



The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited

Rating Report

K-Electric Limited

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Rating History

Dissemination Date	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating	Outlook	Action	Rating Watch
29-Jun-2020	AA	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
28-Dec-2019	AA	A1+	Stable	Maintain	YES
28-Jun-2019	AA	A1+	Developing	Maintain	YES
31-Dec-2018	AA	A1+	Developing	Maintain	YES
14-Jun-2018	AA	A1+	Developing	Maintain	YES
30-Dec-2017	AA	A1+	Developing	Maintain	YES
12-Jun-2017	AA	A1+	Developing	Rating Watch	YES
03-Feb-2017	AA	A1+	Stable	Maintain	-
11-Jun-2016	AA	A1+	Stable	Upgrade	-
11-Jun-2015	AA-	A1	Stable	Upgrade	-

Rating Rationale and Key Rating Drivers

The ratings reflect improved performance metrics of the company. There was significant improvement in the turnover as reflected in the published financial statements for FY19. This led to decent growth in the net profit as well though EBITDA slightly took a dip. Units generated, sent out and sold all of these indicators witnessed rise. T&D losses have also shown improvement. There was rationalization in the trade debts. A significant jump has been noted in the other receivables, primarily due to outstanding balances and tariff differential claims. The company continued to add to its asset base: expansion was noted in plants, distribution and transmission. There has been increased in payable side that is mainly due to power purchase from CPPA-G/NTDC (650 MW) which as per the agreed mechanism are to be adjusted with TDC.

The performance metrics in the ongoing financial year has shown similar trends with more focus on the production and sale of power units. At the same time, upholding business and financial metrics is of utmost importance. The company has bridged its gap in regulatory timeline for the publication of financial statements. The remaining gap, as represented by the management, will be covered in the due course of time. The 109th Annual General meeting of K-Electric was held through video conferencing on June 03, 2020.

Disclosure

Name of Rated Entity	K-Electric Limited
Type of Relationship	Solicited
Purpose of the Rating	Entity Rating
Applicable Criteria	Methodology Corporate Ratings(Jun-19),Methodology Correlation Between Long-Term And Short-Term Rating Scale(Jun-19),Criteria Rating Modifier(Jun-19)
Related Research	Sector Study Distribution Electricity(Jan-20)
Rating Analysts	Sana Shameen sana.shameen@pacra.com +92-42-35869504



The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited

K – ELECTRIC LIMITED PROFILE

Incorporated	1913
Major business lines	Vertically-integrated power utility
Legal status	Public Limited(Listed)
Installed Capacity	2,267MW
No. of Consumers	~3.4 Mn
Head Office	Karachi

INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

- Pakistan total power generation is increasing on the back of new power projects under CPEC
- Pakistan's energy mix is shifting towards Gas/RLNG and coal from Furnace Oil and other expensive sources
- Gas fired power plants have lowest per unit cost among all fossil fuel power plants.

PROFILE & OWNERSHIP

- K-Electric Limited, a vertically-integrated power utility, has been in operations for over a century.
- Total installed capacity of K-Electric Limited power generation plants is 2,267MW as at end-June19. K-Electric Limited has an arrangement with external power producers for ~1,400 MW including 650 MW from the National Grids.
- The company is ~66% owned by KES Power Limited, while GoP holds ~24% stake. However, KES Power Limited is majority owned (~54%) by Abraaj with the balance held by a group of investors (Al Jomiah, Saudi Arabia and NIG, Kuwait). KES Power has entered into a Share Purchase Agreement with Shanghai Electric Power Company Limited (SEP) for sale of up to 66.4% shares of K-Electric Limited. The transaction will close once customary closing conditions and requisite regulatory approvals are obtained.

GOVERNANCE

- The company's board of directors comprises of thirteen directors. Due to the resignation of Ikram-Ul-Majeed Sehgal, Riyadh S.A.A. Edrees is elected as the new Chairman of the Board of Directors with effect from April 2020. All the board members are seasoned professionals having interests in various sectors of the industry.
- There are five committees at the board level, namely i) Audit, ii) Finance, iii) Human Resource & Remuneration iv) Strategy & Projects Committee and v) Risk Management & Safety. This ensures effective oversight of the company's affairs and strengthening the board's governance role.
- GOP has notified on 22 May 2019, Multiyear Tariff (MYT) for K-Electric Limited for the period of seven (7) years applicable from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2023.

MANAGEMENT

- The management control of the company vests with KES Power Limited, being the largest shareholder.
- Mr. Moonis Alvi has been spearheading the company since being the CEO in June 2018. He has also previously served as the Chief Financial Officer of K-Electric Limited.
- The organizational structure of K-Electric Limited is divided into three main business areas, namely (i) Generation, (ii) Transmission, and (iii) Distribution. Meanwhile, support functions such as Finance, Marketing, and HR, supply chain etc. are centralized at the company level and are headed by professionals having considerable experience in their respective fields.
- 109th Annual General meeting of K-Electric was held through video conferencing on June 03, 2020.

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONAL RISK

- During FY19, the operational indicators showed sustained progress. However, the net profit before taxation in FY19 stood at PKR 8,883mln (FY18: PKR 13,719mln), the decrease is attributable to one of impairment recording against dues from Public Sector Consumers, and exchange loss due to significant devaluation of currency in FY 2019.
- K-Electric Limited has a registered customer base of ~3.48mln at end-March20 (FY19: ~3.3mln), of which 79.7% constitute residential consumers, 19.2% commercial, Industrial 1%, and remaining comprises the agriculture sector and public consumers.
- K-Electric Limited internal power generation is dependent on the gas feed and furnace oil received; supply of gas remained volatile on account of continuing gas shortages in the country. However, SSGC is supplying RLNG in addition to natural gas to mitigate this risk. The company also has a purchase agreement with Pakistan State Oil.
- TP-1000 is a transmission enhancement project by K-Electric Limited of over USD 450mln which will enable the utility to enhance transmission capacity by 1000 MVs. To date more than 90% of the project has been completed - 6 grid stations and 26 power trafos have been added under the project. KE is setting up a 900 MW RLNG Project. Effective and timely execution of project is likely to further uplift company's profile in medium to long term.
- Amid Covid-19 global pandemic, KE has received a TDC receipt of PKR 25 Billion post approval of ECC. It will help Company to continue to pay fuel suppliers and IPPs, with consideration that consumers have been offered a longer payment term in this critical time.

PERFORMANCE

- Units billed during 9MFY20 have improved to 10,693GWh (9MFY19:10,207GWh; FY19: 14,318GWh; FY18:13,860GWh).Consequently, the total amount billed to customers for the period under review observed growth, as well (9MFY20: PKR 193,638mln; 9MFY19:162,438mln; FY19: PKR 230,402mln; FY18: PKR 222,703mln).
- Recovery ratio shrieved to 89% during 9MFY20 (9MFY19: 94%; FY19: 90.8%). This was mainly due to non-receipt of Industrial Support Package arrears charged to industrial customers and installment to residential customers announced by GoP to be recovered in subsequent months. Furthermore, the management is anticipating improvement in public sector recoveries on account of settlement of old recoveries from KWSB.

FINANCIAL RISK

- During FY19, total receivables of the company have increased to PKR 257,265mln (FY18: PKR 147,396mln) owing to delay in public sector recoveries and the prevailing circular debt crisis in the country.
- The company has strong cash generation ability. Cashflow stream is healthy and provides strong coverage, against liabilities. The leverage is in the comfortable range, particularly in the context of equity base. The equity base itself is strong.

K-Electric Limited
PKR mln

BALANCE SHEET	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18	30-Jun-17
	Annual	Annual	Annual
Non-Current Assets	326,857	277,733	237,981
Current Assets	272,008	195,964	157,962
Trade Receivables	99,928	115,371	103,420
Others	172,080	80,593	54,541
Total Assets	598,865	473,697	395,943
Debt	129,511	72,805	46,114
Short-term	71,922	41,317	17,278
Long-term (Incl. Current Maturity of long-term debt)	57,589	31,487	28,837
Other shortterm liabilities	215,751	158,050	130,953
Other Longterm Liabilities	39,113	35,548	34,558
Shareholder's Equity	214,489	207,293	184,316
Total Liabilities & Equity	598,865	473,697	395,943
INCOME STATEMENT			
Turnover	289,119	217,127	183,855
Interest Expense	(6,285)	(3,236)	(3,609)
Net Income	17,274	12,312	10,419
OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE			
Recovery Ratio	91.9%	90.8%	90.4%
T & D Losses	7.8%	10.4%	11.5%
CASHFLOW STATEMENT			
Free Cashflow from Operations (FCFO)	51,725	46,721	42,091
Net Cash from Operating Activities	(16,884)	19,335	27,836
Net Cash from Investing Activities	(33,842)	(43,726)	(19,593)
Net Cash from Financing Activities	52,012	6,040	(11,849)
RATIO ANALYSIS			
Coverages			
Debt Service Coverage (x) (FCFO/Gross Interest+CMLTD)	3.7	4.8	3.4
Interest Coverage (x) (FCFO/Gross Interest)	8.2	14.4	11.7
Debt Payback (Years) (Total LT Debt Including UnCovered Total STBs) / (FCFO- G	1.6	0.8	0.7
Liquidity			
Net Cash Cycle (Inventory Days + Receivable Days - Payable Days)	-11	1	1
Capital Structure (Total Debt/Total Debt+Equity)	37.6%	26.0%	20.0%

K-Electric Limited (KE)

June 2020

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.

Disclaimer: PACRA’s ratings are an assessment of the credit standing of entities/issue in Pakistan. They do not take into account the potential transfer / convertibility risk that may exist for foreign currency creditors. PACRA’s opinion is not a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold a security, in as much as it does not comment on the security’s market price or suitability for a particular investor.

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.
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- (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)

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