



# **Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative**

**Roundtable 3:** Expected impact of the project bond initiative on the capital markets funding of projects

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11 APRIL, 2011

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# **About Moody's Investors Service**

- » Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") is a leading provider of credit ratings, research, and risk analysis.
- » The firm's ratings and analysis track debt covering more than
  - 110 countries
  - 12,000 corporate issuers
  - 25,000 public finance issuers
  - 106,000 structured finance obligations
- » Moody's Investors Service is a subsidiary of Moody's Corporation (NYSE: MCO), which reported revenue of \$2.0 billion in 2010, employs approximately 4,500 people worldwide and maintains a presence in 26 countries.

## Additional information is available at www.moodys.com.



# Why are credit ratings important?

- » Moody's credit ratings are opinions of the relative credit risk of financial obligations.
  - Ratings are expressed on a 21-category rating scale, ranging from Aaa to C
  - Transparency of ratings supported by clear rating methodologies, timely communication and relevant research
- » Importance for investors:
  - Well-understood categorisation of credit quality across debt sectors and regions
  - Anchored in rigorous analysis
  - Independent perspective on credit risk
- » Importance for issuers:
  - Facilitate borrowers' access to global capital markets
- » Relevant to other stakeholders
  - Including regulators, legislators and academic researchers

# Credit ratings play a significant role in financial markets and are relevant to a broad range of market participants.

# **Overview of ratings process**

- » Gathering information
  - Lead analyst assigned to a particular issuer or debt obligation ("Lead Analyst") assembles relevant information
- » Credit analysis
  - Analysis of the issuer or debt obligation based on relevant rating methodologies
  - Lead Analyst formulates his/her views for consideration by Rating Committee
- » Rating Committee
  - Lead Analyst presents his/her credit analysis and rating recommendation to Rating Committee
  - Members of Rating Committee reflect relevant expertise.
  - Diversity of opinion is encouraged and discussed openly
  - Credit ratings are determined by majority vote
- » Dissemination of Credit Rating Announcement
- » On-going monitoring

## Regulatory oversight of ratings process has increased

# **Rating Drivers for Project Finance**

- » Rating methodologies published by Moody's set out relevant rating approach
- » Sector rating methodologies include:
  - PFI/PPP/P3 projects (Separate methodologies for construction phase and operations phase)
  - Power Generation Projects
  - Operational Toll Roads
  - Operational Airports (Concession-based framework)
  - General project finance rating methodology
- » Rating methodologies include scorecards
  - Scorecards provide a broad prediction of credit quality to within 1-2 notches of rating
  - Scorecards inform Rating Committee deliberations but do not determine rating
- » Published research provides additional insight into key considerations for rated precedents

## Moody's methodologies and scorecards available free to the market



## **Illustration: PPP Projects - Construction Phase**

#### www.moodys.com

### Rating Methodology

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December 2007

### Construction Risk in Privately-Financed Public Infrastructure (PFI/PPP/P3) Projects

#### Summary

 Moody's is implementing this methodology in order to improve the transparency of its approach to evaluating construction risk in privately financed, public infrastructure projects ("PFI/PFI/PF). The methodology incorporates a broad range of market comments reserved by Moody's as part of a review process initiated by the publication of our August 2006 Request for Comment on this topic.

 Modry's will apply this methodology globally when assigning ratings to this class of project financings. The methodology augments our existing analytical framework with a quantitative model designed to explicitly incorporate Modry's assumptions about the likelihood of construction over-runs, the value of parent guarantees from construction contractors as well as the benefit of various types of financial supports including performance bonds and letters of credit and the interactions between

The quantitative model uses Monte Cario simulations to model PFI/PPP projects on an expected loss basis. The model results are an input to a rating framework that incorporates those aspects of construction programs that are less suited to modeling but that Moody's feels are critical to the analysis of PFI/PPP infractructure financings. The model is available to market participants at no cost upon execution of a usage agreement. For further intormation on how to obtain the model, please contact Moody's at pppmodels@moodys.com.

 Moodry's is concurrently publishing a rating methodology for the analysis of operating risk in PFIPPP projects. Consistent with existing practice, we plan to consider separately risks in the construction and operations phases of PFI/PP projects. Should projects be structured with a significantly higher risk profile in construction than in operations, Moody's would normally expect to adjust a projects rating for the operations phase to reflect successful construction and transition to project operations. Moody's will comment on the relative risk of the construction and operations phases of new PFI/PP projects as ratings are assigned.

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Key inputs:

- » Contract size
- » Debt amount
- » Complexity of scope
- » Contractor support
  - Rating
  - Liability exposure
- » Third party support(s) for each support:
  - Rating
  - Support level
  - LCs/ adjudication bond
- » Grant funding

Construction phase risk modelled as a financial exposure supported by a portfolio of financial assets.

## **Illustration: PPP Projects - Operating Phase**

#### www.moodys.com

### Rating Methodology

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December 2007

### Operating Risk in Privately-Financed Public Infrastructure (PFI/PPP/P3) Projects

#### Summary

 Moody's is implementing this methodology in order to improve the transparency of its approach to evaluating operating period risk in privately financed, public infrastructure projects ("PFIPPP"). The methodology incorporates the market comments received by Moody's as part of a review process initiated by the publication of our September 2007 Request for Comment on this tools.

 Moody's will apply this methodology globally when assigning ratings to this class of project financings. The methodology standardizes the analysis and relative weighting of quantilative and qualitative considerations considered in our analysis.

 Moody's has developed a scorecard model to accompany this rating methodology. The model is available to market participants at no cost upon the execution of a usage agreement. To obtain the model or for further information please contact Moody's at <u>pppmodelc@moody.com</u>

 Moody's is concurrently publishing a rating methodology for the analysis of construction takin PFI/PPP projects. Consistent with existing practice, we plan to consider separately rask in the construction and operations phases of PFI/PPP projects. Should projects be structured with a significantly higher risk profile in construction than in operations, Moody's would normally expect to adjust a projects rating for the operations phase to reflect successful construction and transition to project operations. Moody's will comment on the relative risk of the construction and operations phases of new projects as ratings are assigned.

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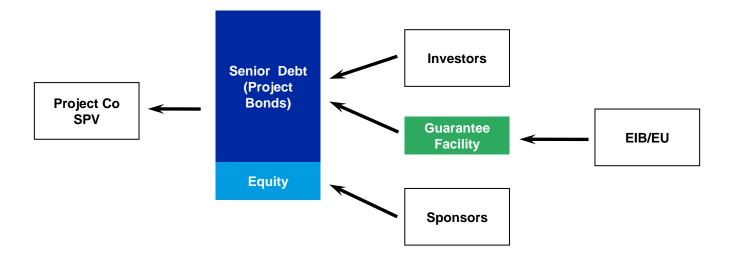
A simpler scoresheet, but with more inputs

4-stage assessment

- » Project Risk Assessment
- » Capital Structure
- » Loss Given Default
- » Offtaker Rating

## Scoresheet incorporates 40 different drivers of credit strength

# **Commentary on proposed support: Guarantee**

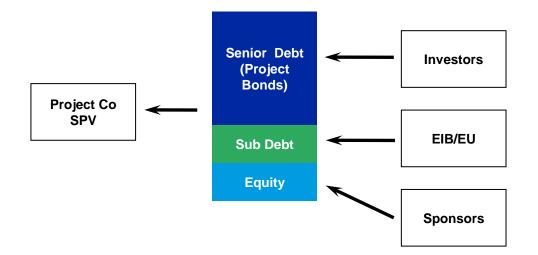


- » Partial guarantee likely to be credit positive for senior debt
  - Reduced probability of default
  - Mitigation of loss given default
- » Methodology scorecards and models recognise benefits of increased liquidity, but are not currently structured for "fine tuning"
- » Similarly, mitigation of loss given default would be beneficial, but difficult to calibrate impact under current methodologies.

# Moody's to comment in further detail in written submission to Consultation (to be published)



# **Commentary on proposed support: Sub debt**



- » Subordinated debt specifically contemplated in Moody's rating methodologies
- » Methodology scorecards and models available to assess likely impact of proposed support on credit quality of senior debt
- » Differential impact vs Guarantee arises from funded vs contingent support
  - Sub debt funds assumed spent in base case
  - Incremental cost of carry likely for sub debt

# Moody's to comment in further detail in written submission to Consultation (to be published)

# Q&A

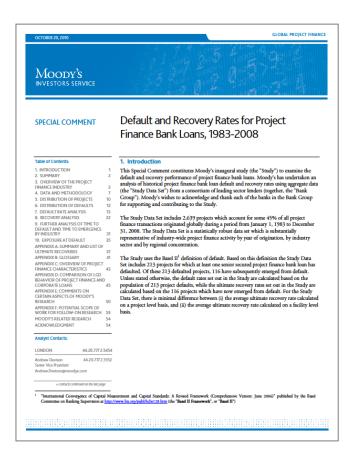




# Appendix: Relevant Research



## **Default and Recovery Study Published in October 2010**



- » Study data based on PF Bank Loans
- Includes 2,639 projects representing almost 45% of all project finance transactions originated worldwide 1 Jan 1983 to 31 Dec 2008
- Substantially representative of worldwide project finance activity
- » Includes 213 defaulted projects
  - 116 Ultimate Recoveries
  - 34 Distressed Sales
  - 63 Defaults in Work Out

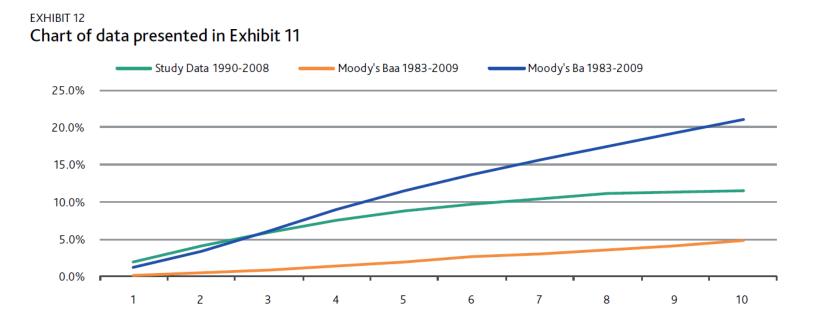
This research is freely available to the market (<u>http://v3.moodys.com/Pages/PFSplashPage.aspx</u>) The Study provides a significant body of information to industry stakeholders about the credit characteristics of the Project Finance asset class

# **Key Findings**

- » Cumulative default rates are consistent with ratings in the Baa/Ba rating categories;
- » Average ultimate recovery rates are high;
- » Ultimate recovery rates are substantially independent of economic cycle;
- » Average recovery rates for work outs exceed those for distressed sale exits
- » Projects face material incremental risk during the construction phase; and
- » Key points of comparison between the project finance Study Data Set and corporate bank loans

Project Finance is a resilient class of specialised corporate lending. Risk allocation, structural features and underwriting disciplines have proved effective

# **Cumulative Default Rates**



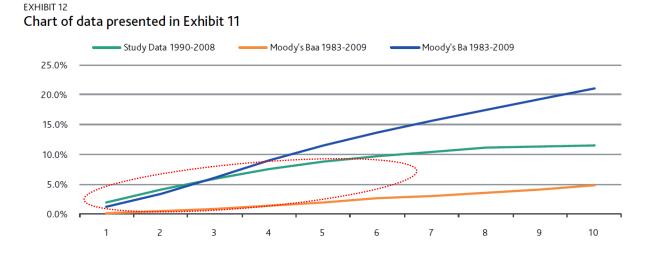
- » Cumulative default rates consistent with Baa/Ba rating categories
- » Rate of increase (i.e. annual default rate) reduces approx 4-5 yrs post origination
- » Higher annual default rates during construction vs operations

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## Long-term lending does not necessarily mean higher-risk.

# **Incremental Risk During Construction Phase**



- Annual default risk is materially higher for projects during construction.
- Recoveries are materially lower for projects during construction.

#### EXHIBIT 31

#### Distribution of Defaults and Ultimate Recoveries by project phase

Project Phase	Count (Note 1)	Average Years to Default (Note 1)	Count (Note 2)	Average ultimate Recovery Rate (Note 2)	Average Years To Emergence (Note 2)
Construction	40	3.1	30	67.5%	2.9
Operations	96	3.8	73	80.1%	2.0
Total	136	3.6	103	76.4%	2.3

### Significant incremental risk during construction phase

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