

Luxembourg, 10 July 2025

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet¹

Overview

Project Name:	ASL (IEU FT)
Project Number:	2023-0525
Country:	Belgium, France
Project Description:	The project concerns the promoter's R&D efforts and the investments for prototypes to develop a new micro satellite platform and several payloads. The plan foresees to scale the platform to about 450 kg weight, which would allow to host not only earth observation and signal intelligence but also heavy telecom payloads. The R&D activities as well as the testing of such systems are planned to take place mostly in Belgium, supported by sites in France and Switzerland. The current planning is to take these solutions from TRL6 to TRL 9 including a first in orbit demonstration by 2026.
EIA required:	No
Invest EU sustainability proofing required	Yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ² :	No
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Aerospacelab is a fully integrated European satellite manufacturer for medium sized Low Earth Orbit satellites including various payloads. Since its foundation in 2018, the company has managed to develop a wide range of payloads for earth observation including the satellite platform. The project itself is focused on R&D expenses i.e. salaries but also include the purchase of tools and the costs for the prototypes. All these R&D, testing and manufacturing activities are carried out in existing laboratories, offices and manufacturing facilities.

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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Such activities do not fall under the Annexes of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by the EU Directive 2014/52/EU. The R&D works and also the assembly of the prototypes will be carried out in existing facilities located in Louvain-la-Neuve (BE). These existing facilities are well prepared for such high-tech activities and include all necessary tools and clean rooms for such engineering and testing works.

Beside these R&D activities, limited residual environmental risks relate to the launch of satellites for the in-orbit testing. Such satellites will be decommissioned after their end of life. While the launch will be handled by an external service provider, the satellite decommissioning is governed by international law, which foresees for Low Earth Orbit satellites a destruction through a re-entry into the atmosphere and its burning. The small size of such satellites facilitates this process.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The promoter is in scope but screened out of the PATH framework as it does not operate in a high emitting sector, it is not considered as a highly vulnerable counterpart, and it is not engaged in any incompatible activities.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The company is still small and young, and it plans to develop a more sophisticated environmental and social governance system in the near future. Currently, the company holds the ISO 27 001 certification for information security as well as ISO 9001 certification for quality management.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is composed of hardware / software R&D and prototype manufacturing. These activities are carried out in existing laboratories, offices and manufacturing facilities.

The satellite decommissioning at the end of the lifetime will be done in accordance with international space law through the burning in the atmosphere.

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

Considering the above, the project is acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental and social terms.