

May 15, 2023

## Lendingkart Finance Limited: Rating reaffirmed for PTCs issued under unsecured business loan securitisation transaction

### Summary of rating action

Trust Name	Instrument*	Initial Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Amount O/s after Last Surveillance (Rs. crore)	O/s after Apr-23 payout (Rs. crore)	Rating Action
Aspire MSME Trust January 2022	PTC Series A	114.92	NA	29.95	[ICRA]BBB+(SO); reaffirmed

\*Instrument details are provided in Annexure I

### Rationale

The pass-through certificates (PTCs) are backed by a pool of unsecured business loans originated by Lendingkart Finance Limited {Lendingkart; rated [ICRA]BBB+(Stable)}. The rating factors in the healthy amortisation of the pool with moderate delinquency levels, leading to the build-up of the credit enhancement (CE) cover over the future PTC payouts. Nonetheless, the rating remain constrained by the credit profile of the cash collateral (CC)-holding financial institution. ICRA notes that the breakeven collection efficiency remains comfortable compared to the actual collection levels observed in the pool.

### Pool performance summary

A summary of the performance of the pool till the March 2023 collection month (April 2023 payout month) has been tabulated below.

Parameter	Aspire MSME Trust January 2022
Months post securitisation	14
Pool amortisation	70.98%
PTC amortisation – PTC Series A	73.94%
Cumulative collection efficiency <sup>1</sup>	95.70%
Loss-cum-0+ (% of initial pool principal) <sup>2</sup>	6.82%
Loss-cum-30+ (% of initial pool principal) <sup>3</sup>	5.67%
Loss-cum-90+ (% of initial pool principal) <sup>4</sup>	4.39%
Breakeven collection efficiency <sup>5</sup> – PTC Series A	17.98%
Cumulative cash collateral (CC) utilisation (% of initial CC)	0.00%
CC available (as % of balance pool principal)	68.92%
Excess interest spread (EIS) over balance tenure (as % of balance pool principal) <sup>6</sup> – PTC Series A	12.60%
Principal subordination (% of balance pool principal) – PTC Series A	13.78%
Cumulative prepayment rate	29.12%

### Key rating drivers

#### Credit strengths

- Healthy amortization of pool resulting in build-up of credit enhancement (CE) cover.

<sup>1</sup> Cumulative collections till date / Cumulative billings till date + Opening overdues

<sup>2</sup> Principal outstanding (POS) on contracts aged 0+ dpd + Overdues / Initial POS on the pool

<sup>3</sup> POS on contracts aged 30+ dpd + Overdues / Initial POS on the pool

<sup>4</sup> POS on contracts aged 90+ dpd + Overdues / Initial POS on the pool

<sup>5</sup> It is the minimum collection efficiency required over the balance tenure to ensure all investor payouts are met: (Balance cash flows payable to investor – CC available) / Balance pool cash flows

- Healthy collection efficiency exhibited by the pool.

### Credit challenges

- The portfolio had seen stress in asset quality due to Covid-19 pandemic as reflected in higher restructuring and write offs.
- Exposed to inherent credit risk associated with the unsecured nature of the asset class; performance of the pool would remain exposed to macro-economic shocks/business disruptions.

### Description of key rating drivers highlighted above

The performance of the pool has been healthy with a cumulative collection efficiency of ~96% till the April 2023 payout month, despite a dip in the monthly collections over the last few months. This was due to lower collections from overdue contracts, which resulted in some slippages in the delinquencies. The loss-cum-90+ days past due (dpd) has been increasing over the last few months and remains moderately higher at 4.4%. The pool has seen moderate prepayments with an average monthly prepayment rate of 2.3% and it has amortised by ~71%. There has been no CC utilisation in the pool till the April 2023 payout month. Due to the healthy amortisation and nil CC utilisation till date, there has been a build-up of the CE in the pool with respect to the balance pool principal. The pool would be exposed to the inherent credit risks associated with the unsecured nature of the asset class and its performance would remain exposed to any macro-economic shocks/business disruptions.

Overall, the CE available for meeting the balance payouts to the investors is sufficient to reaffirm the rating in the transaction. ICRA will continue to monitor the performance of the transaction. Any further rating action will be based on the performance of the pool and the availability of CE relative to ICRA's expectations.

**Performance of past rated pools:** ICRA has rated 40 pools originated by Lendingkart. The performance of the live pools (which have completed at least 2 months post securitisation) has been healthy till date with the cumulative collection efficiency in the range of 95-99% for all the transactions. No CC has been utilised till the April 2023 payout month.

### Key rating assumptions

ICRA's cash flow analysis for asset-backed securitisation (ABS) transactions involves the simulation of potential delinquencies, losses (shortfall in principal collection during the balance tenor of the pool) and prepayments in the pool. The assumptions for the loss and the coefficient of variation (CoV) are arrived at after taking into account the past performance of the originator's portfolio and rated pool, 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 of contracts.

After making the aforementioned adjustments, the expected loss and prepayments during the balance tenure of the pool are provided in the following table.

S. No.	Transaction Name	Expected Loss (% of initial pool principal)	Prepayment
1	Aspire MSME Trust January 2022	6.5-7.5%	12-18% p.a.

### Liquidity position: Adequate

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. Additionally, a corporate guarantee from Lendingkart is available in the transaction equivalent to ~69% of the balance pool principal amount. The collections from the pool and the available CE are expected to be comfortable to meet the promised payouts to the PTC investors.

### Rating sensitivities

**Positive factors** – The rating could be upgraded on the sustained strong collection performance of the underlying pool of contracts leading to lower-than-expected delinquency levels, and on an increase in the cover available for future investor payouts from the CE along with an improvement in the credit profile of Lendingkart.

**Negative factors** – The rating could be downgraded on the sustained weak collection performance of the underlying pool of contracts leading to higher-than-expected delinquency levels and CE utilisation levels. The rating could also be downgraded due to a deterioration in the credit profile of Lendingkart.

## Analytical approach

The rating action is based on the pool's performance till March 2023 (collection month), the present delinquency level analysis of the performance of Lendingkart's portfolio till December 2022, the performance expected over the balance tenure of the pool and the CE cover available in the transaction.

Analytical Approach	Comments
Applicable rating methodologies	<a href="#">Rating Methodology for Securitisation Transactions</a>
Parent/Group support	Not Applicable
Consolidation/Standalone	Not Applicable

## About the originator

Lendingkart Finance Limited (formerly Aadri Infin Limited) is a Lendingkart Group company, which is registered as an NBFC and provides unsecured SME loans. Lendingkart Technologies Private Limited (LTPL) is the technology arm of the Ahmedabad-based Lendingkart Group. The Group was started in 2014 by co-founders, Mr. Harshvardhan Lunia and Mr. Mukul Sachan, and raised funds from Fullerton Financial Holdings (FFH), Saama Capital, Mayfield India, India Quotient, Bertelsmann India Investments, Sistema Asia Fund and Darren Capital Management.

The Lendingkart Group is a part of the rapidly evolving fintech industry, and it leverages technology to underwrite credit to extend loans to the SME segment, which distinguishes its algorithm-driven credit capabilities from the physical credit underwriting performed by various industry players. Loans are given to micro and small enterprises for meeting their working capital needs. The underwriting is based on the scoring by a proprietary algorithm.

## Key financial indicators (standalone)

	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	9M FY2023
	Audited	Audited	Audited	Provisional
Total income	464	510	639	601
Profit after tax (PAT)*	30	18	(141)	87
Total managed assets	2,601	2,832	3,721	4,507
Gross stage 3	2.2%	2.5%	3.9%	1.2%
Net stage 3	1.0%	0.9%	1.6%	0.7%

Source: Lendingkart, ICRA Research; All ratios as per ICRA's calculations

\*Adjusting for one-time restructured loan impairment of Rs. 59 crore in FY2021 and Rs. 275 crore in FY2022, adjusted PAT was Rs. 77 crore and Rs. 133 crore in FY2021 and FY2022, respectively

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			
			Initial Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Amount Outstanding (Rs. crore)	Date & Rating	Date & Rating in FY2023	Date & Rating in FY2022	Date & Rating in FY2021
					May 15, 2023	May 11, 2022	Feb 09, 2022*	-
1	Aspire MSME Trust January 2022	PTC Series A	114.92	29.95	[ICRA]BBB+(SO)	[ICRA]BBB+(SO)	Provisional [ICRA]BBB+(SO)	-

\*Provisional rating assigned

## Complexity level of the rated instrument

Trust Name	Instrument	Complexity Indicator
Aspire MSME Trust January 2022	PTC Series A	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

Trust Name	Instrument	Date of Issuance / Sanction	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date*	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Current Rating
<b>Aspire MSME Trust January 2022</b>	PTC Series A	January 2022	13.00%	July 2024	29.95	[ICRA]BBB+(SO)

*\* Scheduled maturity at transaction initiation; may change on account of prepayments in the underlying pool*

#### 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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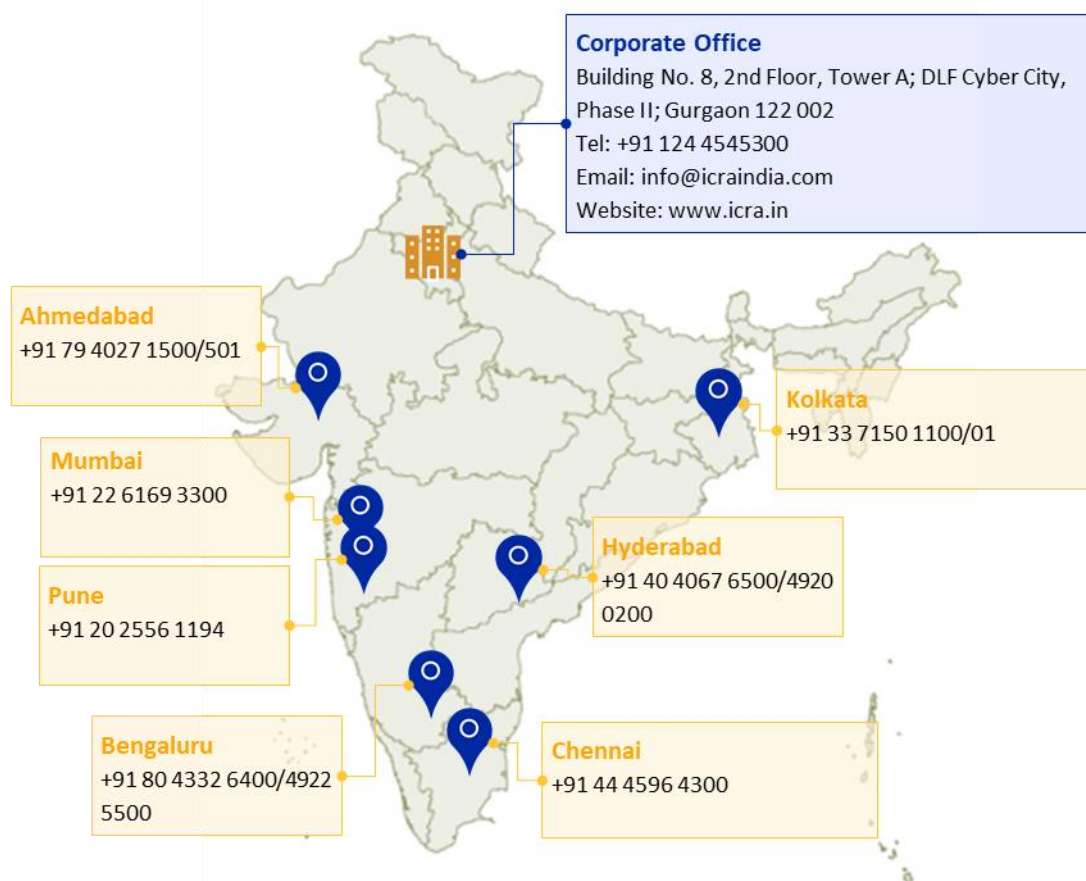


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