



Press Release
EDEL Finance Company Limited
June 07, 2024
Rating Reaffirmed

Product	Quantum (Rs. Cr)	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating
Non Convertible Debentures (NCD)	200.00	ACUITE A+ Reaffirmed Rating Watch with Negative Implications	-
Commercial Paper (CP)	650.00	-	ACUITE A1+ Reaffirmed Rating Watch with Negative Implications
Total Outstanding Quantum (Rs. Cr)	850.00	-	-

Rating Rationale

Acuite has reaffirmed its long-term rating of '**ACUITE A+**' (read as **ACUITE A Plus**) on the Rs.200.00 Cr. non convertible debentures of EDEL FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED. The rating is now under watch with Negative Implications.

Acuite has assigned its short-term rating of '**ACUITE A1+**' (read as **ACUITE A One Plus**) on the Rs.650.00 Cr. commercial paper of EDEL FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED. The rating is now under watch with Negative Implications.

Rationale for the rating:

The rating watch with negative implication is on account of material supervisory concern raised by RBI as it has directed ECL Finance Ltd (ECL) to cease and desist, with immediate effect, from undertaking any structured transactions in respect of its wholesale exposures, other than repayment and/ or closure of accounts in its normal course of business and Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (EARCL) to cease and desist from acquisition of financial assets including security receipts (SRs) and reorganising the existing SRs into senior and subordinate tranches.

Acuite has discussed these issues with the Edelweiss management and understand that the impact on the wholesale lending business for Edelweiss group would be minimal as the company is already in the process of running down the whole book for last three years. With regards to ARC, AUM of the Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company (EARC) stood at ₹31,590 crore as on March 31, 2024 against ₹37,111 crore as on March 31, 2023. Acuite believes that ARC business can be significantly impacted on account of no new fresh acquisitions and the ambiguity around the valuation of the SRs. The company intends to be fully compliant on the regulatory observations and hence is expected to submit the plan of action to regulators by 9th June 2024.

Acuite will keep on monitoring the same for its implications on the operational and financial performance of the company along with impact on financial flexibility.

The rating derives its strength on account of increase in earnings from operating activities which stood at Rs. 528.04 Cr. in FY24 from Rs. 405.56 Cr. in FY23. The earning profile is largely supported by fair value gains from asset revaluation. The management continues to focus

primarily on fee-based businesses, accordingly, there has been a consistent decline in the group loan book along with ongoing concerns on the asset quality of the existing lending

portfolio, particularly its wholesale book which is concentrated towards real estate assets. The stage 3 assets in the lending portfolio stood at Rs. 720 Cr(13.00%) as on March 31, 2024 from Rs. 794 Cr. (10.52%) as on March 31, 2023 (As per the revised data provided by the group).

Nevertheless, the rating continues to factor Edelweiss Group's established track record in financial services, adequate capitalization levels and comfortable liquidity profile. The rating takes cognizance of the Group's strategic intent on re-building its retail loan franchise with focus on the co-origination model, which will keep it asset light and provides granularity to loan portfolio. The rating factors in the growth in the Mutual Fund AUM, Alternative assets and the growth in number of policies issued in the insurance business. Acuité also notes that the insurance business has reached an Embedded Value breakeven, but it is expected to take a few more years and infusions from the parent before turning profitable. The rating also takes into consideration the group's reducing debt and demonstrated resource raising ability. Acuité believes demonstrating sustainable improvement in profitability from the regular course of business operations and revenue streams in the evolving operating environment along with improvement in the asset quality would remain key rating monitorable.

About the Company

Edel Finance Company Limited ('the Company') a public limited company domiciled and incorporated under the provisions applicable in India under the Companies Act, 1956. The Company was incorporated on October 16, 1989 and is wholly owned subsidiary of Edelweiss Financial Services Limited. The Company was primarily engaged in the business of lending and investment and is registered with the Reserve Bank of India ('RBI') as a Systematically Important Non-Deposit taking Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC-ND-SI). Company got converted to Core Investment Company as NBFC-CIC-ND-SI on 09th October 2018.

About the Group

Headquartered in Mumbai, Edelweiss Financial Services Limited (EFSL), the holding company of Edelweiss Group, was incorporated in 1995 and has diversified its line of operations across various fund based and non-fund-based businesses. Edelweiss Group is promoted by Mr. Rashesh Shah and Mr. Venkat Ramaswamy and offers a bouquet of financial services to a diversified client base across domestic and global geographies. Its key line of business includes Credit (retail and corporate), Asset Management, Asset Reconstruction, Insurance (life and general) and Wealth management including Capital Markets. The Edelweiss Group comprises Edelweiss Financial Services Limited, 30 subsidiaries and associates as on March 31, 2023. Post divestment of significant stake in wealth management business, the number of subsidiaries and associate companies have changed. Edelweiss group has a pan India presence with a global footprint extending across geographies with offices in New York, Mauritius, Dubai, Singapore, Hong Kong and UK.

Unsupported Rating

Not Applicable

Analytical Approach

Extent of Consolidation

- Full Consolidation

Rationale for Consolidation or Parent / Group / Govt. Support

Acuité has adopted a consolidated approach on Edelweiss Financial Services Limited (EFSL) along with its 30 subsidiaries and associates as on March 31, 2023, collectively referred to as 'Edelweiss group'. The approach is driven by common promoters, shared brand name, significant operational and financial synergies between the companies. Acuité has rated secured NCDs as well as perpetual NCDs issued by Edelweiss group companies. It is pertinent to note that, Unsecured Subordinated Non-Convertible Debentures (i.e. Perpetual NCDs) are rated at a lower level vis-à-vis the regular secured debt instruments. This is in view of the

significant loss absorption characteristics associated with these perpetual instruments. The issuer may be required to skip/defer the coupon/interest payment in case of certain events such as decline in CAR below regulatory thresholds.

Key Rating Drivers

Strength

Strong parentage

Edelweiss Group is promoted by Mr. Rashesh Shah and Mr. Venkat Ramaswamy, who are seasoned professionals in the financial services industry with over two decades of experience. The promoters are supported by experienced professionals who are into financing, wealth, and asset management businesses. The group has a diverse business profile in financial services with presence in segments such as retail credit (including agri-finance), wholesale lending, warehousing services, asset reconstruction, asset management and insurance business. The various verticals of the group as mentioned above are now under the following broad categories i.e. Credit (retail and corporate), Asset Management, Asset Reconstruction and Insurance (life and general). The Group had consolidated loan book of Rs. 4854 Cr as on March 31, 2024 as against Rs 6907 Cr which retail credit is Rs. 3347 Cr and wholesale credit at Rs.593 Cr. The wholesale segment comprised loans to realtors and structured Credit.

The Group has been attempting to gradually increase its exposure to retail segment and has entered in to deals with multiple banks for lending under co-origination model. It has taken several steps to reduce its exposure to the wholesale segment and reorient the portfolio toward small and mid-corporate lending segments. Besides the fund-based activities, Edelweiss Group also has an established franchise in asset management. The group had completed sale of its majority stake in wealth management business to PAG. As on March 31, 2023, the group had customer assets of about Rs.4,13,800 Cr. (about Rs. 3,57,700 Cr. as on March 31,2022). Most of the businesses of the group present significant synergies amongst themselves and growth potential both on the assets and liabilities side. The access to a pool of HNIs can be leveraged to create fund-based structures which can be utilized to support the AUM growth of the group. Acuité believes Edelweiss group's established position in financial services and diversified range of fee and fund-based product offerings will continue to support its business risk profile.

Diversified funding profile

The group's financial flexibility is supported by its demonstrated ability to mobilise resources from diversified set of investors across domestic banks, Institutional investors and lenders, foreign investors and domestic retail investors amongst others. The Group has attracted investments from reputed international investors such as CDPQ (Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec), and PAG Asia. In the past, the Group also raised capital from KORA Management and Sanaka Capital. In July 2021, the Group announced stake sale of 70%, subject to regulatory approvals, in its insurance broking business to existing investor, Gallagher Insurance for consideration of ~Rs.308 Cr. As on March 31, 2023, borrowings stood at Rs.21,736 Cr. (borrowings adjusted for CBLOs and compulsorily convertible debentures stood at Rs.19,263 Cr). The group has raised ~Rs. 7909 Cr. in FY23 through public and private NCDs, Structured NCDs, CPs and bank borrowings. Acuité expects the Group to continue to benefit from diversified funding mix across domestic banks, Institutional investors and lenders, foreign investors and domestic retail investors amongst others.

Adequate gearing levels and liquidity buffer

The Group's net worth stood at Rs. 6,744 Cr. as on March 31, 2023 (Rs. 6,537 Cr. as on March 31,2022).As on March 31,2024 the Group's net worth stood at Rs.6049.29 Cr. Concomitantly, capital adequacy of the NBFC business stood at 34.3 percent and HFC stood at 32 percent as on March 31, 2023.

Weakness

Moderate earning profile

The Group reported profit after tax of Rs. 528.04 Cr in FY2024 which improved against 405.55 Cr from FY2023 and Rs. 212.07 Cr. in FY2022.The earning profile continued its dependency on fair

value gains from asset revaluation and sale of businesses. The group have been reporting modest ROA, which has continuously been less than 1.00%. Acuité also takes notes of several measures taken by the Group to rationalize cost and improve profitability including co-origination model for building retail portfolio and focus on non-fund business streams. Acuité believes that Group's ability to sustain improvement in earnings profile from regular course of business in the current operating environment coupled with the intense competition in the retail segment will be key rating monitorable.

Constant pressure on asset quality

While the decline in loan book continued, the asset quality indicators worsened due to a lower base. As per the revised data, the Group's Gross stage 3 assets (GNPAs) at Rs 720 Cr (13.00% of lending book) on March 31, 2024 as against Rs. 794 Cr (10.52% of lending book) on March 31, 2023. The NNPA stood at Rs 125 Cr (2.25%) and the provisioning stood at Rs. 156 Cr. (2.06 % of lending book). As on September 30, 2023, the Gross Stage 3 further moderated to 12.12 percent on account of degrowth in the book. Given that ~31% of the lending portfolio is still in the stage 2 bucket and the vulnerability in the wholesale lending book due to the exposure to real estate sector, the pressure on asset quality is likely to remain. The top 20 exposures accounted for ~30% of the overall loan book. The group's wholesale segment mostly comprises exposures to real estate developers for their projects. The cash flows of these realtors and the quality of these exposures is linked to the revival in the real estate cycle. The group has already initiated steps to prune its exposure to the wholesale segment through various initiatives such as slowing down fresh sanctions and sell down of existing assets to dedicated funds and ARCs. Acuité believes that the Group's ability to attain any significant improvement in asset quality amidst current economic environment will remain a key rating sensitivity.

Reduced diversity of the group business

There is a shift from the fund-based business model to non-fund based business by the group. This has impacted the revenue streams of the group. Owing to the stake sale, the share wealth business (EWM) has been diluted to ~44 percent and after the issuance of share to Edelweiss shareholders it will be further diluted to ~14 percent by the end of August, 2023. The insurance business has a long gestation period. The income streams from the capital based business of the group has been generating losses continuously. This provides less stability to the income profile of the group where the ARC business, which is the key driver, is susceptible to the cyclicity and volatility of the industry and regulatory environment.

ESG Factors Relevant for Rating

Edelweiss Group offers a bouquet of financial services to a diversified client base across domestic and global geographies. The Group has presence in segments such as retail credit (including agri-finance), wholesale lending, warehousing services, asset reconstruction, asset management and insurance business. Adoption and upkeep of strong business ethics is a sensitive material issue for the financial services business linked to capital markets to avoid fraud, insider trading and other anti-competitive behaviour. Other important governance issues relevant for the industry include management and board compensation, board independence as well as diversity, shareholder rights and role of audit committee. As regards the social factors, product or service quality has high materiality so as to minimise misinformation about the products to the customers and reduce reputational risks. For the industry, retention, and development of skilled manpower along with equal opportunity for employees is crucial. While data security is highly relevant due to company's access to confidential client information, social initiatives such as enhancing financial literacy and improving financial inclusion are fairly important for the financial services sector. The material of environmental factors is low for this industry.

Edelweiss Group's board comprises of eight directors with two women directors. Of the total eight directors, four are independent directors. The Group maintains adequate disclosures for business ethics which can be inferred from its policies relating to code of conduct, whistle blower protection and related party transactions. The Group has formed a Risk Committee with four out of five members being independent directors for among other things, identifying and evaluating risks and development, implementing and tracking risk management efforts.

All the members of Audit Committee are independent directors. For redressal of grievances of the security holders, it has constituted a Stakeholders' Relationship Committee. The Group also has a committee for appointment, remuneration and performance evaluation of the Board. On the social aspect, the Group has taken development and training initiatives towards career development of its employees. The Group has put in place data privacy policy to ensure adequate safeguards for collection, storage and processing of personal and sensitive information and data of customers and third parties. Further, the Group has set up EdelGive foundation, a grant-making foundation which is funding and supporting the growth of small to mid-sized grassroots NGOs committed to empowering vulnerable children, women, and communities. Over the last 13 years, EdelGive has supported over 150 organizations across 111 districts in 14 states of India.

Rating Sensitivity

- Movement in earning profile indicated through RoAA
- Growth in AUM for retail lending
- Movement in the asset quality and collection efficiency
- Movement in cost of borrowings and liquidity buffers
- Changes in Regulatory environment

Liquidity Position Adequate

EFSL's liquidity profile is supported by the group's centralised treasury operations and adequate liquidity position. The group has demonstrated the ability to raise medium to long term funding from banks/capital markets which should support the Group's ability to plug any possible mismatches. The Group's liquidity profile is supported by funding from diversified base i.e. banks and financial institutions along with capital market instruments like CBLO borrowings, Commercial Papers and NCDs.

Outlook: Not Applicable

Other Factors affecting Rating

None

Key Financials - Standalone / Originator

Particulars	Unit	FY24 (Actual)	FY23 (Actual)
Total Assets	Rs. Cr.	7351.5	4179.23
Total Income*	Rs. Cr.	28.28	92.1
PAT	Rs. Cr.	79.16	65.4
Net Worth	Rs. Cr.	1637.89	1523.51
Return on Average Assets (RoAA)	(%)	1.37	1.83
Return on Average Net Worth (RoNW)	(%)	5.01	4.7
Debt/Equity	Times	3.54	1.76
Gross NPA	(%)	-	-
Net NPA	(%)	-	-

*Total income equals to Net Interest Income plus other income
Ratios as per Acuité calculations

Key Financials (Consolidated)

Particulars	Unit	FY24 (Actual)	FY23 (Actual)
Total Assets	Rs. Cr.	41373.10	42852.70
Total Income*	Rs. Cr.	6815.70	6058.02
PAT	Rs. Cr.	528.04	405.56
Net Worth	Rs. Cr.	6049.29	7846.23
Return on Average Assets (RoAA)	(%)	1.25	0.95

Return on Average Net Worth (RoNW)	(%)	7.61	5.26
Debt/Equity**	Times	3.37	2.78
Gross NPA	(%)	13.00	10.52
Net NPA	(%)	2.25	2.06

*Total income equals to Net Interest Income plus other income
Ratios as per Acuité calculations

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA (if applicable)

Not Applicable

Any Other Information

None

Applicable Criteria

- Non-Banking Financing Entities: <https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-44.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>
- Consolidation Of Companies: <https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-60.htm>

Note on Complexity Levels of the Rated Instrument

In order to inform the investors about complexity of instruments, Acuité 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
12 Dec 2023	Non-Convertible Debentures (NCD)	Long Term	200.00	ACUITE A+ Stable (Reaffirmed)
	Proposed Commercial Paper Program	Short Term	650.00	ACUITE A1+ (Assigned)
20 Jul 2023	Non-Convertible Debentures (NCD)	Long Term	200.00	ACUITE A+ Stable (Reaffirmed)
04 Jul 2023	Non-Convertible Debentures (NCD)	Long Term	200.00	ACUITE A+ Stable (Downgraded from ACUITE AA- Negative)
05 Aug 2022	Proposed Non Convertible Debentures	Long Term	200.00	ACUITE AA- Negative (Downgraded from ACUITE AA Negative)
25 May 2022	Proposed Non Convertible Debentures	Long Term	200.00	ACUITE AA Negative (Assigned)

Annexure - Details of instruments rated

Lender's Name	ISIN	Facilities	Date Of Issuance	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date	Complexity Level	Quantum (Rs. Cr.)	Rating
Not Applicable	INE836K07015	Non-Convertible Debentures (NCD)	27 Jun 2022	10.18	27 Apr 2027	Simple	200.00	ACUITE A+ Reaffirmed Rating Watch with Negative Implications
Not Applicable	Not avl. / Not appl.	Proposed Commercial Paper Program	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Simple	650.00	ACUITE A1+ Reaffirmed Rating Watch with Negative Implications

*Annexure 2 - List of Entities (applicable for Consolidation or Parent / Group / Govt. Support)

Sr. No.	Company Name
1	Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited
2	Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Broking Limited)
3	Nuvama Wealth Finance Limited (Erstwhile Edelweiss Finance and Investments Limited)
4	Edelweiss Asset Management Limited (EAML)
5	Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Company Limited (ETLI)
6	ZUNO General Insurance Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss General Insurance Company Limited)
7	Edelweiss Gallagher Insurance Brokers Limited (EGIBL)
8	Edelweiss Rural & Corporate Services Limited
9	EdelGive Foundation
10	Allium Finance Private Limited
11	Edelcap Securitites Limited
12	Edelweiss Securitites and Investments Private Limited
13	ECAP Securities & Investments Limited (Formerly known as ECAP Equities Limited)
14	Edel Investments Limited
15	EC International Limited
16	Comtrade Commodities Services Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Comtrade limited)
17	Edelweiss Multi Strategy Fund Advisors LLP
18	Edelweiss Private Equity Tech Fund
19	Edelweiss Value and Growth Fund
20	India Credit Investment Fund II
21	India Credit Investment Fund III
22	Nuvama Investment Advisors LLC (Formerly known as EAAA LLC)
23	Edelweiss Alternative Asset Advisors Pte. Limited

24	Edelweiss Investment Adviser Limited
25	Edelweiss Resolution Advisors LLP
26	EW Special Opportunities Advisors LLC
27	Edelweiss Trusteeship Company Limited
28	Edelweiss International (Singapore) Pte. Limited
29	Nuvama Custodial Services Limited (Formerly known as Edelweiss Capital Services Limited)
30	Edelweiss Retail Assets Managers Limited
31	Sekura India Management Limited
32	Edelweiss Global Wealth Management Limited
33	Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (Formerly known as Edelweiss Securitites Limited)
34	Nuvama Clearing Services Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Custodial Services Limited)
35	Nuvama Financial Services Inc. (Formerly known as Edelweiss Financial Services Inc.)
36	Nuvama Investment Advisors Private Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Investment Advisors Private Limited)
37	Nuvama Investment Advisors (Hongkong) Private Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities (Hong Kong) Private Limited)
38	Nuvama Financial Services (UK) Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Financial Services (UK) Limited)
39	Nuvama Capital Services (IFSC) Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securitities (IFSC) Limited)
40	Nuvama Asset Management Limited (Formerly known as ESL Securitites Limited)
41	Pickright Technologies Private Limited

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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.

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