Luxembourg,17 November 2022

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	PROJECT LIBERTY SEMICONDUCTOR FAB
Project Number:	2022-0354
Country:	France
Project Description:	The project relates to the fitting out of a semiconductor manufacturing plant in Crolles, France. The project will cover the deployment of the manufacturing equipment necessary to reach a total capacity of 360 000 300mm wafer starts per year.
EIA required:	Yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]:	Yes

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project relates to the fitting-out of a semiconductor manufacturing plant in Crolles, France. The project will cover the deployment of the equipment covering all the steps of the manufacturing process to reach a total capacity of 360 000 300mm wafer starts per year.

The equipment will be hosted in a still to be constructed facility, an extension of an existing facility already used for similar activities. The new facility will be constructed by a European semiconductor manufacturer different from the promoter, with whom the promoter has signed a partnership agreement. The agreement will allow both companies to share the high costs linked to the construction and fitting-out of a state-of-the-art 300mm wafer semiconductor manufacturing plant. Under the agreement, the promoter’s investments will be limited to the manufacturing equipment required to reach a total manufacturing capacity of 360 000 300mm wafer starts per year, while the partner will be responsible for the construction of the new facility, including the shell and the clean rooms, as well as the deployment of further manufacturing equipment.

As stipulated in the partnership agreement, the new facility will be constructed as an extension of an existing facility owned by the partner in Crolles, France. The existing facility is located within existing an industrial site and is already used for similar activities operating in line with the permits issued by the competent authorities.

[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.

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The extension of the existing facility falls under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). As part of the procedure for the “Demande d’Autorisation Environnementale” the partner has performed an Environmental Impact Analysis as a first step of the EIA procedure. This document has been provided to the Competent Authority in order to launch the EIA process.

The partnership agreement also foresees that once the facilities has been constructed and the manufacturing capacity has been ramped-up, the main manufacturing operations will be performed by the partner company.

Semiconductors are the basic components for the digitalisation of all sectors of the economy. They are therefore essential to enable the deployment of low carbon and decarbonisation scenarios leading to significant sustainability benefits across the whole economy and fulfil the Paris Alignment criteria as set out in the EIB’s CBR (Climate Bank Roadmap).

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The estimated annual absolute CO2 emissions of project in a standard year of operation amount to 32 kt CO2 eq. The two main contributors to the CO2 emissions are the use of perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) in the manufacturing of the semiconductors and the use of gas and electricity for the operation and cooling/heating of the manufacturing equipment. The estimated annual relative CO2 emissions amount to 0 as the promoter will make use of the most advanced equipment, abatement systems and energy efficiency tools. For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The manufacturing site in which the project will be hosted falls under the Seveso directive as upper tier establishment for its current operations. The relevant emergency plans and risk management procedures are therefore already in place. The facility holds the ISO 14 001, 50 001, 14 064, 22 301 and 45 001 certifications. The site is also certified under the EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) regulation.

The promoter fulfils the requirements of the ROHS Directive (Restriction of Hazardous Substances) for its products. The promoter is a member of the Responsible Business Alliance (RBA) and is progressively applying the RBA Code of Conduct to its major suppliers. Designated major suppliers are asked on an annual basis to provide a signed certification acknowledging their understanding of the RBA Code and the requirement to be in conformity. The certification highlights specific provisions on anti-corruption as well as a supplier self-assessment and a request for environmental information (such as climate and water-related metrics and targets)

The products to be manufactured by the project will support the improved energy efficiency of the new developed technologies and devices (the so-called “greening of”), as well as the availability of such, more powerful, solutions will allow for the development of applications aiming at CO2 emission reduction, energy efficiency, etc., such as the smart grid or electric vehicles (the so-called “greening by”).

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Conclusions and Recommendations

The EIA process for the new facility that will host the project has already been launched. Prior to first disbursement, the promoter will have to provide to the satisfaction of the Bank the full EIA documentation approved by the Competent Authority. The products to be manufactured by the project will support the improved energy efficiency of new technologies and devices

Overall, the project is eligible for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.