

Lianhe Global has assigned 'BBB' global scale Long-term Issuance Credit Rating to Hubei Optics Valley East State-owned Capital Investment and Operation Group Co., Ltd.'s proposed senior unsecured bonds

HONG KONG, 31 March 2023 – Lianhe Ratings Global Limited ("Lianhe Global"), an international credit rating company, has assigned 'BBB' global scale Long-term Issuance Credit Rating to the senior unsecured bonds ("the Bonds") to be issued by Hubei Optics Valley East State-owned Capital Investment and Operation Group Co., Ltd. ("HOVE"; 'BBB'/Stable).

HOVE intends to use the net proceeds from this offering for project development and working capital supplement.

Key Rating Rationales

The Bonds are rated at the same level as HOVE's global scale Long-term Issuer Credit Rating of 'BBB' as the Bonds constitute direct, unconditional, unsubordinated and unsecured obligations of HOVE. The payment obligations of HOVE under the Bonds shall at all times rank pari passu with all its other present and future unsecured and unsubordinated obligations.

The Issuer Credit Rating reflects a high possibility that People's Government of Daye City ("the Daye government") would provide strong support to HOVE if needed, in light of its 100% ownership of HOVE, HOVE's strategic importance as the most important state-owned entity that is responsible for infrastructure construction, land consolidation and city operations in Daye, and the strong linkage between the Daye government and HOVE, including control of the board of directors, management supervision, strategic alignment, and ongoing operational and financial support. In addition, the Daye government may face significant negative impact on its reputation and financing activities should HOVE encounters any operational and financial difficulties.

The Stable Outlook on HOVE's rating reflects our expectation that HOVE's strategic importance would remain intact while the Daye government will continue to ensure HOVE's stable operation.

Rating Sensitivities

Any rating action on HOVE's rating would result in a similar rating action on the Bonds.

We would consider downgrading HOVE's rating if (1) there is perceived weakening in support from the Daye government, particularly due to its reduced strategic importance with diminished government functions, or (2) there is a significant reduction of the Daye government's ownership of HOVE, or (3) there is a downgrade in our internal credit assessment on the Daye government. We would consider upgrading HOVE's rating if (1) there is strengthened support from the Daye government, or (2) there is an upgrade in our internal credit assessment on the Daye government.

About Lianhe Global

Lianhe Global is an international credit rating company that provides credit ratings to corporations, banks, non-bank financial institutions, local investment and development companies, and other asset classes around the globe. Lianhe Global also provides credit risk research and other services related to credit ratings.

Rating Methodology

The principal methodology used in this HOVE's rating is Lianhe Global's China Local Investment and Development Companies Criteria published on 5 December 2022, which can be found at the website <u>www.lhratingsglobal.com</u>.

Note: The above Issuer/Issuance Credit Ratings are solicited at the request of the rated entity or a related third party.

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