

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	WINGCOPTER SUSTAINABLE LAST MILE DELIVERY
Project Number:	2021-0773
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	Wingcopter GmbH is a German aerospace company that develops and operates cutting-edge electric cargo drones to provide last-mile delivery services for third parties across a wide range of geographies. The funding will be used to finance the deployment of efficient and green middle- and last-mile logistics solutions using Wingcopter drones, thus replacing current expensive and emission-heavy road or air transportation.
EIA required:	no
Invest EU sustainability proofing required	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	yes

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

RDI activities, deployment and operation of small drones (under 25kg) does not fall under Annex I or Annex II of the Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive), meaning that a screening decision by the Competent Authority (CA) based on these criteria is not required.

The European Commission through its Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy published in December 2020 fully supports the deployment of drones and unmanned aircraft, and commits to further develop the relevant rules with the EU, including on the lower air space, to make it fit for enhancing safe and sustainable mobility. For the time being the decision to authorise the operation of drones lies with the Civil Aviation authorities of each country (within and outside the EU), in particular when it comes to operations beyond the visual line of sight.

The operation of drones has one major impact, which is noise. This impact is more significant during take-off and landing, where the drones are closer to the ground. However, this impact is

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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reduced to the immediate vicinity of the landing site given the small weight of the drone and power of the engines. During flight, even at low altitude, the noise impact is minimal due to low speed, aerodynamic efficiency and low engine power.

Climate Assessment

The project has been assessed for Paris Alignment and is considered to be aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty Wingcopter GmbH is in scope and screened out of the PATH framework, because it is not considered high emitting nor high vulnerability.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The project is expected to avoid the emission of about 52,200 tonnes of CO₂ per year. This has been estimated according to information provided by the Promoter based on the expected vehicle utilisation patterns and average consumption for equivalent internal combustion engine vehicles.

Conclusions and Recommendations

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

Disbursement conditions

Not applicable.

Undertakings

Not applicable

Sustainability proofing conclusion: the project is carried out in compliance with applicable national and EU environmental and social legislation. Based on the environment, climate and social (ECS) information and based on the review of the likely significant ECS risks and impacts and the mitigation measures and management systems in place, the project is deemed to have low residual ECS risks and impacts. No further sustainability proofing is required.