

April 29, 2024

CEC ITD Cem TPL JV: Ratings reaffirmed

Summary of rating action

Instrument*	Previous Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Current Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating Action
Short-term – Fund-based limits	40.00	40.00	[ICRA]A2; Reaffirmed
Long-term/ Short-term – Non-fund based limits	60.00	50.00	[ICRA]BBB+(Stable)/ [ICRA]A2; Reaffirmed
Total	100.00	90.00	

*Instrument details are provided in Annexure-I

Rationale

The reaffirmation of ratings for CEC ITD Cem TPL JV (CIT) takes into account the established track record of ITD Cementation India (ITD Cementation, rated [ICRA]A (Stable)/[ICRA]A1) and Tata Projects Limited, which have significant experience in executing metro projects. Apart from their established track record, JV partners' corporate guarantee and sufficient unencumbered cash available for residual completion, provide additional comfort. While the project is in advanced stages of execution with ~96% of contract value has been billed as on December 31, 2023, the execution risk has largely subsided. ICRA notes that the JV partners, i.e., ITD Cementation and Tata Projects Limited, have provided corporate guarantee for the bank lines of the JV.

The ratings are constrained by the geographical and client concentration risks with the unexecuted order book primarily consisting of Mumbai metro project. Nevertheless, the timely receipt of payments (average receivable period of 30 days) mitigates the counterparty credit risk to some extent. The JV is not expected to house more projects post completion of the present metro project.

The Stable outlook on the rating reflects ICRA's opinion that JV will continue to benefit from its strong parentage and experience of its promoters in executing metro projects.

Key rating drivers and their description

Credit strengths

Strong execution track record of parent (ITD Cementation India Limited) – The ratings note the established track record of ITD Cementation and Tata Projects Limited, which have significant experience in executing metro projects. Apart from their established track record, the JV partners' corporate guarantee and sufficient unencumbered cash available for residual completion, provide additional comfort.

Credit challenges

Residual execution risk — While the project is in advanced stages of execution with ~96% of contract value has been billed as on December 31, 2023, and hence the execution risk has largely subsided. The entire tunnelling work, which is one of the most complex part, has been completed. This has resulted in release of significant part of the contingencies, which were built into the project cost, thus aiding the JV's profitability.

High concentration risk – The rating is constrained by the geographical and client concentration risks with the unexecuted order book primarily consisting of Mumbai metro project. Nevertheless, the timely receipt of payments (average receivable

period of 30 days) mitigates the counterparty credit risk to some extent. The JV is not expected to house more projects post completion of the present metro project.

Liquidity position: Adequate

The JV's liquidity position is adequate, as reflected in the unencumbered cash and bank balance of Rs. 124 crore as on March 31, 2024. There is no long-term debt outstanding as on March 31, 2024.

Rating sensitivities

Positive factors – The upgrade in ratings is unlikely, given the characteristics of the JV.

Negative factors – The ratings can be downgraded if there is weakening in linkages with the sponsor, or if there is any significant cost and time overrun in the project, or there is any material deterioration in the credit profile of the sponsor group.

Analytical approach

Analytical Approach	Comments
Applicable rating methodologies	Corporate Credit Rating Methodology Construction
Parent/Group support	Parent Company: ITD Cementation ICRA expects ITD to be willing to extend financial support to CIT, should there be a need, given its strategic importance to the ITD Group, and out of its need to protect its reputation. Both ITD and CIT share the common name, which in ICRA's opinion, would persuade ITD to provide financial support to CIT to protect its reputation from the consequences of a Group entity's distress.
Consolidation/Standalone	Standalone

About the company

Incorporated in May 2015, CIT is a joint venture between ITD, Continental Engineering Construction (CEC) and TPL with ITD holding 40% stake, CEC holding 40% and TPL holding 20% in the JV. However, as per the arrangement between the JV partners, ITD and TPL would be contributing to financing requirements in the ratio of 60:40 and the profits would be shared between the two in the same ratio. In July 2016, CIT was awarded a contract by MMRCCL to design and construct underground sections including three underground stations at Siddhivinayak, Dadar and Shitla Devi Temple and the associated bored tunnel as a part of the Colaba-Bandra-Seepz Line metro corridor project (Line-3) for the Mumbai metro. The package was awarded to CIT at a value of Rs. 2,830.10 crore.

Key financial indicators (audited)

	FY2022	FY2023
Operating income (Rs. crore)	320.4	275.0
PAT (Rs. crore)	48.2	54.5
OPBDIT/OI (%)	24.9%	21.7%
PAT/OI (%)	15.0%	19.8%
Total outside liabilities/Tangible net worth (times)	6.4	3.2
Total debt/OPBDIT (times)	0.0	0.0
Interest coverage (times)	24.0	10.3

Source: Company, ICRA Research; All ratios as per ICRA's calculations; PAT: Profit after tax; OPBDIT: Operating profit before depreciation, interest, taxes and amortisation

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: None

Rating history for past three years

Instrument	Type	Current rating (FY2025)		Chronology of rating history for the past 3 years			
		Amount rated (Rs. crore)	Amount outstanding as of Mar 31, 2024 (Rs. crore)	Date & rating in FY2025	Date & rating in FY2024	Date & rating in FY2023	Date & rating in FY2022
				Apr 29, 2024	-	Jan 24, 2023	Oct 7, 2021
1 Overdraft	Short term	40.00	-	[ICRA]A2	-	[ICRA]A1(CE) withdrawn and [ICRA]A2 assigned simultaneously	[ICRA]A1(CE)
2 Bank guarantee/ Letter of credit	Long term/ Short term	50.00	-	[ICRA]BBB+ (Stable)/ [ICRA]A2	-	[ICRA]A(CE)(Stable)/[ICRA]A1(CE); withdrawn and [ICRA]BBB+ (Stable)/ [ICRA]A2 assigned simultaneously	[ICRA]A(CE) (Stable)/ [ICRA]A1(CE)

Complexity level of the rated instruments

Instrument	Complexity Indicator
Overdraft	Simple
Bank guarantee/ Letter of credit	Simple

The Complexity Indicator refers to the ease with which the returns associated with the rated instrument could be estimated. It does not indicate the risk related to the timely payments on the instrument, which is rather indicated by the instrument's credit rating. It also does not indicate the complexity associated with analysing an entity's financial, business, industry risks or complexity related to the structural, transactional or legal aspects. Details on the complexity levels of the instruments are available on ICRA's website: [Click Here](#)

Annexure I: Instrument details

ISIN	Instrument Name	Date of Issuance	Coupon Rate	Maturity	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Current Rating and Outlook
NA	Overdraft	-	-	-	40.00	[ICRA]A2
NA	Bank guarantee/ Letter of credit	-	-	-	50.00	[ICRA]BBB+(Stable)/ [ICRA]A2

Source: Company

Annexure II: List of entities considered for consolidated analysis – Not Applicable

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About ICRA Limited:

ICRA Limited was set up in 1991 by leading financial/investment institutions, commercial banks and financial services companies as an independent and professional investment Information and Credit Rating Agency.

Today, ICRA and its subsidiaries together form the ICRA Group of Companies (Group ICRA). ICRA is a Public Limited Company, with its shares listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange. The international Credit Rating Agency Moody's Investors Service is ICRA's largest shareholder.

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Branches



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