

Press Release

ODISHA POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED

March 22, 2024

Rating Upgraded



Product	Quantum (Rs. Cr)	Long Term Rating	Short Term
Bank Loan Ratings	500.00	ACUITE A- Stable Upgraded	-
Bank Loan Ratings	100.00	-	ACUITE A1 Upgraded
Total Outstanding Quantum (Rs. Cr)	600.00	-	-

Rating Rationale

Acuite has upgraded its long-term rating to 'ACUITE A-' (read as ACUITE A minus) from 'ACUITE BBB+' (read as ACUITE triple B plus) and short-term rating to 'ACUITE A1' (read as ACUITE A one) from 'ACUITE A2+' (read as ACUITE A two plus) on the Rs. 600.00 crore bank facilities of ODISHA POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED (OPGCL). The outlook is 'Stable'.

Rationale for Upgrade

The rating upgrade is driven by improvements in the operating and financial risk profile recorded by the Odisha Group in FY2023. The consolidated revenue grew by ~80% in FY2023 to Rs.5218.56 crore from Rs.2887.48 crore in FY2022. The growth in revenue is on the back of higher PAF and PLF in the OGCPL's unit 3&4, OCPL's improved coal production (~8million tonne in FY2023; 5.25 million tonne in FY2022) and higher realisations from open market auctions of coal. The PAF and PLF improved significantly for OPGCL's unit 3&4 in FY2023 to 78% and 77% respectively against 52% and 63% in the previous year respectively. It is further expected to remain in a similar range in the current financial year. Further, it factors in the improved operating profitability to 62.14% in FY2023 from 43.65% in FY2022. However, the revenues are expected to moderate in FY2024 primarily due to decline in realizations from coal sales and accordingly profitability margins are expected to decline.

Further, the financial risk profile strengthened marked by improved net-worth, low gearing levels and moderate debt coverage indicators which will sustain in medium term.

Further, the ratings continue to reflect the group's strategic importance and strong linkage with State government of Odisha. The group has low offtake risk because of PPA agreements with GRIDCO and fuel supply agreement between OPCL and OPGCL.

However, the rating strengths are partially offset by the high working capital requirement and regulatory risk.

About Company

OPGCL was incorporated by the Government of Orissa in 1984. OPGCL as its maiden venture had set up two units of 210 MW thermal power stations at Banaharpalli (IB Thermal Power Station) in the district of Jharsuguda (Odisha) in December 1994 (unit 1) and June 1996 (unit 2). The first unit commenced operations in 1994 while the second unit commenced operations in 1996. The entity has expanded its scope of operations through addition of two more units (units 3 and 4) each of 660 MW and they have become operational since Q2FY20. OPGCL is 100% owned by Government of Odisha.

About the Group

Odisha Coal and Power limited (OCPL) is a subsidiary (51%) of Odisha Power Generation Corporation Limited(OPGCL). OCPL supplies coal to OPGCL. OPGCL is a 100% Government of Odisha owned entity. Further, Government of Odisha holds 49% ownership in OCPL. Both the entities have strong operational and financial linkages. Together these entities are being referred to as Odisha Group.

Unsupported Rating

Not Applicable

Analytical Approach

Extent of Consolidation

- Full Consolidation

Rationale for Consolidation or Parent / Group / Govt. Support

Acuité has consolidated the financial and business risk profile of Odisha Power Generation Corporation Limited and Odisha Coal & Power Limited (OCPL). The consolidation is on account of OPGCL holding a 51 percent stake in OCPL. OCPL was incorporated to cater to the coal needs of OPGCL's for additional capacity (2 x 660MW for phase II) and (2 x 660MW for phase III) through the coal mines of Manoharpur and Dip side of Manoharpur block. OCPL has signed fuel supply agreement with OPGCL regarding supply of coal from Manoharpur coal block.

Key Rating Drivers

Strengths

Strategically important entity to Government of Odisha

The group is strategically important for the power sector infrastructure in the state of Odisha. OPGCL is also one of the key entities for undertaking power generation activity in the state of Odisha other than OHPCL. The status of being a government- owned entity provides adequate financial flexibility. OPGCL's credit profile is also supported by its access to funds at low cost and its ability to mobilize financial resources from several financial institutions and multilateral development institutions. The rating also factors ongoing support extended by GoO to OPGCL in the form of equity infusion at regular interval.

Odisha has been one of the fastest growing states in India with a low debt to gross state domestic product. The GoO has significantly increased its focus on increasing industrial development in the state. It is also focusing on asset creation towards infrastructure and social sectors.

Acuité believes that OPGCL shall continue to benefit from the financial, operational, and managerial support received from GoO from time.

Low offtake risk

There is low off take risk as there is Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) with Gridco (state owned power transmission company).OPGCL has a power purchase agreement (PPA) with GRIDCO based on a two-part tariff structure for sale of the entire power generated from its operational capacity of 420 megawatt (MW). Regular maintenance of the power stations has enabled OPGCL to consistently maintain plant availability factor higher than the normative level of 68.49 per cent (as defined in the PPA), thus leading to full recovery of fixed costs.

Further, the OPGCL has already entered into a PPA with GRIDCO according to which from 1st April 2023, 100 per cent of the capacity is being directly sold to GRIDCO for a period of 25 years.

OPGCL has fuel supply agreement (FSA) with Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) which ensures the steady supply of raw material. In addition, OCPL has signed fuel supply with OPGCL regarding sale of extracted coal from Manoharpur coal mines.

Acuite believes the scale of operation is likely to improve in the medium term driven by rise in mining activity in OCPL and rise in overall plant load factor in power plants.

Healthy financial risk profile

The consolidated financial risk profile stood at a healthy level marked by its strong net worth, high and moderate debt protection metrics. The net worth of the group stood at Rs.4848.23 crore in FY2023 as compared to Rs.3291.09 crore in FY2022. The gearing of the group improved to 1.70 times in FY23 as compared to 2.77 times in FY22. The group has high reliance on external debt because of large debt funded capex plans. The interest coverage ratio (ICR) improved to 4.49 times in FY23 as compared to 1.49 times in FY22. The Debt-EBITDA levels declined to 2.49 times in FY23 from 7.58 times in FY22.

Acuite believes financial risk profile may moderate in medium term owing to debt funded capex plan of the group.

Weaknesses

High working capital requirement:

The group has high working capital requirement marked by Gross Current Assets (GCA) of 146 days as on March 31, 2023 as against 169 days as on March 31, 2022. The high GCA days are primarily on account of high debtor days of 91 days as on March 31, 2023 as compared to 73 days as on March 31, 2022. Further, the inventory days stood modest at 42 days as on March 31, 2023 as against 53 days in FY22.

Acuite believes working capital requirement is likely to remain similar over the medium term.

Exposure to Regulatory Risks:

GRIDCO is the sole counterparty for OPGC's power output and is directly exposed to the health of the Odisha discoms. Thus, OPGC's collection efficiency largely depends on state of the power sector in Odisha. However, these risks are mitigated by presence of a robust two payment security mechanism comprising a letter of credit and an escrow mechanism, which has led to timely realization from discoms.

Rating Sensitivities

Significant moderation in scale of operations and decline in operating profitability
Efficient working capital management.

Liquidity Position

Adequate

The group has adequate liquidity profile as reflected by sufficient cash accruals generation in FY2023 against repayment obligations. The group generated cash accruals of Rs.2006.81 Cr. against repayment obligations of Rs. 470.99 Cr. during the same period. Further, the group is expected to generate sufficient cash accruals to pay its debt repayment obligation in near to medium term. Further, the fund-based limit utilisation of OPGCL stood moderate at 73% for the last 9 months ending December 2023. Moreover, the group has a high cash & bank equivalent of Rs. 208.36 Cr. as on 31.03.2023. However, the group has high GCA days of 146 days in FY23 as against 169 days in FY22.

Acuite expects liquidity profile of the group may continue to remain at adequate levels over the medium term backed by steady cash accruals.

Outlook: Stable

Acuite believes that the group will maintain 'Stable' outlook over the medium term from its strategic importance to the GoO, experienced management, strong parentage and improved PAF and PLF in the Unit 3&4 of OPGCL. The outlook may be revised to 'Positive' if the group registers growth in revenues while improving its profitability from high operational efficiencies. Conversely, the outlook may be revised to 'Negative' in case of any significant moderation in revenues and profitability levels or deterioration in their liquidity position.

Other Factors affecting Rating

None

Key Financials

Particulars	Unit	FY 23 (Actual)	FY 22 (Actual)
Operating Income	Rs. Cr.	5218.56	2887.48
PAT	Rs. Cr.	1647.46	55.07
PAT Margin	(%)	31.57	1.91
Total Debt/Tangible Net Worth	Times	1.70	2.77
PBDIT/Interest	Times	4.49	1.49

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA (if applicable)

Not Applicable

Any Other Information

None

Applicable Criteria

- Application Of Financial Ratios And Adjustments: <https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-53.htm>
- Consolidation Of Companies: <https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-60.htm>
- Default Recognition: <https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-52.htm>
- Group And Parent Support: <https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-47.htm>
- Manufacturing Entities: <https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-59.htm>

Note on Complexity Levels of the Rated Instrument

In order to inform the investors about complexity of instruments, Acuité has categorized such instruments in three levels: Simple, Complex and Highly Complex. Acuite' s categorisation of the instruments across the three categories is based on factors like variability of the returns to the investors, uncertainty in cash flow patterns, number of counterparties and general understanding of the instrument by the market. It has to be understood that complexity is different from credit risk and even an instrument categorized as 'Simple' can carry high levels of risk. For more details, please refer Rating Criteria "Complexity Level Of Financial Instruments" on www.acuite.in.

Rating History

Date	Name of Instruments/Facilities	Term	Amount (Rs. Cr)	Rating/Outlook
23 Dec 2022	Bank Guarantee (BLR)	Short Term	31.70	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	500.00	ACUITE BBB+ Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Proposed Short Term Bank Facility	Short Term	68.30	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
15 Nov 2022	Bank Guarantee (BLR)	Short Term	31.70	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	500.00	ACUITE BBB+ Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Proposed Short Term Bank Facility	Short Term	68.30	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
04 Oct 2021	Bank Guarantee (BLR)	Short Term	27.74	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	500.00	ACUITE BBB+ Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Proposed Short Term Bank Facility	Short Term	72.26	ACUITE A2+ (Reaffirmed)

Annexure - Details of instruments rated

Lender's Name	ISIN	Facilities	Date Of Issuance	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date	Complexity Level	Quantum (Rs. Cr.)	Rating
Axis Bank	Not avl. / Not appl.	Bank Guarantee (BLR)	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Simple	34.00	ACUITE A1 Upgraded (from ACUITE A2+)
Union Bank of India	Not avl. / Not appl.	Cash Credit	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Simple	500.00	ACUITE A- Stable Upgraded (from ACUITE BBB+)
Not Applicable	Not avl. / Not appl.	Proposed Short Term Bank Facility	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Simple	66.00	ACUITE A1 Upgraded (from ACUITE A2+)

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About Acuité Ratings & Research

Acuité is a full-service Credit Rating Agency registered with the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The company received RBI Accreditation as an External Credit Assessment Institution (ECAI) for Bank Loan Ratings under BASEL-II norms in the year 2012. Acuité has assigned ratings to various securities, debt instruments and bank facilities of entities spread across the country and across a wide cross section of industries. It has its Registered and Head Office in Kanjurmarg, Mumbai.

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