

PAKISTAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANY LIMITED (PTCL)

Analyst:

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RATING DETAILS

Ratings category	Preliminary Sukuk Rating
Short-term Sukuk - 16	A1+ (plim)
Rating Action	Preliminary
Rating Date	January 06, 2026

Shareholding (5% or More)

The Government of Pakistan (62.18%)

Etisalat International Pakistan (26%)

Other Information

Incorporated in 1995

Public Listed Company

President & CEO: Mr. Hatem Mohamed Bamatraf

External auditors: Ernst & Young

Applicable Rating Methodology**VIS Entity Rating Criteria Methodology – Corporates**

(<https://docs.vis.com.pk/docs/CorporateMethodology.pdf>)

Instrument Rating

(<https://docs.vis.com.pk/Methodologies-2025/IRM-Apr-25.pdf>)

Rating Scale

<https://docs.vis.com.pk/docs/VISRatingScales.pdf>

Rating Rationale

Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited ('PTCL' or 'the Company'), Pakistan's leading ICT provider with the country's largest fixed-line network, was incorporated in 1995 following the reorganization of the national telecom sector. Listed on PSX and headquartered in Islamabad, PTCL operates nationwide and owns subsidiaries including PTML (Ufone) and U-Microfinance Bank, with the ongoing acquisition of Telenor Pakistan expected to enhance its market presence.

PTCL plans to issue a rated, unlisted, unsecured, and privately placed Short-Term Sukuk (STS-16) of up to PKR 5 billion, under a Shariah-compliant structure with a six-month tenor and pricing at 3 Month KIBOR to support working capital needs.

Company Profile

Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited ("PTCL", "the Company") was incorporated in Pakistan on December 31, 1995 and commenced business on January 01, 1996. The Company, which is listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited (PSX), was established to undertake the telecommunication business formerly carried on by the Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation (PTC).

The registered office of the Company is situated at PTCL Headquarters, Ufone Tower, Plot No. 55-C, Main Jinnah Avenue, Sector F-7/1, Blue Area Islamabad. PTCL is licensed by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to provide an integrated range of telecommunications services across mainland Pakistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan. In late 2025, PTCL's integrated telecom services license was renewed for an additional 25 years, enabling the Company to continue operations under current regulatory frameworks and supporting national digital infrastructure objectives.

Management and Governance

CEO Profile

Hatem Bamatraf occupies the position of President & Group Chief Executive Officer at PTCL And PTML Telecommunication Co. Ltd.) and President & Group CEO-PTCL & Ufone at Emirates Telecommunications Group Co. PJSC. He previously was Executive Director-Technology at Etihad Etisalat Co., Chairman for Etisalat Technology Services LLC, and Chief Technology Officer at Emirates telecommunications Group Co. PJSC and Executive Vice President-Enterprise at Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Co. PSJC. He received an undergraduate degree from Etisalat University College.

Sukuk Details

- PTCL plans to issue a rated, unlisted, unsecured, privately placed Short Term Sukuk (STS-16), up to PKR 5 billion to finance the working capital requirements.
- The Sukuk will employ a suitable shariah compliant mode of short-term Islamic Finance facility.
- Tenor of the instrument is up to six (06) months from the date of issuance.
- The Sukuk is callable in full or part the outstanding face value of the Sukuk after three months from the issue date.
- Profit rate on the instrument will be 3 Month KIBOR.
- Profit is payable at the time of the maturity of the Sukuk along with the principal payment.

Key Rating Drivers

The rating takes into account Strong Sponsor profile

The assigned rating reflects the Company's strong sponsor profile, underpinned by the Government of Pakistan (GoP), which remains the majority shareholder with an equity stake of approximately 62.2%, and Emirates Telecommunications Group Company PJSC (e&, formerly Etisalat Group), which holds a 26% strategic shareholding. e& is a leading global telecommunications group with nearly five decades of operating history and an international presence spanning multiple countries across the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. As a significant minority shareholder, e& retains management and operational control rights at PTCL, contributing technical expertise, governance discipline, and strategic oversight. The ratings further factor in the GoP's role as sponsor, supported by its historical precedent of financial, regulatory, and logistical support to strategically important entities, alongside the management depth and financial strength of e&, which is currently rated AA- by S&P and Aa3 by Moody's, reinforcing PTCL's overall credit profile.

The rating incorporates leading market positions of PTCL in Fixed-Line Voice and Wireline Broadband & IPTV and Revenue Base Diversification

The Company offers a diversified portfolio of telecommunications and digital services, including fixed-line voice, broadband internet, Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) under the Flash Fiber brand, CharJi wireless broadband, IPTV (Smart TV), and various digital customer interfaces and value-added services. PTCL also provides a comprehensive suite of enterprise and wholesale solutions, encompassing cloud services, Tier-III certified data centers, managed connectivity, satellite services, and IP bandwidth solutions. The ratings are supported by PTCL's leading market position in fixed-line voice, wireline broadband, and IPTV, alongside its strategic focus on migrating legacy customers to higher-value FTTH services, which is expected to improve revenue quality and customer stickiness. Furthermore, PTCL operates the largest international submarine cable infrastructure in Pakistan, with ownership and capacity interests in multiple major systems, including SEA-ME-WE-4 (SMW-4), IMEWE, AAE-1, and the recently landed Africa-1 submarine cable, providing diversified international connectivity and enhancing network resilience. The Company is also increasingly prioritizing the wholesale and corporate segments as key growth drivers, supported by rising data demand and enterprise digitalization trends.

Corporate Governance Framework

- In accordance with the Share Purchase Agreement between the Government of Pakistan (GoP) and Emirates Telecommunications Group Company PJSC (e&), as well as PTCL's Articles of Association, the Board comprises nine non-executive directors, with four nominees of the GoP and five nominees of e&, reflecting the ownership structure and management control arrangements.
- PTCL has an established governance framework that includes a formal annual evaluation process for assessing the performance of the Board, its Chairman, and Board committees, supporting oversight effectiveness and accountability.
- The management team is composed of experienced and professionally qualified personnel, operating under a streamlined organizational structure. Over the years, the structure has been rationalized through multiple Voluntary Separation Schemes (VSS), resulting in a leaner cost base and improved operational efficiency.
- The Company operates on a robust SAP-based Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform, supporting integrated financial reporting, internal controls, and operational efficiency. Additionally, comprehensive and timely disclosures in PTCL's annual reports and regulatory filings enhance transparency and provide stakeholders with adequate insight into the Company's governance, financial performance, and risk profile.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY					(Rs. in millions)
BALANCE SHEET	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24	9MC25
Property, plant and equipment	121,508	131,490	144,018	161,173	171,774
Stock-in-Trade	-	-	-	-	-
Trade Debts	27,937	39,293	52,587	60,563	67,220
Cash & Bank Balances	2,556	5,685	10,029	12,088	15,720
Total Assets	245,735	305,159	387,602	457,686	493,614
Trade Payables & Other Payables	103,320	125,101	141,424	169,319	176,921
Long Term Debt	1,729	24,068	52,703	64,464	68,513
Short-Term Borrowings	-	93	19,215	27,117	24,915
Short term Sukuk	-	-	5,000	20,000	30,000
Total Debt	1,729	24,161	76,918	111,581	123,428
Total Liabilities	146,082	197,105	270,234	342,579	362,951
Paid Up Capital	51,000	51,000	51,000	51,000	51,000
Total Equity	99,653	108,054	117,368	115,108	130,662
INCOME STATEMENT	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24	9MC25
Net Sales	76,853	83,444	96,267	107,766	89,596
Gross Profit	16,533	18,233	22,500	28,276	26,208
Operating Profit	10,021	15,684	27,335	29,474	14,739
Profit Before Tax	9,682	13,513	13,906	6,885	(198)
Profit After Tax	6,874	9,053	9,391	4,826	(1,217)
RATIO ANALYSIS	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24	9MC25
Gross Margin (%)	21.5%	21.9%	23.4%	26.2%	29.3%
Net Margin (%)	8.9%	10.8%	9.8%	4.5%	-1.4%
Net Working Capital	(24,662)	(21,059)	(33,942)	(57,917)	(48,852)
Trade debts/Sales	36.4%	47.1%	54.6%	56.2%	56.4%
FFO	25,560	28,195	23,820	22,277	22,088
FFO to Total Debt	14.78	1.17	0.31	0.20	0.24
FFO to Long Term Debt	14.78	1.17	0.45	0.35	0.43
Current Ratio (x)	0.76	0.83	0.80	0.73	0.79
Debt Servicing Coverage Ratio (x)	33.57	11.25	2.35	1.68	2.12
Gearing (x)	0.02	0.22	0.66	0.97	0.94
Leverage (x)	1.47	1.82	2.30	2.98	2.78
(Stock in Trade +Trade Debts)/STD	NA	424.43	2.74	2.23	2.70
ROAA (%)	2.9%	3.3%	2.7%	1.1%	-0.3%
ROAE (%)	7.1%	8.7%	8.3%	4.2%	-1.2%
Net Operating Cycle	47	59	88	123	135

REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

Appendix II

Name of Rated Entity	Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited		
Sector	Telecommunication Industry		
Type of Relationship	Solicited		
Purpose of Rating	Short-term Sukuk 16 Rating		
Rating History	Rating Type: Short Term Sukuk 16		
	Rating Date	Ratings	Rating Action
	01/06/2026	A1+ (plim)	Preliminary
Instrument Structure	Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited ("PTCL" or the "Company") intends to issue a Rated, Unlisted, Unsecured, Callable after three months from issue date and Privately Placed Short Term Sukuk (STS-16) of PKR 5 billion, based on Shariah compliant Structure. The funds will be utilized for fulfilling the working capital requirements of the Company. The issue has a tenor of six (06) months from the Issuance Date. Profit will be payable at maturity, calculated at a base rate of 3-Month KIBOR.		
Statement by the Rating Team	VIS, the analysts involved in the rating process and members of its rating committee do not have any conflict of interest relating to the credit rating(s) mentioned herein. This rating is an opinion on credit quality only and is not a recommendation to buy or sell any securities.		
Probability of Default	VIS' ratings opinions express ordinal ranking of risk, from strongest to weakest, within a universe of credit risk. Ratings are not intended as guarantees of credit quality or as exact measures of the probability that a particular issuer or particular debt issue will default.		
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Due Diligence Meeting Conducted	Name	Designation	Date
	NA		