Creditreform corporate rating

ELIA SYSTEM OPERATOR NV/SA (Group)

Creditreform Rating Agentur
www.creditreform-rating.de

Rating object	Rating information	
Elia System Operator NV/SA (Group)	Rating: **A**	Outlook: **stable**

Creditreform ID:	2000000585
Incorporation:	2001
(Main) Industry:	Transmission System Operator (TSO)
Management:	Chris Peeters, CEO

Prepared on:	**October 7, 2016**
Monitoring until:	withdrawal of the rating
Publication:	October 14, 2016
Rating type:	**unsolicited**
Rating methodology:	corporate rating
Rating history:	www.creditreform-rating.de

Table of contents

Analysts
Marie Watelet
Lead analyst

Christian Schneider
Co-analyst

Neuss, Germany

Abstract

Company

Elia Group is a leading transmission system operator (TSO) in Europe, active in Belgium (Elia Transmission) and Germany (50 Hertz Transmission). The company was established in 2001, resulting from the merger between CPTE and an Electrabel entity. After the acquisition of 50Hertz Transmission GmbH in 2010, Elia became the fourth biggest TSO in Europe. The group employs approximately 2,000 people and operates 18,300 km of high-voltage connections.

The company is listed on the Brussels stock exchange (Euronext Brussels: ELI). In Belgium, Elia holds licences for its 380 kV to 150 kV national Belgian grids and for its 70 kV to 30 kV grids in Belgium's 3 regions. In Germany, the jointly held 50Hertz (Elia 60% of the shares / IFM Investors 40% of the shares), is one of the four German TSOs, and is active in the north and east of the country. The group also offers consultancy and engineering services on the international energy market.

With revenues amounting to EUR 780.1 million in 2015 (previous year: EUR 785.5 million), the company achieved a net profit of EUR 210.7 million (2014: EUR 167.6 million) in 2015, generated at 56% by the German segment of the group and its associates. Consolidated EBIT grew by 10.7% to EUR 213.2 million. Considering the net income from participating interests (50Hertz Transmission) as operational revenue, EBIT grew by 16.2% at EUR 336.4 million due to the good performance of the German segment in 2015. The company invested approx. EUR 353 million in 2015 in Belgium and EUR 902 million in Germany, mainly financed by bond issues, in grid extension projects.

Rating Result

The current rating attests a high level of creditworthiness to Elia Group, representing a low default risk for the company in comparison with the sector and the overall economy.

The group is considered to have a low business-risk profile due to the supportive regulatory regimes in Belgium and in Germany as well as to its legal monopoly status. The group registers stable revenues, strong margins and an adequate capital structure. The main challenges of the group have a medium-term horizon and will require investments in grid network capacities and modernization as well as with regard to the integration of renewables as an efficient electricity source. Elia's financial risk is considered to be moderate with a high leverage and a low EBIT interest coverage. The group's credit risk position could further deteriorate following the expected Eurobond issues in 2016 within the framework of the EMTN Program. The bonds' proceeds will serve to finance a EUR 3.5 billion investment plan within the next five years (energy transition).

Outlook

The year-long outlook for the rating is stable. This appraisal takes into account that the group's debt level will increase following the implementation of its ambitious investment plan. We expect a positive return on investments. The financing of these investments requires the stability of the regulatory frameworks in Belgium and in Germany, as well as sufficient profitability to attract the necessary capital.

Rating relevant factors

+ Good profitability, also thanks to 50Hertz Transmission (Germany)
+ Enough liquidity due to the bond issue to reimburse the maturing bond in 2016
+ Lower financing expenses
+ Increased asset coverage ratio
+ Increased equity ratio thanks to capital increase

- Disproportional asset growth to EBIT growth
- High leverage
- High Net debt / EBITDA ratio
- Low EBIT interest coverage, also in comparison with its peers

Financial ratios' extract Basis: consolidated annual statement per 31.12 (IFRS)	Standardized balance sheet	
	2014	2015
Total assets	EUR 4.808,1 m	EUR 5.566,5 m
Turnover	EUR 785.5 m	EUR 780.1 m
Total revenues (incl. other income)	EUR 836.3 m	EUR 851.4 m
EBITDA	EUR 300.9 m	EUR 327,4 m
EBIT	EUR 192.6 m	EUR 213.2 m
EBIT (incl.income from participating interests)	EUR 289.6 m	EUR 336.4 m
EAT	EUR 167.6 m	EUR 210.7 m
Equity ratio (after the deduction of 50% of the goodwill)	29.2%	27.9%
Return on investment	5.6%	5.5%
Net debt / EBITDA adj.	10.8	10.4
Short term capital lock-up	11.5%	80.3%
Ratio of interest expenses to debt	3.3%	2.6%

General rating factors

+ Sustainable assets and low business risk profile because of high market entry barriers
+ Legal monopoly in Belgium (owner and operator of the transmission network); regional monopolistic position in Germany (one of four regional transmission grids in Germany)
+ Supportive regulatory framework in Belgium and in Germany due to the economic importance of the company
+ Predictable revenues generated by regulated activities
+ Continuous investments in the infrastructure (extension, modernization) and compensation for the costs incurred
+ High probability of financial support from Publi-T SCRL
+ Capital market access

- Capital-intensive business; high fixed costs
- The energy transition is costly (installation and maintenance)
- Revenues depend on tariffs that have to be approved by the authorities
- High safety risks
- Blackout and shortage of supply risks

Current factors (rating 2016)

+ Approval of the tariff mechanism for the next 4 years in Belgium
+ Adequate equity ratio and capital structure
+ Good performance of the German segment

- High leverage and Net debt / EBITDA ratio
- Low EBIT and EBITDA interest coverage
- Increased maintenance costs that put pressure on 50Hertz cash flow

Prospective rating factors

+ Approval of the 10-year development plan by Belgian authorities (2015-2025)

- Slowdown trend in electricity consumption
- Possible deterioration of the credit risk position following indebtedness linked to necessary investments – increased capex
- Obligation to rebuy green certificates from Solar Chest S.A. (in 2020, 2021 and 2022)

Best case scenario

Best case scenario: A

Worst case scenario: A-

Note:
The scenarios are based on the information available at the time of the rating. Within the forecast horizon, some circumstances could occur that would lead to a rating change out of the indicated range.

In our best case scenario for one year, we assume a rating of A. It is assumed that the group successfully realizes its investments and that the return on investments is very rapid, so that the debt increase for financing the investments is offset by an increase in EBITDA.

Worst case scenario

In our worst case scenario for one year, we assume a rating of A-. It is assumed that the investment's related costs (notably maintenance costs) are greater than expected, which impacts directly the cash flows and the profitability of the group. The new bond issues deteriorate the credit risk position of the group.

Business development and outlook

2015 was a positive year for Elia Group. Consolidated revenues (including other income) increased by 1.8% at EUR 851.4 million. The 60% shares in 50Hertz Transmission were consolidated using the equity method. Under consideration of the net income from participating interests (50Hertz Transmission and associates), EBIT grew by 16.2% to EUR 336.4 million. The German segment achieved good performance in 2015 with revenues growing by 46.2% in comparison with 2014. This growth is due to increasing energy costs and higher volumes of (mainly offshore) investments, as well as to non-recurring items linked to the successful connection of the offshore wind farm Baltic 2. EAT's group amounted to EUR 210.7 million, which represents a 25.7% growth in comparison with the EAT 2014. This is due to the good performance of joint ventures and associates (the German segment contributed a 56% share in the group's result) as well as to decreasing financing costs through the refinancing of Eurobonds at a better rate.

Transmission System Operators (TSO) are responsible for the management of the transmission infrastructure of high and very high voltage power lines. Elia has a legal monopoly status in Belgium with a license granted for 20 years. Elia transmits electrical power from generation plants over the electrical grid to local electricity distribution operators. In Belgium, Elia serves principally industrial clients (SMEs and private households are served by distribution system operators (DSO)). Elia's tariffs (for connecting to the grid, developing and managing the infrastructure, operating the electricity system, offsetting imbalances and market integration) are regulated. On top of the tariffs, Elia is compensated in order to cover other costs not related to its TSOs' activities.

The Belgian grid model is a cost plus model. Tariffs are based on fixed costs, variable costs and fair remuneration for the capital invested. The new tariffs 2016-2019 are based on a new incentive mechanism (performance incentives) designed to support the implementation of major transmission system upgrades and development projects. The tariffs for the period 2016-2019 and the investment program for the period 2016-2019 of 1.6 billion EUR for the power transmission grid have been approved by CREG. In November 2015, Elia received the approval of the Ministry of Energy of the Development Plan of the national transmission grid 2015-2025 that reinforce the electricity network.

In Germany, TSOs' tariff system is based on a revenue cap model. The conditions of the regulated tariffs evolution are fixed in advance for five years (from January 1, 2014 until December

31, 2018) by the Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA) and depend on permanently non-influenceable costs, temporary non-influenceable costs and return on equity. In addition to the revenue cap, 50Hertz is compensated for costs incurred related to its renewable energy obligations. The Renewable Energy Source Act 2014 (Erneuerbare-Energien-Gesetz, EEG) defines the feed-in tariffs for renewable energies and fixes the new facilities installation targets in Germany. The company is also subject to several other regulations (local, national and European).

Elia participates in the idea to create an integrated market at European level. The year 2015 was a pivotal year for the European energy sector with the creation of a strategic framework for the Energy Union in order to create a European Energy Union. At European level, the TSOs are members of the international association ENTSO-E (European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity). As an example, the Stevin project: a joint-venture agreement that will allow Elia and National Grid to build the first-ever subsea power line between the UK and Belgium (38 km of high voltage cables or lines). The commissioning of this interconnector is expected in Q1 2019.

As a TSO, Elia manages the infrastructure and maintains the balance between supply and demand of electricity. The main current challenge is to cope with renewable energies that are weather-dependent (wind/sun) with an unstable electricity production, generally either very far from the electricity consumption points or decentralized. In this challenging energy transition, Elia group’s investments were significant in 2015 (EUR 353 million in Belgium and EUR 902 million in Germany), especially in offshore projects. Following these major investments, the maintenance activities increased, impacting the operating result of 50Hertz in H1-2016.

It is expected that the group will continue its investments in both Belgium and Germany in 2016. During the first six months of 2016, Elia invested EUR 153 million in Belgium and EUR 183 million in Germany (of which EUR 81 million offshore) to reinforce the grid infrastructure. The new regulatory framework in Belgium, which rewards operational performance, has had a positive impact on the financial results in Belgium. Its revenues grew by 3.2% in comparison with last year (H1-2015). In Germany, increased maintenance expenses as well as depreciations put pressure on the productivity of 50Hertz. The group realized EUR 405.1 million in H1-2016 (H1-2015: EUR 392.7 million) and a net profit of EUR 86.5 million (H1-2015: EUR 94.0 million). In H1-2016, one of Elia’s subsidiaries issued a EUR 750 million Eurobond within the framework of the EMTN program and the group signed for a new revolving credit facility amounting to EUR 650 million.

Structural risks

The company prepares financial statements in accordance with IFRS using the equity consolidation method. Elia is listed on the Brussels stock exchange (Euronext Brussels: ELI) and its main shareholder is Publi-T, a municipal holding company (45.08%). Publi-Part holds approx. 2.52% of the shares. Roughly 52.40% of the shares are floating.

Elia group has a geographically operating segmentation between Belgium and Germany. Elia Group is composed by (1) Elia Transmission (Belgium), i.e. companies linked to the Belgian TSO activities, (2), 50Hertz Transmission (Germany), i.e. companies linked to the German TSO activities, (3) other companies linked to specific projects and / or related to consulting services. The group also holds several participations in other joint-ventures and associates. There have been no changes in the group’s consolidation scope in H1-2016. The company structure is expected to remain stable.

The Board of Directors is independent and composed of 14 members. The Board controls the group via several committees: the management committee, audit committee, remuneration committee and corporate governance committee that report to the Board. Risk management is ensured by the Board of Directors and the Risk Manager jointly. In our opinion, there are no core risks associated with the shareholder and organizational structure of the group.

Business risks

The company has a low business-risk profile as the tariffs and investments are regulated. In this respect, the main business risks of Elia are regulatory risks and / or any changes on a political level. For instance, in Belgium there is a risk for the company in the case of a possible state reform in Belgium regarding the division of competences between the regional and federal levels. In Germany, the company benefits from a stable regulatory framework until 2018. Changes in the EEG or in the regulatory framework decided by the BNetzA could significantly impact 50Hertz's liquidity. Regulatory mandatory changes at European level could also affect the company.

Elia's business model is linked to the electricity consumption of the customers, which depends on their overall business activity level. A slowdown of the economic activity in Belgium and Germany could affect the company's cash flow. Since 2009, residential and industrial consumption in Belgium has been decreasing. The difference between electricity effectively transmitted and electricity budgeted/approved by CREG in Belgium for the period 2012-2015 has been compensated by the new tariffs in the new period (2016-2019).

Elia has a license to operate in Belgium that is valid for 20 years. There is a risk that the license – legal monopoly - may not be renewed but we see this risk as minor.

TSO manage security of the power system in real time and coordinate the supply and demand of electricity. The environmental issues and the closing of nuclear power plants cause problems with the electricity supply. Since 2014, due to the closing of several production units in Belgium, as the electricity demand is seasonal Elia had to create strategic electricity reserves for wintertime in order to cope with potential electricity shortage events. Safety and reliability are a critical issue for TSO because they are at the source. Any failure on their grid or electricity generation sources could affect a very large number of customers. In addition to possible electricity shortages, blackout problems due to bad weather conditions are not excluded. Elia holds a global insurance policy that limits its liability in case of an error causing any outage.

The decentralized production volumes are increasing, the centralized production capacity is decreasing, and assets are aging. This complicates maintenance of the network balance. Coping with renewable energies is a real challenge for the sector and is linked with several operational risks.

Furthermore, Elia has the obligation in Belgium to purchase green certificates or cogeneration certificates at a minimum guaranteed price and to sell them to the electricity providers. Currently, Elia has bought more certificates than it has sold. However, the imposed quotas to the providers have not increased and Elia did not ask an increase in the tariffs. For this reason, since June 2015, Elia has been allowed to put in reserve a certain quantity of green certificates with a dedicated company (SPV) named Solar Chest S.A. The SPV issued bonds to finance the purchase of the green certificates. In order to serve the bondholders, the green certificates have to be rebought by Elia at bond maturity (June 30, 2020, 2021 and 2022), which could put pressure on Elia's liquidity in the long term. In Germany, 50Hertz is also exposed to a cash flow risk as it is obliged to buy the electricity generated by renewable sources for a fixed price, but to sell it at market prices.

There are also some risks linked to authorizations needed to build new high voltage lines to be connected with the grid. Other risks are IT and telecommunication risks, environmental risks (for which Elia makes provisions) and safety risks for the individuals working on the infrastructure.

Overall, we assess the company as having a low business risk profile as the company currently benefits from supportive regulatory frameworks and a special status that generates predictable revenues. Nevertheless, the business requires intensive capex as it needs to adapt to the energy transition and is linked with high operating risks.

Financial risks

For analytical purposes, the CRA adjusted the original values in the financial statements in the context of financial ratio analysis. Contrary to our normal practice, we deducted the goodwill shown on the balance sheet from the equity only by 50%, suggesting a certain recoverability of the goodwill. The following descriptions and indicators are based solely on these adjustments.

In 2014, Elia realized a capital increase of EUR 5.3 million and in 2015 of EUR 377k. The adjusted equity – after the deduction of 50% of the goodwill – amounts to EUR 1.552,3 million. The overall capital structure of the company is adequate with an adjusted equity ratio of 27.9% and an asset cover ratio at 82.3%. The total assets grew at the same pace as the EBIT (incl. net income of participating interests), showing positive return on investments in the infrastructure.

As of December 31, 2015, debt increased by 18% to EUR 3.2 billion compared to the previous year. The company's funding mainly consists of bonds (EUR 2.6 billion), among which EUR 500 million is due in less than one year, EUR 500 million within three to five years and EUR 1.6 billion in more than five years. These Eurobonds were issued within the framework of a Euro Medium Term Note (EMTN) program of EUR 3.0 billion set up in 2012. The company also has a shareholder loan amounting to EUR 495.8 million at its disposal, due in 2022. In addition, the company benefits from EUR 900 million credit facilities (undrawn as of December 31, 2015). As of December 31, 2015, the ratio of net debt/EBITDA is high but decreased slightly to 10.35 (2014, December 31: 10.75) due to a disproportional increase of the EBITDA. Taking the net income of participating interests into account, net debt/EBITDA was 7.52 as per December 31, 2015 (2014, December 31: 8.12).

Cash and cash equivalents at end of 2015 amounted to EUR 626.4 million due to the issuance of a bond amounting to EUR 550 million in November 2015 which will serve to reimburse the maturing bond of EUR 500 million in April 2016. Following the H1-2016 report, this Eurobond has been successfully repaid. With a cash flow from operating activities amounting to EUR 408.2 million, the company generates enough liquidity to meet its interest paying obligations. The EBIT interest coverage is 2.06 which is lower than its European peers. This is because Elia's tariffs are among the lowest in Europe. Elia intends to distribute EUR 94.2 million of its profit 2015 as dividends, representing a payout ratio of 44.7%.

Off-balance commitments are linked to operating leases related to buildings, cars and IT equipment amounting to EUR 19.8 million as of December 31, 2015. Elia has rental receivables related to buildings and telecom which amount to EUR 24.6 million. The company entered into purchase contracts, whose commitments as of December 31, 2015 amounted to EUR 946 million. Within the framework of a project (Nemo), Elia System Operator provided a parent company guarantee of EUR 238.7 million and a Letter of Credit of EUR 1.9 million.

Thanks to its favorable business model (regulated tariffs, stability of earnings and low probability of a negative result) and despite its high leverage as well as its low EBITDA interest coverage, also in comparison with its European peers, we assess the financial risks of Elia as moderate and anyway lower than in other industries. The credit risk position of the company could nevertheless deteriorate following the expected bond issues within the framework of the EMTN program. These future investments will put pressure on the cash flow and a further increase of the ratio of net debt / EBITDA could have a negative impact on the rating outlook and / or on the rating in a long term perspective.

Financial ratio analysis

Appendix: key ratios

Asset Structure	2013	2014	2015
Fixed asset intensity (%)	85,13	86,63	79,43
Asset turnover	--	0,17	0,15
Asset coverage ratio (%)	77,15	71,78	82,29
Liquid funds to total assets (%)	5,21	3,56	11,25
Capital Structure			
Equity ratio (%)	28,33	29,17	27,89
Short-term-debt ratio (%)	20,11	13,46	23,87
Long-term-debt ratio (%)	37,35	33,01	37,47
Capital lock-up period (in days)	93,53	139,96	145,19
Trade-accounts-payable ratio (%)	4,33	6,26	5,57
Short-term capital lock-up (%)	76,10	11,47	80,34
Financial Stability			
Debt / EBITDA adj.	10,63	11,32	12,26
Net Debt / EBITDA adj.	9,86	10,75	10,35
ROCE (%)	0,05	0,05	0,05
Debt repayment period	--	5,69	6,31
Profitability			
Gross profit margin (%)	100,00	100,00	100,00
EBIT interest coverage	1,70	1,73	2,06
EBITDA interest coverage	2,56	2,70	3,17
Ratio of personnel costs to total costs (%)	17,41	17,78	17,64
Ratio of material costs to total costs (%)			
Cost income ratio (%)	74,85	76,97	74,96
Ratio of interest expenses to debt (%)	3,68	3,27	2,58
Return on investment (%)	6,12	5,58	5,45
Return on equity (%)	--	12,31	14,26
Net profit margin (%)	22,34	21,34	27,01
Interest burden (%)	95,13	98,13	114,26
Operating margin (%)	26,59	24,52	27,33
Liquidity			
Cash ratio (%)	25,89	26,44	47,14
Quick ratio (%)	58,04	75,71	83,14
Current ratio (%)	73,93	99,35	86,20

Regulatory requirements

The present rating is an unsolicited corporate rating. Creditreform Rating AG was not commissioned by the company with the preparation of the rating. The present analysis was prepared on a voluntary basis.

The rating is based on the analysis of published information and on internal evaluation factors. The quantitative analysis is primarily based on the annual report for 2015, intermediate reports, and on press releases of the company. The information and documents meet the requirements and are in accordance with the published Creditreform Rating AG's rating methodology. An electronic version of our rating methodology can be found on our website www.creditreform-rating.de.

The rating was prepared by analysts Marie Watelet (lead analyst) and Christian Schneider (co-analyst). A management interview did not take place during the rating process.

A Rating Committee of highly qualified analysts of Creditreform Rating AG was called on October 7, 2016. The analysts presented the results of the quantitative and qualitative analyses and provided the Committee with a recommendation for the rating decision. After the discussion of the relevant risk factors, the Rating Committee arrived at a unanimous rating decision.

The rating result and a draft of the present rating report were communicated to Elia System Operator NV / SA on October 7, 2016. The final version of the rating report has been sent to the company on February 13, 2017.

The rating will be monitored as long as CRA removes the rating and sets it to non-rated (n.r.).

In 2011 Creditreform Rating AG was registered within the European Union according to EU Regulation 1060/2009 (CRA-Regulation). Based on the registration Creditreform Rating AG (CRAG) is allowed to issue credit ratings within the EU and is bound to comply with the provisions of the CRA-Regulation.

Conflict of Interests

No conflicts of interest were identified during the rating process that might influence the analyses and judgements of the rating analysts involved or any other natural person whose services are placed at the disposal or under the control of Creditreform Rating AG and who are directly involved in credit rating activities or approving credit ratings and rating outlooks.
In case of providing ancillary services to the rated entity, CRAG will disclose all ancillary services in the credit rating report.

Rules on the Presentation of Credit Ratings and Rating Outlooks

The approval of credit ratings and rating outlooks follows our internal policies and procedures. In line with our policy "Rating Committee," all credit ratings and rating outlooks are approved by a rating committee based on the principle of unanimity.

To prepare this credit rating, CRAG has used following substantially material sources:

1. Annual Report
2. Website
3. Internet research.

There are no other attributes and limitations of the credit rating or rating outlook other than displayed on the CRAG website. Furthermore CRAG considers satisfactory the quality and extent of information available on the rated entity. In regard to the rated entity Creditreform Rating AG regarded available historical data as sufficient.

Between the disclosure of the credit rating to the rated entity and the public disclosure no amendments were made to the credit rating.

The “Basic data” information card indicates the principal methodology or version of methodology that was used in determining the rating, with a reference to its comprehensive description.

In case where the credit rating is based on more than one methodology or where reference only to the principal methodology might cause investors to overlook other important aspects of the credit rating, including any significant adjustments and deviations, Creditreform Rating AG explains this fact in the credit rating and indicates how the different methodologies or these other aspects are taken into account in the credit rating. This information is integrated in the credit rating report.

The meaning of each rating category, the definition of default or recovery and any appropriate risk warning, including a sensitivity analysis of the relevant key rating assumptions, such as mathematical or correlation assumptions, accompanied by worst-case scenario credit ratings as well as best-case scenario credit ratings are explained.

The date at which the credit rating was released for distribution for the first time and when it was last updated including any rating outlooks is indicated clearly and prominently in the “Basic data” card as a “Rating action”; first release is indicated as “initial rating”, other updates are indicated as an “update”, “upgrade or downgrade”, “not rated”, “confirmed”, “selective default” or “default”.

In the case of a rating outlook, the time horizon is provided during which a change in the credit rating is expected. This information is available within „Basic data“ information card.

In accordance to Article 11 (2) EU-Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009 registered or certified credit rating agency shall make available in a central repository established by ESMA information on its historical performance data, including the ratings transition frequency, and information about credit ratings issued in the past and on their changes. Requested data are available at the ESMA website: https://cerep.esma.europa.eu/cerep-web/statistics/defaults.xhtml.

An explanatory statement of the meaning of Creditreform`s default rates are available in the credit rating methodologies disclosed on the website.

Please note:

This report exists in an English version only. This is the only binding version.

Disclaimer

Any rating performed by Creditreform Rating AG is subject to the "Verhaltenskodex der Creditreform Rating AG" ("The Creditreform Rating AG Code of Conduct") which has been published on the web pages of Creditreform Rating AG. In this Code of Conduct, Creditreform Rating AG commits itself to – systematically and with due diligence – establishing its independent and objective opinion as to the sustainability, the risks and the opportunities of the company / issue under review.

Future events are uncertain, and forecasts are necessarily based on assessments and assumptions. This rating is therefore no statement of fact, but an opinion. For this reason, Creditreform Rating AG cannot be held liable for the consequences of decisions made on the basis of any of their ratings. Neither should these ratings be construed as recommendations for investors, buyers or sellers. They should only be used by market participants (entrepreneurs, bankers, investors etc.) as one factor among others when arriving at corporate or investment decisions. Ratings are not meant to be used as substitutes for own research, inquiries and assessments.

We have assumed that the documents and information made available to us by the client were complete and accurate and that the copies provided to us represent the full and unchanged contents of the original documents. Creditreform Rating AG assumes no responsibility for the true and fair representation of the original information.

Creditreform Rating AG

Contact information

Creditreform Rating AG Hellersbergstraße 11 D-41460 Neuss Germany	Elia System Operator NV Boulevard de l'Empereur 20 B-1000 Brussels Belgium
Phone +49 (0) 2131 / 109-626 Fax +49 (0) 2131 / 109-627	Phone +32 (0) 2 546 70 11 Fax +32 (0) 2 546 70 10
E-Mail info@creditreform-rating.de www.creditreform-rating.de	E-Mail investor.relations@elia.be www.eliagroup.eu
BoD: Dr. Michael Munsch	CEO: Chris Peeters
Chairman of the Board: Prof. Dr. Helmut Rödl HR Neuss B 10522	BE 0476 388 378