

November 30, 2023

Lendingkart Finance Limited: Rating upgraded for securitisation notes issued under unsecured business loans securitisation transaction

Summary of rating action

Trust Name	Instrument*	Initial Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Amount O/s after Last Surveillance (Rs. crore)	Current Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating Action
SBL Sparklers 2022	SN Series A1	49.94	NA	13.49	[ICRA]AA-(SO); Upgraded from [ICRA]A+(SO)

*Instrument details are provided in Annexure I

Rationale

ICRA has upgraded the rating for the securitisation notes (SNs) issued under the securitisation transaction, SBL Sparklers 2022, backed by a pool of unsecured business loan receivables originated by Lendingkart Finance Limited {LFL; rated [ICRA]BBB+ (Positive)}. The rating upgrade is on account of the high amortisation in the pool, which has led to significant build-up of the credit enhancement (CE) cover over the future SN payouts in the transaction. The breakeven collection efficiency is also comfortable compared to the actual collection level observed in the pool.

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

Pool performance summary (till October 2023 payout month)

Particulars	SBL Sparklers 2022
Months post securitisation	12
Pool amortisation	60.6%
SN Series A1 amortisation	73.0%
Cumulative collection efficiency ¹	96.0%
Loss-cum-30+ dpd ² (% of initial pool)	5.5%
Loss-cum-90+ dpd ³ (% of initial pool)	4.7%
Cumulative cash collateral (CC) utilisation	0.00%
Cumulative prepayment rate	26.0%
Breakeven collection efficiency ⁴ for SN Series A1	39.4%
CC (% of balance pool)	20.3%
Principal subordination (% of balance pool) SN Series A1	36.9%
Excess interest spread (EIS ⁵ ; % of balance pool) SN Series A1	12.0%

Key rating drivers and their description

Credit strengths

- High amortisation of SNs, resulting in significant build-up of CE cover available for balance SN payouts
- Healthy collections levels observed in the pool

¹ (Cumulative current and overdue collections till date)/(Cumulative billing till date + Opening overdues at the start of the transaction)

² Inclusive of unbilled and overdue principal portion of delinquent contracts overdue by more than 30 days, as a % of initial pool principal

³ Inclusive of unbilled and overdue principal portion of delinquent contracts overdue by more than 90 days, as a % of initial pool principal

⁴ (Balance cash flows payable to investor – CC available)/Balance pool cash flows

⁵ (Pool cash flows – Cash flows to SN investors – Originator's residual share)/Pool principal outstanding

Credit challenges

- 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 96.0% till the October 2023 payout month despite the dip in monthly collections over the last few months. The drop was due to lower collections from overdue contracts, which resulted in some slippages into the harder delinquency buckets. The loss-cum-90+ days past due (dpd) has been increasing over the last few months and remains high at 4.7%. The pool has seen higher prepayments with an average monthly prepayment rate of 2.5% and it has amortised by ~61%. There has been no cash collateral (CC) utilisation in the pool till the October 2023 payout month. Due to the high amortisation and nil CC utilisation till date, the CE in the transaction has built up significantly with respect to the balance pool principal. Going forward, the pool would remain exposed to the inherent credit risks associated with the unsecured nature of the asset class and any macro-economic shocks/business disruptions. The entity's portfolio had seen stress in asset quality due to Covid-19 pandemic as reflected in higher restructuring and write offs.

Overall, the CE available for meeting the balance payouts to the investors is sufficient to upgrade 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 49 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 93-99% for all the transactions. No CC has been utilised till the October 2023 payout in any of the live pools.

Key rating assumptions

ICRA's cash flow analysis of 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 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 these adjustments, the expected mean shortfall in principal collection during the tenure of the pool is estimated at 5.0-6.0% of the initial pool principal, with certain variability around it. The prepayment rate for the underlying pool is estimated in the range of 6.0-18.0% per annum.

Liquidity position: Strong

The liquidity of the rated transaction is expected to be strong, supported by the healthy collections expected from the pool of contracts and the presence of a CC amounting to ~20% of the pool principal amount. Even assuming a monthly collection efficiency of only 50% in the underlying pool of contracts in a stress scenario, the CC would cover the shortfalls in the promised SN payouts for the balance pool.

Rating sensitivities

Positive factors – The rating could be upgraded once the CC covers the balance SN payouts.

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. Weakening in the credit profile of the servicer could also exert pressure on the rating.

Analytical approach

The rating action is based on the performance of the pool till September 2023 (collection month), the present delinquency levels and the CE available in the pool, and the performance expected over the balance tenure of the pool.

Analytical Approach	Comments
Applicable rating methodologies	Rating Methodology for Securitisation Transactions
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 a non-banking financial company (NBFC) and provides unsecured small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) loans. Lendingkart Technologies Private Limited (LTPL), the technology arm of the Ahmedabad-based Lendingkart Group, holds a 100% stake in LFL. Fullerton Financial Holdings Pte Limited had a 38.16% stake in LTPL as on March 31, 2023. The Group was established in 2014 by one of the co-founders, Mr. Harshvardhan Lunia, and raised funds from FFH, Saama Capital, Mayfield India, India Quotient, Bertelsmann India Investments, Sistema Asia Fund and Darrin Capital Management. 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)

	FY2022	FY2023	Q1 FY2024
	Audited	Audited	Unaudited
Total income	639	824	242
Profit after tax	(141)	116	26
Total AUM	3,284	4,978	5,492
Gross stage 3	3.9%	2.6%	2.7%
Net stage 3	1.6%	1.4%	1.8%

Source: Lendingkart, ICRA Research; All ratios as per ICRA's calculations; Amount in Rs. crore; AUM – Assets under management

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 in FY2024	Date & Rating in FY2023		Date & Rating in FY2022	Date & Rating in FY2021
					November 30, 2023	December 22, 2022	October 31, 2022	-	-
1	SBL Sparklers 2022	SN Series A1	49.94	13.49	[ICRA]AA-(SO)	[ICRA]A+(SO)	Provisional [ICRA]A+(SO)	-	-

Complexity level of the rated instrument

Transaction	Instrument	Complexity Indicator
SBL Sparklers 2022	SN Series A1	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 Name	Date of Issuance	Coupon Rate	Final Maturity Date*	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Current Rating
SBL Sparklers 2022	SN Series A1	October 2022	11.20%	April 2025	13.49	[ICRA]AA-(SO)

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

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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