

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: GN STORE NORD ACOUSTIC TECHNOLOGY RDI II
 Project Number: 2017-0615
 Country: Denmark/Netherlands
 Project Description: The project relates to the promoter's expenditures in Research, Development and Innovation for the improvement of its portfolio of hearing aids and acoustic devices. In particular, the project will include the continued development of its next generation chipset and new product platforms to address the needs of its current and future market.

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The specific RDI activities included in the project will not have any relevant environmental impact, as they relate to development of software and engineering solutions to be performed in existing facilities without changing their already authorized scope.

The hearing devices to be developed as a result of the project are defined as Class IIa Medical Devices. The promoter is in compliance with the regulations set by the EU MDD (Medical Devices Directive), as well as by the US FDA and equivalent regulations in all the territories where it operates. Furthermore, hearing devices are in principle subject to regulations related to electromagnetic radiations, as some models contain 2.4 GHz radio transceivers. However, the promoter's products operate with low power (around 1 mW) which is significantly below the threshold (20 mW) to require SAR (Specific Absorption Rate) measurements². The promoter has all their products tested by an independent accredited test house to formalise their compliance with electromagnetic radiations regulations.

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.

² Based on standard EN 62479:2010: Assessment of the compliance of low power electronic and electrical equipment with the basic restrictions related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields (10 MHz to 300 GHz)

Luxembourg, 1 December 2017

The promoter's products and activities (including this project) comply with the RoHS2 Directive and WEEE Directive as well as other applicable international and local regulation. With respect to the REACH regulation, the promoter is currently implementing it in its Hearing business unit, which will perform most of the activities included in the project.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The project is expected to lead to significant social benefits resulting from new and improved hearing aid technologies to alleviate the problems linked to a hearing impairment.

The promoter is a signatory of the UN Global Compact since 2010 and produces an annual Corporate Responsibility report to communicate its progress.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project activities do not fall under Annexes I and II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU, and are therefore not subject to mandatory Environmental Impact Assessments. The proposed investments will take place inside buildings at existing RDI facilities without changing their already authorized scope, and are not expected to have a significant environmental impact on the surroundings. The promoter complies with all relevant regulations and recommendations related to its business.

Therefore, the project has been classified as acceptable in environmental terms for the Bank's financing.