

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: *BEN STROMNETZ BERLIN*  
 Project Number: 2024-0397  
 Country: *Germany*  
 Project Description: *The project concerns investments in the electricity distribution grid for the period 2025-2027, in Berlin, Germany*

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: yes

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

### Environmental and Social Assessment

The Project encompasses investments in development, refurbishment and renewal of the high, medium and low voltage assets of the electricity distribution network serving the city and federal state of Berlin, in Germany. It includes a large number of schemes providing for approx. 1600 km of new or refurbished HV (110 kV), MV and LV lines (underground cables only), 790 new or refurbished substations with 285 MVA added transformation capacity, as well as other minor components for network automation and digitalization.

#### Environmental Assessment

The Project only comprises substations and underground cables schemes (no overhead line is included), either in the form of new construction, extension, or refurbishment, which do not fall under either Annex I or II of the EIA Directive. According to national law, the construction, refurbishment, or extension of substations and underground cables do not need to undergo an EIA screening.

Based on information provided by the Promoter, no grid facility is currently planned to be built in Natura 2000 areas<sup>2</sup>, however in the event of likelihood of any significant impact to these areas, the competent authority will be consulted and the assessments required under art. 6(3) and art. 6(4) of Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC will be carried out as part of the approval process.

The Project has the potential for some low to moderate environmental and social impacts. These include noise, vibration, dust, and traffic disruption during the construction, and electromagnetic fields (EMF) and nuisance during operation. Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise impacts during construction and operation. Particular attention will be paid to contain the effect of noise, vibrations and traffic disruption during the construction works. Typical mitigation measures include special construction procedures to minimize

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

<sup>2</sup> There are currently 15 Natura 2000 sites in Berlin.



damages, construction of facilities to contain oil leaking from transformers, special waste collection procedures and other.

The Promoter is ISO 14001 certified and thus has an environmental management plan. The Promoter manages, monitors and mitigates the effects on the environment through adequate processes and documents such as the environment, health and safety handbook, the waste management plan, including material recovery and recycling, and technical specifications (technical clauses) and requirements for subcontractors in general.

Physical climate change risks relevant to the area of installation of the project schemes, i.e. mainly extreme rainfall events, storms, increase in average temperatures and heat waves, are mitigated in the design stage, by adapting - as necessary - the design or the location of the equipment.

The operation has been assessed for its Paris alignment. It is considered to be aligned for low carbon and resilience, in line with the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap and with the EIB's Energy Lending Policy.

### **EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

The absolute emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) resulting from the Project<sup>3</sup> are estimated to be 6.0 kt of CO<sub>2</sub>e/year. The main source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the Project is network losses associated with new or refurbished network equipment. These absolute emissions are offset by the reduction in network losses enabled by the Project in comparison to the do-nothing alternative. Therefore, at completion, the Project is expected to enable a saving of circa -26.8 kt of CO<sub>2</sub>e/year.

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

### **EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework**

As a public utility, BEN is in scope but screened out of the PATH framework. The counterparty has no activities in high emitting sectors or incompatible activities (being focused only on electricity distribution), and does not demonstrate high vulnerability with respect to adaptation to physical climate change risks.

No further action is required from the counterparty.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

Public consultations, when necessary, are organised by the competent authority, as part of the permitting process.

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The Promoter is an experienced distribution network operator in Germany, with in-house teams responsible for the environmental and social aspects. The environmental and social management capacity of the Promoter is reflected by the ISO-14001, ISO-45001, and ISO-50001 standard certifications obtained. The environmental and social due diligence focussed on the Promoter's capacity and capability to implement the investments included in the Project

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<sup>3</sup> GHG emissions of the Project have been calculated according to the Bank's Carbon Footprint Methodologies (Version 11.3 of January 2023).



in line with EIB environmental and social standards and requirements. Based on this assessment, the environmental capacity of the Promoter is deemed to be good; they have the experience and the capacity to appropriately manage the planned investments.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

Considering the above the Promoter's capacity to implement this operation in compliance with the EIB's Environmental and Social Standards is deemed acceptable. Based on the information available and with appropriate conditions and monitoring, the programme is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social term.

The Borrower/Promoter undertakes:

- to ensure that potential impacts to sites of nature conservation will be identified (for all program schemes) and should they be likely to be significant, the promoter undertakes to engage with the relevant authority and implement the procedures under Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.
- to store and keep updated any documents that may be relevant for the Project and which support the compliance with the provisions under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and shall, upon request, promptly deliver such documents to the Bank.
- not to allocate the Bank's funds to any Project schemes that require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and/or Appropriate Assessment (AA) until the EIA and/or the AA have been finalised to the Bank's satisfaction, including public consultations, and approved by the competent authority. For any schemes requiring an EIA and/or an AA, an electronic copy of the relevant documentation, including EIA/AA reports, consultation documents, EIA approvals, must be sent to the Bank as soon as each scheme is approved by the competent authority.