

Luxembourg, 16th December 2022

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	VOLTSTORAGE (IDGF)
Project Number:	2022-0403
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	The project is about financing the needed R&D to increase the TRL, the manufacturing demo plant and commercialisation of innovative Vanadium and Iron Salt redox flow batteries suitable for commercial & industrial as well as large-scale long-duration storage applications.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The initial project RDI activities are expected to be carried out in the existing facility, which is already authorised, and will not change their already authorised scope due to the project.

Regarding the manufacturing component of the project, the promoter has to decide if it will follow an assembly-only strategy or if it will perform the full manufacturing of the battery components. The design, development and assembly (system integration) of redox flow battery components is not listed in any of the Annexes of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. If the promoter decides to pursue the full-blown manufacturing of battery components, then the new demonstration assembly/manufacturing plant could fall under Annex II (4) (e) of the EIA Directive as an installation for surface treatment of metals and plastic materials using an electrolytic or chemical process.

The Bank's services will verify the relevant environmental details at the time it is informed by the promoter of their decision. Furthermore, the Bank's services will put as a condition precedent in the financial contract for the disbursement linked to the assembly/manufacturing plant the requirement to provide the positive EIA in case such an EIA has to be performed.

The project is considered not in scope for PATH framework because it does not apply to small companies (less than 250 employees, net revenues less than € 40M) and it has been assessed for Paris alignment and it is deemed to be sector aligned in Industry, RDI low carbon technology and products as set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap.

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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Vanadium and Iron Salt redox flow batteries are included in the SET (Strategic Energy Technology plan) and will support the energy markets with innovative, low-cost technologies, particularly for the large-scale, long-duration storage applications.

EIB financing serves the purpose of further advancing RDI activities for new product development along with a new bespoke assembly and manufacturing plant in order to scale up and grow the company to provide more innovative services/products, penetrate new markets and contribute to climate action goals.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The promoter is planning to further increase the Gender Equality in the company from 22% in 2022 (EU average for technology companies) to between 30-40% by 2025.

Conclusions and Recommendations

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Considering all of the above, the investment is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.