Luxembourg, 15.05.2018

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	BATTERIES PLANT CAPACITY EXPANSION
Project Number:	2017-0488
Country:	Greece
Project Description:	The project concerns investments for the capacity expansion of the manufacturing facility, as well as RDI investments for the development of battery related technologies and products.

EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]:	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The investment programme concerns the capacity expansion of a Lead-Acid production facility and R&D activities related to the development of Battery technologies and products. The expansion of the production facility falls under Annex II of EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU; the competent authorities have not required a full Environmental Impact Analysis but an Environmental Assessment. The main elements of the process are presented below:

- The production facility currently have the necessary environmental and operational authorisations from the competent authorities, latest ones issued on: 07/03/2013 with validity until 19/04/21.
- The capacity expansion operation will require amendments to the existing authorisations and the submission of the relevant updated Environmental Analysis.
- The company has submitted the modified documentation concerning an increased capacity to 2,100,000 cells per year and the approval for this application is expected during the first quarter of 2018; its receipt will be made a condition for disbursement for the relevant amount.
- The company will submit a further amendment concerning the capacity increase to 2,500,000 units per year and similarly its receipt will be made a condition for disbursement for the relevant amount.

The manufacturing of Lead-acid batteries is rather energy intensive, and hence has a relevant impact in terms of CO_2 emissions; however, the CO2 emissions of this operation are well below the EIB applicable thresholds to be included in the EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

[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.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Health and Safety Matters: In addition to usual manufacturing hazards, the handling of lead involves additional health risks, which require a structured and organised management of health and safety issues. The promoter follows best industries' practice in respect to health and safety issues including close medical monitoring of the staff exposed to the harmful materials. Blood lead content in is the most important indicator that needs to be monitored given the nature of the work and the potential exposure to lead. In 2017, out of 668 staff one incident with concentration between 30-40 μg/dl was detected, while the national limit is 70 μg/dl; the goal is not to exceed the 30 μg/dl limit as per the EUROBAT recommendations.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Matters: The environmental matters within the company are being handled by the Quality Department, in accordance to ISO 14001. In particular, by the Quality Manager, Head of Integrated Management System (ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001) and the Supervisor of Waste Water Treatment Units (Lead Acid and Ag-Zn) and of Solid Waste management. The responsible for the chemical analysis that take place in house is the Chemical Laboratory Supervisor, while there is also a contract with an external advisor company, specialized in environmental matters.

Atmospheric emissions levels of the plant before and after the project: The main atmospheric emissions produced during the production process include:

- Suspended solids – dust and lead particles from the production areas of the lead-acid batteries. The properties of these emissions related to the environment are systematically monitored. In every measurement taken, these properties were found to be significantly lower than the allowed limits.
- Exhaust gases from the operation of furnaces with burners used in some production processes and of boilers for central heating and heating the water used from the personnel. Their smooth operation is controlled by regular measurements of the exhaust gases of the burners.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The expansion of the Lead-Acid production facility falls under Annex II of the EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU; the competent authorities are following properly the operations and the appropriate measures are being defined. Environmental, health and safety matters are carefully managed by the promoter through well-established and certified processes.

The capacity expansion is not expected to have any additional negative impact neither in the natural environment, nor on the human environment and in public health. Pending the conclusion of the environmental authorisation process, the project is considered as acceptable for EIB financing.