



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 6 December 202

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)<sup>1</sup>

### Overview

Project Name:	DEMANT - ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY HEARING AIDS RDI
Project Number:	2018-0771
Country:	Denmark / EU Regional countries / Poland / France
Project Description:	The project comprised the promoter's RDI investments to develop next technology, advanced hearing equipment.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

**EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at Project Completion.**

RDI activities on hearing aids are not listed in any of the annexes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU. The financed activities have been carried out in already-authorized existing facilities that have not changed their scope due to the project.

Although the use of raw material is limited in the promoter's manufacture compared to other industries, it still enforces a precautionary approach to environmental challenges. The promoter has implemented the use of a 'restricted list', which provides instruction and information on the utilisation of substances and material. The list includes, amongst others, the following regulations:

Restriction of Hazardous Substances (ROHS); conflict minerals that are subject to the requirements of the Dodd Frank Act Section 1502; Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), etc.

Part of the project RDI related to the further enhancement of rechargeable hearing aids. Such devices represent a significant improvement of the environmental footprint of the hearing aids by avoiding the change of batteries every 5 to 6 days at least.

The promoter is in compliance with the regulations set by the US FDA (Food and Drugs Administration) and the EU MDD (Medical Devices Directive). The classification of the promoter's products range from FDA and MDD Class I to Class III.

For the wireless component of the Hearing Aids, the promoter approves all of its equipment for the different geographies. Regarding the electromagnetic frequencies used by the wireless devices, the measurement of SAR (specific absorption rates) is performed by the promoter for all its marketed hearing devices. Electromagnetic radiation is however under continuous study by international organisations.

<sup>1</sup> The template is for ILs and FLs



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The project is expected to lead to significant social benefits resulting from new and improved hearing aid technologies to alleviate the problems linked to a hearing impairment. As hearing aids get more integrated into the use of smart phones and music devices, the use of these devices will become less associated to a handicap.

The promoter has a high focus on gender diversity and women represent 62% of total employees overall in the company. For management, the share of women is 43%, up from 41% in 2019.

**Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.