October 23, 2020

SBFC Finance Private Limited: Rating confirmed as final for PTCs issued under loan against gold securitisation transaction by Aura March 2020 Trust

Summary of rating action

Issue Name	Instrument*	Current Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating Action
Aura March 2020 Trust	PTC Series A	76.27	[ICRA]AA(SO); provisional rating confirmed as final

**Instrument details are provided in Annexure-1*

Rationale

In March 2020, ICRA had assigned a Provisional [ICRA]AA(SO) [pronounced provisional ICRA double A (structured obligation)] rating to pass through certificate (PTC) Series A issued under a securitisation transaction backed by a Rs. 84.75-crore (principal outstanding) pool of loan against gold contracts originated by SBFC Finance Private Limited (SBFC). Since the executed transaction documents are in line with the rating conditions, and the legal opinion for the transaction have been provided to ICRA, the said ratings have now been confirmed as final.

Key rating drivers

Credit strengths

- First line of support available through subordination of EIS amounting to 7.64% of the pool principal amount; excess collections, including EIS, after meeting the scheduled PTC payouts in any month would be used for accelerated principal payouts and passed on to PTC investors
- Further support available in the form of subordination of 10.00% of pool principal and cash collateral of 5.00% of the pool principal for PTC Series A. After Sep-2020 payout, subordination available is entirely covering balance PTC principal amount and cash collateral is covering around 33% of balance PTC cashflows.
- No overdue contracts as on pool cut-off date. After Sep-2020 payout 30+ delinquency number is sub 0.5%.

Credit challenges

- Selected pool characterised by high ticket size loans with average ticket size exceeding Rs. 1 lakh
- Moderate geographical concentration in the pool at the state level
- Uncertainty on the performance of the pool post moratorium period due to Covid-19 pandemic

Description of key rating drivers highlighted above

SBFC has assigned the future receivables arising from the selected pool of 8,918 loans to a special purpose vehicle (Trust). The Trust has issued one series of PTC Series A amounting to 90.00% of the total pool principal backed by the assigned loan against gold receivables.

The first line of support for Series A PTCs in the transaction is in the form of a subordination of 10.00% of the pool principal (includes over collateralisation). The entire principal amount is promised to PTC Series A in a single bullet installment on April 16, 2022 while the interest is promised on monthly payout dates. The interest is payable on the outstanding PTC principal at the contracted rate on a monthly basis. The plan principal (90% of scheduled principal billing) amount is payable to PTC Series A on monthly payout date along with promised payouts. Any shortfall in meeting the plan principal on monthly basis cannot be drawn from the first loss facility (FLF) except on the last payment date or clean-up call option date. All collections from the pool that exceeds the promised payout and plan principal payout to the PTCs are utilised to accelerate the amortisation of the PTCs. The scheduled PTC principal payout at the end of every month is revised accordingly.

A cash collateral of 5.00% of the initial pool principal provided by SBFC acts as further credit enhancement in the transaction. The Cash Collateral is provided in the form of a fixed deposit lien marked in favour of the Trustee. In the event of a shortfall in meeting the promised PTC monthly interest payouts and the PTC principal on the scheduled maturity date, the Trustee will utilise the cash collateral to meet the shortfall. Additionally, the EIS available in the structure also provides credit enhancement support.

There were no overdues in the pool as on the cut-off date. The pool consists of loans that have moderate seasoning with weighted average seasoning of ~5.6 months. The pool has a higher ticket size customer profile with moderate LTV at time of loan disbursement, being around 66%. However, the contracts in the pool are characterized by high ticket size loans as the average ticket size of the pool exceeded Rs. 1 lakh.
In ICRA's opinion, the level of credit enhancement is sufficient to protect the Investors from delinquencies and credit losses even under significantly stressed loss assumptions.

Key rating assumptions

ICRA's cash flow modelling for rating asset-backed security (ABS) transactions involves the simulation of potential delinquencies (shortfall in principal collection during the tenor of the pool) and prepayments in the pool. The assumptions for loss and the coefficient of variation (CoV) are arrived at after taking into account the past performance of the originator's portfolio and the rated pools as well as the performance and characteristics of the specific pool being evaluated. Additionally, the assumptions may be adjusted to factor in the current operating environment and any industry-specific factors that ICRA believes could impact the performance of the underlying pool contracts. ICRA notes that the disruptions caused due to the spread of the coronavirus pandemic could result in near-term stress on the pool's performance.

After making these adjustments, the expected mean shortfall in principal collection during the tenure of the pool is estimated at 3.0-5.0%, with certain variability around it. The prepayment rate for the underlying pool is estimated at 24.0-36.0% per annum.

Liquidity position: Strong

The principal amount on the rated PTCs is promised on the scheduled maturity date. Only the interest amount is promised on a monthly basis. This structural feature imparts significant liquidity in the transaction, as even a small amount of collections in the underlying pool contracts would be sufficient to meet the promised PTC payouts. Additionally, available cash collateral is amounting to 34% of the balance PTC principal amount. The balance cash collateral is adequate to meet entire promised interest payouts due to the PTC investors, even in an unlikely scenario of no collections in the pool.

Rating sensitivities

Positive triggers / Negative triggers – Given the short balance tenure of the PTCs as per the expected payout schedule, the rating is unlikely to be revised.

Analytical approach

The rating action is based on the analysis of the performance of SBFC's loan against gold portfolio and previously rated ICRA pools, key characteristics and composition of the current pool, performance expected over the balance tenure of the pool, and the credit enhancement cover available in the transaction.

Analytical Approach	Comments
Applicable Rating Methodologies	Rating Methodology for Securitisation Transactions
Parent/Group Support	Not applicable
Consolidation/Standalone	Not applicable

About the company

SBFC Finance Private Limited (SBFC) is a non-banking finance company that provides loans against property, gold loans and personal loans. Backed by the Clermont Group and the Arpwood Group, the company commenced operations in September 2017 after acquiring the performing loans in KFSL's retail portfolio. Following the acquisition, SBFC focussed on building adequate systems and processes and on the on-boarding of experienced professionals in the management team before rebooting the lending business. It leverages technology and analytics to provide customers with easy access to credit and to assess their credit behaviour through their digital footprint. In June 2019, the company acquired a pool of Rs. 2,365.6 crore via a PTC transaction. The total pool in the structure was Rs. 2,957.02 crore, of which Series A PTCs of Rs. 2,365.6 crore were issued to SBFC, wholly financed by long-term borrowings. DHFL holds the Series B PTCs of the remaining amount of Rs. 591.4 crore (20% of Series A PTCs; in line with the RBI's guidelines pertaining to minimum retention).

SBFC reported a PAT of Rs. 24 crore on total assets of Rs. 4,342 crore in Q1 FY2021 compared to a PAT of Rs. 4 crore on total assets of Rs. 4,141 crore in Q1 FY2020. In FY2020, the company posted a PAT of Rs. 35 crore on total assets of Rs. 4,208 crore compared to a PAT of Rs. 24 crore on total assets of Rs. 1,793 crore in FY2019.

Key financial indicators

	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	Q1 FY2021
Net interest income	58	124	176	54
Operating income	58	126	200	59
Profit before tax	5	35	59	33
Profit after tax	3	24	35	24
Total AUM	781	1,153	1,548	1,530
Net worth	848	880	1,012	1,138
Goodwill	260	260	260	260
Total assets	1,382	1,793	4,208	4,342
%Tier I	55.46%	44.26%	21.36%	26.07%
% CRAR	55.95%	44.81%	21.89%	26.52%
Gearing (adjusted)*	0.82	1.43	4.06	3.51
% Net profit/Average total assets	0.45%	1.54%	1.18%	2.26%
% Return on net worth	0.74%	2.83%	3.74%	8.97%
% Gross NPAs	1.37%	0.44%	2.28%	2.24%
% Net NPAs	0.40%	0.12%	0.71%	0.79%
% Net NPA/Net worth*	1.29%	0.59%	3.28%	2.59%

*Amount in Rs. crore, *adjusted net worth i.e. (Net worth – Goodwill)*

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: None

Rating history for last three years

	Instrument	Current Rating (FY2020)					Rating History for the Past 3 Years		
		Type	Amount Rated	Amount Outstanding	Date & Rating		Date & Rating in FY2019	Date & Rating in FY2018	Date & Rating in FY2017
					23-Oct-20*	31-Mar-20^	-	-	-
1	Aura March 2020 Trust	PTC Series A	76.27	76.27	[ICRA]AA(SO)	Provisional [ICRA]AA(SO)	-	-	-

Amount in Rs. crore
^Initial rating assigned
*Rating confirmed as final

Complexity level of the rated instrument

ICRA has classified various instruments based on their complexity as "Simple", "Complex" and "Highly Complex". The classification of instruments according to their complexity levels is available on the website www.icra.in

Annexure-1: Instrument details

Issue Name	Instrument Name	Date of Issuance	Coupon Rate	Scheduled Maturity Date*	Amount Rated (Rs. crore[1])	Current Rating
Aura March 2020 Trust	PTC Series A	March 31, 2020	9.52%	16-Apr-2022	76.27	[ICRA]AA(SO)

** Scheduled maturity and average life at transaction initiation; may change on account of prepayment*

[1] *100 lakh = 1 crore = 10 million*

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About ICRA Limited:

ICRA Limited was set up in 1991 by leading financial/investment institutions, commercial banks and financial services companies as an independent and professional investment Information and Credit Rating Agency.

Today, ICRA and its subsidiaries together form the ICRA Group of Companies (Group ICRA). ICRA is a Public Limited Company, with its shares listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange. The international Credit Rating Agency Moody's Investors Service is ICRA's largest shareholder.

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