

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *VAN DE WIELE WEAVING TECHNOLOGY*
 Project Number: *2015-0090*
 Country: *BELGIUM*
 Project Description: *Financing of textile machinery RDI over the period 2015-2017.*

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

The project primarily concerns investments in research and development that are not specifically listed in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU and that will be carried out in existing facilities without changing their already authorized scope and would therefore not require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The remaining part of the project that covers capital expenditures concerns the manufacturing of weaving machinery and more specifically expenditures in the automation of logistics, machining, sub-component assembly and assembly processes. These manufacturing activities are not specifically listed in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, either and therefore an EIA is not required.

The project per se does not have any impact on the environment and overall it is considered as environmentally acceptable. In addition the resulting products are expected to bring about some positive outcomes mainly in terms of energy efficiency. Therefore the project is acceptable for financing by the Bank.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project consists of three major components; the first concerns the promoter's product R&D investments in the area of textile machinery, including (i) machines for the production of carpets and other textiles (Weaving, Tufting, Extrusion and Finishing machines), (ii) related components such as Jacquard machines, Harnesses, Yarn handling systems and knitting machine accessories, and (iii) sub components that include electric drives and electronics for machine automation control systems. The second component concerns the development and enhancement of production processes with main objective the increase of efficiency and the reduction of cost, and finally the third component concerns the company's capital investment in advanced manufacturing technologies (automation of production, and production of more complex products).

The project per se does not have any impact on the environment, and the main impact comes through the products that are developed by the R&D of the company.

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.

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The equipment used in the sector can have very long product lives; therefore the way for the promoter to incentivize customers to buy new products is by ensuring that the customer can recover their investment in very short times. The main focus of the R&D is consequently on the improvement of productivity, functionality, and very importantly on energy efficiency which can be of the order of 15-20% between generations (4 year product cycle).

The company is constantly improving its production processes in terms of efficiency and energy consumption, something that is reflected in the production process research and development activities and also in the investments in advanced manufacturing projects. In general the promoter demonstrates a high degree of consciousness regarding all the sustainability aspects of its operations.

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