European Investment Bank

Luxembourg, 22 July 2025

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet[1]

Overview

Project Name:	CAILABS (IEU-FT)
Project Number:	2024-0490
Country:	France
Project Description:	Cailabs is a French deep-tech SME that focuses on photonics applications and more particularly on a proprietary laser communication technology that mitigates atmospheric turbulences and enable safer and more reliable communications (i) between satellites and Optical Ground Station (OGS) and (ii) two terrestrial points, e.g., Ship-to-ship, plane-to-drone with applications in the defence sector.

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

The company is a French pioneer in the development and manufacturing of advanced optical communication technologies, including free-space optics and beam-shaping solutions. Since its founding, the company has developed a range of products enabling high-speed, secure optical communication for terrestrial and aerospace applications. It operates from its facilities in Rennes, France, where it conducts research, development, and production of its proprietary optical systems.

The current project involves expanding R&D activities and strengthening the supply chain. The primary investment focus is on R&D personnel, prototyping, and specialized tooling to enhance existing products, particularly optical ground stations and line-of-sight terrestrial communication systems.

These activities do not fall under the scope of Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. All R&D and assembly operations will take place within the company’s existing facilities in Rennes, and no new environmental permits are expected to be required.

The environmental impact of the project is minimal. The R&D and manufacturing processes are not resource-intensive in terms of water or energy consumption.

[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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Climate Assessment

The project is considered to be Paris aligned because i) it meets the low carbon criteria as set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap (Annex 2, Table H – RDI on ICT and ii) is assessed as not materially at risk from physical climate hazards.

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.

Social Assessment

The project complies with applicable French labour and social legislation, with no regulatory issues identified. The company promotes fair working conditions, equal opportunities, and a safe work environment, with low occupational health and safety risks due to the nature of its R&D activities. Situated in an existing industrial area, the project does not involve land acquisition or impact vulnerable populations. The company is committed to gender equality and actively supports initiatives that encourage women to pursue careers in science and technology. The project is expected to generate positive social impacts through the creation of skilled jobs, inclusive hiring, and contributions to regional innovation.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The company has established environmental and social (E&S) management practices, supported by a governance framework that promotes accountability and continuous improvement. As part of its evolving ESG strategy, a carbon footprint assessment marked the beginning of a more data-driven and proactive approach to sustainability. Current priorities include improving environmental data collection and reducing emissions related to business travel.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project consists of research, development and production of advanced optical communication systems. All activities will be carried out within existing premises in Rennes (France), which are already equipped and approved for high-tech operations. No new construction is required, and the project is not expected to generate any significant environmental or social impacts.

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.