



The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited

Rating Report

Dawood Hercules Corporation Limited

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Rating History

Dissemination Date	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating	Outlook	Action	Rating Watch
26-Jun-2020	AA	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
27-Dec-2019	AA	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
28-Jun-2019	AA	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
28-Dec-2018	AA	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
28-Jun-2018	AA	A1+	Stable	Upgrade	-
30-Dec-2017	AA-	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
12-Jan-2017	AA-	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
12-Jan-2016	AA-	A1+	Stable	Upgrade	-
12-Jan-2015	A+	A1	Stable	Initial	-

Rating Rationale and Key Rating Drivers

The ratings reflect Dawood Hercules Corporation Limited's ("DH Corp" or "the Company") very strong profile as an investment company with investments in diversified sectors mainly through Engro Corp. DH Corp has structured oversight process in place for monitoring and making new investments, an important requisite for any HoldCo. Sizeable liquid funds are held in money market instruments indicating very strong liquidity. The Company has invested in blue chip market securities exposing it to market volatility. DH Corp is exploring new investment avenues to add to its portfolio. Recently, the Company has announced its plan to tap into technology led business through a newly formed wholly owned subsidiary, Empiric AI (Pvt.) Ltd. Meanwhile, the Company is expected to receive dividends - albeit relatively modest - from its subsidiary, Engro Corp, as the underlying businesses continue to perform despite challenging environment. However, economic slowdown due to COVID-19 outbreak and significant rate cut (525bps) will impact DH Corp's profitability to an extent. Very strong business acumen of the sponsoring family and strong governance practices provide support to the ratings.

The ratings depend on the management's ability to sustain low risk profile and follow prudent investment policy. At the same time, maintaining strong financial profile and liquidity remains important. Any significant increase in debt and/or prolonged downturn in invested companies will impact the ratings.

Disclosure

Name of Rated Entity	Dawood Hercules Corporation Limited
Type of Relationship	Solicited
Purpose of the Rating	Entity Rating
Applicable Criteria	Methodology Corporate Ratings(Jun-19),PACRA_Methodology_Holding Company_FY19(Jun-19),Methodology Correlation Between Long-Term And Short-Term Rating Scale(Jun-19),Criteria Rating Modifier(Jun-19)
Related Research	Sector Study Holding Company(Aug-19)
Rating Analysts	Faiqa Qamar faiqa.qamar@pacra.com +92-42-35869504



Profile

Legal Structure Dawood Hercules Corporation Limited ("DH Corp" or "The Company") is a public limited company listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).
Background The Company was incorporated in Pakistan on April 17, 1968, under the Companies Act, 1913 (now Companies Act, 2017), as Dawood Hercules Chemicals Limited. As a result of restructuring in January 2011, Dawood Hercules Chemicals Limited de-merged its fertilizer operations by establishing a wholly owned subsidiary – DH Fertilizers Limited. Ultimately, Dawood Hercules Chemicals Limited was renamed as Dawood Hercules Corporation Limited.
Operations The principal activity of the Company is to manage investments including in its subsidiary and associated companies. The group's business portfolio spans across various sectors including fertilizer, PVC, food, power generation, coal mining and LNG storage. The registered office of the Company is in Karachi.

Ownership

Ownership Structure Dawood Group (Dawood Family and Associates) holds 34% stake in DH Corp through its' corporate entities (20%) and individuals (14%). Other related foreign companies hold 54% shareholding in DH Corp, 9% is held by corporate and financial institutions whereas 3% is held by general public.
Stability Ownership of the business is seen as stable as major ownership vests with the sponsors (Dawood Family) and HoldCo nature of the Company.
Business Acumen Dawood Group is a conglomerate with over three generations of experience in commercial and social enterprises. Currently, the Group has interests in various sectors of the economy including Fertilizers, Foods, Power Generation, Technology, Financial Services, Chemical Storage, and Petrochemicals. Strong affiliation and technical track record with international JVs have added to the success of the companies within the Group.
Financial Strength Dawood Group's main holding companies are DH Corp and Dawood Lawrencepur Limited. The Groups' main investments in Engro Corp are consolidated in DH Corp while investments in energy sector are consolidated in Dawood Lawrencepur Limited. In addition, the Group's businesses include Cyan Limited (a listed entity, engaged in making equity investment in companies with high growth potential). DH Corp has a strong consolidated asset base of ~ PKR 574bln supported by an equity base of ~ PKR 208bln in CY19 signifying a robust strength. Consolidated revenue stood at ~PKR 226bln in CY19.

Governance

Board Structure The BoD comprises ten members. All, except the CEO, are non-executive. The board has four members from the Dawood family and two independent directors.
Members' Profile The BoD is chaired by Mr Hussain Dawood, the patriarch of Dawood Family. He is a Pakistani businessman and philanthropist and chairs an array of profit and non-profit ventures. All members are seasoned professionals with experience in energy, chemical, technology and financial sectors, bringing a diverse range of requisite skills to the BoD.
Board Effectiveness The BoD has three committees to assist in governing the affairs of the Company. These comprise: a) Human Resource & Remuneration Committee, b) Board Audit Committee, and c) Board Investment Committee. The BoD met five times during CY19 with majority attendance. BoD Committees met four times each during CY19. Strong governance framework bodes well for the Company.
Financial Transparency DH Corp's External Auditor, A.F. Ferguson & Co, has issued an unqualified auditor's report on CY19 financial statements.

Management

Organizational Structure The Company operates through six departments namely: a) Investment, b) Finance, c) Human Resource, d) Services and Protocol, e) Information Technology and f) Internal Audit. All department heads report to the CEO, who reports to the BoD. However, the Head of Internal Audit Department and Human Resource Department report administratively to the CEO and functionally to Board Audit Committee and Human Resource & Remuneration Committee, respectively.
Management Team Mr. Inam-Ur-Rehman, is serving as CEO since Dec-16. Before joining DH Corp, he was the CEO of Dawood Lawrencepur Limited, Reon Limited and Tenaga Generasi Limited. Mr. Muhammad Shamoon Chaudhry, CFO, has more than 25 years of progressive and varied experience in the financial sector.
Effectiveness Key members of DH Corp's Board are also present on the Board of their investee companies. This helps exercise effective oversight and control.
MIS DH Corp generates a standardized quarterly MIS for its board members – Dashboard – which provides a structured breakdown of information on predetermined key indicators for the Company as a whole as well as each group entity individually.
Control Environment Previously, the Internal Audit Function of DH Corp was outsourced to Ernst & Young Ford Rhodes Chartered Accountants. Now, the Company has an in-house internal audit department headed by Certified Internal Control Auditor (CIA).

Business Risk

Industry Dynamics Holding companies are an emerging phenomena in Pakistan. Some operating companies that held strategic investments, for the purpose of diversification and growth, eventually de-merged from their operations and structured itself so that holding companies could concentrate their investments for the purpose of business growth and diversification.
Relative Position DH Corp enjoys a prominent position in the universe of Holding Companies in Pakistan. The Company has investments in various sectors mainly through Engro Corp. The fertilizer business is the second largest producer in its sector in Pakistan. The PVC business is the sole producer of PVC in Pakistan, with 66% market share of domestic PVC demand. The dairy business is the market leader in Pakistan's UHT market and number 2 dairy dessert brand serving over 12 million consumers. The Company operates Pakistan's first LNG receiving terminal, and an integrated bulk liquid chemical & LPG terminal. The energy side of the Company is operating Pakistan's first 217MW power plant on permeate gas. The mining business in a JV with the Government of Sindh and CMEC, is developing Pakistan's first open-pit coal mine.
Revenues DH Corps' topline comprises dividend income from its investee company - Engro Corp (65%), interest income from investment in different debt securities (27%) and unrealised gains/losses (8%) on quoted shares. On standalone basis, the topline for CY19 stood at PKR 8.3bln reflecting an increase of ~60% (CY18: PKR 5.2bln). This was driven by the increase in dividends received from Engro Corp coupled with higher returns from short-term investments (T-Bills, TDRs and PIBs) on back of rising interest rates. However, in 1QCY20, the Company's dividend income remained low. It booked significant unrealized losses (PKR 1.6bln) on quoted shares due to volatility in stock market amidst COVID-19 outbreak.
Margins Margins are a function of the Company's finance cost and taxation. Finance cost increased by ~61% amounting to PKR 1,425mln in CY19 (CY18:PKR 883mln) owing to increasing interest rates. The bottom-line stood at PKR 4,822mln in CY19 (CY18: PKR 6,054mln) with very strong net margin of 62% (CY18: 139%). The Company booked one off income from divestment in HUBCO in CY18. The Company posted a loss of PKR 1.5bln in 1QCY20 as it had sizeable unrealized losses on its investments due to stock market volatility. This position has improved with recovery in the market.
Sustainability DH Corp has a diversified and resilient investment portfolio that can sustain potential shocks in economy. The Company is keeping a close watch on its needs to stay agile and proactive. Depending on the duration of the COVID-19 and its impact on economic activity, certain businesses may experience pressure. The pandemic has resulted in a decline in equity valuations. Moreover, in the declining interest rates scenario, income from debt bearing instruments will be lower.

Financial Risk

Working Capital The Company, being a holding company, has limited/ no working capital needs in line with its operations. The Company holds sizeable liquid investment with short term investments of PKR 17bln in the form of government securities and listed equities with no short term borrowings in CY19. DH Corp sustained this position in 1QCY20.
Coverages The Company's interest coverage improved due to decline in finance cost. The Company holds significant liquid funds providing sizeable cushion against unforeseen contingencies.
Capitalization DH Corp has issued two sukus of PKR 5.2bln and PKR 6bln bearing 3MK+1% profit rate that will mature in Nov22 and Feb23, respectively. The purpose of the debt was to consolidate and re-profile existing debt. The amount outstanding stood at PKR 10.2bln in CY19 and PKR 8.3bln at end-1QCY20. Leverage ratios are moderate and stood at 23% in 1QCY20 (CY19:23.3%) for DH Corp.



Dawood Hercules Corporation Limited (DH Corp)

BALANCE SHEET

	31-Mar-20	31-Dec-19	31-Mar-19	31-Dec-18	31-Mar-18	31-Dec-17
	Management	Audited	Management	Audited	Management	Audited
Non-Current Assets	300	167	130	137	150	157
Investments (Incl. associates)	38,245	41,289	46,652	45,052	47,531	39,148
Equity	26,421	27,609	23,753	23,516	23,309	37,478
Others	11,824	13,679	22,899	21,536	24,222	1,670
Advance against Investment						
Current Assets	1,544	803	556	2,146	621	297
Inventory	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trade Receivables	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	1,544	803	556	2,146	621	297
Total Assets	40,088	42,258	47,337	47,334	48,301	39,601
Debt	8,997	9,590	11,106	11,106	11,082	5,140
Short-term	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-term (Incl. Current Maturity of long-term debt)	8,997	9,590	11,106	11,106	11,082	5,140
Other short-term liabilities	999	959	1,152	1,137	600	450
Other Long-term Liabilities	5	105	6	6	4	4
Shareholder's Equity	30,087	31,604	35,073	34,964	36,614	32,766
Total Liabilities & Equity	40,088	42,258	47,337	47,213	48,300	38,359

INCOME STATEMENT

Turnover	504	7,695	603	4,353	649	5,779
Gross Profit	247	6,867	448	3,343	531	5,287
Other Income	(1,531)	652	3	5,020	3,643	6
Financial Charges	(347)	(1,425)	(304)	(883)	(149)	(493)
Net Income	(1,517)	4,822	109	6,054	3,848	3,852

Cashflow Statement

Free Cashflow from Operations (FCFO)	(309)	(1980)	(249)	(2354)	(564)	(1189)
Net Cash changes in Working Capital	11	1346	1596	222	15	(111)
Net Cash from Operating Activities	(641)	3449	1054	1398	(384)	3979
Net Cash from Investing Activities	1518	(8014)	344	19243	18138	(1729)
Net Cash from Financing Activities	(610)	(9830)	(1)	2104	5942	(681)

Ratio Analysis

Performance

Turnover Growth	-16%	77%	-7%	-25%	-17%	-22%
Net Margin	-301%	63%	18%	139%	593%	67%
ROE	-20%	15%	1%	17%	219%	12%

Capital Structure (Total Debt/Total Debt+Equity)	23%	23%	24%	24%	23%	16%
Interest Coverage Ratio (FCFO/ Financial Charges)	(0.9)	(1.4)	(0.8)	(2.7)	(3.8)	(2.4)

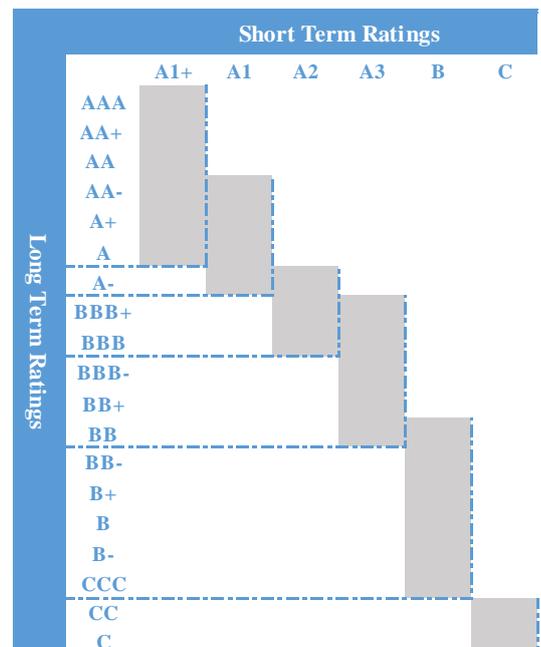
Dawood Hercules Corporation Limited (DHCL)

Jun-20

Credit Rating Scale & Definitions

Credit rating reflects forward-looking opinion on credit worthiness of underlying entity or instrument; more specifically it covers relative ability to honor financial obligations. The primary factor being captured on the rating scale is relative likelihood of default.

Long Term Ratings		Short Term Ratings	
AAA	Highest credit quality. Lowest expectation of credit risk. Indicate exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments	A1+	The highest capacity for timely repayment.
AA+ AA AA-	Very high credit quality. Very low expectation of credit risk. Indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.	A1	A strong capacity for timely repayment.
A+ A A-	High credit quality. Low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions.	A2	A satisfactory capacity for timely repayment. This may be susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.
BBB+ BBB BBB-	Good credit quality. Currently a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in circumstances and in economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.	A3	An adequate capacity for timely repayment. Such capacity is susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.
BB+ BB BB-	Moderate risk. Possibility of credit risk developing. There is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as a result of adverse economic or business changes over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.	B	The capacity for timely repayment is more susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.
B+ B B-	High credit risk. A limited margin of safety remains against credit risk. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.	C	An inadequate capacity to ensure timely repayment.
CCC CC C	Very high credit risk. Substantial credit risk “CCC” Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favorable business or economic developments. “CC” Rating indicates that default of some kind appears probable. “C” Ratings signal imminent default.		
D	Obligations are currently in default.		



Outlook (Stable, Positive, Negative, Developing) Indicates the potential and direction of a rating over the intermediate term in response to trends in economic and/or fundamental business/financial conditions. It is not necessarily a precursor to a rating change. ‘Stable’ outlook means a rating is not likely to change. ‘Positive’ means it may be raised. ‘Negative’ means it may be lowered. Where the trends have conflicting elements, the outlook may be described as ‘Developing’.

Rating Watch Alerts to the possibility of a rating change subsequent to, or in anticipation of, a) some material identifiable event and/or b) deviation from expected trend. But it does not mean that a rating change is inevitable. A watch should be resolved within foreseeable future, but may continue if underlying circumstances are not settled. Rating Watch may accompany Outlook of the respective opinion.

Suspension It is not possible to update an opinion due to lack of requisite information. Opinion should be resumed in foreseeable future. However, if this does not happen within six (6) months, the rating should be considered withdrawn.

Withdrawn A rating is withdrawn on a) termination of rating mandate, b) cessation of underlying entity, c) the debt instrument is redeemed, d) the rating remains suspended for six months, e) the entity/issuer defaults, or/and f) PACRA finds it impractical to surveil the opinion due to lack of requisite information.

Harmonization A change in rating due to revision in applicable methodology or underlying scale.

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Rating Team Statements

(1) Rating is just an opinion about the creditworthiness of the entity and does not constitute recommendation to buy, hold or sell any security of the entity rated or to buy, hold or sell the security rated, as the case may be | Chapter III; 14-3-(x)

2) Conflict of Interest

- i. The Rating Team or any of their family members have no interest in this rating | Chapter III; 12-2-(j)
- ii. PACRA, the analysts involved in the rating process and members of its rating committee, and their family members, do not have any conflict of interest relating to the rating done by them | Chapter III; 12-2-(e) & (k)
- iii. The analyst is not a substantial shareholder of the customer being rated by PACRA [Annexure F; d-(ii)] Explanation: for the purpose of above clause, the term "family members" shall include only those family members who are dependent on the analyst and members of the rating committee

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- (4) PACRA does not disclose or discuss with outside parties or make improper use of the non-public information which has come to its knowledge during business relationship with the customer | Chapter III; 10-7-(d)
- (5) PACRA does not make proposals or recommendations regarding the activities of rated entities that could impact a credit rating of entity subject to rating | Chapter III; 10-7-(k)

Conduct of Business

- (6) PACRA fulfills its obligations in a fair, efficient, transparent and ethical manner and renders high standards of services in performing its functions and obligations; | Chapter III; 11-A-(a)
- (7) PACRA uses due care in preparation of this Rating Report. Our information has been obtained from sources we consider to be reliable but its accuracy or completeness is not guaranteed. PACRA does not, in every instance, independently verifies or validates information received in the rating process or in preparing this Rating Report.
- (8) PACRA prohibits its employees and analysts from soliciting money, gifts or favors from anyone with whom PACRA conducts business | Chapter III; 11-A-(q)
- (9) PACRA ensures before commencement of the rating process that an analyst or employee has not had a recent employment or other significant business or personal relationship with the rated entity that may cause or may be perceived as causing a conflict of interest; | Chapter III; 11-A-(r)
- (10) PACRA maintains principal of integrity in seeking rating business | Chapter III; 11-A-(u)
- (11) PACRA promptly investigates, in the event of a misconduct or a breach of the policies, procedures and controls, and takes appropriate steps to rectify any weaknesses to prevent any recurrence along with suitable punitive action against the responsible employee(s) | Chapter III; 11-B-(m)

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- (12) PACRA receives compensation from the entity being rated or any third party for the rating services it offers. The receipt of this compensation has no influence on PACRA's opinions or other analytical processes. In all instances, PACRA is committed to preserving the objectivity, integrity and independence of its ratings. Our relationship is governed by two distinct mandates i) rating mandate - signed with the entity being rated or issuer of the debt instrument, and fee mandate - signed with the payer, which can be different from the entity
- (13) PACRA does not provide consultancy/advisory services or other services to any of its customers or to any of its customers' associated companies and associated undertakings that is being rated or has been rated by it during the preceding three years unless it has adequate mechanism in place ensuring that provision of such services does not lead to a conflict of interest situation with its rating activities; | Chapter III; 12-2-(d)
- (14) PACRA discloses that no shareholder directly or indirectly holding 10% or more of the share capital of PACRA also holds directly or indirectly 10% or more of the share capital of the entity which is subject to rating or the entity which issued the instrument subject to rating by PACRA; | Reference Chapter III; 12-2-(f)
- (15) PACRA ensures that the rating assigned to an entity or instrument is not be affected by the existence of a business relationship between PACRA and the entity or any other party, or the non-existence of such a relationship | Chapter III; 12-2-(i)
- (16) PACRA ensures that the analysts or any of their family members shall not buy or sell or engage in any transaction in any security which falls in the analyst's area of primary analytical responsibility. This clause shall, however, not be applicable on investment in securities through collective investment schemes. | Chapter III; 12-2-(l)
- (17) PACRA has established policies and procedure governing investments and trading in securities by its employees and for monitoring the same to prevent insider trading, market manipulation or any other market abuse | Chapter III; 11-B-(g)

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- (18) PACRA monitors all the outstanding ratings continuously and any potential change therein due to any event associated with the issuer, the security arrangement, the industry etc., is disseminated to the market, immediately and in effective manner, after appropriate consultation with the entity/issuer; | Chapter III | 18-(a)
- (19) PACRA reviews all the outstanding ratings on semi-annual basis or as and when required by any creditor or upon the occurrence of such an event which requires to do so; | Chapter III | 18-(b)
- (20) PACRA initiates immediate review of the outstanding rating upon becoming aware of any information that may reasonably be expected to result in downgrading of the rating; | Chapter III | 18-(c)
- (21) PACRA engages with the issuer and the debt securities trustee, to remain updated on all information pertaining to the rating of the entity/instrument; | Chapter III | 18-(d)

Probability of Default

(22) PACRA's Rating Scale reflects the expectation of credit risk. The highest rating has the lowest relative likelihood of default (i.e, probability). PACRA's transition studies capture the historical performance behavior of a specific rating notch. Transition behavior of the assigned rating can be obtained from PACRA's Transition Study available at our website. (www.pacra.com). However, actual transition of rating may not follow the pattern observed in the past | Chapter III | 14-(F-VII)

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