

## **CCXAP assigns first-time long-term credit rating of A<sub>g</sub>+ to Henan Zhongyu Credit Promotion Co., Ltd., with stable outlook.**

Hong Kong, 12 December 2023 – China Chengxin (Asia Pacific) Credit Ratings Company Limited (“CCXAP”) has assigned a first-time long-term credit rating of A<sub>g</sub>+ to Henan Zhongyu Credit Promotion Co., Ltd. (“HZCP” or the “Company”), with stable outlook.

The A<sub>g</sub>+ long-term credit rating of Henan Zhongyu Credit Promotion Co., Ltd. (“HZCP” or the “Company”) is underpinned by the Company’s (1) strong market position as the first credit enhancement company in Henan Province; (2) solid capital base supported by its large state-owned enterprises (“SOEs”) shareholders; and (3) good funding access.

However, the rating is constrained by the Company’s (1) concentrated risk exposure in Henan Province; (2) business development and profitability that are subject to economic and policy changes; and (3) lack of operating track record.

The rating also incorporates our expectation that the Company has a high likelihood of government support given its (1) indirect ownership and ultimate control by the Henan Provincial Government; (2) very high strategic importance in optimizing and stabilizing the financial environment of Henan Province; and (3) solid support record from the government and major local SOEs in Henan Province.

### **Corporate Profile**

HZCP was the first provincial credit enhancement company in Henan Province founded under the guidance of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of Henan Provincial Government (“Henan SASAC”) in February 2022. It has a high policy role in facilitating the development of regional direct finance, enhancing the financing abilities of local enterprises, and optimizing the financial environment of Henan Province. In September 2023, HZCP completed a capital expansion of RMB8.0 billion, which was provided by the key SOEs in Henan Province.

HZCP is owned by provincial and municipal SOEs. As of 30 September 2023, major shareholders of the Company included Henan Yuzi Urban-Rural Integration Construction & Development Group Co Ltd (“HYUG”) (holding 17.5%) and Henan Enterprise Credit Insurance Fund (Limited Partnership) (“Henan Insurance Fund”) (12.5%) and China Pingmei Shenma Holding Group Co., Ltd. (“Pingmei Shenma”) (8.3%). The ultimate controller of the Company is Henan SASAC.

### **Rating Rationale**

#### **Credit Strengths**

#### **Strong market position as the first credit enhancement company in Henan Province.**

HZCP is the first credit enhancement company established in Henan Province. Under the guidance of the People's Bank of China, the National Association of Financial Market



Institutional Investors, and the Henan Provincial Local Financial Supervision Bureau. HZCP has a high strategic role for the local government in preventing systemic financial risk and optimizing the financial environment in Henan Province. It helps assist the government to build to a risk sharing mechanism in the province and broaden financing channels for local enterprises with lowering funding costs.

**Solid capital base supported by its large SOEs shareholders.** HZCP's capital profile is strong which is supported by large capital expansion from local SOEs. These provide the Company with a healthy loss-absorption buffer against unexpected market volatilities. In September 2023, HZCP completed a substantial capital expansion of RMB8.0 billion, which was provided by some of its shareholders and other municipal SOEs in Henan Province. After the capital expansion, HZCP's paid-in capital has increased to RMB12.0 billion.

**Good funding access.** The Company has maintained a good relationship with large domestic banks. As of 30 June 2023, the Company had obtained total bank credit facilities of RMB18.4 billion, with an unutilized amount of RMB18.1 billion. With HZCP's good risk management ability and prudent business development strategy, we expect that the Company's existing liquid assets and available access to funding can cover the possible claims in the following 12-18 months.

**High likelihood to receive government support when necessary.** HZCP is likely to receive support from the Chinese Government when necessary. This expectation incorporates our considerations that the Company (1) is indirectly owned and controlled by the Henan Provincial Government; (2) has very high strategic importance in further optimizing financial environment in Henan Province; and (3) solid supporting track record from the government.

#### Credit Challenges

**Concentrated risk exposure in Henan Province.** HZCP's asset quality is moderate with geographic concentration of its guarantee portfolio mainly in Henan Province, given its strategic position in the region. The risk appetite of the Company is expected to increase along with its business expansion. While HZCP's existing customers are mostly constituted by municipal level SOEs, we believe the Company may extend more of its coverage to county-level SOEs in the future to capture business growth.

**Business development and profitability that are subject to economic and policy changes.** HZCP's business development and profitability closely link with local economic and policy changes. Guarantors in China face high competition that may diminish their profitability. Also, we expect that HZCP's business performance is susceptible to the credit change of local enterprises.

**Lack of operating track record.** The internal capital generation of HZCP remains weak as it has a small scale of revenue and profit. Because of the limited credit enhancement business, the Company recorded a revenue of RMB3.2 million in 2022. The net profit of the Company was RMB92.3 million over the same period, contributed mainly by fixed-income investments.

## Rating Outlook

The stable outlook on HZCP's rating reflects our expectation that the willingness and ability of the Henan Provincial Government to provide support is unlikely to change. We also expect the Company to sustain its strategic position and solid financial profile in the next 12 to 18 months.

### What could upgrade the rating?

The rating could be upgraded if (1) the likelihood of receiving government support increases such as higher policy roles or greater strategic importance in Henan Province; and (2) the Company's institution profile has significantly strengthened such as improved profitability, better coverage in potential claims or larger high-liquid asset holdings.

### What could downgrade the rating?

The rating could be downgraded if (1) the likelihood of receiving government support decreases such as the weakened strategic importance in Henan Province; or (2) the Company's institution profile deteriorates, such as sharp decrease in capital adequacy or sharp asset quality.

## Rating Methodology

The methodology used in this rating is the Rating Methodology for Rating Methodology for [Financial Guarantors \(January 2022\)](#).

## Regulatory Disclosures

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