

Date: August 14, 2023

To,

Listing Department,

**BSE Limited** 

Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers, Dalal Street, Mumbai-400001

Scrip Code: 955550

Dear Sir/Madam,

# Sub: Intimation under Regulation 51 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015 read with Part B of Schedule III of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015

With reference to captioned subject, we wish to inform you that, ICRA Ltd. ('Rating Agency), has reaffirmed the credit rating of [ICRA] A- for the Company's Non-Convertible Debenture (NCD), Bank facilities and Subordinated debts and has revised the Outlook from 'Stable' to 'Positive for all the above mentioned instruments.

The summary of the revised outlook is as mentioned below:

Instrument*	Rating Action Rating Action
Long-term bank facilities	[ICRA]A- (Positive); assigned/reaffirmed and outlook revised to
- Fund based	Positive from Stable
Non-convertible debentures	[ICRA]A- (Positive); reaffirmed and outlook revised to Positive from
	Stable
Non-convertible debentures	[ICRA]A- (Positive); reaffirmed and outlook revised to Positive from
	Stable, and simultaneously withdrawn
Subordinated debt	[ICRA]A- (Positive); reaffirmed and outlook revised to Positive from
	Stable
Long-term bank facilities	[ICRA]A(CE) (Positive); reaffirmed and outlook revised to Positive
- Fund-based term loan	from Stable

<sup>\*</sup>description is mentioned in the rationale enclosed.

This is for your kind information and records.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

For Arohan Financial Services Limited

Anirudh Singh G Thakur Company Secretary & Compliance Officer Membership No: A13210

Encl: As above





#### August 14, 2023

## Arohan Financial Services Limited: Ratings assigned/reaffirmed; outlook revised to Positive from Stable; Ratings simultaneously withdrawn for Rs. 25-crore NCD

#### **Summary of rating action**

Instrument*	Previous Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Current Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating Action
Long-term bank facilities  – Fund based	2,718.73	4,103.55	[ICRA]A- (Positive); assigned/reaffirmed and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
Non-convertible debentures	555.00	555.00	[ICRA]A- (Positive); reaffirmed and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
Non-convertible debentures	25.00	-	[ICRA]A- (Positive); reaffirmed and outlook revised to Positive from Stable, and simultaneously withdrawn
Subordinated debt	100.00	100.00	[ICRA]A- (Positive); reaffirmed and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
Long-term bank facilities  – Fund-based term loan	25.00	25.00	[ICRA]A(CE) (Positive); reaffirmed and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
Total	3,423.73	4,783.55	

<sup>\*</sup>Instrument details are provided in Annexure I

Rating without explicit credit enhancement

[ICRA]A

Note: The (CE) suffix mentioned alongside the [ICRA]A rating symbol indicates that the rated instrument/facility is to be backed by some form of explicit credit enhancement. This rating is specific to the rated instrument/facility, its terms and structure and does not represent ICRA's opinion on the general credit quality of the entity concerned. The above table also captures ICRA's opinion on the rating without factoring in the proposed explicit credit enhancement

#### **Rationale**

#### For the [ICRA]A- (Positive) rating

The revision in the rating outlook reflects ICRA's expectation of continued improvement in Arohan Financial Services Limited's (Arohan) credit profile. After witnessing subdued operations, asset quality and profitability during the Covid-19 pandemic, the company has seen a gradual improvement over the last few quarters. ICRA expects the trend to continue, leading to an overall improvement in Arohan's credit profile.

The ratings continue to take into consideration Arohan's established track record of operations in microfinance operations, its comfortable capitalisation profile and diversified funding profile. This has helped the company grow its assets under management (AUM) by 30% in FY2023 to Rs. 5,357 crore as on March 31, 2023 from Rs. 4,122 crore as on March 31, 2022. As on June 30, 2023, the AUM stood at Rs. 5,564 crore. Arohan also witnessed a gradual improvement in its profitability in Q1 FY2024, though the same remains moderate. ICRA notes that the company raised Rs. 248 crore and Rs. 266 crore in FY2023 and Q1 FY2024, respectively, in the form of compulsory convertible preference shares (CCPS). This has bolstered its capitalisation profile, making it well capitalised to absorb future losses, if any, and support its growth plans. As a result, the gearing (managed)<sup>1</sup> declined to 3.2 times as on June 30, 2023 from 3.6 times as on March 31, 2023 (4.1 times as on March 31, 2022).

However, the ratings are constrained by the company's moderate, albeit improving, asset quality metrics and profitability indicators. On the asset quality front, Arohan's gross monitorable book, which includes the standard restructured book of Rs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Gearing (managed) = (On-book borrowings + securitised/assigned loan assets)/(Net worth)



72 crore, security receipts (SRs) of Rs. 176 crore and gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of Rs. 90 crore as on June 30, 2023, declined to 6.2% as on June 30, 2023 from 32.1% as on March 31, 2022. As the company carries sizeable provisions, its net stage 3 assets (NS3) were 0.0% as on June 30, 2023 (0.2% as on March 31, 2023; 1.4% as on March 31, 2022). Moreover, after adjusting for the provision on standard restructured book, the net monitorable book has declined to 3.7% as on June 30, 2023 from 19.8% as on March 31, 2022. Arohan also witnessed an improvement in its profitability in Q1 FY2024 because of the higher net interest margin resulting from the increase in the lending rates. ICRA expects the profitability to continue improving and Arohan's ability to contain its credit costs while improving its operational efficiency shall remain key for its profitability.

The ratings also remain constrained by the high geographical concentration with the top 3 states, namely West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, constituting 68% of the microfinance portfolio as on June 30, 2023 (65% as on March 31, 2023; 64% as on March 31, 2022). The ratings also factor in the risks associated with the unsecured nature of microfinance loans, the marginal borrower profile, which is susceptible to income shocks, and the political and operational risks associated with microlending, which may lead to volatility in the asset quality indicators.

The Positive outlook reflects ICRA's opinion that the company would be able to improve its financial profile further, while expanding its scale of operations, maintaining comfortable capitalisation and improving its asset quality and profitability.

ICRA has simultaneously reaffirmed, revised the outlook to Positive and withdrawn the rating for the Rs. 25-crore non-convertible debenture (NCD) programme as the said NCDs have been repaid by the company and no amount is outstanding against the same. The rating has been withdrawn in accordance with ICRA's policy on the withdrawal of credit ratings.

#### For the [ICRA]A(CE) (Positive) rating

The revision in the outlook factors in the improvement in Arohan's overall financial profile with the gradual waning of the impact of Covid-19-induced disruptions. The rating is based on the strength of an unconditional and irrevocable guarantee provided by Northern Arc Capital Limited (NACL; rated [ICRA]AA- (Stable)/[ICRA]A1+).

#### **Adequacy of credit enhancement**

ICRA has assessed the attributes of the partial guarantee issued by NACL in favour of the said instrument. While the guarantee is legally enforceable, irrevocable, unconditional, covers the entire tenor of the rated facility, and has a well-defined invocation and payment mechanism, it does not cover the entire rated amount. The guarantee is 27.69% of the initial loan amount, guaranteeing the repayment of the principal and the payment of the interest amount in relation to the facility for six months. NACL has waived off all the suretyship rights available under the Indian Contract Act, 1872. However, the credit enhancement provided in the guarantee shall cease to be available to the lender if any modifications are done to the terms of the facility, without NACL's prior approval, which adversely impact its obligations.

Taking cognisance of the above credit enhancement, ICRA had assigned a rating of [ICRA]A(CE) (Stable) to the said facility against the unsupported rating of [ICRA]A- (and in relation to the guarantor's rating of [ICRA]AA- (Stable)/[ICRA]A1+). A change in the ratings of the guarantor or the unsupported rating of Arohan would have a bearing on the rating of the aforesaid facility as well.

#### Salient covenants of the rated facility

- The tenure of the facility is 24 months with equated monthly interest and principal repayment.
- The guarantee amount shall remain stable in absolute terms till it is reset. It can be reduced, subject to the confirmation/affirmation of the rating agency.
- In addition to the partial guarantee, Arohan will maintain a pool of loan receivables, which would be at least 1.10 times the outstanding amount of the facility. In case of a downgrade in Arohan's senior secured long-term rating to below BBB+, non-maintenance of security cover, non-payment by Arohan, and cross default of Arohan, it shall make equal weekly repayments and shall transfer the collections from the hypothecated property to the Collection and Payment Account on a weekly basis.
- The security cover shall be met only with receivables that do not have any principal, interest, additional interest, fee or any other expected payments overdue. For this purpose, Arohan shall, with the consent of the lender, replace any



receivables constituting the hypothecated property that has one or more instalments of principal, interest, additional interest, fee or any other expected payments overdue for more than 90 (ninety) days with performing loans that meet the eligibility criteria. Such replacement shall be done on or before the 15th of any calendar month.

- Arohan shall report/file such list of assets, comprising the hypothecated assets, with the concerned Registrar of Companies (ROC) and the Central Registry of Securitisation Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest of India in relation thereto as soon as practicable and no later than 30 (thirty) days.
- In case of a downgrade in Arohan's senior secured long-term rating to below BBB+, it will ensure that the percentage of the outstanding principal value of the portfolio at risk (PAR) > 0 loans in the hypothecated property does not exceed 10% of the outstanding principal value of the hypothecated property.

#### Key rating drivers and their description

#### **Credit strengths**

**Established track record of operations** – Arohan is one of the largest non-banking financial company-microfinance institutions (NBFC-MFIs) in India by AUM. It has an established track record of more than 16 years in the microfinance space. It reported a growth of 30% in its AUM in FY2023 and the AUM stood at Rs. 5,357 crore as on March 31, 2023 (Rs. 4,122 crore as on March 31, 2022). As on June 30, 2023, the company had a presence in 271 districts across 15 states through a network of 906 branches while catering to around 20.2 lakh borrowers and managing a portfolio of Rs. 5,564 crore.

Comfortable capitalisation profile – The company's capital adequacy ratio (CAR) stood at 32.7% as on June 30, 2023 (28.7% as on March 31, 2023), which was well above the regulatory requirement of 15%, while the gearing (managed)<sup>2</sup> was 3.2 times as on June 30, 2023 (3.6 times as on March 31, 2023; 4.1 times as on March 31, 2022). The management plans to maintain the CAR well above 20% in the medium term. ICRA notes that Arohan raised Rs. 248 crore and Rs. 266 crore in FY2023 and Q1 FY2024, respectively, in the form of CCPS. This has bolstered its capitalisation profile, making it well capitalised to absorb future losses, if any, and support its growth plans. Going forward, ICRA expects Arohan's capitalisation profile to remain comfortable.

Diversified borrowing profile – The company's funding base is diversified with a good mix of private banks, public sector banks, financial institutions (FIs) and NBFCs. The funding profile is diversified and comprised bank loans (44% as on June 30, 2023), FIs/NBFCs (21%), debentures (5%), subordinated debt (8%) and pass-through certificates (PTCs)/direct assignment (22%). In FY2023, it raised Rs. 4,191 crore from 28 different lenders, including Rs. 985 crore through PTCs and Rs. 115 crore through debentures. In Q1 FY2024, Arohan raised Rs. 1,095 crore from 12 different lenders, including Rs. 389 crore through PTCs.

Presence of partial guarantee for credit enhanced term loan of Rs. 25 crore – The Rs. 25-crore rated term loan is credit enhanced by an unconditional, irrevocable and payable on demand guarantee from NACL (partial credit guarantee (PCG) provider), amounting to 27.69% of the initial loan amount, guaranteeing the repayment of the principal and the payment of interest amounts in relation to the facility.

#### **Credit challenges**

Moderate profitability but expected to improve in FY2024 – Arohan reported a net profit of Rs. 25 crore in Q1 FY2024 compared to Rs. 71 crore in FY2023. Although the overall profitability indicators improved in Q1 FY2024, with the company reporting an annualised return of 1.5% on average managed assets (AMA) and 6.9% on average net worth compared to 1.1% and 6.0%, respectively, in FY2023, credit costs remained elevated. However, ICRA notes that with the gradual improvement in collections, significant write-offs and sale to an asset reconstruction company, the GS3 declined to 1.7% as on June 30, 2023 from 2.7% as on March 31, 2023 (4.5% as on March 31, 2022). Given the high provisions being carried by the company, the NS3 was 0.0% as on June 30, 2023 (0.2% as on March 31, 2023; 1.4% as on March 31, 2022). With the increasing share of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Gearing (managed) = (On-book borrowings + securitised/assigned loan assets)/ (Net worth)



portfolio generated at a higher yield and the expected reduction in credit costs, ICRA expects the profitability to improve further in the rest of the fiscal and the company's ability to achieve the same shall remain a monitorable.

**Geographical concentration risk** – The company had a presence in 271 districts across 15 states through a network of 906 branches as on June 30, 2023. However, the share of the microfinance portfolio in West Bengal and Bihar remained high at 25% each as on June 30, 2023 (24% each as on March 31, 2023). The top 3 states comprised 68% of the microfinance portfolio as on June 30, 2023 (65% as on March 31, 2023; 64% as on March 31, 2022). ICRA notes that the company intends to reduce its geographical concentration and has expanded its geographical presence to support its growth plans. It opened branches in Maharashtra, Haryana and Gujarat in Q1 FY2024.

Further, there is scope for district-level diversification of the portfolio as the top 5, 10 and 20 districts comprised 11%, 19% and 34%, respectively, of the microfinance portfolio as on June 30, 2023 (11%, 19% and 34%, respectively, as on March 31, 2023; 12%, 21% and 35%, respectively, as on March 31, 2022) and 37%, 65% and 116%, respectively, of the net worth as on June 30, 2023 (42%, 75% and 134%, respectively, as on March 31, 2023; 48%, 82% and 136%, respectively, as on March 31, 2022). Going forward, the company's ability to improve its geographical diversification while scaling up its operations remains important from a credit perspective.

Political, communal, and other risks in the microfinance sector, given the marginal borrower profile – Microfinance remains susceptible to the risks associated with unsecured lending to marginal borrowers with limited ability to absorb income shocks and the rising borrower leverage levels owing to an increase in multiple lending in the areas of operations. Further, political and operational risks associated with microfinance may result in high volatility in the asset quality indicators. The microfinance industry is prone to socio-political, climatic and operational risks, which could negatively impact its operations. Arohan's ability to onboard borrowers with a good credit history, recruit and retain employees as well as improve the geographical diversity of its operations would be key for managing high growth rates while maintaining its credit profile.

#### **Liquidity position: Adequate**

#### For the [ICRA]A- (Positive) rating

As on June 30, 2023, Arohan had a free cash and liquid balance of Rs. 761 crore with debt obligations of Rs. 1,553 crore for the six-month period ending December 2023 and collections of Rs. 1,841 crore during this period. Factoring in the estimated collections from advances, the liquidity profile is expected to remain adequate to meet the debt obligations in a timely manner.

#### For the [ICRA]A(CE) (Positive) rating

Adequate liquidity is available for the rated term loan in the form of a PCG from NACL and the security pool. The PCG as well as the collections from the security pool can be utilised for meeting the scheduled payouts, if required.

#### For support provider (NACL): Adequate

As of December 31, 2022, NACL had positive mismatches across all the buckets of its structural liquidity statement. The average tenor of the loan/investment portfolio is 1-2 years. On the other hand, NACL has secured a sizeable portion of its borrowings from longer-tenor loans (average tenor of ~3 years) while only 4% of the total borrowings was from short-term sources including commercial paper, cash credit and working capital demand loans as of December 2022. As of December 2022, term loans, working capital facilities from banks, NCDs (including sub-debt), external commercial borrowings and commercial papers accounted for 59%, 3%, 21%,16% and 1%, respectively.

NACL had cash and liquid investments of Rs. 430.0 crore and undrawn bank lines of Rs. 926.2 crore as on March 20, 2023, with payment obligations of Rs. 1,318.9 crore during March 21, 2023 to June 30, 2023. The monthly collection efficiency remained robust throughout 9M FY2023 at about 99-101%.



#### **Rating sensitivities**

#### For the [ICRA]A(CE) (Positive) rating

The rating assigned to the Rs. 25-crore term loan programme would remain sensitive to any movement in the ratings or outlook of Arohan or NACL.

#### For the [ICRA]A- (Positive) rating

**Positive factors** – ICRA could upgrade the rating if there is an improvement in the company's asset quality and profitability indicators with a return on average managed assets (RoMA) of more than 2.5%, while maintaining a prudent capitalisation profile with a managed gearing of less than 5 times on a sustained basis.

**Negative factors** – Pressure on the rating could arise if the company witnesses a deterioration in its asset quality, which could affect its profitability. The weakening of the capitalisation profile with a managed gearing of more than 6 times or a stretch in the liquidity could also exert pressure on the rating.

#### **Analytical approach**

Analytical Approach	Comments
	Rating Methodology for Non-banking Finance Companies
Applicable rating methodologies	Rating Methodology for Partially Guaranteed Debt
	Policy on Withdrawal of Credit Ratings
Parent/Group support	Not Applicable
Consolidation/Standalone	Not Applicable

#### **About the company**

Arohan Financial Services Limited (Arohan) is a Kolkata-headquartered non-banking financial company — microfinance institution (NBFC-MFI). It was incorporated on September 27, 1991. Arohan is engaged in the business of microlending, mainly to women borrowers, and operates on the joint liability group (JLG) model. It was set up through the acquisition of an existing NBFC, ANG Resources Ltd, with the support of Bellwether Microfinance Fund. The company's name was changed to Arohan Financial Services Limited in March 2008. Arohan became a part of the Aavishkar Group in September 2012. As on June 30, 2023, it was catering to around 20.2 lakh borrowers through a network of 906 branches spread across 271 districts and 15 states while managing a portfolio of Rs. 5,564 crore (provisional).



#### **Key financial indicators**

Arohan Financial Services Limited	FY2022	FY2023	Q1 FY2024
As per	Ind-AS	Ind-AS	Ind-AS
Net interest income	475	516	180
Profit after tax	61	71	25
Net worth	1,023	1,338	1,625
Gross loan portfolio	4,122	5,357	5,564
Total managed assets (grossed up for provisions)	5,697	6,635	7,089
Return on average managed assets	1.0%	1.1%	1.5%
Return on average net worth	6.2%	6.0%	6.9%
On-book gearing (times)	4.0	3.4	3.0
Managed gearing (times)	4.1	3.6	3.2
Gross stage 3 assets	4.5%	2.7%	1.7%
Net stage 3 assets	1.4%	0.2%	0.0%
Solvency (Net stage 3 assets /Net worth)	5.4%	0.7%	0.0%
CRAR	34.6%	28.7%	32.7%

Managed gearing = (On-book borrowings + Securitised/assigned loan assets) / (Net worth)

Source: Company, ICRA Research; All ratios as per ICRA's calculations

Amount in Rs. crore

#### Northern Arc Capital Limited (NACL; support provider)

Northern Arc Capital is a systemically important NBFC. It acts as a platform in the financial services sector with the objective of catering to the diverse credit requirements of underserved households and businesses by providing access to debt finance. This is done either through direct lending and investments or by providing syndication and structuring services. The company commenced its business by targeting microfinance institutions (MFIs) and has diversified into other sectors including micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) finance, vehicle finance (includes commercial vehicle and two-wheeler finance), consumer finance, affordable housing finance and agricultural supply chain finance. Further, over the years, NACL has steadily diversified across products, geographies, and borrower segments. Nimbus, NACL's proprietary technology system, forms the backbone of its growth as a platform and enables the scaling up of business operations with execution and functional efficiencies and data analytics.

As of March 2023, on a fully-diluted basis, IIFL Special Opportunities Fund was the largest shareholder with a stake of 25.6% in NACL, followed by Leapfrog Financial Inclusion India II Limited (22.6%), Augusta Investments II Pte Ltd (19.5%), Eight Roads Investments (Mauritius) (II) Limited (10.3%), Dvara Trust (7.5%), Accion (5.8%), SMBC (5.3%) and others (3.5%).

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

Any other information: ICRA notes that Arohan also faces prepayment risk, given the possibility of debt acceleration upon the breach of covenants, including financial, operating and rating-linked covenants. Upon failure to meet the covenants, if the company is unable to get waivers from the lenders/investors or the lenders/investors do not provide it with adequate time to arrange for alternative funding to pay off the accelerated loans, the ratings would face pressure. Nevertheless, ICRA notes that Arohan has been able to raise fresh funds, despite covenant breaches in the last 2-3 years. The management has guided that Arohan has requested for waivers from lenders/investors for such breaches and no negative comments/adverse action have been taken for the same.

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#### Rating history for past three years

	Current Rating (FY2024)					Chronology of Pating History for the Pact 2 Years							
			Curren	t Rating (FY20)	24)		Chronology of Rating History for the Past 3 Years						
			Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Amount Outstanding	Date & Rating in FY2024		Date & Rating in FY2023					Date & Rating in FY2022	Date & Rating in FY2021
	Instrument	Type (F		as of June 30, 2023 (Rs. crore)*	Aug 14, 2023	Dec 26, 2022	Sep 21, 2022	Jul 14, 2022	Jul 01, 2022	Jun 21, 2022	Apr 06, 2022	Mar 25, 2022 Oct 05, 2021 Jul 20, 2021	Oct 05, 2020 Aug 05, 2020 Jul 28, 2020
1	Long-term bank facilities – Fund based	Long term	4,103.55	3,377.57	[ICRA]A- (Positive)	[ICRA]A- (Stable)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Stable)
2	NCDs	Long term	555.00	522.15	[ICRA]A- (Positive)	[ICRA]A- (Stable)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Stable)
3	NCDs	Long term	25.00	0.00	[ICRA]A- (Positive); withdrawn	[ICRA]A- (Stable)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Stable)
4	NCDs	Long	26.70	0.00	-	[ICRA]A- (Stable); withdrawn	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	-	-	-
5	Long-term bank facilities – Fund-based term loan	Long	25.00	9.96	[ICRA]A (CE) (Positive)	[ICRA]A (CE) (Stable)	[ICRA]A (CE) (Negative)	[ICRA]A (CE) (Negative)	[ICRA]A (CE) (Negative)	Provisional [ICRA]A (CE) (Negative)	Provisional [ICRA]A (CE) (Negative)	-	-
6	Subordinated debt	Long	100.00	100.00	[ICRA]A- (Positive)	[ICRA]A- (Stable)	[ICRA]A- (Negative)	-	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>\*</sup>Source: Company

#### **Complexity level of the rated instruments**

Instrument	Complexity Indicator
Subordinated debt	Simple
NCD	Simple
Long-term bank facilities – Fund based	Simple
Long-term bank facilities – Fund-based term loan	Very Simple

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

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#### **Annexure I: Instrument details**

ISIN	Instrument Name	Date of Issuance / Sanction	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Current Rating and Outlook
INE808K07162	NCD	Jul-29-2020	11.00%	Jul-29-2023	25	[ICRA]A- (Positive)
INE808K07246	NCD	Dec-14-2020	11.40%	Jun-14-2024	65	[ICRA]A- (Positive)
INE808K08079	NCD	Mar-31-2022	13.65%	Jun-30-2027	200	[ICRA]A- (Positive)
INE808K07261	NCD	Jun-26-2022	11.86%	Jun-29-2027	115	[ICRA]A- (Positive)
INE808K08061	NCD	Oct-25-2019	12.85%	Oct-25-2026	25	[ICRA]A- (Positive)
INE808K08046	NCD	Mar-29-2018	13.25%	Apr-28-2025	65	[ICRA]A- (Positive)
INE808K08053	NCD	Aug-14-2018	13.25%	Sep-30-2025	35	[ICRA]A- (Positive)
INE808K07147	NCD	Jul-10-2020	11.50%	Jul-10-2023	25	[ICRA]A- (Positive)
INE808K07139	NCD	Jun-19-2020	11.00%	Jun-16-2023	25	[ICRA]A- (Positive); withdrawn
NA	Long-term bank facilities  - Fund based	Jun-08-2018 to Jun-27-2023	4.68-12.50%	Jul-10-2023 to Mar-31-2026	4,103.55	[ICRA]A- (Positive)
NA	Subordinated debt (term loan)	Sep-22-2016	11.75%	Oct-14-2023	25	[ICRA]A- (Positive)
NA	Subordinated debt (term loan)	Mar-07-2018	13.50%	Apr-01-2025	50	[ICRA]A- (Positive)
NA	Subordinated debt (term loan)	Mar-30-2021	14.25%	Jun-04-2027	25	[ICRA]A- (Positive)
NA	Long-term bank facilities  – Fund-based term loan	Mar-31-2022	10.00%	Mar-31-2024	25	[ICRA]A(CE) (Positive)

Source: Company

Please click here to view details of lender-wise facilities rated by ICRA

Annexure II: List of entities considered for consolidated analysis – Not Applicable



#### **ANALYST CONTACTS**

Karthik Srinivasan +91 22 6114 3444

karthiks@icraindia.com

**Arpit Agarwal** 

+91 124 4545 873

arpit.agarwal@icraindia.com

**RELATIONSHIP CONTACT** 

L Shivakumar +91 22 2433 1084 shivakumar@icraindia.com Sachin Sachdeva +91 124 4545 307 sachin.sachdeva@icraindia.com

Prateek Mittal +91 33 7150 1132 prateek.mittal@icraindia.com

#### MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTACT

Ms. Naznin Prodhani
Tel: +91 124 4545 860
communications@icraindia.com

#### **Helpline for business queries**

+91-9354738909 (open Monday to Friday, from 9:30 am to 6 pm)

info@icraindia.com

#### **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.

For more information, visit www.icra.in





#### **Registered Office**

B-710, Statesman House, 148, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001 Tel: +91 11 23357940-45



#### **Branches**



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Ref: ICRA/Arohan Financial Services Limited/09082023/1

Date: August 9, 2023

Mr. Manoj Kumar Nambiar Managing Director Arohan Financial Services Limited PTI Building, 4th Floor, West Wing, DP Block, DP-9, Sector-V, Salt lake, Kolkata – 700 091

Dear Sir,

Re: ICRA Credit Rating for Rs. 555-crore NCD Programme of Arohan Financial Services Limited (instrument details in *Annexure*)

In terms of the Rating Agreement/Statement of Work executed between Arohan Financial Services Limited and ICRA Limited (ICRA), ICRA is required to review the rating, on an annual basis, or as and when the circumstances so warrant.

Please note that the Rating Committee of ICRA, after due consideration of the latest development in your company, has reaffirmed the rating of your non-convertible debenture (NCD) programme at [ICRA]A-(pronounced as ICRA A minus) and revised the outlook to **Positive** from Stable. Instruments with this rating are considered to have adequate degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations. Such instruments carry low credit risk.

In any of your publicity material or other document wherever you are using above rating, it should be stated as **[ICRA]A-(Positive).** 

This rating is specific to the terms and conditions of the proposed issue as was indicated to us by you and any change in the terms or size of the issue would require the rating to be reviewed by us. If there is any change in the terms and conditions or size of the instrument rated, as above, the same must be brought to our notice before the issue of the instrument. If there is any such change after the rating is assigned by us and accepted by you, it would be subject to our review and may result in change in the rating assigned.

ICRA reserves the right to review and/ or, revise the above rating at any time on the basis of new information or unavailability of information or such other circumstances, which ICRA believes, may have an impact on the rating assigned to you.

The rating, as aforesaid, however, should not be treated as a recommendation to buy, sell or hold the instruments issued by you.

You are also requested to forthwith inform us about any default or delay in repayment of interest or principal amount of the instrument rated, as above, or any other debt instruments/ borrowing and keep us informed of any other developments which may have a direct or indirect impact on the debt servicing capability of the company including any proposal for re-schedulement or postponement of the repayment programmes of the dues/ debts of the company with any lender(s) / investor(s). Further, you are requested to inform us immediately as and when the borrowing limit for the instrument rated, as above, or as prescribed by the regulatory authority(ies) is exceeded.

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Website: www.icra.in Email: info@icraindia.com Helpdesk: +91 9354738909



We thank you for your kind cooperation extended during the course of the rating exercise. Please let us know if you need any clarification.

We look forward to further strengthening our existing relationship and assure you of our best services.

With kind regards, Yours sincerely, For ICRA Limited

KARTHIK

Digitally signed by KARTHIK SRINIVASAN

Date: 2023.08.09
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#### **Karthik Srinivasan**

Senior Vice President Group Head – Financial Sector Ratings karthiks@icraindia.com



#### Annexure

## LIST OF ALL INSTRUMENT RATED (WITH AMOUNT OUTSTANDING)

Rated Instrument	ISIN	Rated Amount (In Rs. crore)	Amount Outstanding (In Rs. crore)*	Rating Action
NCD	INE808K07162	25.00	8.40	[ICRA]A-(Positive); rating reaffirmed, and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
NCD	INE808K07246	65.00	48.75	[ICRA]A-(Positive); rating reaffirmed, and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
NCD	INE808K08079	200.00	200.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive); rating reaffirmed, and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
NCD	INE808K07261	115.00	115.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive); rating reaffirmed, and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
NCD	INE808K08061	25.00	25.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive); rating reaffirmed, and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
NCD	INE808K08046	65.00	65.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive); rating reaffirmed, and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
NCD	INE808K08053	35.00	35.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive); rating reaffirmed, and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
NCD	INE808K07147	25.00	25.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive); rating reaffirmed, and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
Total		555.00	522.15	

\*Source: Company



Ref: ICRA/Arohan Financial Services Limited/09082023/3

Date: August 9, 2023

Mr. Manoj Kumar Nambiar Managing Director Arohan Financial Services Limited PTI Building, 4th Floor, West Wing, DP Block, DP-9, Sector-V, Salt lake, Kolkata – 700 091

Dear Sir,

Re: ICRA Credit Rating for Rs. 100 crore Subordinated Debt Programme of Arohan Financial Services Limited (instrument details in *Annexure*)

In terms of the Rating Agreement/Statement of Work executed between Arohan Financial Services Limited and ICRA Limited (ICRA), ICRA is required to review the rating, on an annual basis, or as and when the circumstances so warrant.

Please note that the Rating Committee of ICRA, after due consideration of the latest development in your company, has reaffirmed the rating of your subordinated debt programme at [ICRA]A- (pronounced as ICRA A minus) and the outlook has been revised to Positive from Stable. Instruments with this rating are considered to have adequate degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations. Such instruments carry low credit risk.

In any of your publicity material or other document wherever you are using above rating, it should be stated as **[ICRA]A-(Positive).** 

This rating is specific to the terms and conditions of the proposed issue as was indicated to us by you and any change in the terms or size of the issue would require the rating to be reviewed by us. If there is any change in the terms and conditions or size of the instrument rated, as above, the same must be brought to our notice before the issue of the instrument. If there is any such change after the rating is assigned by us and accepted by you, it would be subject to our review and may result in change in the rating assigned.

ICRA reserves the right to review and/ or, revise the above rating at any time on the basis of new information or unavailability of information or such other circumstances, which ICRA believes, may have an impact on the rating assigned to you.

The rating, as aforesaid, however, should not be treated as a recommendation to buy, sell or hold the instruments issued by you.

You are also requested to forthwith inform us about any default or delay in repayment of interest or principal amount of the instrument rated, as above, or any other debt instruments/ borrowing and keep us informed of any other developments which may have a direct or indirect impact on the debt servicing capability of the company including any proposal for re-schedulement or postponement of the repayment programmes of the dues/ debts of the company with any lender(s) / investor(s). Further, you are requested to inform us immediately as and when the borrowing limit for the instrument rated, as above, or as prescribed by the regulatory authority(ies) is exceeded.

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Helpdesk: +91 9354738909



We thank you for your kind cooperation extended during the course of the rating exercise. Please let us know if you need any clarification.

We look forward to further strengthening our existing relationship and assure you of our best services.

With kind regards, Yours sincerely, For ICRA Limited

KARTHIK SRINIVASAN Date: 2023.08.09 11:12:29 +05'30'

Digitally signed by KARTHIK SRINIVASAN

#### **Karthik Srinivasan**

Senior Vice President Group Head – Financial Sector Ratings karthiks@icraindia.com



#### Annexure

## LIST OF ALL INSTRUMENT RATED (WITH AMOUNT OUTSTANDING)

Rated Instrument	Rated Amount (In Rs. crore)	Amount Outstanding (In Rs. crore)*	Rating Action
Subordinated debt	25.00	25.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive); rating reaffirmed, and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
Subordinated debt	50.00	50.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive); rating reaffirmed, and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
Subordinated debt	25.00	25.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive); rating reaffirmed, and outlook revised to Positive from Stable
Total	100.00	100.00	

\*Source: Company



Ref: ICRA/Arohan Financial Services Limited/14082023/1

**Date: August 14, 2023** 

Mr. Manoj Kumar Nambiar Managing Director Arohan Financial Services Limited PTI Building, 4th Floor, West Wing, DP Block, DP-9, Sector-V, Salt lake, Kolkata – 700 091

Dear Sir,

Re: ICRA Credit Rating for Rs. 25 crore Bank Lines of Arohan Financial Services Limited (instrument details in *Annexure*)

In terms of the Rating Agreement/Statement of Work executed between Arohan Financial Services Limited and ICRA Limited (ICRA), ICRA is required to review the rating, on an annual basis, or as and when the circumstances so warrant.

Based on a review of the latest developments, the Rating Committee of ICRA, after due consideration has reaffirmed the rating of your bank lines programme at [ICRA]A(CE) (pronounced as ICRA A Credit Enhancement). Instruments with this rating are considered to have adequate degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations. Such instruments carry low credit risk. The outlook of rating has been revised to Positive from Stable. The rating shall continue to be subject to adherence to all the conditions mentioned in our aforesaid rating communication letter dated March 31, 2022. The letters CE in parenthesis suffixed to the rating symbol stand for Credit Enhancement. A CE rating is specific to the rated issue, its terms, and its structure. CE ratings do not represent ICRA's opinion on the general credit quality of the issuers concerned.

The aforesaid Rating(s) will be due for surveillance any time before August 07, 2024. However, ICRA reserves the right to review and/or, revise the above Rating(s) at any time on the basis of new information becoming available, or the required information not being available, or other circumstances that ICRA believes could have an impact on the Rating(s). Therefore, request the lenders and Investors to visit ICRA website at www.icra.in for latest Rating(s) of the Company.

In any of your publicity material or other document wherever you are using our above rating, it should be stated as "[ICRA]A(CE)(Positive)".

ICRA shall not be held responsible for non-compliance with any of the stipulated terms and conditions as well as any errors or misrepresentations of facts made by the entity or the trustee.

ICRA reserves the right to review and or, revise the above ratings at any time on the basis of new information or unavailability of information or such other circumstances, which ICRA believes, may have an impact on the rating assigned to you. The ratings, as aforesaid, however, should not be treated as a recommendation to buy, sell or hold the instrument to be issued by you.

You are requested to forthwith inform us about any default or delay in repayment of interest or principal amount of the instrument rated, as above, or any other debt instruments/ borrowing, and are also requested to keep us informed of any other developments which may have a direct or indirect impact on the debt servicing capability

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Registered Office: B-710, Statesman House, 148, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110001. Tel.:+91.11.23357940-41



of the company including any proposal for re-schedulement or postponement of the repayment programmes of the dues/ debts of the company with any lender(s) / investor(s), or occurrence of any significant development that could impact the ability of the company to raise funds such as restriction imposed by any authority from raising funds through issuance of debt securities through electronic bidding system.

Further, you are requested to inform us immediately as and when the borrowing limit for the instrument/loan facility rated, as above, or as prescribed by the regulatory authority (ies) is exceeded.

We thank you for your kind cooperation extended during the course of the rating exercise. Should you require any clarification, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

We look forward to your communication and assure you of our best services.

With kind regards, Yours sincerely, For ICRA Limited



Digitally signed by KARTHIK SRINIVASAN Date: 2023.08.14 10:47:23 +05'30'

#### Karthik Srinivasan

Senior Vice President Group Head – Financial Sector Ratings karthiks@icraindia.com



#### Annexure

## **Details of Term Loan Rated by ICRA**

S.No.	Name of the Bank/Lender	Type of Facility, Amount	Rating Action
1	Hinduja Leyland Finance Limited	Term Loan,	[ICRA]A(CE)(Positive); rating reaffirmed, and
1		Rs. 25 crore	outlook revised to Positive from Stable
	Total	Rs. 25 crore	



Ref: ICRA/Arohan Financial Services Limited/14082023/2

**Date: August 14, 2023** 

Mr. Manoj Kumar Nambiar Managing Director Arohan Financial Services Limited PTI Building, 4th Floor, West Wing, DP Block, DP-9, Sector-V, Salt lake, Kolkata – 700 091

Dear Sir,

Re: Surveillance of ICRA-assigned Credit Rating for Rs. 2,718.73 crore Bank Facilities and Enhancement of Rs. 1,384.82 crore Bank Facilities of Arohan Financial Services Limited (instrument details in *Annexure*)

Please refer the Rating Agreement/Statement of Work between ICRA Limited ("ICRA") and your company, whereby, ICRA is required to review the ratings assigned to your company on an annual basis or as and when the circumstances so warrant. Further, please refer Statements of work dated July 25, 2023, seeking an enhancement of the captioned limits of bank facilities of your company from Rs. 2,718.73 crore to Rs. 4,103.55 crore.

Please note that the Rating Committee of ICRA, after due consideration, has reaffirmed the long-term rating outstanding on the Rs. 2,718.73 crore bank facilities of your company at [ICRA]A- (pronounced ICRA A minus) and outlook has been revised to Positive from Stable. Further, ICRA has assigned a long-term rating of [ICRA]A- (pronounced ICRA A minus) with Positive outlook to the enhanced bank facilities of Rs. 1,384.82 crore bank facilities. For Rating definition(s), please refer to ICRA website at www.icra.in.

In any of your publicity material or other document wherever you are using the above Rating(s), it should be stated as [ICRA]A-(Positive).

The aforesaid Rating(s) will be due for surveillance any time before August 7, 2024. However, ICRA reserves the right to review and/or, revise the above Rating(s) at any time on the basis of new information becoming available, or the required information not being available, or other circumstances that ICRA believes could have an impact on the Rating(s). Therefore, request the lenders and investors to visit ICRA website at <a href="www.icra.in">www.icra.in</a> for latest Rating(s) of the Company.

The Rating(s) are specific to the terms and conditions of the bank facilities as indicated to us by you, and any change in the terms or size of the same would require a review of the Rating(s) by us. In case there is any change in the terms and conditions or the size of the rated bank facilities, the same must be brought to our notice before the bank facilities is used by you. In the event such changes occur after the Ratings have been assigned by us and their use has been confirmed by you, the Ratings would be subject to our review, following which there could be a change in the Ratings previously assigned. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any change in the overall limit of the bank facilities from that specified in the first paragraph of this letter would constitute an enhancement that would not be covered by or under the said Rating Agreement.

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CIN : L749999DL1991PLC042749 Email: info@icraindia.com
Helpdesk: +91 9354738909



ICRA reserves the right to review and/or, revise the above Rating(s) at any time on the basis of new information becoming available, or the required information not being available, or other circumstances that ICRA believes could have an impact on the Rating(s) assigned.

The Rating(s) assigned must be understood solely as an opinion and should not be treated, or cause to be treated, as recommendation to buy, sell, or hold the rated bank facilities availed/issued by your Company.

The Rating(s) assigned to the bank facilities of your Company shall require revalidation if there is any change in the size or structure of the rated facilities.

You are also requested to forthwith inform us about any default or delay in repayment of interest or principal amount of the instrument rated, as above, or any other debt instruments/ borrowing and keep us informed of any other developments which may have a direct or indirect impact on the debt servicing capability of the company including any proposal for re-schedulement or postponement of the repayment programmes of the dues/ debts of the Company with any lender(s) / investor(s). Further, you are requested to inform us immediately as and when the borrowing limit for the instrument rated, as above, or as prescribed by the regulatory authority(ies) is exceeded.

We look forward to your communication and assure you of our best services.

With kind regards, Yours sincerely, For ICRA Limited

KARTHIK Digitally signed by KARTHIK SRINIVASAN Date: 2023.08.14 10:48:45 +05'30'

#### Karthik Srinivasan

Senior Vice President Group Head – Financial Sector Ratings karthiks@icraindia.com



#### Annexure

#### **Instrument Details**

Details of Bank Limits Rated by ICRA (Rated on Long-Term Scale)	Amount (Rs. crore)*	Rating	Rating Assigned/ Reaffirmed on
Cash Credit			
Axis Bank Limited	30.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Federal Bank Limited	5.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
IDFC First Bank Limited	30.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Indian Bank	10.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Term Loan			
Axis Bank Limited	100.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Bandhan Bank Limited	253.41	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Bank of Baroda	114.21	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited	65.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
ESAF Small Finance Bank Limited	11.67	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Federal Bank Limited	77.08	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Hero Fincorp Limited	23.12	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Hinduja Leyland Finance Limited	21.90	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
HSBC Limited	222.86	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
ICICI Bank Limited	75.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited	144.79	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Indian Bank	50.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
IndusInd Bank Ltd.	174.98	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
International Finance Corporation	99.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Kisetsu Saison Finance (India) Private Limited	43.75	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Kookmin Bank	62.25	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited	44.87	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited	61.15	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Manappuram Finance Limited	31.96	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Limited	69.85	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development	64.50	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Nabkisan Finance Limited	28.75	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Nabsamruddhi Finance Limited	65.24	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Northern Arc Capital Limited	77.58	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Maanaveeya Development & Finance Private Limited	11.25	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Piramal Enterprises Limited	47.92	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited	7.72	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Small Industries Development Bank of India	355.00	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Standard Chartered Bank	273.88	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
State Bank of India	464.98	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Union Bank of India	81.82	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Vivriti Capital Private Limited	38.33	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Woori Bank	38.75	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Unallocated long term bank facilities	725.98	[ICRA]A-(Positive)	August 8, 2023
Total	4,103.55		

\*Source: Company