



Luxembourg, 24 November 2022

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	SES Advanced Hybrid Satellite
Project Number:	2022-0052
Country:	Luxembourg
Project Description:	The project concerns the design, the purchase and the launch of three satellites in order to support the company's transition from traditional TV broadcasting to more innovative IP based streaming services. Two satellites will be located at the orbital slot 19.2 degrees East and one at 57 degrees East. The satellites are very important for the promoter's business as they cover key central European markets (including Germany, France, Austria, Switzerland and Spain) as well as Africa and Middle East. Through these new satellites, the Direct to Home TV with latest HD quality will be strengthened and more innovative TV services such as IP multicast streaming to residential users and terrestrial 5G networks including broadband data services are added.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The promoter is a leading worldwide European satellite operator with a long record of accomplishment in satellite design, purchasing, fleet operation and decommissioning at the end of life. The three satellites forming the project are replacements of existing satellites based on latest designs and technology. Therefore, the ground segment installation can be reused to a large degree. The new data services will require some additional downlinks, which will make use of new ground stations installed at teleports already used for such purposes.

The major environmental project risks refer to the manufacturing and test of the satellites as well as the final launch into the two geostationary orbits. Both elements are provided by specialised and experienced suppliers, which are outside the project scope.

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.



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The activities of the project itself do not fall under the Annexes of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by the EU Directive 2014/52/EU. System operations will be managed out of the existing facilities in Luxembourg. Only limited constructions will be required for the ground network extensions located in external teleports. Works for such new antennas will consist mostly in concrete floorings for the dish structure and construction of shelters for local network equipment.

At the end of the satellite life, the promoter plans as usual for a re-orbiting and passivation of the spacecraft from its operational space position to a so-called graveyard orbit in line with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) guidelines, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) orbital debris mitigation practices and the strictest national regulations on space sustainability and orbital debris mitigation. The graveyard orbit is an international recognised safe 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. In 2021, the promoter has successfully re-orbited four satellites.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects:

The promoter prepares a for a wider regular ESG reporting and has plans to further improve such reporting. The latest report was improved by incorporating the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) requirements into the reporting as well as a detailed explanation of the stakeholder outreach and materiality. The promoter also joined the UN Global Compact initiative as first step and further improvements planned in the coming years.

More concretely, the promoter plans by no later than 2050 to reach NetZero emissions and it also begins developing targets aligned with the SBTi for submission and validation by 2024. From a social impact point of view, SES have implemented programmes targeted to increase the gender diversity of people managers and executives in the business by 50% in the coming 5 years.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project itself is profiting a lot from existing infrastructures for the project implementation and particularly for the operational phase (satellite and network operations centre, ground network installations). 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 areas with poor terrestrial infrastructures.

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