

January 06, 2020

## Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited: Outlook revised to Stable and ratings withdrawn

### Summary of rating action

Instrument*	Previous Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Current Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating Action
Long-term: Fund-based / Cash credit	35.00	35.00	[ICRA]BB+ (Stable); outlook revised to Stable from Positive and withdrawn
Long-term: Fund based / Term loans	76.64	76.64	[ICRA]BB+ (Stable); outlook revised to Stable from Positive and withdrawn
Short-term: Non-fund Based limits	35.00	35.00	[ICRA]A4+; Withdrawn
<b>Total</b>	<b>146.64</b>	<b>146.64</b>	

\*Instrument details are provided in Annexure-1

### Rationale

ICRA has revised the outlook on the long-term rating to Stable from Positive and has withdrawn the long-term rating of [ICRA]BB+ (pronounced ICRA Double B Plus) and the short term of [ICRA]A4+ (pronounced ICRA A four Plus) assigned to the Rs.146.64 crore1 bank facilities of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited.

The ratings are withdrawn in accordance with ICRA's policy on withdrawal and suspension at the request of the company, based on no-due certificate provided by its banker. ICRA is withdrawing the ratings and does not have any information to suggest that the credit risk has changed since the time the ratings were last reviewed.

### Key rating drivers and their description

The key rating drivers have not been captured as the rated instrument is being withdrawn

### Liquidity position:

Not applicable

### Rating sensitivities

Not applicable

## Analytical approach

Analytical Approach	Comments
Applicable Rating Methodologies	<a href="#">Corporate Credit Rating Methodology</a> ICRA Policy on Withdrawal and Suspension of Credit Rating
Parent/Group Support	NA
Consolidation/Standalone	Standalone

## About the company

EPML was incorporated in 1959 and is engaged in publishing of newspapers and magazines. The company was part of the Composite Indian Express Group, founded by Late Mr. Ramnath Goenka in 1936. Following his demise in 1991, the group was split into Indian Express (Mumbai) Limited and Express Publications (Madurai) Limited. EPML is managed by Mr. Manoj Kumar Sonthalia, the grandson of Late Mr. Ramnath Goenka. The company's flagship newspapers are 'The New Indian Express' and 'Dinamani'.

## Key financial indicators (audited)

	FY2017	FY2018
Operating Income (Rs. crore)	301.7	327.2
PAT (Rs. crore)	8.7	14.8
OPBDITA/OI (%)	15.8%	15.8%
RoCE (%)	23.9%	22.9%
Total Outstanding Liabilities/Tangible Net Worth (times)	23.2	10.3
Total Debt/OPBDIT (times)	3.8	3.5
Interest coverage (times)	1.7	2.3
DSCR	0.9	1.2

**Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable**

**Any other information: None**

## Rating history for past three years

Instrument	Rating (FY2020)				Rating History for the Past 3 Years		
	Type	Amount Rated	Amount Outstanding	Current Rating Jan 6, 2020	FY2019 Dec 03, 2018	FY2018 Dec 08, 2017	FY2017 Jan 16, 2017
1 Fund Based/ CC	Long Term	35.00	NA	[ICRA]BB+ (stable); Withdrawn	[ICRA]BB+ (Positive)	[ICRA]BB+ (Positive)	[ICRA]BB+ (Stable)
2 Fund Based TL	Long term	76.64	NA	[ICRA]BB+ (stable); Withdrawn	[ICRA]BB+ (Positive)	[ICRA]BB+ (Positive)	[ICRA]BB+ (Stable)
3 Non Fund Based	Short term	35.00	NA	[ICRA]A4+; Withdrawn	[ICRA]A4+	[ICRA]A4+	[ICRA]A4+

## Complexity level of the rated instrument

ICRA has classified various instruments based on their complexity as "Simple", "Complex" and "Highly Complex". The classification of instruments according to their complexity levels is available on the website [www.icra.in](http://www.icra.in)

### Annexure-1: Instrument details

ISIN No	Instrument Name	Date of Issuance / Sanction	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Current Rating and Outlook
NA	Fund Based/ CC	NA	NA	NA	35.00	[ICRA]BB+ (stable); Withdrawn
NA	Fund Based TL	NA	NA	NA	76.64	[ICRA]BB+ (stable); Withdrawn
NA	Non Fund Based	NA	NA	NA	35.00	[ICRA]A4+; Withdrawn

Source: Company

### Annexure-2: List of entities considered for consolidated analysis – Not applicable

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