

# CCXAP assigns $BBB_g$ to Jiangsu Yueda Group Co., Ltd.'s proposed Free Trade Zone CNY bonds

Hong Kong, 24 May 2023 – China Chengxin (Asia Pacific) Credit Ratings Company Limited ("CCXAP") has assigned a senior unsecured debt rating of BBBg to the proposed Free Trade Zone CNY bonds to be issued by Jiangsu Yueda Group Co., Ltd. ("Jiangsu Yueda" or the "Company") (BBBg/stable).

The bonds will constitute direct, unconditional, unsubordinated, and unsecured obligations of Jiangsu Yueda, which shall at all times rank pari passu with all the Company's other present and future unsecured and unsubordinated obligations. The Company intends to use the proceeds for refinancing its offshore indebtedness and the replenishment of working capital.

### **Corporate Profile**

Founded in 1991, Jiangsu Yueda is a state-owned conglomerate that is owned by the Yancheng Municipal Government and supervised by the Yancheng State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission ("Yancheng SASAC"). It is an important platform to manage the state-owned assets on behalf of the Yancheng Municipal Government, with the aim to securitize and maximize the value of the state-owned assets. Jiangsu Yueda has four key strategic investment segments, namely (1) automobile and intelligent manufacturing, (2) energy, (3) property development, and (4) supply chain and others.

The Company is approximately 91.3% owned by the Yancheng Municipal Government and 8.7% by the Jiangsu Provincial Finance Bureau. As of 31 December 2022, Jiangsu Yueda reported a total asset of RMB79.4 billion and a net asset of RMB29.5 billion.

### **Rating Rationale**

Jiangsu Yueda's senior unsecured debt rating is equal to its long-term credit rating. We did not notch the rating for structural subordination, considering that (1) the Company's diversified business profile (with cash flow generation across its operating subsidiaries) can help mitigate structural subordination risk; and (2) the shareholder support will flow through directly to the holding company in a financially distressed scenario given the Company's important status in Yancheng City, thereby mitigating any differences in expected loss that could result from structural subordination.

The BBB<sub>g</sub> long-term credit rating of Jiangsu Yueda is underpinned by the Company's (1) investment portfolio in line with Yancheng City's industrial development strategy; (2) good access to quality investments; and (3) diversified funding channels. However, the rating is constrained by the Company's (1) exposure to high volatility from its investments in cyclical industries; (2) modest financial profile with relatively weak profitability and high financial leverage; and (3) high refinancing needs in the near term.

The rating also reflects a high likelihood of government support from the Yancheng Municipal Government when needed, which is based on the Company's (1) direct ownership and ultimate



control by the Yancheng Municipal Government; (2) high strategic and economic importance in Yancheng City as one of the largest local state-owned enterprises ("SOE"); and (3) solid track record of receiving ongoing government support, including subsidies and capital injections.

## **Rating Methodology**

The methodology used in this rating is the Rating Methodology for <u>Investment Holding</u> Companies (December 2016).

#### **Regulatory Disclosures**

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