Luxembourg, 28 November 2014

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	EXTREME LIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE
Project Number:	20140438
Country:	HUNGARY
Project Description:	Construction of the Attosecond Light Pulse Source in Hungary, as part of the Pan European Extreme Light research Infrastructure (ELI).

EIA required: No

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]: 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

The project relates to the construction of a new Laser Research Infrastructure. Laser research facilities that are not specifically covered by Annexes I & II of the EIA Directive 2011/92 EU, and therefore not subject to mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment, though the project is covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to Industrial Estate Development projects. The project has been screen-out by the competent authority releasing the promoter from the obligation to perform an EIA.

The construction and operation of the building foresees the pumping of groundwater that will be extracted into a storm water-basin used to store the rainwater. The impact of this pumping has been found to be acceptable by the relevant authorities as part of the screening procedure.

Regarding radiation impact and monitoring, the promoter has indicated that the design of the facility has taken into account all the relevant laws and regulations, including the recommendations from the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) that have been included in the latest Directive 2013/59/Euroatom.

The direct surroundings of the site are an archaeological site. The Cultural Heritage Office of Csongrád County Government Office has so far not defined any protected area in connection with the archaeological site. The Bank will set a disbursement condition to address this potential issue.

The project is therefore considered to be acceptable for EIB financing, with minor negative impact to the environment.

[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.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

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A total of eight different authorities, ranging from Plant and Soil Protection Directorate to the Hungarian Office of Mining and Geology were consulted. With the input from these different authorities, the environmental authority published the decision to screen-out the project releasing the promoter from the obligation to perform an EIA together with the conditions and mitigation measures requested. The promoter has indicated its commitment to include the conditions in its Health and Safety procedures, as they relate mainly to the operational phase.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

The promoter has indicated that the environmental authority published a notification on the start of the screening procedure, informed the affected local authorities to allow them to inform the affected populations during the screening procedure and published the result of it. The design plan was also discussed by the building authority with several experts before granting the final construction permit.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Regarding the radiation emission control, an environmental monitoring system will be set up for the monitoring of radiation and measuring radon concentration in the air, soil and groundwater. Weekly sampling will be scheduled for fall out samples, daily sampling for aerosol samples, and monthly sampling for radon concentration in air, soil and groundwater. Dose rates will be measured continuously.

As regards the protected plant and animal species living in the Natura 2000 areas in the facility’s environment, no negative impact is expected from the normal operation of the facility.