

Rating Advisory

January 11, 2022 | Mumbai___

Hercules Pigments Private Limited

Advisory as on January 11, 2022

This rating advisory is provided in relation to the rating of Hercules Pigments Private Limited

The key rating sensitivity factors for the rating include:

Upward factors:

- Sustained increase in revenue and profitability (above 14%) resulting in higher cash accruals
- Strengthening of liquidity and financial risk profile, with better working capital management

Downward factors:

- Weakening of the business risk profile with lower accrual resulting from decline in operating margin to less than 7%
- Large, debt-funded capex or stretched working capital cycle, weakening the financial risk profile

CRISIL Ratings has a policy of keeping its accepted ratings under constant and ongoing monitoring and review. Accordingly, it seeks regular updates from companies on business and financial performance. CRISIL Ratings is yet to receive adequate information from Hercules Pigments Private Limited (HPPL) to enable it to undertake a rating review. CRISIL Ratings is taking all possible efforts to get the rated entity to cooperate with its rating process for enabling it to carry out the rating review.

CRISIL Ratings views information availability risk as a key factor in its assessment of credit risk. (Please refer to CRISIL Ratings' criteria available at the following link, https://www.crisil.com/content/dam/crisil/criteria_methodology/basics-of-ratings/assessing-information-adequacy-risk.pdf)

If HPPL continues to delay the provisioning of information required by CRISIL Ratings to undertake a rating review then, in accordance with circulars SEBI/HO/MIRSD/MIRSD4/CIR/P/2016/119 dt Nov 1, 2016, SEBI/HO/MIRSD/ MIRSD4/ CIR/ P/2017/ 71 dt June 30, 2017 and **SEBI/HO/MIRSD/CRADT/CIR/P/2020/2 dt January 3, 2020** issued by Securities and Exchange Board of India, CRISIL Ratings will carry out the review based on best available information and issue a press release.

About the Company

Incorporated in 2007 by members of the Desai family, HPPL manufactures and trades in pigments used in printing ink, paints, plastics and cosmetics industries. The manufacturing facility is located in Valsad, Gujarat. Operations are managed by Mr Anupam Desai and other family members.

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Rating Rationale

October 15, 2020 | Mumbai

Hercules Pigments Private Limited

Ratings Reaffirmed

Rating Action

| Total Bank Loan Facilities Rated | Rs.18 Crore |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Long Term Rating | CRISIL BBB-/Stable (Reaffirmed) |
| Short Term Rating | CRISIL A3 (Reaffirmed) |

¹ crore = 10 million

Refer to annexure for Details of Instruments & Bank Facilities

Detailed Rationale

CRISIL has reaffirmed its 'CRISIL BBB-/Stable/CRISIL A3' ratings on the bank facilities of Hercules Pigments Private Limited (HPPL).

The ratings continue to reflect the company's established position in pigment manufacturing business and strong financial risk profile driven by healthy debt protection metrics and low gearing. These strengths are partially offset by moderate scale of operations and susceptibility to volatility in raw material prices and foreign exchange (forex) rates.

Analytical Approach

Of the total unsecured loans outstanding as on March 31, 2020, Rs 4 crore has been treated as neither debt nor equity as it is expected to remain in the business over the medium term.

Key Rating Drivers & Detailed Description

Strengths:

* Established position in the pigment manufacturing business:

The promoters have experience of 29 years in the pigment manufacturing and trading business, and have established strong relationships with customers. The products are sold to customers in India, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and the US. Repeat orders from customers have led to increase in revenue to Rs 123.27 crore in fiscal 2020 from Rs 78.42 crore in fiscal 2018.

* Strong financial risk profile:

The financial risk profile is strong supported by adequate networth of Rs 43.64 crore and low gearing and total outside liabilities to adjusted networth ratios of 0.45 time and 0.83 time, respectively, as on March 31, 2020. Debt protection metrics are comfortable, with interest coverage and net cash accrual to total debt ratio of 11.24 times and 0.66 time, respectively, for fiscal 2020. HPPL's financial risk profile is expected to remain healthy over the medium term backed by no major debt-funded capital expenditure (capex) in the near term.

Weaknesses:

* Susceptibility to volatility in raw material prices and forex rates:

HPPL's operating margins have remained volatile in the range of 7-13% over the past four fiscals ended 2020 due to fluctuations in raw material prices. Also, about 20-30% of raw material requirement is met through import from China and Europe, and export accounts for 25% of revenue, exposing it to sharp fluctuations in forex rates as it does not hedge its forex exposure.

* Moderate scale of operations amid intense competition: Scale is moderate reflected in revenue of Rs. 123.27 crore in fiscal 2020. Intense competition in the dyes and pigments industry, with over 80% of the players located in Gujarat and Maharashtra, continues to constrain scalability. Moreover, stringent pollution norms make it difficult for existing players to increase capacity to enhance the scale of operations.



Liquidity Adequate

Cash accrual, expected at more than Rs 10 crore per annum in fiscals 2021 and 2022, will comfortably cover term debt obligation of around Rs 1.5 crore in fiscal 2021. Liquidity is also supported by investment in mutual funds of Rs 5.9 crore as on March 31, 2020. Fund-based limit of Rs 11.9 crore was utilised 52% on average over the 12 months through June 2020. The promoters and family members have infused unsecured loans of around Rs 9 crore as on March 31, 2020.

Outlook: Stable

CRISIL believes HPPL will continue to benefit from the promoters' extensive experience and established relationships with customers.

Rating Sensitivity factors

Upward factors:

- * Sustained increase in revenue and profitability (above 14%) resulting in higher cash accruals
- * Strengthening of liquidity and financial risk profile, with better working capital management

Downward factors:

- * Weakening of the business risk profile with lower accrual resulting from decline in operating margin to less than 7%
- * Large, debt-funded capex or stretched working capital cycle, weakening the financial risk profile

About the Company

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Key Financial Indicators

| Particulars | Unit | 2020* | 2019 |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
| Revenue | Rs crore | 123.27 | 98.43 |
| Profit after tax (PAT) | Rs crore | 10.30 | 1.94 |
| PAT margin | % | 8.4 | 2.0 |
| Adjusted debt / adjusted networth | Times | 0.45 | 0.33 |
| Interest coverage | Times | 11.24 | 4.26 |

^{*}Provisional

Any other information: Not applicable

Note on complexity levels of the rated instrument:

CRISIL complexity levels are assigned to various types of financial instruments and are included (where applicable) in the Annexure -- Details of Instrument in this Rating Rationale. For more details on the CRISIL complexity levels, please visit www.crisil.com/complexity-levels.



Annexure - Details of Instrument(s)

| ISIN | Name of instrument | Date of allotment | Coupon rate (%) | Maturity date | Complexity levels | Issue size (Rs crore) | Rating assigned with outlook |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| NA | Bank guarantee | NA | NA | NA | NA | 0.5 | CRISIL A3 |
| NA | Cash credit | NA | NA | NA | NA | 2.0 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable |
| NA | Fund-based facilities | NA | NA | NA | NA | 11.0 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable |
| NA | Proposed working capital facility | NA | NA | NA | NA | 4.5 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable |

Annexure - List of entities consolidated

-- click here to edit Annexure - Details of Instrument(s) Section overwrite the content in this area for better formatting

Annexure - Rating History for last 3 Years

| | | Current | | 2020 (| History) | 20 | 19 | 20 | 18 | 20 | 17 | Start of 2017 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------|----------|----------|--|----------|---|----------|--|--|
| Instrument | Туре | Outstanding Amount | Rating | Date | Rating | Date | Rating | Date | Rating | Date | Rating | Rating |
| Fund-based Bank Facilities | LT/S T | 17.50 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable | | | 11-09-19 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable | 04-10-18 | CRISIL BBB- /Positive | 24-04-17 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable | CRISIL BBB- /Stable |
| Non Fund-based Bank Facilities | LT/S T | 0.50 | CRISIL A3 | | | 11-09-19 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable/ CRISIL A3 | 04-10-18 | CRISIL BBB- /Positive/ CRISIL A3+ | 24-04-17 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable/ CRISIL A3 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable/ CRISIL A3 |

All amounts are in Rs.Cr.

Annexure - Details of various bank facilities

| Curre | nt facilities | | Previous facilities | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--|
| Facility | Amount (Rs.Crore) | Rating | Facility | Amount (Rs.Crore) | Rating | |
| Bank Guarantee | .5 | CRISIL A3 | Bank Guarantee | .5 | CRISIL A3 | |
| Cash Credit | 2 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable | Fund & Non Fund Based Limits | 7.5 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable | |
| Fund-Based Facilities | 11 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable | Packing Credit | 2 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable | |
| Proposed Working Capital Facility | 4.5 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable | Working Capital Loan | 8 | CRISIL BBB- /Stable | |
| Total | 18 | | Total | 18 | | |



Links to related criteria

CRISILs Approach to Financial Ratios

CRISILs Bank Loan Ratings - process, scale and default recognition

Rating criteria for manufaturing and service sector companies

Rating Criteria for Chemical Industry

CRISILs Criteria for Consolidation

CRISILs Criteria for rating short term debt

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