

Ratings

CRISIL Ratings Limited (A subsidiary of CRISIL Limited)



Rating Rationale

February 17, 2022 | Mumbai

Latur Renewable Private Limited

Rating upgraded to 'CRISIL AA+(CE)/Stable'

Rating Action

Rs.300 Crore Non Convertible Debentures	CRISIL AA+ (CE) /Stable (Upgraded from 'CRISIL AA(CE)/Positive')
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1 crore = 10 million

Refer to Annexure for Details of Instruments & Bank Facilities

Detailed Rationale

CRISIL Ratings has upgraded its rating on the non-convertible debentures (NCDs) of Latur Renewable Private Limited (LRPL) to '**CRISIL AA+(CE)/Stable**' from '**CRISIL AA(CE)/Positive**'.

The upgrade reflects similar rating action on the bank facilities and debt instruments of parent company Torrent Power Limited (TPL) to 'CRISIL AA+/Stable/CRISIL A1+' from 'CRISIL AA/Positive/CRISIL A1+'.

The rating on the NCDs is based on the strength of the unconditional and irrevocable corporate guarantee from LRPL's parent, Torrent Power Ltd. The guarantee covers the principal, interest and other monies payable on these NCDs. The payment mechanism is administered by the debenture trustee to ensure timely payment of coupon and redemption on respective scheduled due dates. Any adverse movement in the credit risk profile of the guarantor and non-adherence to the payment mechanism are key rating sensitivity factors. (Refer to Any other information section for 'Payment Mechanism for NCDs').

Low wind speeds witnessed across the industry had impacted average plant load factor (PLF), which fell from 35.14% in fiscal 2020 to 31.51% in fiscal 2021. Operational performance continues to remain impacted during the first nine months of fiscal 2022 with average PLF of 33.45% as compared to 33.95% in the same period of fiscal 2021. Nonetheless, CRISIL Ratings expects LRPL's debt service coverage ratio (DSCR), with P-90 PLF and tariff of Rs 3.74 per unit, to remain adequate.

The 'Stable' outlook reflects the likelihood that profitability of the guarantor (TPL) will continue to be strong while net leverage may sustain below 2.6-2.8 times.

Analytical Approach

CRISIL Ratings has applied its criteria on rating instruments backed by guarantees. The (CE) suffix reflects the payment structure, which is designed to ensure full and timely payment to lenders on account of the corporate guarantee by TPL.

Key Rating Drivers & Detailed Description

Strengths:

- **Unconditional and irrevocable corporate guarantee from the parent:** The NCDs have an unconditional, irrevocable, continuing corporate guarantee from TPL. LRPL is a 100% subsidiary of TPL, and the project cost was entirely funded by the parent initially. TPL also exercises managerial control and provides technical inputs to the entity.
- **Strong revenue visibility and low offtake risk:** LRPL's 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company (GESCOM), with an option to extend the PPA to 25 years, provides revenue visibility due to an assured offtake at Rs 3.74 per unit for the entire power generated. While the NCDs have door-to-door maturity of 5 years, refinancing risk is mitigated by the long-term PPA with GESCOM.
- **Adequate debt service metrics and liquidity:** The company's debt service coverage ratio, with P-90 plant load factor (PLF) and tariff of Rs 3.74 per unit, will remain adequate. Furthermore, the payment mechanism for the NCD ensures timely debt servicing, which is on an annual basis.

Weaknesses:

- **Exposure to counterparty credit risk:** LRPL remains vulnerable to the risk of delayed payments by a moderate counterparty. GESCOM has made payments with an average delay of about 5.5 months since commissioning. Poor financial health of state electricity distribution companies and lack of structural reforms in the sector continue to pose risk of increased delays in payments.
- **Susceptibility to risks inherent in operating wind energy assets:** Variation in wind speed and pattern could reduce the operating PLF, thus impairing the project's debt-servicing ability.

Liquidity: Strong

Strong liquidity is supported by the credit enhancement available in the form of an unconditional and irrevocable corporate guarantee by TPL. The parent is likely to provide financial support in the event of an exigency.

Outlook: Stable

CRISIL Ratings believes LRPL should benefit over the medium term from its stable and adequate PLF, along with managerial, technical and financial support from parent, TPL.

Rating Sensitivity Factors

Upward Factor:

- Improved credit risk profile of TPL and upgrade by one notch in its ratings

Downward Factor:

- Deterioration in the credit risk profile of TPL and downgrade of one notch in its rating
- Non-adherence to the terms of the transaction structure or payment mechanism

Adequacy of credit enhancement structure

The rating on LRPL's NCDs reflect the unconditional and irrevocable guarantee from TPL. CRISIL Ratings understands that the parent would take measures to monitor the cash flow of LRPL to ensure timely servicing of debt (principal, interest and other monies payable on the guaranteed debt facility).

Unsupported ratings: CRISIL AA

CRISIL Ratings has introduced the 'CE' suffix for instruments having explicit credit enhancement feature in compliance with the Securities and Exchange Board of India's circular dated June 13, 2019.

Key drivers for unsupported ratings

For arriving at the unsupported rating, CRISIL Ratings has considered the standalone business and financial risk profiles of LRPL. CRISIL Ratings has applied its parent notch-up framework to factor in the extent of support available to LRPL from TPL.

About the Company

LRPL was incorporated in 2017 and is currently a 100% subsidiary of TPL. LRPL has implemented a 60-megawatt (MW) wind power project in Gudadanal, Raichur district of Karnataka. It has a 20 year PPA with GESCOM (renewable for further period of 5 years), at a fixed tariff of Rs 3.74 / unit. The project was commissioned on March 28, 2018, within the scheduled commercial operation. The operation and maintenance for the project is being carried out by Siemens Gamesa Renewable Power Pvt. Ltd.

About the Guarantor

TPL is in the power generation and distribution business. It is a distribution licensee in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Dahej SEZ and Dholera SIR; and is the distribution franchisee for Bhiwandi, Agra and Shil, Mumbra and Kalwa (SMK). Its power generation plants are in Sabarmati (AMGEN, a 362-MW coal-based station) in Ahmedabad, Surat (1,147.5 MW gas-based SUGEN plant with 382.5 MW expansion), and Dahej (1,200 MW gas-based combined cycle DGEN power plant). The renewable portfolio includes 49.6 MW wind power plant (WPP) at Lalpur, 51 MW solar power plant at Charanka, 252 MW Suzlon WPP at Kutch and Bhavnagar, 50.9 MW WPP at Mahidad, and 87 MW GENSU solar power plant at Surat (all in Gujarat). The company also has a 120 MW (60 MWX2) WPP in Karnataka and 126 MW (63 MWX2) WPP in Maharashtra through wholly owned subsidiaries; and a 50 MW (25 MWX2) WPP in Kutch through associate company. TPL is implementing 515 MW wind and solar projects.

Key Financial Indicators

Particulars	Unit	2021	2020
Revenue	Rs.Crore	61.94	69.27
Profit After Tax (PAT)	Rs.Crore	6.95	11.01
PAT Margin	%	11.2	15.8
Debt/ networkth	Times	2.59	2.02\$
Interest coverage	Times	2.62@	2.4#

#Considering finance cost on only bank loan;

\$Considering only bank debt;

@Considering only external debt

List of covenants

- The guarantor shall ensure that its debt to equity ratio (standalone basis) shall not exceed 2.33x
- LRPL not to raise incremental debt (secured or unsecured), and create any charge on its assets, without permission from NCD holders, except in following cases:
 - Debt for refinancing of NCDs
 - Promoter/ guarantor's loan to LRPL
- Any other debt (including working capital debt) subject to debt to equity ratio of LRPL not exceeding 4x.

Any other information:

Payment mechanism for NCDs:

Particulars	Timeline
Timeline for LRPL to deposit the amount in debenture payment account	T-7 business days
Timeline for guarantor to deposit the amount, in case LRPL fails to deposit the amount	T-2 business days
Scheduled due date for payment of coupon and redemption as per agreement	T day

Note on complexity levels of the rated instrument:

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Annexure - Details of Instrument(s)

ISIN	Name of instrument	Date of allotment	Coupon Rate (%)	Maturity Date	Issue Size (Rs Cr)	Complexity Level	Rating assigned with outlook
INE03IL08018	NCD series 1A	20-Nov-2020	7.00%	20-Nov-2023	100	Simple	CRISIL AA+ (CE)/Stable
INE03IL08026	NCD series 1B	20-Nov-2020	7.00%	20-Nov-2024	100	Simple	CRISIL AA+ (CE)/Stable
INE03IL08034	NCD series 1C	20-Nov-2020	7.00%	20-Nov-2025	100	Simple	CRISIL AA+ (CE)/Stable

Annexure - Rating History for last 3 Years

	Current			2022 (History)		2021		2020		2019		Start of 2019
Instrument	Type	Outstanding Amount	Rating	Date	Rating	Date	Rating	Date	Rating	Date	Rating	Rating
Fund Based Facilities	LT		--		--	21-01-21	Withdrawn	12-11-20	CRISIL AA-/Stable	12-04-19	CRISIL A+/Stable	--
			--		--		--	04-11-20	CRISIL AA-/Stable		--	--
			--		--		--	10-01-20	CRISIL AA-/Stable		--	--
Non Convertible Debentures	LT	300.0	CRISIL AA+ (CE) /Stable		--	02-07-21	CRISIL AA (CE) /Positive	12-11-20	CRISIL AA (CE) /Stable		--	--
			--		--	21-01-21	CRISIL AA (CE) /Stable	04-11-20	Provisional CRISIL AA (CE) /Stable		--	--

All amounts are in Rs.Cr.

Criteria Details

Links to related criteria
CRISILs Approach to Financial Ratios
Criteria for rating instruments backed by guarantees
Criteria for rating wind power projects
Criteria for Notching up Stand Alone Ratings of Companies based on Parent Support

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