European Investment Bank

18.10.23

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	NEXT GENERATION MOBILE BROADBAND RDI
Project Number:	2023-0022
Country:	Sweden
Project Description:	The project concerns the promoter's RDI investments for the development of its 5G radio equipment portfolio, which incorporates a new, more powerful version of the 5G standard, known as "5G advanced". The new equipment developed as a result of the project is expected to have substantial improvements in performance/capacity, size/weight and energy consumption.
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 specific RDI activities included in the project are not expected to have any relevant environmental impact, as they relate to development of telecommunications hardware and software to be performed in existing facilities without changing their already authorized scope. These activities are not specifically listed in Annexes I and II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.

The equipment developed as a result of the RDI activities will be subject to regulations related to EMF (electromagnetic field) emissions. Studies are ongoing to further assess the potential long-term effects of use and exposure to radio communications equipment. So far mitigation measures adopted are limits to the radiation of the mobile base stations, restrictions to their locations, the control of the power of the handsets and guidelines for consumer usage. Many countries have decided to adopt the exposure limits recommended by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), but others apply stricter limits. As the promoter has world-wide presence, its products are designed to comply with the EMF emissions regulations in all the different jurisdictions.

The promoter’s products and activities (including this project) comply with the RoHS2 Directive (Directive 2011/65/EU) and WEEE Directive (Directive 2012/19/EU) as well as other applicable international and local regulation.

Two of the key objectives of the project are to reduce the energy consumption and weight and the embodied carbon footprint of the new radio equipment. In particular, the promoter has set targets of up to 30% for the energy consumption and up to 50% for weight reduction depending

[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.

on the type of equipment, with equal or higher performance. Therefore, the project is expected to have a significant contribution to Climate Change Mitigation.

The promoter is committed to contributing to the circular economy and has launched a global "Product Take-Back programme" to minimise the potential environmental impact of decommissioned equipment. As a result of the programme, over the past three years, approximately 96% of returned equipment (by weight) has been either recycled or reused, and an additional 3% has been incinerated for energy recovery.

The project is fully aligned with the Paris Agreement on climate change according to the Bank's definition (Annex 2 Table H of EIB's climate bank roadmap - CBR).

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter is founding signatory of the UN global compact and its integrated quality, safety and environmental management system is globally certified according to ISO 9001 (quality), ISO 14001 (environment), ISO 45001 (occupational health and safety) and ISO 27001 (information security). The promoter produces an annual Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility report assured by a third party (Deloitte AB) in accordance with the Sustainability Reporting Standards published by GRI (Global Reporting Initiative).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The proposed investments will take place inside buildings at existing R&D centres without changing their already authorized scope and are not expected to have a significant environmental impact on the surroundings. The promoter complies with all relevant regulations and recommendations related to its business. The project is expected to result in a significant reduction in the energy consumption and weight, and thus the embodied carbon footprint of the radio equipment developed by the promoter.

Therefore, the project has been classified as acceptable in environmental and social terms for the Bank's financing.