

January 09, 2024

NeoGrowth Credit Private Limited: Rating confirmed as final for PTCs backed by MSME business loan receivables issued by Taurus Trust December 2023

Summary of rating action

Trust Name	Instrument*	Current Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating Action
Taurus Trust December 2023	Series A PTC	59.34	[ICRA]A(SO); provisional rating confirmed as final

**Instrument details are provided in Annexure I*

Rationale

In December 2023, ICRA had assigned a Provisional [ICRA]A(SO) rating to the Series A pass-through certificates (PTCs) issued by Taurus Trust December 2023. The PTCs are backed by a pool of 83.38-crore (underlying pool principal outstanding of Rs. 67.44 crore) originated by NeoGrowth Credit Private Limited {NCPL/originator; rated [ICRA]BBB (Stable)}. Since the executed transaction documents are in line with the rating conditions and the legal opinion for the transaction has been provided to ICRA, the said rating has now been confirmed as final.

Key rating drivers

Credit strengths

- Availability of CE in the form of EIS, subordination and CC
- Absence of overdue contracts as on the pool cut-off date

Credit challenges

- High geographical concentration in the pool with top 3 states accounting for 58% of the pool principal
- Exposed to inherent credit risk associated with the unsecured nature of the underlying asset class; performance of the pool would remain exposed to any macro-economic shocks/business disruptions

Description of key rating drivers highlighted above

According to the transaction structure, the loan pool receivables have been assigned at par to the PTC investors. The promised cash flow schedule for Series A PTC, on a monthly basis, will comprise the interest at the predetermined yield on the outstanding PTC principal on each payout date and the entire principal on the final maturity date.

The first line of support for Series A PTC in the transaction is in the form of a subordination of 12.00% of the initial pool principal (equity tranche of 3% and over-collateralisation of 9.00% of the initial pool principal). Additionally, the EIS (15.86% of the pool principal initially, based on the indicated PTC yield, for Series A PTC) available in the structure will provide CE support to the transaction. The surplus EIS available, after meeting the promised payouts to the PTCs, shall flow back to the originator on every payout. All prepayment amounts would be passed on to Series A PTC (till Series A PTC principal is not fully amortised) every month and future payouts will be revised accordingly. The CC of 4.00% of the initial pool principal (Rs. 2.70 crore), provided by NCPL, would act as further CE in the transaction. The trustee will utilise the CC to meet any shortfall in the promised PTC payouts during any month.

There are no overdues in the pool as on the cut-off date. The geographical concentration of the loan contracts in the current pool is high with the top 3 states constituting 58% of the pool principal. The pool consists of daily, fortnightly, weekly and monthly paying loan contracts, with moderate weighted average seasoning (6.29 months) and pre-securitisation amortisation

(18.89%). Further, the CIBIL score of almost all the contracts is above 700. The pool’s performance is expected to remain exposed to the underlying credit risks inherent in the asset class and any macro-economic shocks/business disruptions.

Performance of past rated pools: ICRA has rated 15 PTC transactions of NCPL. The performance of the live pools (which have completed at least 3 months post securitisation) has been healthy with a monthly collection efficiency of more than ~94% and no CC utilisation till the November 2023 payout.

Key rating assumptions

ICRA’s cash flow modelling for rating asset-backed securitisation (ABS) transactions involves the simulation of potential delinquencies, losses (shortfall in principal collection during the tenor of the pool) and prepayments in the pool. The assumptions for the loss and coefficient of variation (CoV) are arrived at after considering the performance of the originator’s portfolio as well as the 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 of contracts.

After making these adjustments, the expected mean shortfall in principal collection during the tenure of the pool is estimated at 5.50-6.50% of the initial pool principal, with certain variability around it. The prepayment rate for the underlying pool is estimated in the range of 12.0-18.0% per annum.

Liquidity position: Strong

As per the transaction structure, only the interest amount is promised to the PTC holders on a monthly basis while the principal amount is promised on the scheduled maturity date of the transaction. The cash flows from the pool and the available CE are expected to be comfortable to meet the promised payouts to the Series A PTC investors.

Rating sensitivities

Positive factors – The rating could be upgraded on the sustained strong collection performance of the underlying pool of contracts (>95%), leading to lower-than-expected delinquency levels, and on an increase in the cover available for future investor payouts from the CE.

Negative factors – The rating could be downgraded on the sustained weak collection performance of the underlying pool (monthly collection efficiency <90%), leading to higher-than-expected delinquency levels and CE utilisation levels. Weakening in the credit profile of the servicer could also exert pressure on the rating.

Analytical approach

The rating actions are based on the trustee confirming compliance with the terms of the transaction and the executed transaction documents being in line with the terms initially shared with ICRA.

Analytical Approach	Comments
Applicable rating methodologies	Rating Methodology for Securitisation Transactions
Parent/Group support	Not Applicable
Consolidation/Standalone	Not Applicable

About the originator

NeoGrowth Credit Private Limited (NCPL) is a non-deposit taking systemically important non-banking financial company, which started operations in FY2013. It was founded by Mr. Dhruv Khaitan and Mr. Piyush Khaitan, and its investors include Omidyar Network, Aspada Investment Advisors, Khosla Impact Fund, Frontier Investments Group (Accion), FMO, Plenitude Ventures

Private Limited and IIFL Seed Ventures Fund. Before setting up NCPL, the founders had established and managed Venture Infotek, which provided end-to-end card payment processing solutions to banks that issue credit cards and those with whom merchants have a point-of-sales terminal. The founders divested their stake in the company in 2010.

Key financial indicators (Audited)

NCPL	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	H1 FY2024
	Audited	Audited	Audited	Provisional
Total income	313	363	383	270
Profit after tax	(42)	(39)	17	26
Total AUM	1,323	1,559	1,852	2,298
GNPA	6.4%	12.9%	4.3%	3.2%
NNPA	2.5%	5.1%	2.2%	1.5%

Source: Company, ICRA Research; All ratios as per ICRA calculations; Amount in Rs. crore

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: None

Rating history for past three years

Sr. No.	Trust Name	Instrument	Current Rating (FY2024)		Chronology of Rating History for the Past 3 Years				
			Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Amount Outstanding (Rs. crore)	Date & Rating in FY2024		Date & Rating in FY2023	Date & Rating in FY2022	Date & Rating in FY2021
					Jan 09, 2024	Dec 29, 2023*			
1	Taurus Trust December 2023	Series A PTC	59.34	59.34	[ICRA]A(SO)	Provisional [ICRA]A(SO)	-	-	-

*Initial rating assigned

Complexity level of the rated instrument

Instrument	Complexity Indicator
Series A PTC	Moderately Complex

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: [Click Here](#)

Annexure I: Instrument details

ISIN	Trust Name	Instrument Name	Date of Issuance / Sanction	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date*	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Current Rating
INE0S0515010	Taurus Trust December 2023	Series A PTC	December 2023	11.35%	May 2026	59.34	[ICRA]A(SO)

*Scheduled PTC maturity date at transaction initiation; may change on account of prepayments

Source: Company

Annexure II: List of entities considered for consolidated analysis

Not Applicable

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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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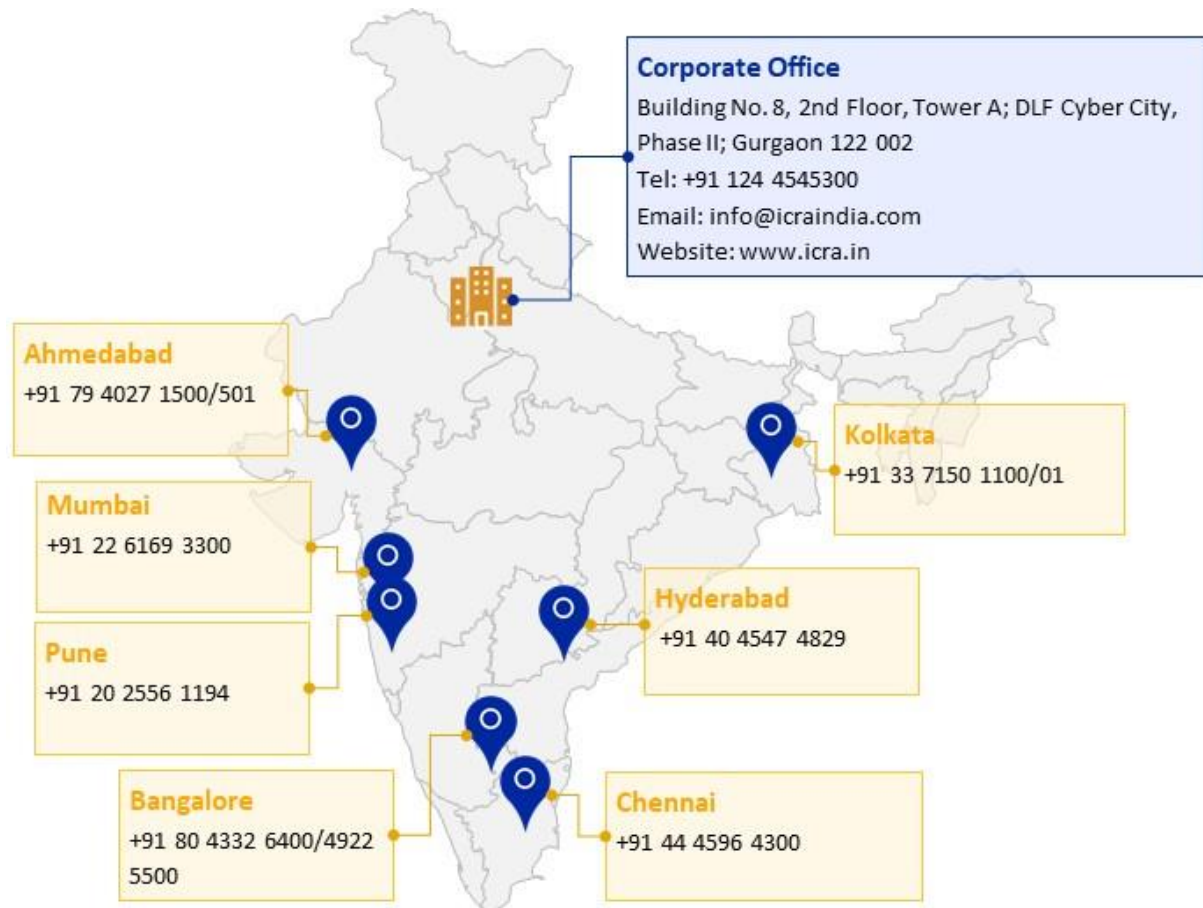
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