The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited

Rating Report

LalPir Power Limited

Report Contents

Rating History					
Dissemination Date	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating	Outlook	Action	Rating Watch
30-Sep-2022	AA	A1	Stable	Maintain	-
30-Sep-2021	AA	A1	Stable	Maintain	-
01-Oct-2020	AA	A1	Stable	Maintain	-
02-Oct-2019	AA	A1	Stable	Maintain	-
18-Apr-2019	AA	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
27-Dec-2018	AA	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
30-Jun-2018	AA	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
22-Dec-2017	AA	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
08-Jun-2017	AA	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
31-Oct-2016	AA	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-

Rating Rationale and Key Rating Drivers

The ratings reflect the regulated structure of Lalpir Power Limited (Lalpir Power) business; whereby revenues and cash flows are guaranteed by the sovereign government given adherence to agreed operational parameters. A risk of any decrease in efficiency factor against required benchmark would be borne by the Company itself given the fact, Lalpir Power is managing its operations and maintenance (O&M) in-house. Topline of the company, coupled with capacity utilization has slightly improved, owing to demand from power purchaser. Further the ratings take comfort from master agreement signed with the GoP leading to improved liquidity indicators as a sizeable amount of outstanding trade receivables were received during the rating review period. Consequently, the margins have trended downwards in line with tariff discounts given by the company to the power purchaser, albeit are considered to be adequate. Going forward, mounting receivables remains a cause of concern, and leverage indicators may increase slightly, owing to higher utilization of short-term funding to meet working capital requirements. During 6MCY22 the Company has dispatched 545,686 MWH of electricity as compared with 340,560 MWH dispatched during the corresponding period of the previous year. The profitability of the Company during 6MCY22 clocked to PKR 1,437mln (6MCY21 PKR: 263mln). The major reason of lower profitability in previous period was non-issuance of Capacity Purchase Price invoices amounting to Rs.3.922 billion started from 26-03-21 to 28-11-21(248 days) pursuant to PPA Amendment Agreement signed, accordingly Liquidated Damages under the PPA, imposed on the Company for this period have been waived by the CPPA-G . As per the agreement the shutdown period of the Complex on account of non-availability of fuel has been treated as Other Force Majeure Event (OFME) and Term of the PPA has been extended by 248 days. The Company has started issuing CPP invoices from 29th November 2021. Moreover, the Company is entitled to send CPP invoices for these 248 days at the end of the PPA Term at the applicable indexations (i.e. USD and USCPI applicable for last agreement year). The long term project debt was completely paid off in 2010; thus, company's debt position mainly reflects current borrowings secured to bridge the working capital requirements and maintenance of projects.

Upholding operational performance in line with agreed performance levels would remain a key rating driver. Further timely payment from the Power purchaser as per agreement remained imperative.

Disclosure	
Name of Rated Entity	LalPir Power Limited
Type of Relationship	Solicited
Purpose of the Rating	Entity Rating
Applicable Criteria	Methodology | Correlation Between Long-term & Short-term Rating Scales(Jun-22),Methodology | Rating Modifiers(Jun-22),Methodology | Independent Power Producer Rating(Jun-22)
Related Research	Sector Study | Power(Jan-22)
Rating Analysts	Muhammad Mubashir Nazir | mubashir.nazir@pacra.com | +92-42-35869504

Profile

Plant Lalpir Power Limited (Lalpir Power) commissioned a thermal power plant on a build-own-operate (BOO) basis with a capacity of 362 MW based on residual fuel power (RFO). The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with its sole customer, Central Power Purchasing Agency (Guarantee) Limited (CPPA-G) signed for 30 years which commenced on 06 November 1997.

Tariff Lalpir Power has a generation tariff (Levelized tariff for years 1-30) of US 5.7cents/Kilowatt hour (KWh).

Return On Project There is no IRR of Lalpir plant with reference to Power Purchase agreement.

Ownership

Ownership Structure The plant is majority-owned by Nishat Group (NG). NG collectively carries a majority shareholding 62.94%. The remaining holding is spread among Financial Institutions, Foreign Companies, and individuals.

Stability Stability in the IPPs is drawn from the agreements signed between Lalpir Power and the power purchaser. However, sponsors association with Nishat Group will continue to provide comfort.

Business Acumen Nishat Group is a distinguished business group in Pakistan. The emergence of the Group, as a conglomerate, spans over fifty years with interests in textile, cement, insurance, power, and financial sectors.

Financial Strength The financial strength of the sponsors is considered strong as the sponsors have well-diversified profitable businesses.

Governance

Board Structure Lalpir Power's board consists of 8 members. The board is majority controlled by Nishat Group, with a total of five nominated members including the chairman Mr. Hassan Mansha.

Members' Profile Board members are from different educational and professional backgrounds bringing diversified professional experience and knowledge on the board.

Board Effectiveness For effective oversight of the matters, the board has formed two board committees, the Audit Committee, and Human Resource & Remuneration Committee. The chairman of the Audit, HR, and Remuneration Committee is an independent director in accordance with the code of corporate governance.

Financial Transparency Riaz Ahmad & Company is the external auditor of the company. They expressed an unqualified opinion on Lalpir Power's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Management

Organizational Structure Lalpir Power has largely a flat organizational structure. The CEO, Plant Manager, and CFO report directly to the Chairman of the board. Lalpir has a technical team with well-defined roles that ensures a smooth flow of operations.

Management Team Mr. Mehmood Akhtar is the CEO of the Company. He has over 40 years of managerial experience spread across various industries. Moreover, he also serves on the Board of Pakgen Power Limited.

Effectiveness Lalpir Power management effectiveness plays a significant role in empowering the organization through positive results, which has made the decision-making process systematic.

Control Environment Lalpir Power maintains an adequate MIS reporting system for the management to keep track of all operating activities and operational efficiencies. The system generates daily and monthly reports containing information on production, inventory, and efficiency maintained. Lalpir Power uses in-house built software to generate these reports.

Operational Risk

Power Purchase Agreement Lalpir Power's key source of earnings is the revenue generated through the sale of electricity to the power purchaser, CPPA-G. The Company will receive the capacity payments if it ensures availability and is ready to provide electricity, even if no energy demand is placed by Power Purchaser.

Operation And Maintenance Lalpir Power O&M activities are handled by an in-house team trained under the expertise of AES, a former O&M operator. This team is involved in O&M activities since the plant's COD and hence carries significant experience.

Resource Risk Lalpir Power has engaged Pakistan State Oil (PSO) – the largest local oil-marketing company - as the fuel supplier. PSO is responsible for supplying Residual Fuel Oil (RFO) under the Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) for 30 years and ensure delivery as agreed upon by both parties. Further fuel is also purchased from other OMC's as required.

Insurance Cover Lalpir Power has significant insurance coverage for property damage and business interruption. The insured values for damages include a property damage cover (up to PKR 71.3bln) & business interruption cover (up to PKR 7.4bln).

Performance Risk

Industry Dynamics The total installed generation capacity of the country is above 40,000MW. Total generation during FY22 was recorded at 143,193GWh (FY21:130,223GWh), witnessing a 9% increase. The increase in generation was backed by surging electricity demand and consumption patterns. Hydel power generation contributed 25% to the total generation during the period whereas RLNG and Coal had equal share of 19%

Generation The Company has generated 545,686MWH of electricity during 6MCY22as compared to 340,560MWh during the corresponding period of the previous financial year. Owing to better off-take of demand from the Power Purchaser.

Performance Benchmark During 6MCY22, Lalpir Power turnover has increased in line with power generation (6MCY22: PKR 21,942mln; 6MCY21: PKR 7,560mln; CY21: PKR 18,654mln), and profitability was reported to (6MCY22: PKR 1,437mln; 6MCY21: PKR 263mln). The reason for the decrease in profitability/revenue in the corresponding period was non-issuance of capacity invoices from March 26, 2021, to November 28, 2021, pursuant to PPA amendment agreement.

Financial Risk

Financing Structure Analysis The total Lalpir Power project's cost was US$ 347mln. The project financing capital structure comprised 27% equity (US$ 94mln) and 73% debt (US$ 253mln), as on Nov 97, mainly financed by a consortium of IFC – USA and Bank of Tokyo – Mitsubishi Ltd, Japan. The total project-related debt remained completely paid by the Company.

Liquidity Profile Lalpir Power total receivables reached PKR 11,692mln as of 6MCY22 (CY21: PKR 5,634mln, CY20: PKR 19,310mln; CY19: PKR 17,665mln). Short-term borrowing stood at PKR: 7,569 for managing the working capital of the Company. Pursuant to the PPA amendment agreement, the Company received a significant amount of overdue receivables outstanding till November 2021 of PKR: 34.656 billion from CPPA-G during the period under rating review.

Working Capital Financing During 6MCY22 receivable days were reduced to 72 days (CY21: 244 days; CY20: 544 days.) The company's cash cycle days as of 6MCY21 have been reduced to 72 days (CY21: 244days; CY20: 543 days) respectively. Consequently, the Company has reduced the utilization of working capital lines in CY21: 10%, however, the mounting receivables remain the cause of concern consequently during 6MCY22 the short-term borrowing utilization increased to 47%.

Cash Flow Analysis Cash Flow Analysis Free Cash Flow of the company for 6MCY22 was PKR 1,742mln (CY21: PKR -257mln; CY20: PKR 4,620mln; CY19: PKR 5,294mln). Owing to adequate cash flows the company's debt coverage (FCFO pre-WC / Gross Interest + CMLTD) has clocked in 6MCY22 at (12.3)x (CY21: -0.3x; CY20: 3.4x; CY19: 3.0x).

Capitalization The Company currently has a moderately leveraged capital structure that comprises 30.9% debt as of 6MFY22 (CY21: 9.8%; CY20: 38.8%). Going forward the leveraging indicators may slightly rise further in order to meet the working capital requirements.

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Financial Summary
PKR mln

Lalpir Power Ltd	Jun-22	Dec-21	Dec-20	Dec-19
Power	6M	12M	12M	12M
A BALANCE SHEET				
1 Non-Current Assets	5,210	5,708	6,784	7,893
2 Investments	-	-	99	93
3 Related Party Exposure	2	0	0	0
4 Current Assets	19,922	12,021	22,977	21,570
a Inventories	*2,585*	*2,598*	*1,019*	*448*
b Trade Receivables	*11,692*	*5,634*	*19,310*	*17,665*
5 Total Assets	25,133	17,728	29,859	29,557
6 Current Liabilities	496	433	1,227	930
a Trade Payables	*396*	*370*	*1,000*	*542*
7 Borrowings	7,596	1,695	11,089	13,778
8 Related Party Exposure	-	-	-	-
9 Non-Current Liabilities	30	27	18	21
10 Net Assets	17,011	15,574	17,524	14,827
11 Shareholders' Equity	17,011	15,574	17,524	14,827
B INCOME STATEMENT				
1 Sales	21,942	18,654	12,402	12,840
a Cost of Good Sold	*(20,400)*	*(18,563)*	*(7,378)*	*(8,712)*
2 Gross Profit	1,542	91	5,024	4,129
a Operating Expenses	*(88)*	*(205)*	*(202)*	*(422)*
3 Operating Profit	1,454	(114)	4,822	3,707
a Non Operating Income or (Expense)	*111*	*50*	*44*	*101*
4 Profit or (Loss) before Interest and Tax	1,565	(64)	4,865	3,807
a Total Finance Cost	*(128)*	*(742)*	*(1,314)*	*(1,764)*
b Taxation	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*
6 Net Income Or (Loss)	1,437	(806)	3,551	2,044
C CASH FLOW STATEMENT				
a Free Cash Flows from Operations (FCFO)	*1,742*	*(257)*	*4,620*	*5,294*
b Net Cash from Operating Activities before Working Capital (	*1,782*	*(418)*	*4,457*	*3,716*
c Changes in Working Capital	*(7,234)*	*10,823*	*(969)*	*(5,731)*
1 Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	(5,453)	10,406	3,489	(2,015)
2 Net Cash (Used in) or Available From Investing Activities	536	14	31	645
3 Net Cash (Used in) or Available From Financing Activities	7,539	(10,529)	(3,544)	2,022
4 Net Cash generated or (Used) during the period	2,621	(109)	(24)	652
D RATIO ANALYSIS				
1 Performance				
a Sales Growth (for the period)	135.3%	50.4%	-3.4%	-23.6%
b Gross Profit Margin	7.0%	0.5%	40.5%	32.2%
c Net Profit Margin	6.6%	-4.3%	28.6%	15.9%
d Cash Conversion Efficiency (FCFO adjusted for Working Ca	-25.0%	56.6%	29.4%	-3.4%
*e Return on Equity [Net Profit Margin * Asset Turnover * (To*	19.8%	-3.9%	20.4%	14.4%
2 Working Capital Management				
a Gross Working Capital (Average Days)	94	279	566	458
b Net Working Capital (Average Days)	90	266	543	426
c Current Ratio (Current Assets / Current Liabilities)	40.1	27.8	18.7	23.2
3 Coverages				
a EBITDA / Finance Cost	14.5	0.4	3.5	2.9
b FCFO / Finance Cost+CMLTB+Excess STB	12.3	-0.3	3.4	3.0
c Debt Payback (Total Borrowings+Excess STB) / (FCFO-Fin	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0
4 Capital Structure				
a Total Borrowings / (Total Borrowings+Shareholders' Equity	30.9%	9.8%	38.8%	48.2%
b Interest or Markup Payable (Days)	134.9	27.2	61.0	80.3
c Entity Average Borrowing Rate	4.7%	9.0%	10.9%	13.4%

Credit Rating

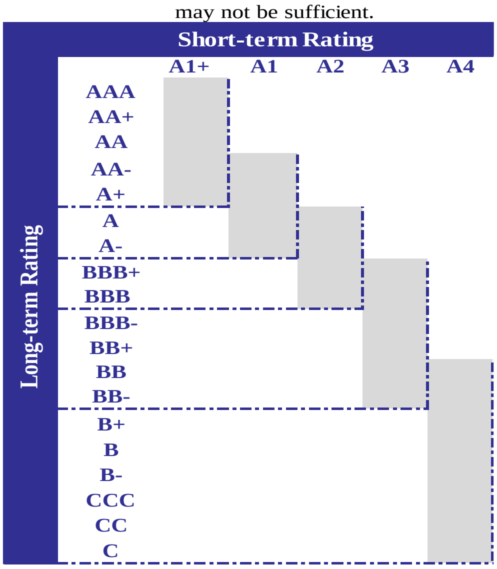
Credit rating reflects forward-looking opinion on credit worthiness of underlying entity or instrument; more specifically it covers relative ability to honor financial obligations. The primary factor being captured on the rating scale is relative likelihood of default.

Long-term Rating

Scale	Definition
AAA	**Highest credit quality.** Lowest expectation of credit risk. Indicate exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments
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.
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.
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.
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+ 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.
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.

Short-term Rating

Scale	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
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 surveill 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):

Entities

a) Broker Entity Rating
b) Corporate Rating
c) Financial Institution Rating
d) Holding Company Rating
e) Independent Power Producer Rating
f) Microfinance Institution Rating
g) Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) Rating

Instruments

a) Basel III Compliant Debt Instrument Rating
b) Debt Instrument Rating
c) Sukuk Rating

Regulatory and Supplementary Disclosure
(Credit Rating Companies Regulations,2016)

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

Restrictions
(3) No director, officer or employee of PACRA communicates the information, acquired by him for use for rating purposes, to any other person except where required under law to do so. | Chapter III; 10-(5)
(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 | Clause 11-(A)(p).
(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)

Independence & Conflict of interest
(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)

Monitoring and review
(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)
Proprietary Information