



Promoting Green Technology

Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited

(Promoted by Govt. of Gujarat)

Regd. Office & Works : P. O. Petrochemicals - 391 346, Dist. Vadodara (Gujarat) INDIA

Phone : +91-265-2232681, 3061200, 6540463 Fax : +91-265-2232130

Website : www.gacl.com CIN NO : L24110GJ1973PLC002247

Ref. : SEC/SE/2018/

8th October, 2018

The General Manager Corporate Relation Department BSE Ltd. 1 st Floor, New Trading Ring Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers Dalal Street MUMBAI : 400 001	The General Manager Listing Department National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. "Exchange Plaza", C-1, Block 'G' Bandra-Kurla Complex Bandra (East) MUMBAI : 400 051
Ref. : Company Code No. : 530001	Ref. : Company Code No. : GUJALKALI

Dear Sir,

Sub. : Credit Rating by CARE for -
(i) Long Term Bank Facilities of Rs.433.55 Crore
(ii) Short Term Bank Facilities of Rs.45 Crore
(iii) Commercial Paper Issue of Rs.100 Crore

Pursuant to Regulation 30 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, we enclose herewith copies of letters issued by Credit Analysis & Research Limited (CARE) both dated 8th October, 2018 reviewing / reaffirming the bank facilities and commercial paper issue as under:

- (iv) "CARE AA+" [Double A Plus] for Long Term Bank Facilities of Rs.433.55 Crore (enhanced from Rs.349.57 Crore);
(v) "CARE A1+" [A One Plus] for Short Term Bank Facilities of Rs.45 Crore; and
(vi) "CARE A1+" [A One Plus] for Commercial Paper Issue for an amount aggregating to Rs.100 Crore for a maturity not exceeding one year. (The Company has not issued Commercial Paper(s) during the FY 2017-18 and till date of current FY 2018-19).

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
For GUJARAT ALKALIES AND CHEMICALS LIMITED


(S S BHATT)
COMPANY SECRETARY & GM (LEGAL & CC)

Encl: as said



Dahej Complex : P. O. Dahej - 392130, Tal. Vagra, Dist. Bharuch (Gujarat) INDIA.

Phone : +91-2641-256315 / 6 / 7, Fax : +91-2641-256220.

CARE/ARO/RL/2018-19/1904

Dr. H. B. Patel
Executive Director (Finance) & CFO,
Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd
P.O. Petrochemicals,
Vadodara,
Gujarat – 391 346

October 8, 2018

Confidential

Dear Sir,

Credit Rating for Bank Facilities

On the basis of recent developments including operational and financial performance of your company for FY18 (audited) and Q1FY19 (provisional), our Rating Committee has reviewed the following ratings:

Facilities	Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating	Rating Action
Long Term Bank Facilities	433.55 (enhanced from 349.57)	CARE AA+; Stable (Double A Plus; Outlook: Stable)	Reaffirmed
Short Term Bank Facilities	45.00	CARE A1+ (A One Plus)	Reaffirmed
Total Facilities	478.55 (Rupees Four Hundred Seventy Eight Crore and Fifty Five Lakh only)		

- Refer Annexure 1 for details of rated facilities.
- The rationale for the rating will be communicated to you separately. A write-up (press release) on the above rating is proposed to be issued to the press shortly, a draft of which is enclosed for your perusal as Annexure 2. We request you to peruse the annexed document and offer your comments, if any. We are doing this as a matter of courtesy to our clients and with a view to ensure that no factual inaccuracies have inadvertently crept in. Kindly revert as early as possible. In any case, if we do not hear from you by October 8, 2018, we will proceed on the basis that you have no any comments to offer.

¹ Complete definitions of the ratings assigned are available at www.careratings.com and in other CARE publications.

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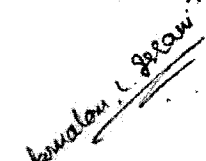
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4. CARE reserves the right to undertake a surveillance/review of the rating from time to time, based on circumstances warranting such review, subject to at least one such review/surveillance every year.
5. CARE reserves the right to revise/reaffirm/withdraw the rating assigned as also revise the outlook, as a result of periodic review/surveillance, based on any event or information which in the opinion of CARE warrants such an action. In the event of failure on the part of the entity to furnish such information, material or clarifications as may be required by CARE so as to enable it to carry out continuous monitoring of the rating of the bank facilities, CARE shall carry out the review on the basis of best available information throughout the life time of such bank facilities. In such cases the credit rating symbol shall be accompanied by "ISSUER NOT COOPERATING". CARE shall also be entitled to publicize/disseminate all the afore-mentioned rating actions in any manner considered appropriate by it, without reference to you.
6. CARE ratings do not take into account the sovereign risk, if any, attached to the foreign currency loans, and the ratings are applicable only to the rupee equivalent of these loans.
7. Users of this rating may kindly refer our website www.careratings.com for latest update on the outstanding rating.
8. CARE ratings are **not** recommendations to sanction, renew, disburse or recall any bank facilities.

If you need any clarification, you are welcome to approach us in this regard.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



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[Naresh M. Golani]
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Encl.: As above

Disclaimer

CARE's ratings are opinions on credit quality and are not recommendations to sanction, renew, disburse or recall the concerned bank facilities or to buy, sell or hold any security. CARE has based its ratings/outlooks on information obtained from sources believed by it to be accurate and reliable. CARE does not, however, guarantee the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of any information and is not responsible for any errors or omissions or for the results obtained from the use of such information. Most entities whose bank facilities/instruments are rated by CARE have paid a credit rating fee, based on the amount and type of bank facilities/instruments.

In case of partnership/proprietary concerns, the rating/outlook assigned by CARE is based on the capital deployed by the partners/proprietor and the financial strength of the firm at present. The rating/outlook may undergo change in case of withdrawal of capital or the unsecured loans brought in by the partners/proprietor in addition to the financial performance and other relevant factors.

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Annexure 1

Details of Rated Facilities

1. Long Term Facilities

1. A. Term Loans

(Rs. Crore)

Sr. No.	Name of Bank	Rated Amount	Repayment Details
1	HSBC Bank (Sanctioned ECB of USD 30 Mn)	*184.87	10 half yearly installments of USD 3.00 Mn from January 2018
2	ICICI Bank (Sanctioned ECB of USD 20 Mn)	*118.68	15 half yearly installments of USD 1.33 Mn from September 2017
		303.55	

* O/s as on June 30, 2018, rupee equivalent of outstanding loan value converted at Rs.68.47 per USD

1. B. Fund Based Limits

(Rs. Crore)

Sr. No.	Name of Bank	Amount
1	State Bank of India	55.00
2	Indian Bank	25.00
3	Central Bank of India	15.00
4	UCO Bank	10.00
5	Axis Bank	10.00
6	HDFC Bank	10.00
7	IDBI Bank	5.00
Total		130.00

Total Long Term Facilities as at (1.A.+1.B.)

Rs.433.55 Crore

2. Short Term Facilities

2. A. Non-Fund Based Limits

(Rs. Crore)

Sr. No.	Name of Bank	Amount
1	State Bank of India	25.50
2	Axis Bank	10.00
3	HDFC Bank	7.00
4	Central Bank of India	2.50
Total		45.00

Total Short Term Facilities as at (2.A.)

Rs.45.00 Crore

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Annexure 2
Press Release

Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd

Ratings

Facilities/ Instruments	Amount (Rs. Crores)	Rating ¹	Rating Action
Long term Bank Facilities	433.55 (enhanced from 349.57)	CARE AA+; Stable (Double A Plus; Outlook: Stable)	Reaffirmed
Short term Bank Facilities	45.00	CARE A1+ (A One Plus)	Reaffirmed
Total	478.55 (Rupees Four Hundred Seventy Eight Crore and Fifty Five Lakh only)		
Commercial Paper Issue	100.00 (Rupees One Hundred Crore only)	CARE A1+ (A One Plus)	Reaffirmed

Details of facilities/ instruments in Annexure-1

Detailed Rationale & Key Rating Drivers

The ratings for bank facilities and instruments of Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd (GACL) continue to draw strength from its strong parentage, well-established position as the market leader in domestic chlor-alkali industry along with its integrated operations and wide product portfolio which finds application across diversified end-use industries.

The ratings are also underpinned by its state-of-the-art technology, captive power generation to meet part of its energy requirements along with its comfortable liquidity and strong debt coverage indicators. The ratings also factor improvement in its scale of operations and profitability during FY18 (refers to period from April 1 to March 31) due to increased sales realization for caustic soda products driven by global supply-demand dynamics and reduction in prices of majority of raw materials.

The ratings also take cognizance of the fact that GACL has investment requirements for its joint venture (JV) with National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) for manufacturing caustic soda. Apart from project implementation risk, GACL would also have to manage the saleability risk associated with the new capacity including the disposal of chlorine after factoring the off-take arrangement with NALCO.

The long term rating, however, continues to be constrained by susceptibility of its profitability to adverse movement in market price of gas and power cost which constitute a significant part of its cost structure, risk related to adverse movement in foreign exchange rates, large-sized capex/investment

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plans and its presence in a cyclical industry which also faces competition from imports; albeit the same is currently being mitigated due to presence of anti-dumping duty.

GACL's ability to increase its scale of operations and maintain stability of its high profitability by securing significant portion of its power requirement through captive low cost sources (i.e., renewable energy) so as to shield against market-driven fluctuations of gas/energy prices and through greater share of value-added products in its sales-mix so as to improve captive consumption of chlorine; thereby resulting in greater resilience of its profitability even in the scenario of any future withdrawal of anti-dumping duty by Government of India on import of caustic soda shall be the key rating sensitivities. Further, significant adverse impact of more than envisaged large-size debt funded capex/investments on its capital structure shall also be a key rating monitorable.

Detailed description of the key rating drivers

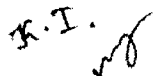
Key Rating Strengths

Market leader in domestic caustic soda industry: GACL is the largest independent producer of caustic soda in the country with an installed capacity of 412,500 metric tonne per annum (MTPA) as on March 31, 2018 at its plants in Vadodara and Dahej in Gujarat. GACL has gradually built its leadership position through continuous expansion of production capacities to cater to the growing demand for its products over the last three decades.

Over the years it has also introduced new chlorine derivatives (downstream products) for captive utilization of chlorine, an essential by-product generated during manufacturing of caustic soda. This has equipped the company to leverage upon its large production capacity and protect its profitability from the effects of volatility in chlorine prices to some extent.

Integrated operations and diversified customer base: The operations of GACL are well-integrated with by-product of one process being used as raw material for another process, enabling the company to optimally utilize its large production capacity. It also protects GACL's profitability to an extent from the effects of inherent cyclicity in the demand for its major products, as adverse demand scenario for one set of products is countered by favorable movement in other products. GACL's products find application across diverse range of industries.

State-of-the-art technology and captive power generation to meet part of its energy requirements: The cost structure of GACL has remained competitive on account of its membrane cell technology used for electrolysis of salt which consumes one-third less power as compared to the traditional mercury cell technology and is also less polluting, captive power plant for meeting some of its energy requirements and investment in wind-mills to offset higher cost of power purchased from the market. Further, GACL has already commissioned a 15MW solar power plant in June 2018 at Patan thus adding to its captive power generation capacity.



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Healthy financial risk profile and sound liquidity: GACL's financial risk profile continued to remain healthy. Its PBILDT margin improved y-o-y by 936 bps to 33.65% during FY18 primarily on account of increased sales realization for caustic soda products on the back of increased prices of caustic soda. Further, it had a comfortable overall gearing of 0.09x and Total Debt/GCA of 0.42 years as on March 31, 2018. The operating cycle remained stable at 48 days during FY18, while the utilization of fund-based working capital limits was nil during 12 months ended August 2018, indicating strong liquidity. Moreover, it had free cash and bank balance of Rs.508 crore as on March 31, 2018.

Improved prospects for the caustic soda industry: The outlook for the domestic chlor-alkali industry is likely to remain positive in the near-term, mainly on account of healthy demand from its key end-use industries like textile, pulp and paper, aluminum, pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals and supply cuts due to closure of some plants in China and Europe on account of stricter environmental norms in the said countries. As per Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the demand for caustic soda is expected to increase by around 4% in FY19. Moreover, with supply cuts from China and Europe, imports of caustic soda are costlier than domestically produced caustic soda, thus enhancing demand of domestically produced caustic soda in India. Further, extension of anti-dumping duty on caustic soda from certain countries is also likely to help in limiting the imports thereby benefitting the domestic players.

Key Rating Weaknesses

Susceptibility of its profitability to adverse movement in market price of gas and power cost along with competition from imports: GACL's profitability is susceptible to adverse movement in market price of gas and power cost since electrolysis is an energy intensive process and power cost constitutes a significant part of its cost structure. The power cost comprised around 29% of GACL's total operating income in FY18 (32% in FY17). The Indian chlor-alkali industry faces competition from cheap imports of lower power cost countries; however, the same is being mitigated by presence of anti-dumping duty on imports of caustic soda.

Risk of adverse movement in foreign exchange rates; however, export volumes help provide natural hedge: GACL is exposed to risk of adverse movement in foreign exchange rates on account of its long-term borrowings denominated in USD, raised for part-funding of its capex plans. Further, as a matter of policy, GACL does not hedge its foreign currency exposure. During FY18, GACL imported raw materials and capital goods worth Rs. 175.79 crore and had repayment liabilities of Rs. 62.19 crore against which it made exports of Rs. 315.31 crore, thus providing a natural hedge to its foreign currency exposure. Although, the interest cost on the forex borrowings is lower than that on comparable domestic rupee loans; the recent depreciation of rupee may have an adverse impact on the profitability of GACL.



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Large-size own capex plan and investment requirements in its JV along with associated salability risk:
GACL has plans to incur capex of around 1,735.23 crore over the next three year period ending FY21 which is expected to be funded by debt of Rs.898 crore and the balance through internal accruals. Further, GACL has entered into 60:40 joint venture with NALCO; GACL-NALCO Alkalies & Chemicals Pvt Ltd (GNAL; rated CARE A; Stable) for setting up a chlor-alkali plant for producing 292,000 MTPA of caustic soda at Dahej, in the vicinity of GACL's existing plant. The joint venture would also establish a coal-based power plant (130 MW) to meet the power requirements on a captive basis. The cost of the JV project is expected to be around Rs.2,000 crore, to be funded through debt and equity in the ratio of 2.33:1, translating into an exposure of Rs.360 crore of equity investment by GACL spread over the next two years. As of July, 2018 GACL has already infused Rs.222 crore and with strong cash accruals and low debt repayment liabilities, GACL is expected to fund the balance equity commitment with reasonable comfort. However, the tie-up of project debt of GNAL is still pending. Out of the total caustic soda to be produced from the JV plant, 54,750 MTPA would be provided to NALCO's alumina refinery and the remaining would be sold in the open market; the marketing rights of which would vest with GACL. The unit would also contain manufacturing facilities for other downstream products, for utilization of chlorine, an essential by-product generated for manufacturing of caustic soda. Thus, GACL will be exposed to marketing risk as well as risk of chlorine disposal for GNAL.

Analytical approach: Standalone

Applicable Criteria

Criteria on assigning Outlook to Credit Ratings

CARE's Policy on Default Recognition

Criteria for Short Term Instruments

Rating Methodology-Manufacturing Companies

Financial ratios – Non-Financial Sector

About the Company

GACL (CIN: L24110GJ1973PLC002247) was promoted in 1973 by the Government of Gujarat (GoG) through its industrial investment arm, Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation Ltd (GIIC). As on March 31, 2018, GoG as the promoter, through its various undertakings, held 46.28% equity in the company, the largest being through Gujarat State Investments Ltd (GSIL) with 20.87% holding. GACL is the largest player in the domestic caustic chlorine industry with integrated operations. It produces a wide range of products including caustic soda, liquid and gaseous chlorine, hydrogen peroxide, phosphoric acid and aluminium chloride which find application across a diversified group of industries including textile, pulp and paper, aluminium, detergents, soaps, rayon, plastics, pharmaceutical and

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agricultural chemicals. GACL's manufacturing facilities had a combined installed capacity for production of 412,500 metric tonne (MT) of caustic soda per annum as on March 31, 2018.

Total operating income	2,123	2,512
PBILDT	515	845
PAT	308	535
Overall gearing (times)	0.13	0.09
Interest coverage (times)	40.17	56.73

A: Audited

GACL reported total operating income of Rs.762 crore with PAT of Rs.183 crore during Q1FY19 as against total operating income of Rs.612 crore with PAT of Rs.95 crore during Q1FY18.

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not Applicable

Any other information: Not Applicable

Rating History (Last three years): Please refer Annexure-2

Note on complexity levels of the rated instrument: CARE has classified instruments rated by it on the basis of complexity. This classification is available at www.careratings.com. Investors/market intermediaries/regulators or others are welcome to write to care@careratings.com for any clarifications.

Analyst Contact

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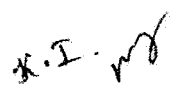
Email: naresh.golani@careratings.com

About CARE Ratings:

CARE Ratings commenced operations in April 1993 and over two decades, it has established itself as one of the leading credit rating agencies in India. CARE is registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and also recognized as an External Credit Assessment Institution (ECAI) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). CARE Ratings is proud of its rightful place in the Indian capital market built around investor confidence. CARE Ratings provides the entire spectrum of credit rating that helps the corporates to raise capital for their various requirements and assists the investors to form an informed investment decision based on the credit risk and their own risk-return expectations. Our rating and grading service offerings leverage our domain and analytical expertise backed by the methodologies congruent with the international best practices.

Disclaimer

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Annexure-1

Details of Instruments/ Facilities

Name of the Instrument	Date of Issuance	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date	Size of the Issue (Rs. crore)	Rating assigned along with Rating Outlook
Term Loan-Long Term	-	-	September 2024	303.55	CARE AA+; Stable
Fund-based - LT-Cash Credit	-	-	-	130.00	CARE AA+; Stable
Non-fund-based - ST-BG/LC	-	-	-	45.00	CARE A1+
Commercial Paper-CP/STD	-	-	7-364 days	100.00	CARE A1+

Annexure-2

Rating History (Last three years)

Sr. No.	Name of the Instrument/Bank Facilities	Current Ratings			Rating history			
		Type	Amount Outstanding (Rs. crore)	Rating	Date(s) & Rating(s) assigned in 2018-2019	Date(s) & Rating(s) assigned in 2017-2018	Date(s) & Rating(s) assigned in 2016-2017	Date(s) & Rating(s) assigned in 2015-2016
1.	Term Loan-Long Term	LT	303.55	CARE AA+; Stable	-	1)CARE AA+; Stable (05-Oct-17)	1)CARE AA+ (20-Oct-16)	1)CARE AA+ (14-Oct-15)
2.	Commercial Paper-CP/STD	ST	100.00	CARE A1+	-	1)CARE A1+ (05-Oct-17)	1)CARE A1+ (20-Oct-16)	1)CARE A1+ (14-Oct-15)
3.	Fund-based - LT-Cash Credit	LT	130.00	CARE AA+; Stable	-	1)CARE AA+; Stable (05-Oct-17)	1)CARE AA+ (20-Oct-16)	1)CARE AA+ (14-Oct-15)
4.	Non-fund-based - ST-BG/LC	ST	45.00	CARE A1+	-	1)CARE A1+ (05-Oct-17)	1)CARE A1+ (20-Oct-16)	1)CARE A1+ (14-Oct-15)

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CARE/ARO/RL/2018-19/1906

Dr. H. B. Patel
Executive Director (Finance) & CFO,
Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd,
P.O. Petrochemicals,
Vadodara,
Gujarat – 391 346

October 8, 2018

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Dear Sir,

Credit rating for Commercial Paper (CP) issue aggregating to Rs.100.00 crore¹

On the basis of recent developments including operational and financial performance of your company for FY18 (audited) and Q1FY19 (provisional), our Rating Committee has reviewed the following rating:

Instrument	Amount (Rs. Crore)	Rating ²	Rating Action
Commercial Paper Issue	100.00 (Rupees One Hundred Crore Only)	CARE A1+ (A One Plus)	Reaffirmed

- The CP issue would be for a maturity not exceeding one year.
- The rationale for the rating will be communicated to you separately. A write-up (press release) on the above rating has been communicated to you through letter no. CARE/ARO/RL/2018-19/1904.
- Please arrange to get the rating revalidated in case the issue is not made within two months from the date of this letter i.e. by December 7, 2018. Once the CP is placed, the rating is valid for the tenure of such instrument till redemption.
- Please inform us the below-mentioned details of issue immediately, but not later than 7 days from the date of placing the instrument:

Instrument type	ISIN	Issue Size (Rs cr.)	Coupon Rate	Coupon Payment Dates	Terms of Redemption	Redemption date	Name and contact details of Trustee/IPA	Details of top 10 Investors
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¹ This represents the aggregate of all CP issuances of the company outstanding at any point in time.

² Complete definitions of the ratings assigned are available at www.careratings.com and in other CARE publications.

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8. Users of this rating may kindly refer our website www.careratings.com for latest update on the outstanding rating.
9. CARE ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold any security.

If you need any clarification, you are welcome to approach us in this regards.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,

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Naresh M. Golani
[Naresh M. Golani]

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