

Press Release

Soongachi Tea Industries Private Limited

February 24, 2023



Rating Reaffirmed and Issuer not co-operating

Product	Quantum (Rs. Cr)	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating
Bank Loan Ratings	12.41	ACUITE B+ Reaffirmed Issuer not co-operating*	-
Bank Loan Ratings	0.75	-	ACUITE A4 Reaffirmed Issuer not co-operating*
Total Outstanding Quantum (Rs. Cr)	13.16	-	-

Rating Rationale

Acuite has reaffirmed the long-term rating of '**ACUITE B+**' (read as **ACUITE B Plus**) and the short term rating of '**ACUITE A4**' (read as **ACUITE A four**) on the Rs 13.16 crore bank facilities of Soongachi Tea Industries Private Limited. The rating continues to be flagged as "Issuer NotCooperating" and is based on the best available information.

About the Company

Calcutta based, Soongachi Tea Industries Private Limited was incorporated in 1970 and is engaged in manufacturing and blending of tea under the brand name 'Sona'. Soongachi Tea Industries Private Limited owns a tea estate at Mal Bazar in Jalpaiguru District (West Bengal) with ~ 3500 acres of gross plantation area of which ~1550 acres are under tea. The company, in addition to own plantation, procures green leaves from other estates in the vicinity and readymade tea from auction centres for blending. The company has an annual installed capacity to produce ~40 lac kg of tea. Currently, the operations are managed by Mr. B K Saria, Mr. Ghanshyam Das Agarwal, Mr. Shiv Saria Kumar and Mr. S. Changoiwala.

Non-cooperation by the issuer/borrower:

Acuite has been requesting for data, information and undertakings from the rated entity for conducting surveillance & review of the rating. However, the issuer/borrower failed to submit such information before the due date.

Acuite believes that information risk is a critical component in such ratings, and non-cooperation by the issuer along with unwillingness to provide information could be a sign of potential deterioration in its overall credit quality.

This rating is, therefore, being flagged as "Issuer not-cooperating", in line with prevailing SEBI regulations and Acuite's policies.

Limitation regarding information availability:

The rating is based on information available from sources other than the issuer/borrower (in the absence of information provided by the issuer/borrower). Acuite endeavoured to gather information about the entity/industry from the public domain. Therefore, Acuite cautions enders and investors regarding the use of such information, on which the indicative credit ratings is based.

Rating Sensitivity

"No information provided by the issuer / available for Acuite to comment upon."

Material Covenants

Not Applicable

Liquidity Position

"No information provided by the issuer / available for Acuite to comment upon."

Outlook

Not Applicable

Other Factors affecting Rating

Not Applicable

Key Financials

Particulars	Unit	FY 22 (Actual)	FY 21 (Actual)
Operating Income	Rs. Cr.	54.95	64.43
PAT	Rs. Cr.	1.11	2.55
PAT Margin	(%)	2.01	3.96
Total Debt/Tangible Net Worth	Times	1.39	1.55
PBDIT/Interest	Times	2.34	3.33

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA

Not Applicable

Any other information

Acuite is yet to receive the latest No Default Statement (NDS) from the rated entity, despite repeated requests and follow-ups.

Applicable Criteria

- Infrastructure Sector: <https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-51.htm>
- Default Recognition: <https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-52.htm>
- Application Of Financial Ratios And Adjustments: <https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-53.htm>

Note on Complexity Levels of the Rated Instrument

In order to inform the investors about complexity of instruments, Acuite has categorized such instruments in three levels: Simple, Complex and Highly Complex. Acuite's categorisation of the instruments across the three categories is based on factors like variability of the returns to the investors, uncertainty in cash flow patterns, number of counterparties and general understanding of the instrument by the market. It has to be understood that complexity is different from credit risk and even an instrument categorized as 'Simple' can carry high levels of risk. For more details, please refer Rating Criteria "Complexity Level Of Financial Instruments" on www.acuite.in.

Rating History

Date	Name of Instruments/Facilities	Term	Amount (Rs. Cr)	Rating/Outlook
30 Nov 2021	Term Loan	Long Term	0.37	ACUITE B+ (Issuer not co-operating*)
	Bank Guarantee	Short Term	0.75	ACUITE A4 (Issuer not co-operating*)
	Cash Credit	Long Term	12.04	ACUITE B+ (Issuer not co-operating*)
27 Aug 2020	Cash Credit	Long Term	12.04	ACUITE B+ (Downgraded and Issuer not co-operating*)
	Term Loan	Long Term	0.37	ACUITE B+ (Downgraded and Issuer not co-operating*)
	Bank Guarantee	Short Term	0.75	ACUITE A4 (Issuer not co-operating*)

Annexure - Details of instruments rated

Lender's Name	ISIN	Facilities	Date Of Issuance	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date	Complexity Level	Quantum (Rs. Cr.)	Rating
Punjab National Bank	Not Applicable	Bank Guarantee/Letter of Guarantee	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Simple	0.75	ACUITE A4 Reaffirmed Issuer not co-operating*
Punjab National Bank	Not Applicable	Cash Credit	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Simple	12.04	ACUITE B+ Reaffirmed Issuer not co-operating*
Punjab National Bank	Not Applicable	Term Loan	Not available	Not available	20 Jan 2020	Simple	0.37	ACUITE B+ Reaffirmed Issuer not co-operating*

Contacts

Analytical	Rating Desk
Pooja Ghosh Vice President-Rating Operations Tel: 022-49294041 pooja.ghosh@acuite.in Abhishek Singh Analyst-Rating Operations Tel: 022-49294065 abhishek.s@acuite.in	Varsha Bist Senior Manager-Rating Operations Tel: 022-49294011 rating.desk@acuite.in

About Acuité Ratings & Research

Acuité is a full-service Credit Rating Agency registered with the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The company received RBI Accreditation as an External Credit Assessment Institution (ECAI) for Bank Loan Ratings under BASEL-II norms in the year 2012. Acuité has assigned ratings to various securities, debt instruments and bank facilities of entities spread across the country and across a wide cross section of industries. It has its Registered and Head Office in Kanjurmarg, Mumbai.

Disclaimer: An Acuité rating does not constitute an audit of the rated entity and should not be treated as a recommendation or opinion that is intended to substitute for a financial adviser's or investor's independent assessment of whether to buy, sell or hold any security. Ratings assigned by Acuité are based on the data and information provided by the issuer and obtained from other reliable sources. Although reasonable care has been taken to ensure that the data and information is true, Acuité, in particular, makes no representation or warranty, expressed or implied with respect to the adequacy, accuracy or completeness of the information relied upon. Acuité is not responsible for any errors or omissions and especially states that it has no financial liability whatsoever for any direct, indirect or consequential loss of any kind, arising from the use of its ratings. Ratings assigned by Acuité are subject to a process of surveillance which may lead to a revision in ratings as and when the circumstances so warrant. Please visit our website (www.acuite.in) for the latest information on any instrument rated by Acuité.