

CCXAP assigns first time long-term credit rating of BBB_g- to Qixian State-owned Construction Investment Development Co., Ltd., with stable outlook.

Hong Kong, 10 April 2024 – China Chengxin (Asia Pacific) Credit Ratings Company Limited (“CCXAP”) has assigned first time long-term credit rating of BBB_g- to Qixian State-owned Construction Investment Development Co., Ltd. (“QXSI” or the “Company”), with stable outlook.

The BBB_g- long-term credit rating of QXSI reflects Qi County Government’s (1) relatively strong capacity to provide support, and (2) extremely high willingness to provide support based on our assessment of the Company’s characteristics. Qi County Government’s capacity to support reflects Qi County’s status as an important agricultural county and third largest county by Gross Regional Product (“GRP”) in Kaifeng City, but constrained by its relatively weak fiscal metrics.

The rating also reflects the local government’s willingness to support, which is based on the Company’s (1) important role in infrastructure construction and state-owned asset operation in Qi County; and (2) track record of receiving government support. However, the rating is constrained by the Company’s (1) increasing exposure to commercial activities with relatively large investment need in the future; (2) increasing debt level with relatively large short-term debt pressure; and (3) limited and concentrated financing channels.

Corporate Profile

Established in 2016, QXSI is one of the key local infrastructure investment and financing companies (“LIIFCs”) in Qi County and is mainly responsible for infrastructure construction in the county. The Company’s infrastructure construction projects include basic farmland improvement, water environment governance, rectification of river, ecological rehabilitation, pipe network facility maintenance, as well as sewage treatment. The Company has also participated in other commercial business, such as self-operated project construction and leasing. As of 31 March 2024, the Finance Bureau of Qi County directly owned 41% of the Company’s shares and indirectly owned 10% of the shares through Qixian State-owned Asset Management Co., Ltd. The remaining 49% of shares were owned by Kaifeng Xinsongfeng Construction Investment Co., Ltd. (“KXSF”), which is one of the LIIFCs in Kaifeng City indirectly and wholly owned by the Finance Bureau of Kaifeng City. Qi County Government was the actual controller of the Company.

Rating Rationale

Credit Strengths

Important role in infrastructure construction and state-owned asset operation in Qi County. As the significant state-owned asset operation entity in Qi County, QXSI is primarily responsible for the local infrastructure construction and state-owned asset operation. The Company has completed several infrastructure construction projects include basic farmland improvement, water environment governance, rectification of river, ecological rehabilitation,

pipe network facility maintenance, as well as sewage treatment. These projects are essential to the local agricultural development and social development.

Track record of receiving government support. QXSI has track record of receiving support from the local government in the form of asset injection and equity transfer. From 2020 to 2022, the local government transferred infrastructure construction projects, office buildings, operating right of parking lots to the Company, which enlarged QXSI's business scope and capital strength. Considering the Company's important position in infrastructure construction and state-owned asset operation in Qi County, we expect QXSI will continue receiving support from the local government.

Credit Challenges

Increasing exposure to commercial activities with relatively large investment need in the future. QXSI is engaged in commercial activities, mainly including leasing. QXSI's exposure to commercial activities is medium, accounting for around 30% of the total assets. However, majority of these commercial assets are leasable assets transferred by the local government. The Company also participates in industrial park construction and operation, which may bring more capital expenditure pressure to the Company in the future.

Increasing debt level with relatively large short-term debt pressure. Due to the ongoing investment needs for its infrastructure construction projects in recent years, QXSI's total debt has been increasing. The Company also bears relatively large short-term debt pressure due to its high reliance on working capital loans, with short-term debt accounting for 84.4% of its total debts.

Limited and concentrated financing channels. The Company has limited and concentrated financing channels. The main financing channel of QXSI is bank loan, accounting for more than 80% of its total debt. Moreover, the available bank facilities were limited.

Rating Outlook

The stable outlook on QXSI's rating reflects our expectation that the Qi County Government's capacity to provide support will be stable, and the Company's characteristics such as its important position in infrastructure construction and state-owned asset operation in Qi County will remain unchanged over the next 12 to 18 months.

What could upgrade the rating?

The rating could be upgraded if (1) Qi County Government's capacity to support strengthens; or (2) the Company's characteristics change in a way that strengthens the local government's willingness to support such as decreased exposure to commercial activities and enhanced financing ability.

What could downgrade the rating?



The rating could be downgraded if (1) Qi County Government's capacity to support weakens; or (2) the Company's characteristics change in a way that weakens the local government's willingness to provide support, such as decreased regional significance or increased exposure to commercial activities.

Rating Methodology

The methodology used in this rating is the Rating Methodology for [China's Local Infrastructure Investment and Financing Companies \(July 2022\)](#).

Regulatory Disclosures

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