

Luxembourg, 11th October 2022**Public**

Environmental and Social Data Sheet¹

Overview

Project Name: XOCEAN UNCREWED VESSELS FOR OCEAN DATA (IEU GT)
 Project Number: 2022 – 0266
 Country: Ireland
 Project Description: The project entails the financing of a fleet of Uncrewed Surface Vessels (USVs) for collecting ocean data, mainly to the benefit of the off-shore wind energy sector and marine science. The project also includes R&D activities aimed at improving both hardware and software of the USVs marine robotic technology.

EIA required: No

Invest EU sustainability proofing required: No, since no climate, environmental or social risks were identified at the screening stage, which would trigger the in-depth proofing to our understanding.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise²: No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The deployment of USVs and the technology development focus on oceans and coastal areas monitoring and data acquisition such as bathymetry and sea bed mapping, and analysis. The project is not expected to have negative significant environmental impacts.

The USVs construction and deployment does not fall under Annex I and II of the Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on environment (EIA Directive), meaning that a screening decision by the Competent Authority (CA) based on these criteria is not required.

In alignment with the European Green Deal, the Sustainable Blue Economy communication issued by the Commission in 2021 stresses the importance of improving our knowledge of the ocean and its ecosystems in supporting the development of a sustainable blue economy to manage consistently blue assets.

¹ The information contained in the document reflects the requirement related to the environmental, social and climate information to be provided to Investment Committee as required by the Invest EU Regulation and it represents the equivalent of the information required in the template of the InvestEU sustainability proofing summary

² 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 following positive environmental impacts could be identified:

- to enhance knowledge of the Key Ocean Variables and marine science as well as develop autonomous marine technologies;
- to enable sustainable strategic planning as well as monitoring of marine resources.

Climate Assessment

The Project is not expected to be vulnerable to climate changes, as it consists of the development and deployment of Uncrewed Surface Vessels conceived for harsh maritime environmental conditions.

The Project is considered to be consistent with the Paris Agreement pathways towards low-carbon and climate-resilient development, as is aligned with the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Company operates an Environmental Management System certified to ISO14001 and a Health and Safety Management System certified to ISO4500.

Conclusions and Recommendations

In the context of this project, the related conditions and undertakings are as follows:

Disbursement conditions

Not applicable.

Undertakings

Not applicable.

The project is thus acceptable in environmental and social terms.