

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. (JCR) announces the following credit rating.

## **ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION (security code: 3407)**

### <Affirmation>

Long-term Issuer Rating:	AA
Outlook:	Stable
Bonds:	AA
Shelf Registration:	Preliminary AA

### *Rationale*

- (1) ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION (the "Company") is a major diversified chemical company. Operating in wide-ranging business segments including Material (basic materials, performance products, and specialty solutions), Homes (homes and construction materials) and Health Care (pharmaceuticals/ health care and critical care), it has a number of strong products having high presence in the industry in each of these segments. Recently, the Company has been strengthening the business bases in key areas such as automotive, environmental and energy industries. As a part of this policy, the Company acquired in September 2018 Sage Automotive Interiors, Inc. ("Sage"), a U.S. based manufacturer of automotive interior material for USD 1,060 million including Sage's net interest-bearing debt.
- (2) The business environment surrounding the Material segment has worsened due to reasons such as slowdown of Chinese economy, but the risk of downturn of the business performance is being controlled by the structural reforms in the past fiscal years. The Homes and Health Care are supporting the overall performance as stable earnings sources. While it is expected that business environment surrounding the domestic pharmaceuticals will worsen and competition in the fields of the key areas will be activated, it is unlikely for the time being that the strong business base will be impaired. Despite the expanding investments for acceleration of growth, JCR sees that the Company will keep the sound financial conditions, while covering these capital expenditures. Taking the above into consideration, JCR affirmed the ratings on the Company with Stable outlook.
- (3) The Company recorded for the first time an operating income above 200 billion yen in the fiscal year ended March 2019 (FY2018) with the operating income reaching 209.6 billion yen. It forecasted (announced in May 2019) that the operating income for FY2019 would be 205 billion yen, a slight decrease from a year earlier. The Material's business performance is slightly weakening due to factors such as slowdowns of Chinese economy and also automotive- and smartphone-related markets. The Homes, on the other hand, is stably ensuring profit against the background of sufficient backlog of orders. The Health Care is enjoying a favorable trend of the defibrillators for medical institutions. Although uncertainty about the future business environment is increasing, JCR assumes that the Company's business performance will remain solid against the backdrop of the good business portfolio.
- (4) It has been accumulating its capital on the strength of the recent good performance. The equity capital roughly doubled for 7 years from the end of FY2011 to the end of FY2018 where the amount reached 1.4 trillion yen. Despite the significant increase of the interest-bearing debt due to the acquisition of Sage, the worsening of its financial structure was limited as shown by its DER standing at 0.31x as of the end of FY2018 (0.23x a year earlier). Under the new medium-term initiative for FY2019 to FY2021, it will make a decision on capital expenditure amounting to approximately 800 billion yen. This amount exceeds the expected operating cash flow amounting to 600 billion yen to 700 billion yen under the initiative, but it set 0.5x for DER as a target for financial discipline as before.

Mikiya Kubota, Takeshi Fujita

## Rating

Issuer: ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION

### <Affirmation>

Long-term Issuer Rating: AA Outlook: Stable

Issue	Amount (bn)	Issue Date	Due Date	Coupon	Rating
bonds no.8	JPY 20	Dec. 11, 2009	Dec. 11, 2019	1.455%	AA
bonds no.10	JPY 20	Dec. 6, 2018	Dec. 6, 2023	0.100%	AA
bonds no.11	JPY 20	Sept. 6, 2019	Sept. 6, 2024	0.070%	AA
bonds no.12	JPY 20	Sept. 6, 2019	Sept. 6, 2029	0.210%	AA

Shelf Registration: Preliminary AA

Maximum: JPY 100 billion

Valid: two years effective from May 24, 2018

Rating Assignment Date: October 21, 2019

The criteria used for identifying matters which serve as assumptions for the assessment of the credit status, and the criteria used for setting of grades indicating the results of the assessments of the credit status are published as "Types of Credit Ratings and Definitions of Rating Symbols" (January 6, 2014) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/>).

Outline of methodology for determination of the credit rating is shown as "JCR's Rating Methodology" (November 7, 2014) and "Chemicals" (March 26, 2012) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/>).

### Glossary:

A preliminary rating is a credit rating assigned as a preliminary evaluation while material terms for issue to be rated are not yet finalized. When the issuing terms are finalized, JCR will confirm them and will assign a credit rating anew. The rating level of the final rating may be different from that of the preliminary rating, depending on the final content of the terms, etc.

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JCR publishes its press releases regarding the rating actions both in Japanese and in English on the same day. In case that it takes time to translate rating rationale, JCR may publicize the summary version, which will be replaced by the full translated version within three business days. (Regarding Structured Finance products, JCR only publicize the summary version in English.)

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Information Disclosure Form

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

## Disclosure Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of Rule 17g-7

Issuer:	ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION
Rating Publication Date:	October 25, 2019

**1** The Symbol, Number, or Score in the Rating Scale used to Denote Credit Rating Categories and Notches and, the Identity of the Obligor or the Identity and a Description of the Security or Money Market Instrument as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(A) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release.

**2** The version of the procedure or methodology used to determine the credit rating; as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(B) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release.

**3** The Main Assumptions and Principles used in Constructing the Procedures and Methodologies used to Determine the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(C) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, to be applied to assess the likelihood of a given debt payment in light of its issuer's condition and business environment, etc. in the relevant future. There is certain limitation, however, in the time horizon that the rating foresees.
- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, that the factors posted in the below are particularly important for such likelihood to be determined, and that the rating determination is made by evaluating each of them not only quantitatively but also employing qualitative analyses.

**A) Business Bases**

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly conditional to its issuer's business bases - how they can be maintained/ expanded into the future and thereby secure earnings and cash flows in adequacy and in a sustainable way.

**B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality**

The likelihood of debt payment is highly dependent on the degree of the issuer's indebtedness and loss absorption capacity in terms of equity capital. Also notable is that a financial institution might see a significant loss of financial grounds as a result of changes in value of the assets under its possession.

**C) Liquidity Positions**

The likelihood of debt payment is highly dependent on the adequacy of the issuer's cash and other sources of repayment (liquidity positions).

D) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The likelihood of debt payment is affected one way or the other by the issuer's related parties such as parent company, subsidiary, guarantor, and the government of the issuer's business domicile, etc. - by their own conditions and/ or position of support/ assistance for the issuer.

E) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment

The likelihood of debt payment can be different between given debts of the same issuer. The likelihood of debt payment for an individual debt is dependent on the issuer's discretion, and/ or its rank relative to other debts of the same issuer in the order of seniority in principal/ interest payment which is determined by design as financial product or by laws, etc.

4 The Potential Limitations of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(D) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- The objective of the credit rating herewith presented does not include any concerns other than the likelihood of debt payment, such as risks of price changes, market liquidity, etc.
- The credit rating herewith presented is necessary to be reviewed along with possible changes of the issuer of rated objects in its business performance and/ or circumstances which include regulatory environment, and hence subject to possible alteration.

5 Information on the Uncertainty of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(E) of Rule 17g-7

- The information used for the determination of credit rating as herewith presented is obtained by JCR from the issuer of rated objects and other sources that JCR trusts in terms of accuracy and reliability but possibly contains errors due to human, non-human or other causes. Consequently, the credit rating determined on the grounds of such information does not constitute, explicitly or implicitly, any representation or warrant of JCR on the information itself or any consequences of its use in terms of accuracy, relevance, timeliness, wholeness, market value, or usefulness for any specific purposes.

6 Use of Due Diligence Services of a Third Party in Taking the Rating Action as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(F) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any third-party due diligence service in the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.

7 Use of Servicer or Remittance Reports to Conduct Surveillance of the Credit Rating Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(G) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any servicer or remittance report to conduct surveillance of the credit rating herewith presented.

8 The Types of Data Relied Upon for the Purpose of Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(H) of Rule 17g-7

- The information posted in the below, which includes data, is used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.

A) Audited financial statements presented by the rating stakeholders

B) Explanations of business performance, management plans, etc. presented by the rating stakeholders

## 9 Overall assessment of the Quality of Information Available and Considered in Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(I) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR holds its basic policies for securing the quality of information as a base of due diligence for the determination of credit ratings. The information used as a base for the determination of credit rating herewith presented satisfies such policies, which include the audit by an independent auditor, the publication by the issuer or some independent media or, otherwise, JCR analyst's scrutiny, etc.
- JCR sees no particular weakness in the quality of information used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented as compared to the information used in other cases of the credit rating for comparable issuers or ratable objects.

## 10 Information Relating to Conflicts of Interest as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(J) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR receives payment of compensation for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented from either one of those parties who are issuer, underwriter, depositor or sponsor.
- JCR did not receive in the last fiscal year in the past payment of compensation from the same party for any kind of JCR's service other than the determination of credit rating, such as one in the ancillary business.

## 11 Explanation or Measure of the Potential Volatility of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(K) of Rule 17g-7

### A) Business Bases

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is improvement or deterioration of the issuer's business bases, since its revenue, etc. may improve or deteriorate by the change in its business management policies, clients' preferences, competitive situation, or a technological innovation. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change in the business bases is large.

### B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The credit rating is subject to alteration if the issuer increases/ decreases its debt/ capital or vice versa and thereby makes its individual debt payment liability less or more bearable and its loss absorption capacity into the future decreased or increased. Also, the changes in the quality of asset under the issuer's holding may affect the credit rating, since such changes could raise or lower the likelihood of future loss of the issuer's financial grounds. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change in the financial grounds and/ or asset quality is large.

### C) Liquidity Positions

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's financial management policy or in the relations with fund procurement sources and the change thereby makes its liquidity positions improve or deteriorate. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

### D) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's parent company or subsidiary, guarantor or other provider of credit enhancement, or the government of the issuer's

business domicile, or other related parties' own conditions and/ or position of support/ assistance for the issuer, and the change thereby makes its business bases, financial grounds and/ or liquidity positions improve or deteriorate, and/ or making the effectiveness of guarantee and other credit enhancement improve or deteriorate. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

**E) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment and Non-Payment Forgiven by Contract**

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the rated debt's status in the order of seniority relative to other debts caused by the improvement/ deterioration of the issuer's financial condition. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large. Also, in case of the financial products for which non-payment of interest/ principal is contractually permissible, the credit rating is subject to alteration if and when the likelihood of such non-payment is projected to increase or decrease. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but often as much as a few notches.

**F) Rise and Fall in General Economy and Markets**

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a rise/ fall in the general economy and/ or the markets inducing the issuer's revenues/ expenses to increase/ decrease and vice versa, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is exceptionally large.

**G) Various Events**

The credit rating is subject to alteration on occurrence of various events, such as change in the issuer's major shareholders, M&A and other organizational change, accident, violation of the law, litigation, legal/ regulatory change, natural disaster, etc., which are unforeseeable at the time when the credit rating is determined, causing a significant change on the issuer's business bases, financial grounds, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but more often than not as much as a few notches.

## 12

Information on the Content of the Credit Rating, Including the Historical Performance of the Credit Rating and the Expected Probability of Default and the Expected Loss in the Event of Default as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(L) of Rule 17g-7

- Historical records of the credit rating herewith presented are posted in the end of this paper.
- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- Facts of the probability of default are posted as Form NRSRO Exhibit 1 on the JCR website under the URL:

<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/service/company/regu/nrsro/>

## 13

Information on the Sensitivity of the Credit Rating to Assumptions Made as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(M) of Rule 17g-7

**A) Business Bases**

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's business bases and powers of earning or cash flow generation, etc. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's business bases on some drastic change in the operational environments, etc.

**B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality**

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's financial grounds and asset quality. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's financial grounds and/ or asset quality on some drastic change in its business bases.

C) Liquidity Risks

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's liquidity positions. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's liquidity positions on some drastic change in its financial management policy or relations with fund procurement sources, etc.

D) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment and Non-Payment Forgiven by Contract

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the order of seniority in repayment of interests and principal. JCR assumes the resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch. The change could be as much as a few notches if the issuer's financial structure differs so much and thereby the balance between debts shifted so greatly. Rating change is also possible in case of the financial products for which non-payment of interest/ principal is contractually permissible, if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turns out to be inaccurate. The change of the credit rating is assumed to be by a notch but often as much as a few notches.

E) Rise and Fall in General Economy and Markets

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the prospects of general economy and markets. JCR expects the change should be most likely by a notch but could be as much as a few notches, should the economy or the markets change so greatly.

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Information on the Representations, Warranties, and Enforcement Mechanisms of an Asset-backed Security as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(N) of rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented is not for an ABS product, and hence no relevant issue.

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## The Historical Performance of the Credit Rating

Issuer Name	Issue Name	Publication Date	Rating	Outlook/Direction
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	January 5, 2007	AA	Stable
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	October 17, 2007	AA	Stable
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	September 29, 2008	AA	Stable
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	October 20, 2009	AA	Stable
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	October 20, 2010	AA	Stable
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	October 20, 2011	AA	Stable
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	October 24, 2012	AA	Stable
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	October 22, 2013	AA	Stable
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	October 6, 2014	AA	Stable
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	September 28, 2015	AA	Stable
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	September 30, 2016	AA	Stable
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	October 3, 2017	AA	Stable
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	September 26, 2018	AA	Stable
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Shelf Registration	May 24, 2018	AA	
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Shelf Registration	September 26, 2018	AA	
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Bonds no.8	December 4, 2009	AA	
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Bonds no.8	October 20, 2010	AA	
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Bonds no.8	October 20, 2011	AA	
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Bonds no.8	October 24, 2012	AA	
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Bonds no.8	October 22, 2013	AA	
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Bonds no.8	October 6, 2014	AA	
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Bonds no.8	September 28, 2015	AA	
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Bonds no.8	September 30, 2016	AA	
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Bonds no.8	October 3, 2017	AA	
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Bonds no.8	September 26, 2018	AA	
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Bonds no.10	November 29, 2018	AA	
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Bonds no.11	August 30, 2019	AA	
ASAHI KASEI CORPORATION	Bonds no.12	August 30, 2019	AA	



## Attestation Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of Rule 17g-7

I, Hiroyuki Chikusa, have responsibility to this Rating Action and to the best of my knowledge:

- A) No part of the credit rating was influenced by any other business activities.
- B) The credit rating was based solely upon the merits of the obligor, security, or money market instrument being rated.
- C) The credit rating was an independent evaluation of the credit risk of the obligor, security, or money market instrument.

千種裕之

Hiroyuki Chikusa

General Manager of Corporate Rating Department II

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