely to the graveyard orbit after its end of life.

The carbon emission during the 15 years operational phase in space is very low; however, the satellite launch generates a sizable amount of CO₂ all over its route from the launch site to the final geostationary transfer orbit.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The provision of a reliable high quality broadband infrastructure is important for the widespread use of internet-based services such as e-government, e-learning, teleworking or online banking. The new broadband services are very performant and have a similar performance to current terrestrial solutions. In addition, the ubiquitous availability allows also to serve very remote areas in Europe with state of the art broadband services. Therefore, the project will have a strong contribution to the overall social sustainability particularly of the rural areas.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project itself is profiting from existing infrastructures for the project implementation and particularly for the operational phase (satellite and network operations centre, ground network sites). The CO₂ emissions generated by the project are limited and mainly confined to the satellite launch, whereas the project entails strong social benefits through improved broadband coverage, in particular in rural areas.

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