

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	DEMANT - ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY HEARING AIDS RDI
Project Number:	2018-0771
Country:	Denmark / Poland / France
Project Description:	The project comprises the promoter's RDI investments to develop next technology, advanced hearing equipment.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

RDI activities on hearing aids are not listed in any of the annexes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU. The financed activities will be carried out in already-authorized existing facilities that will not change their scope due to the project, thus not requiring any additional environmental permits.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Although the use of raw material is limited in the promoter's manufacture compared to other industries, it still enforces a precautionary approach to environmental challenges. The promoter has implemented the use of a 'restricted list', which provides instruction and information on the utilisation of substances and material. The list includes, amongst others, the following regulations: Restriction of Hazardous Substances (ROHS); conflict minerals that are subject to the requirements of the Dodd Frank Act Section 1502; Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), etc.

Part of the project RDI relates to the further enhancement of rechargeable hearing aids. Such devices represent a significant improvement of the environmental footprint of the hearing aids by avoiding the change of batteries every 5 to 6 days at least.

The promoter is in compliance with the regulations set by the US FDA and the EU MDD (Medical Devices Directive). The classification of the promoters products range from FDA and MDD Class I to Class III.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20 000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 2 December 2019

For the wireless component of the Hearing Aids, the promoter approves all of its equipment for the different geographies. Regarding the electromagnetic frequencies used by the wireless devices, the measurement of SAR (specific absorption rates) is performed by the promoter for all its marketed hearing devices. Electromagnetic radiation is however under continuous study by international organisations.

The project, if successful, 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. As hearing aids get more integrated into the use of smart phones and music devices, the use of these devices will become less associated to a handicap.

Conclusions and Recommendations

In the light of the above, the project is eligible for the Bank's financing from an environmental and social point of view.