

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	AXIONE TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE
Project Number:	2013-0407
Country:	FRANCE
Project Description:	The project concerns investments in 11 already operational broadband Public Initiative Networks (PIN's) throughout France, consolidated under one holding company. The EIB project relates to the commercialisation and operation phase of the PIN's and covers the period from beginning 2009 until the end of 2018. The project foresees to cover around 200 000 new households with ADSL service, to connect around 20 000 new households with fibre services as well as to provide fibre service to enterprises and to nearly 500 mobile telephony sites. All network services are provided on an open access basis to the commercial operators for their commercialisation to the final customer. Around 30% of the total costs are planned to be incurred in less-developed regions.

EIA required: No

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: No

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

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

Investments in fixed telecommunications projects (including civil works investments for fibre roll-out and transmission systems) do not fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2011/92 EC. Fixed telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which will be mitigated by appropriate measures.

Overall, the project's environmental acceptability to the Bank can be classified as acceptable with positive or neutral residual impacts.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

- The project relates to small network expansions and renewal. In order to minimise the roll-out costs, it will make use of existing infrastructure (manholes, tubes, etc...), that will be rented from the parties owning them (former incumbent, electricity companies, etc...). This will in turn also minimise the negative environmental effects that can potentially result from civil works during construction.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100 000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

- The roll-out of the vertical in-house network plans to use existing infrastructure to the greatest extent possible. For the limited number of, mainly Fibre to the Home (FTTH) cases, in which there is no existing infrastructure, the promoter has expressed its intention to use an aerial deployment of the fibres, for which measures to reduce visual impact will be implemented.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The wide spread availability of broadband networks is one of the key pillars for the implementation of initiatives aiming at improving the sustainability of our society, like smart grids or smart cities. The project does therefore have a strong contribution to overall environmental and social sustainability.

The promoter's mother company Axione, in charge of the Engineering, Operation and Maintenance of the project has been ISO 14001 certified since 2013, and has an Environmental Management System in place.

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