

CAE Simulation Training Private Limited

Instrument	Amount	Rating Action (December 2016)
Foreign Currency Term Loan	USD 9.32 million (Rs. ~63 crore)	[ICRA] A (stable); assigned

ICRA has assigned [ICRA]A (pronounced ICRA A) rating to USD 9.32 million (Rs. 63 crore) bank lines of CAE Simulation Training Private Limited (CSTPL). The rating carries a stable outlook.

The rating takes into account long and successful track record of CSTPL's promoters, CAE Inc. (CAE) and Interglobe Enterprises Limited (IGE), in flight simulation and aviation businesses respectively. CAE is a leader in global flight simulation market with 70 years of experience in the industry and IGE is the promoter and one of the largest shareholders in Interglobe Aviation Limited, owner of Indigo (India's largest airline).

The rating also factors CSTPL' strong market position in Indian flight simulation market for Airbus A320 family of planes - there are seven third-party (excluding those for captive use by some airlines) simulators in India for Airbus A320 family of planes, out of which four (expected to increase to five in March 2017) are with CSTPL. Limited availability of simulators in the country significantly improves the company's ability to secure business. The rating also draws comfort from high visibility of cash flows due to regulatory requirement for all aspiring and active pilots to undergo simulation training and healthy utilisation rate (~100% in H1FY2017) of all its simulators since inception. ICRA expect the healthy utilisation to continue going forward, which is likely to result in comfortable debt protection indicators.

The rating is, however, constrained by high dependence on Indigo Aviation Limited (accounting for 95% of CSTPL's revenues) and susceptibility of revenues to changes in regulatory requirement for pilots to undergo mandatory training on simulators. Rating is also constrained by significant fixed costs in the operating structure (including lease payments for first two simulators) and capital intensive nature of the business due to high cost of simulators; the large lease/debt payments for the simulators may severely impact the cash flows in case asset utilisation falls. The rating is also constrained by inherently high operating leverage of the aviation industry and cyclical nature of revenue generation owing to economic or seasonal cycles. Any significant capacity addition by competitors, adverse fleet rationalisation or changes in fleet mix of customers may impact the revenues of the company.

Going forward, maintaining the current utilisation rate of the simulators, timely and adequate payments from its customers and extent of debt-funded expansion will be the key rating sensitivities.

Company's Profile

CAE Simulation Training Private Limited (CSTPL) is a joint venture between Interglobe Enterprises Limited and CAE, engaged in simulation, modelling and training for civil aviation. CSTPL provides facilities in the form of pilot training, pilot selection tools and renewal of license for existing pilot. CSTPL has four Level "D" full flight simulators for Airbus A320 family of planes for airline training and 5th simulator is likely to be operational in Q4FY2017. Its main customers are Indigo, Go Air, Air Asia, Airbus and Vistara. The facility is located in Greater Noida and has been operational since July 2013.

Recent Results

CAE Simulation Training Private Limited (CSTPL) reported operating income of Rs. 52.77 crore and net profit of Rs. 5.65 crore in FY2016 as against operating income of Rs. 28.14 crore and net profit of Rs. 1.93 crore in FY2015.

December 2016



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