

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Wind Turbine RDI
Project Number:	2015-0888
Country:	GERMANY
Project Description:	The project comprises the promoter's investments in Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) in the field of wind energy. The main project goals are the reduction of levelized cost of energy (LCoE) by increasing the turbine efficiency as well as reducing total lifetime cost, increase of the turbine's energy yield, full load production hours, as well as product diversification. The RDI activities will be carried out in the promoter's R&D centres located in Germany and in cooperation with suppliers.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under Directive 2011/92/EU as amended is implemented in the German Bundes-Immissionsschutzgesetz (BImSchG), which is relevant for all wind turbine installations in Germany. The promoter does not operate wind turbines; the promoter's customers need to conduct the environmental impact assessments and they are supported by the promoter during each step by receiving detailed technical information.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

All R&D locations and all production plants engaged in the RDI are certified according DIN ISO 14001:2009 for the scope of supply, i.e. development, distribution, licensing, production, assembly, erection, maintenance and service of wind energy turbines.

The project will help improve the competitiveness of wind-generated energy, promoting the wider application of electricity generation from renewable energy sources and thus reducing the dependence on fossil fuel.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) activities on renewable energy equipment are not listed in any of the Annexes of Directive 2011/92/EU as amended, therefore they do not require an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment); moreover the proposed RDI activities will be carried out in existing facilities already authorised that will not change their scope due to the project.

Within the RDI programme, several prototype components and turbine models will be built and tested; however the prototype turbines will be sold to customers who will be responsible for the prototype testing as well as the environmental impact assessment. In case this is not applicable, the promoter will ensure that the installation of prototypes will comply with EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended and that the relevant local, regional or national legal requirements at member state level are in place; the promoter undertakes also to present the substantive documentation to the Bank, and in case of an EIA permit the Non-Technical Summary (NTS), before using the Bank's fund for this part of the investments.

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 project will help improve the competitiveness of wind-generated energy, promoting the wider application of electricity generation from renewable energy sources and thus reducing the dependence on fossil fuel. The project will have a very strong contribution to the overall environmental and social sustainability of the promoter's activities and is therefore considered acceptable from the environmental point of view for the Bank's financing, with positive or no negative residual impacts.