

December 31, 2024

NeoGrowth Credit Private Limited: Provisional [ICRA]A(SO) assigned to Series A1 PTC backed by MSME business loan receivables issued by Drona-1 Trust December 2024

Summary of rating action

Trust Name	Instrument*	Current Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating Action
Drona-1 Trust December 2024	Series A1 PTC	19.96	Provisional [ICRA]A(SO); Assigned

*Instrument details are provided in Annexure I

Rating in the absence of pending actions/documents	No rating would have been assigned as it would not be meaningful
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Rationale

The pass-through certificates (PTCs) are backed by a pool of micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) business loan receivables originated by NeoGrowth Credit Private Limited {NCPL/Originator; rated [ICRA]BBB+(Stable)} with an aggregate principal outstanding of Rs. 22.94 crore (pool receivables of Rs. 28.58 crore). NCPL would also act as the servicer for the transaction.

The provisional rating is based on the strength of the cash flows from the selected pool of contracts, the credit enhancement available in the structure as well as the integrity of the legal structure. The rating is subject to the fulfilment of all the conditions under the structure and ICRA's review of the documentation pertaining to the transaction.

Transaction structure

As per the transaction structure, the monthly cash flow schedule comprises the promised interest payout. The principal is expected to be paid on a monthly basis (100% of the pool principal billed) but is promised on the final maturity date. The residual cash flow available, after making the promised and expected payments, shall flow back to the Originator on every payout date. All prepayment amounts would be passed on to Series A1 PTC (till Series A1 PTC principal is not fully amortised) every month and future payouts will be revised accordingly.

The credit enhancement available in the structure is in the form of (i) a cash collateral (CC) of 3.00% of the initial pool principal, amounting to Rs. 0.69 crore, to be provided by the Originator, (ii) subordination of 13.00% of the initial pool principal for Series A1 PTC, and (iii) the excess interest spread (EIS) of 17.43% of the initial pool principal for Series A1 PTC.

Key rating drivers and their description

Credit strengths

Granular pool supported by presence of credit enhancement – The pool is granular, consisting of 127 contracts, with top 10 contracts forming only ~6% of the pool principal, thereby reducing the exposure to any single borrower. Further, the credit enhancement available in the form of the CC, subordination and EIS would absorb some amount of the losses in the pool and provide support in meeting the PTC payouts.

No overdue contracts in the pool – The pool has been filtered in such a manner that there are no overdue contracts as on the cut-off date.

Servicing capability of the originator – The company has adequate processes for servicing of the loan accounts in the securitised pool. It has demonstrated a considerable track record of regular collections and recovery across a wide geography and multiple economic cycles.

Credit challenges

High geographical concentration – The pool has high geographical concentration with the top 3 states, viz. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, contributing ~77% to the initial pool principal amount. The pool's performance would thus be exposed to any state-wide disruption that may occur due to natural calamities, political events, etc.

Risks associated with lending business – The pool's performance would remain exposed to inherent credit risk associated with the unsecured nature of the underlying asset class. The performance of the pool would remain exposed to macro-economic shocks/ business disruptions, if any.

Key rating assumptions

ICRA's cash flow modelling for rating securitisation transactions involves the simulation of potential losses, delinquencies and prepayments in the pool. The losses and prepayments are assumed to follow a log-normal distribution. The assumptions for the losses and the coefficient of variation are considered on the basis of the values observed from the analysis of the past performance of the Originator's loan portfolio as well as the characteristics of the specific pool being evaluated. The resulting collections from the pool, after incorporating the impact of the losses and prepayments, are accounted for in ICRA's cash flow model, in accordance with the cash flow waterfall of the transaction.

For the current pool, ICRA has estimated the shortfall in the pool principal collection during its tenure at 6.25%, with certain variability around it. The average prepayment rate for the underlying pool is modelled in the range of 4.8% to 18% per annum. Various possible scenarios have been simulated at stressed loss levels and prepayment rates and the incidences of default to the investor as well as the extent of losses are measured after factoring in the credit enhancement to arrive at the final rating for the instrument.

Liquidity position: Strong

The liquidity for PTC Series A1 is strong after factoring in the credit enhancement available to meet the promised payout to the investor. The total credit enhancement would be ~4.25 times the estimated loss in the pool.

Rating sensitivities

Positive factors – The sustained strong collection performance of the underlying pool of contracts (monthly collection efficiency >95%), leading to lower-than-expected delinquency levels, and an increase in the cover available for future investor payouts from the credit enhancement would result in a rating upgrade.

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

Analytical approach

The rating action is based on the analysis of the performance of NCPL's portfolio till September 2024, the key characteristics and composition of the current pool, the performance expected over the balance tenure of the pool, and the credit enhancement cover available in the transaction.

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

Consolidation/Standalone

Not Applicable

Pending actions/documents required to be completed for conversion of the provisional rating into final

The assigned rating is provisional and would be converted into final upon the execution of:

1. Trust deed
2. Assignment agreement
3. Legal opinion
4. Trustee letter
5. Auditor's certificate
6. Any other documents executed for the transaction

Validity of the provisional rating

The trust is expected to complete the pending actions/execute the pending documents in the near term. However, in case of continued pendency of the actions/documents beyond one year of this publication, the provisional rating would be withdrawn for the transaction even if the instrument has been issued.

Risks associated with the provisional rating

In case the issuance is completed, but the pending actions/documents are not completed for the transaction within one year (validity period) from the assignment of the rating, the provisional rating will be withdrawn in accordance with ICRA's Policy on Provisional Ratings available at www.icra.in.

About the originator

NeoGrowth Credit Private Limited, which commenced operations in FY2013, is a non-deposit taking systemically important non-banking financial company (NBFC) providing loans to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The company 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), Trinity Inclusion (Leapfrog Investments), FMO, Plenitude Ventures Private Limited and IIFL Seed Ventures Fund. Prior to setting up NCPL, the promoters had founded and managed Venture Infotek, which provided end-to-end card payment processing solutions to banks that issue credit cards and those with which merchants have point of sales terminals. The assets under management (AUM) stood at Rs. 2,916 crore (own books) as on September 30, 2024.

Key financial indicators

NCPL	FY2023	FY2024	H1FY2025
	Audited	Audited	Provisional
Total Income	383	601	385
Profit after Tax	17	71	13
Total managed assets	2,250	3,113	3,366
Gross NPA	4.3%	3.7%	5.0%
CRAR (%)	32.7%	28.5%	27.0%

Source: Company data, ICRA Research; Amount in Rs. crore

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: None

Rating history for past three years

S. No. Trust Name		Current Rating (FY2025)			Chronology of Rating History for the Past 3 Years		
		Instrument	Current Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Date & Rating in FY2025	Date & Rating in FY2024	Date & Rating in FY2023	Date & Rating in FY2022
				December 31, 2024			
1	Drona-1 Trust December 2024	Series A1 PTC	19.96	Provisional [ICRA]A(SO)	-	-	-

Complexity level of the rated instrument

Instrument	Complexity Indicator
Series A1 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

Trust Name	Instrument Name	Date of Issuance / Sanction	Coupon Rate (p.a.p.m.)	Maturity Date	Current Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Current Rating
Drona-1 Trust December 2024	Series A1 PTC	September 27, 2024	11.55%	October 17, 2026	19.26	Provisional [ICRA]A(SO)

Source: Company

Annexure II: List of entities considered for consolidated analysis

Not Applicable

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For more information, visit www.icra.in

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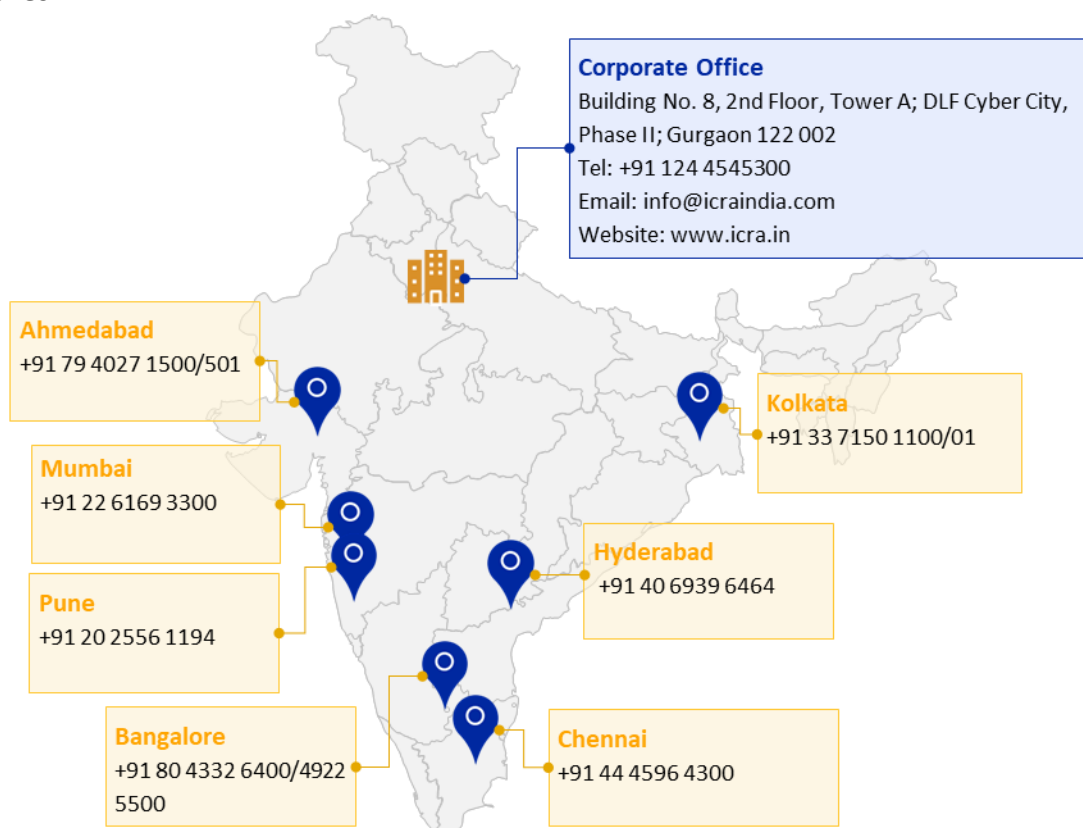


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