

June 30, 2022

Biocon Biologics Limited: Update on Material Event

Summary of rating action

Instrument*	Previous Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Current Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating Outstanding
Term Loans	916.00	916.00	[ICRA]AA+&
Working Capital Facilities	661.70	661.70	[ICRA]A1+&
Untied Limits	22.30	22.30	[ICRA]AA+& / [ICRA]A1+&
Total	1,600.00	1,600.00	

*Instrument details are provided in Annexure-1

Rationale

On June 21, 2022, Biocon Limited (rated [ICRA]AA+&/[ICRA]A1+&) had submitted to the stock exchange a statement issued by its subsidiary, Biocon Biologics Limited (BBL/the company) in response to media articles related to bribery allegations. As per these articles, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has alleged that the Joint Drugs Controller of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has received bribe for waiving the phase III trials of one of its products, Insulin Aspart in India. Further, certain individuals, including an employee of the company have been arrested in connection with the allegation. BBL has denied the allegation stating all its product approvals are backed by clinical data and that the trial waiver was based on existing regulatory guidance. Also, the company has terminated its contract with the consulting company involved in its product approval process. BBL has appointed an external law firm to do a comprehensive review of its current governance processes involving its consultants and vendors. As per the management, the investigation is currently ongoing and BBL is cooperating with the CBI on this matter.

ICRA understands that there is no impact on the company's operations currently or banking channels. ICRA has noted the said developments and the ratings remain unchanged at [ICRA]AA+&/[ICRA]A1+&. ICRA will continue to monitor the developments in this regard and possible impact on the credit risk profile of the company, if any, and take an appropriate rating action as and when required.

Please refer to the following link for the detailed rationale that captures the key rating drivers and their description, liquidity position and rating sensitivities: [Click here](#)

Analytical Approach

Analytical Approach	Comments
Applicable rating methodologies	Corporate Credit Rating Methodology Rating Methodology for Pharmaceutical Industry Rating Approach – Implicit support from Parent or Group
Parent/Group support	Biocon Limited (rated [ICRA]AA+&/[ICRA]A1+&) currently holds a 93.5% stake ¹ in BBL. It enjoys financial and operational flexibility by virtue of its parentage.
Consolidation/Standalone	For arriving at the ratings, ICRA has considered the consolidated financials of BBL. As on March 31, 2021, the company had one subsidiary and five stepdown subsidiaries which are listed in Annexure-2.

¹ BBL shall offer a 15% stake to SILS, subject to necessary approvals; Biocon Limited's stake to reduce to 78.5% post completion of this transaction.

About the Company

Biocon Biologics Limited (BBL), a subsidiary of Biocon Limited, manufactures and commercialises biosimilar products. As on date, the company has commercialised eight products in developed and emerging markets primarily in the oncology, diabetes and immunology segments. It has strategic partnerships with global players like Viatris and Sandoz for commercialisation of its biosimilars. BBL recently entered into a collaboration with Adagio Therapeutics for a novel Covid antibody therapy and a strategic alliance with SILS for vaccines and infectious diseases antibodies.

BBL currently has four private equity investors, including Activ Pine LLP (affiliate of True North Fund), Tata Capital Growth Fund II, Goldman Sachs and Beta Oryx Limited (affiliate of Abu Dhabi-based ADQ). The PEs have invested Rs 2,442.2 crore in the company during January 2020 to January 2021 in the form of equity (combined stake of 5.09%) and redeemable optionally convertible debentures. Also, BBL will offer a 15% equity stake to SILS for the recent vaccine collaboration, subject to the receipt of regulatory approvals. The alliance with SILS for vaccines enables BBL to generate a committed revenue stream and related margins, commencing H2 FY2023. BBL's proposed acquisition of biosimilar assets of Viatris Inc. is expected to be concluded by H2 CY2022.

Key financial indicators (audited)

BBL Consolidated	FY2020	FY2021
Operating Income (Rs. crore)	2,305.5	2,797.2
PAT (Rs. crore)	317.3	267.5
OPBDITA/OI (%)	32.2%	27.0%
PAT/OI (%)	13.8%	9.6%
Total Outside Liabilities/Tangible Net Worth (times)	8.3	4.0
Total Debt/OPBDITA (times)	5.8	6.7
Interest Coverage (times)	9.0	20.3

PAT: Profit after Tax; OPBDITA: Operating Profit before Depreciation, Interest, Taxes and Amortisation; All ratios are as per ICRA calculations

Source: Company and ICRA Research

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: None

Rating history for past three years

Instrument	Current Rating (FY2023)				Chronology of Rating History for the Past 3 Years			
	Type	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Amount Outstanding as of Sep 30, 2021 (Rs. crore)	Date & Rating in FY2023	Date & Rating in FY2022		Date & Rating in FY2021	Date & Rating in FY2020
				Jun 30, 2022	Mar 10, 2022	Jan 11, 2022		
1 Term Loans	Long Term	916.00	916.00	[ICRA]AA+&	[ICRA]AA+&	[ICRA]AA+ (Stable)	-	-
2 Working Capital Facilities	Short Term	661.70	--	[ICRA]A1+&	[ICRA]A1+&	[ICRA]A1+	-	-
3 Untied Limits	Short Term/Long Term	22.30	--	[ICRA]AA+&/ [ICRA]A1+&	[ICRA]AA+&/ [ICRA]A1+&	[ICRA]AA+ (Stable)/ [ICRA]A1+	-	-

&: under rating watch with developing implications

Complexity level of the rated instruments

Instrument	Complexity Indicator
Term Loans	Simple
Working Capital Facilities	Simple
Untied Limits	NA

The Complexity Indicator refers to the ease with which the returns associated with the rated instrument could be estimated. It does not indicate the risk related to the timely payments on the instrument, which is rather indicated by the instrument's credit rating. It also does not indicate the complexity associated with analysing an entity's financial, business, industry risks or complexity related to the structural, transactional or legal aspects. Details on the complexity levels of the instruments are available on ICRA's website: www.icra.in

Annexure I: Instrument details

ISIN	Instrument Name	Date of Issuance	Coupon Rate	Maturity	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Current Rating and Outlook
NA	Term Loans	FY2019	3 Months T-bill + 2.39% p.a.	April 2026	350.00	[ICRA]AA+&
	Term Loans*	FY2021	LIBOR + 1% p.a.	April 2025	566.00	[ICRA]AA+&
	Working Capital Facilities	NA	NA	-	661.70	[ICRA]A1+&
	Untied Limits	NA	NA	-	22.30	[ICRA]AA+&/ [ICRA]A1+&

Source: Company; * in the form of External Commercial Borrowings

[Please click here to view details of lender-wise facilities rated by ICRA](#)

Annexure II: List of entities considered for consolidated analysis

Company Name	BBL Ownership	Consolidation Approach
Biocon Biologics UK Limited (formerly Biocon Biologics Limited)	100%	Full Consolidation
Biocon SDN BHD, Malaysia	100% by Biocon Biologics UK Limited	Full Consolidation
Biocon Biologics Inc, USA		Full Consolidation
Biocon Biologics Healthcare Malaysia SDN BHD, Malaysia		Full Consolidation
Biocon Biologics Do Brasil Ltda, Brazil		Full Consolidation
Biocon Biologics FZ LLC, UAE		Full Consolidation

Source: BBL's annual report FY2021

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