



The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited

## Rating Report

### China Power Hub Generation Company (Pvt.) Limited

#### Report Contents

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#### Rating History

Dissemination Date	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating	Outlook	Action	Rating Watch
29-Dec-2023	AA+	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
30-Dec-2022	AA+	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
31-Dec-2021	AA+	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
01-Jan-2021	AA+	A1+	Stable	Upgrade	-
07-Jan-2020	AA	A1+	Stable	Initial	-

#### Rating Rationale and Key Rating Drivers

The Ratings take comfort from the fact that this project is a priority project under CPEC and has significant economic and strategic importance. Presence of dedicated jetty at plant site and Coal Supply Agreement (CSA) with reputable international coal suppliers which ensure stable performance of the project provides more cushion to the Ratings. O&M agreement is with consortium of China Power Hub Operating Company (Pvt.) Limited and China Power International Maintenance Engineering Company Limited. The Company has announced Project Completion Date (PCD) on Feb 23, 2023, as all the covenants have been fulfilled. Management has requested a true-up tariff from NEPRA, and NEPRA has already securitized the request. Accordingly, the Company anticipates that the tariff will be finalized by the end of current FY. During 3QCY23, CPHGC stands at number 19 on the merit order list. Moreover, the Company has been able to achieve performance benchmarks and generated 651GW of electrical output during 9MCY23 (9MCY22: 5,305 GW). This lower generation is accounted for shift of electricity generation from cheaper sources. The Company reported a turnover of PKR 127bln during the 9MCY23 (9MCY22: 153bln) and has attained a bottom line of PKR 55bln in 9MCY23 as opposed to PKR 22bln in 9MCY22.

DSRA is maintained by the Company and is funded by internal cash generation. The Company has paid-off seven instalments of the long-term project-related debt. In reference to short-term borrowings, CPHGC has procured working capital lines of PKR 51bln out of which short-term borrowing utilization stood at PKR 38.6bln during 9MCY23. Nevertheless, the leverage is still significant and will progressively decrease over the course of the project.

Circular debt buildup could make managing cash flow difficult. The management, however, is steadfast in its commitment to maintain on-time debt repayments and is supported by pertinent business fundamentals. Going forward, upholding to operational benchmark and adherence to financial parameters along with timely repayment of project debt remains crucial to sustain the assigned ratings.

#### Disclosure

<b>Name of Rated Entity</b>	China Power Hub Generation Company (Pvt.) Limited
<b>Type of Relationship</b>	Solicited
<b>Purpose of the Rating</b>	Entity Rating
<b>Applicable Criteria</b>	Methodology   Correlation Between Long-term & Short-term Rating Scales(Jul-23),Methodology   Independent Power Producer Rating(Jul-23),Methodology   Rating Modifiers(Apr-23)
<b>Related Research</b>	Sector Study   Power(Jan-23)
<b>Rating Analysts</b>	Anam Waqas Ghayour   anam.waqas@pacra.com   +92-42-35869504

## The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited

### Profile

**Plant** China Power Hub Generation Company (Private) Limited (CPHGC), incorporated in 2015, operating 1320MW Coal-based Power Plant, located at Hub, Tehsil Gaddani, District Lasbella, Baluchistan. Developed in record time, as per schedule and within projected costs (~USD 2bln), the CPHGC is part of the early harvest energy projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

**Tariff** CPHGC has been provided a reference leveled tariff of 8.3601 US¢ per KWh. Tariff control period is thirty years from the COD. The tariff is indexed to the Pakistan Rupee-US Dollar exchange rate and US and Pakistan CPI inflation. Principal and interest repayments, ROE, Insurance, Fixed and Variable O&M costs are part of the escalable (adjustable) component. Fuel price and all the taxes/levies are completely pass through to power purchaser.

**Return On Project** The return on equity (ROE) in \$ terms as per the tariff determination of the project is at 27.2%, that is of imported coal.

### Ownership

**Ownership Structure** CPHGC has been established as Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) dated April 20, 2015 between China Power International Holding Limited (CPIHL) and the Hub Power Company (HUBCO). As per JVA, CPIHL through its wholly owned subsidiary China Power International (Pakistan) Investment Limited (CPIPI) and HUBCO through its wholly owned subsidiary Hub Power Holdings Limited (HPHL) owns 52.5% and 47.5% respectively.

**Stability** Company's association with State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC), one of the top Five State-owned Power Corporations in China and HUBCO provide comfort.

**Business Acumen** Sponsor groups have significant experience development and operation of power projects, including coal-fired, hydro, natural gas, and various of renewable energies such as thermal, hydro, LNG, wind, solar, biomass, waste-to-energy, cogeneration, mine-mouth coal project (with integrated production of coal and power) and so on.

**Financial Strength** HUBCO has strong financial position. While, total assets of CPIH is about USD 18.45bln. Hence, the financial strength of the sponsors is considered strong.

### Governance

**Board Structure** CPHGC's Board of Directors (BoD) comprises seven members, including the CEO. Four members represent China Power International (Pakistan) Investment Limited, while three represents Hub Power Holdings Limited. The board members have diverse experience from different industries.

**Members' Profile** Mr. Zhao Yonggang is currently the Chairman of BoD. Previously, he acted as CEO of the Company. He has a master degree in engineering project management from Changsha University of Science & Technology. With over two decades of professional experience in different functions and designations related to power generation companies. Besides all the remaining directors also hold senior position in other companies and have sound professional experience in Power and Energy industry.

**Board Effectiveness** During 3QCY23, CPHGC's board held three meetings to address the strategic decision of company. Attendance in the meeting is satisfactory.

**Financial Transparency** A.F Ferguson & Co. Chartered Accountants, Member of PWC Limited are the external auditor of the company. The auditor has given an unqualified opinion on CY22 financial statements.

### Management

**Organizational Structure** IPPs are generally featured by a flat organizational structure, mainly comprising finance and technical staff, while the engineering, construction and operations of the plant are outsourced.

**Management Team** The management team is led Mr. Ren Lihui, the CEO of the Company. Mr. Ren is associated with CPHGC during 2015. The entire operational set-up of the company falls under the purview of CEO, with each department head directly reporting to him.

**Effectiveness** The management of CPHGC is mostly engaged in the finance and company management related activities. O&M contractors have been engaged by the Company however, the Company applies its management control over the O&M activities.

**Control Environment** The Company maintains an adequate MIS which helps management to keep track of all operations and liaison with O&M operator. Moreover, the company has inhouse internal audit department to monitor the risk arises from the operations

### Operational Risk

**Power Purchase Agreement** The electricity generated will be sold to Central Power Purchasing Agency (Guarantee) Limited ("CPPA-G") under a 30-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

**Operation And Maintenance** The operations and maintenance of the plant and jetty have been outsourced to the consortium of O&M contractors. The O&M operator ensures adherence of the plant to meet minimum performance benchmarks. Thus, the risk of LDs is mitigated. The main plant equipment comprises of Boilers, Turbines & Generators (BTGs) are based on European Design & Technology.

**Resource Risk** The Company has dedicated jetty at plant site. Coal Supply Agreement (CSA) of CPHGC is with reputable international coal suppliers. Power plant will require 3.8mln tones (Mt) of coal annually. In terms of capacity, about three vessels/month on average with the capacity of 160,000 tones per vessel at jetty will be delivered. The payment mechanism is LC at sight.

**Insurance Cover** CPHGC has adequate insurance coverage for business interruptions, property damages etc. as per PPA and lenders facility agreements.

### Performance Risk

**Industry Dynamics** During FY23, the actual electrical output declined by 9.5% (FY23: 129,591GWh, FY22: 143,193GWh). This decrease is attributable to shift of electrical generation from cheaper sources such as Renewables, Hydel, Gas and Thar Coal. Moreover, decline in demand also contributed significantly to the same due to increase in electricity tariff.

**Generation** The Company achieved COD on 17th August, 2019. The electricity generation stood at 561 GWh during 3QCY23 (3QCY22: 5,305GWh). This decrease is due to lower demand posted by the Power Purchaser. During the period, the Company successfully generated the electricity on average 85% availability factor.

**Performance Benchmark** The required availability for China Power Hub Generation Company Limited under the PPA is 85%. The Company's required availability and efficiency remained above the required benchmark.

### Financial Risk

**Financing Structure Analysis** Debt financing constitutes 75% of the allowed project cost i.e. USD 1,995mln. Hence, allowed project debt and equity stood at USD 1,496.25mln (75%) and USD 498.75mln (25%). Total project debt was funded by Chinese lenders with the consortium led by CDB including EXIM Bank, BOC, CCB and ICBC. Project debt has the pricing of 3ML + 3.8% spread p.a. payable quarterly. The principal repayment shall be made in 20 semi-annual installments.

**Liquidity Profile** CPHGC, in its off-take agreement with CPPA-G, will receive capacity payments given the plant meets contract availability, even if no purchase order is placed. In order to comfort the lenders, DSR is maintained and fully funded through capacity payments equivalent to debt servicing due for one semi-annual principal and two quarterly interest payments.

**Working Capital Financing** Company has procured working capital lines of PKR 51bln out of which short-term borrowing utilization stood at PKR 38.6bln (majorly utilized) during 3QCY23. The Company has redeemed its PKR 7bln instrument in Sep'23 and no further instrument is issued in replacement.

**Cash Flow Analysis** During 3QCY23, free cash flows from operations (FCFO) stood at PKR 94,592mln (3QCY22: PKR 60,779mln, FY22: PKR 93,002mln). Interest and debt coverage ratio stood at 3.3x and 1.6x respectively, reflecting company's ability to pay its financial obligations.

**Capitalization** Since the Company's COD in 2019, it has paid-off 40% of the loan by making eight semi-annual repayments.



China Power Hub Generation Company Power	Sep-23 9M	Dec-22 12M	Dec-21 12M	Dec-20 12M
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**A BALANCE SHEET**

1 Non-Current Assets	377,411	318,687	270,826	254,978
2 Investments	-	-	-	-
3 Related Party Exposure	-	-	-	-
4 Current Assets	246,733	205,370	126,542	110,069
<i>a Inventories</i>	12,349	27,693	21,089	10,618
<i>b Trade Receivables</i>	106,235	91,323	53,408	43,586
5 Total Assets	624,143	524,057	397,369	365,047
6 Current Liabilities	28,030	36,268	13,645	12,449
<i>a Trade Payables</i>	20,332	30,311	3,327	5,184
7 Borrowings	371,338	318,264	261,099	248,525
8 Related Party Exposure	742	498	-	468
9 Non-Current Liabilities	-	-	-	-
10 Net Assets	224,034	169,026	122,625	103,606
11 Shareholders' Equity	224,034	169,176	122,625	103,606

**B INCOME STATEMENT**

1 Sales	126,855	190,664	100,017	103,793
<i>a Cost of Good Sold</i>	(41,710)	(126,829)	(64,933)	(51,480)
2 Gross Profit	85,145	63,834	35,083	52,313
<i>a Operating Expenses</i>	(2,366)	(2,849)	(2,691)	(2,852)
3 Operating Profit	82,778	60,985	32,392	49,461
<i>a Non Operating Income or (Expense)</i>	2,449	15,372	490	804
4 Profit or (Loss) before Interest and Tax	85,228	76,357	32,883	50,265
<i>a Total Finance Cost</i>	(29,102)	(29,273)	(13,665)	(14,840)
<i>b Taxation</i>	(1,267)	(532)	(197)	(310)
6 Net Income Or (Loss)	54,858	46,552	19,021	35,116

**C CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

<i>a Free Cash Flows from Operations (FCFO)</i>	94,592	93,002	45,174	58,957
<i>b Net Cash from Operating Activities before Working Capital Changes</i>	70,267	77,722	34,766	46,954
<i>c Changes in Working Capital</i>	(2,692)	(46,363)	(21,903)	(41,992)
1 Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	67,575	31,359	12,863	4,962
2 Net Cash (Used in) or Available From Investing Activities	3,239	1,183	(3,410)	(4,898)
3 Net Cash (Used in) or Available From Financing Activities	(22,557)	(11,678)	(14,579)	15,260
4 Net Cash generated or (Used) during the period	48,258	20,864	(5,125)	15,324

**D RATIO ANALYSIS**

1 Performance				
<i>a Sales Growth (for the period)</i>	-11.3%	90.6%	-3.6%	184.2%
<i>b Gross Profit Margin</i>	67.1%	33.5%	35.1%	50.4%
<i>c Net Profit Margin</i>	43.2%	24.4%	19.0%	33.8%
<i>d Cash Conversion Efficiency (FCFO adjusted for Working Capital/Sales)</i>	72.4%	24.5%	23.3%	16.3%
<i>e Return on Equity [ Net Profit Margin * Asset Turnover * (Total Assets/STB)]</i>	35.5%	31.3%	16.2%	36.0%
2 Working Capital Management				
<i>a Gross Working Capital (Average Days)</i>	256	185	235	174
<i>b Net Working Capital (Average Days)</i>	202	153	219	139
<i>c Current Ratio (Current Assets / Current Liabilities)</i>	8.8	5.7	9.3	8.8
3 Coverages				
<i>a EBITDA / Finance Cost</i>	3.3	4.0	3.3	4.0
<i>b FCFO / Finance Cost+CMLTB+Excess STB</i>	1.6	1.7	0.7	1.8
<i>c Debt Payback (Total Borrowings+Excess STB) / (FCFO-Finance Cost)</i>	3.8	3.9	8.3	5.1
4 Capital Structure				
<i>a Total Borrowings / (Total Borrowings+Shareholders' Equity)</i>	62.4%	65.3%	68.0%	70.6%
<i>b Interest or Markup Payable (Days)</i>	0.0	0.0	60.0	58.2
<i>c Entity Average Borrowing Rate</i>	10.9%	8.0%	5.5%	5.8%

### Credit Rating

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.

Scale	Long-term Rating Definition
AAA	<b>Highest credit quality.</b> Lowest expectation of credit risk. Indicate exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments
AA+	
AA	<b>Very high credit quality.</b> 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.
AA-	
A+	
A	<b>High credit quality.</b> 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.
A-	
BBB+	
BBB	<b>Good credit quality.</b> 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.
BBB-	
BB+	
BB	<b>Moderate risk.</b> 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.
BB-	
B+	
B	<b>High credit risk.</b> 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.
B-	
CCC	
CC	<b>Very high credit risk.</b> 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.
C	
D	Obligations are currently in default.

Scale	Short-term Rating Definition
A1+	The highest capacity for timely repayment.
A1	A strong capacity for timely repayment.
A2	A satisfactory capacity for timely repayment. This may be susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.
A3	An adequate capacity for timely repayment. Such capacity is susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.
A4	The capacity for timely repayment is more susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions. Liquidity may not be sufficient.



\*The correlation shown is indicative and, in certain cases, may not hold.

**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 some material identifiable event with indeterminable rating implications. 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 rating 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) the debt instrument is redeemed, c) the rating remains suspended for six months, d) the entity/issuer defaults, or/and e) 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.

**Surveillance.** Surveillance on a publicly disseminated rating opinion is carried out on an ongoing basis till it is formally suspended or withdrawn. A comprehensive surveillance of rating opinion is carried out at least once every six months. However, a rating opinion may be reviewed in the intervening period if it is necessitated by any material happening.

**Note.** This scale is applicable to the following methodology(s):  
 a) Broker Entity Rating  
 b) Corporate Rating  
 c) Debt Instrument Rating  
 d) Financial Institution Rating  
 e) Holding Company Rating  
 f) Independent Power Producer Rating  
 g) Microfinance Institution Rating  
 h) Non-Banking Finance Companies Rating

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(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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- (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 | Clause 11-(A)(p).
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- (10) PACRA maintains principal of integrity in seeking rating business | Chapter III; 11-A-(u)
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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)
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- (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)
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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 | 17-(a)
- (19) PACRA reviews all the outstanding ratings periodically, on annual basis; Provided that public dissemination of annual review and, in an instance of change in rating will be made; | Chapter III | 17-(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 | 17-(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 | 17-(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 | 14-3(f)(vii)

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