



Press Release
STPL HORTICULTURE PRIVATE LIMITED
July 29, 2025
Rating Reaffirmed

Product	Quantum (Rs. Cr)	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating
Bank Loan Ratings	12.21	ACUITE BBB- Stable Reaffirmed	-
Total Outstanding Quantum (Rs. Cr)	12.21	-	-
Total Withdrawn Quantum (Rs. Cr)	0.00	-	-

Rating Rationale

Acuite has reaffirmed the long-term rating of '**ACUITE BBB-**' (read as **ACUITE triple B minus**) on the Rs.12.21 Cr. bank facilities of STPL Horticulture Private Limited (SHPL). The outlook is '**Stable**'.

Rationale for rating

The rating reaffirmation considers the long-standing experience of Refex group in renewable energy segment, presence of long term PPAs with multiple off takers, stable payment track record from its off takers, diversified customer base with nominal geographical concentration risk. Further, the rating also considers the presence of co-obligator structure and cash pooling mechanism for servicing of debt obligations. However, the rating remained constrained by moderate financial risk profile and susceptibility of power generation to climate risk.

About the Company

Tamil Nadu Based, STPL Horticulture Private Limited (SHPL) was incorporated in 2015 as a special purpose vehicle for the purpose to develop, execute, manage and operate solar power generation project. It is promoted by Mr. Maharshi Maitra, Mr. Kalpesh Kumar and Mr. Thirunavukarasu Manikandan.

About the Group

Refex Group- Solar SPVs comprises of four SPVs namely Engender Developers Private Limited, Sherisha Rooftop Solar SPV Three P, Rivate Limited, Sherisha Solar SPV Two Private Limited and STPL Horticulture Private Limited. Directors of these SPVs are Mr. Patrik Vijay Kumar Francis Arun Kumar, Mr. Thirunavukarasu Manikandan, Mr. Maharshi Maitra, Mr. Saravanan Vasanthakumar, Mr. Kalpesh Kumar and Mr. Sachin Navtosh Jha. All the SPVs are engaged in developing, executing, managing and operating solar power projects at various locations.

Unsupported Rating

Not Applicable

Analytical Approach

Extent of Consolidation

• Full Consolidation

Rationale for Consolidation or Parent / Group / Govt. Support

Acuite has consolidated the business and financial risk profiles of Engender Developers Private Limited, STPL Horticulture Private Limited, Sherisha Rooftop Solar SPV Three Private Limited, and Sherisha Solar SPV Two Private Limited, referred to as the Refex Group-Solar SPVs (RGS). We have consolidated the cash flows of the four SPVs as there exists a co-obligator structure wherein through existence of separate TRA accounts maintained with the banker, all the proceeds / receivables / cash flows of the Project shall be routed. In case of any deficiency

in debt servicing by any or multiple entities, the combined pool of cash flows will be utilized towards debt servicing.

Key Rating Drivers

Strengths

Extensive experience of the management and established presence in renewable energy segment

Refex group-Solar SPVs (RGS) comprises of four SPVs which are part of Refex group. These projects are ~99.99 per cent owned by Refex Green Power Limited and Sherisha Solar LLP wherein ultimate holding company is Refex Renewables & Infrastructure Ltd (RRIL, erstwhile SubEdison Infrastructure Limited), which is held 44 per cent by Refex Holding Private Limited (Erstwhile Sherisha Technologies Private Limited). Refex group is involved in business of Refrigerant Gases, Renewable Energy Utility Grade EPC projects, O&M of Solar Power Plants, Solar IPP businesses & Ash Disposal Management, Power Trading and Trading of Coal. Refex Group follows conservative approach towards its capital management and manages the operations majorly through equity and internal accruals. RGS entered into 25 years long term purchase power agreements (PPA) with around 70 off takers mitigating both demand and price risk associated with the projects. PLF of projects under the four SPVs remained in the range of 12 to 17 percent in FY25 (Prov.) and FY24. Since all the four SPVs are integral part of the Refex Group, it is expected to manage the O&M activity, which will ensure efficient operational metrics of the RGS.

Acuité believes that the presence of strong management, assured off-take, a long-term PPA, and moderate counterparty receivable risk expected to keep the business risk profile stable over the medium term.

Low geographical and customer concentration risks

RGS has total installed capacity of 13.38 MWs installed across locations of 70 off takers with PPA arrangements for 25 years with all the off takers. Projects under RGS are spread across India depicting low geographical concentration risk. RGS off takers are mixture of both public and private entities depicting low customer concentration risk.

Presence of DSRA and Co-obligator structure

The bank facilities availed by RGS are backed by a Debt Service Reserve Account (DSRA) in the form of a fixed deposit, equivalent to two quarter's interest and principal for servicing the debt obligation. In addition, the bank facilities are supported by separate trust and retention account (TRA) for each SPV, through which all receipts from the SPVs shall be routed. Further, there is a cash sweep clause, which allows the lender to utilise the surplus amount in the TRA account towards the prepayment of the debt undertaken by the company. Furthermore, there is a co-obligator structure which allows to fill the shortfall in debt repayment in any of the SPV by other SPVs involved in the structure. In addition to above the ultimate holding company Refex Holding Private Limited (RHPL) extended its corporate guarantee to the debt availed by RGS. Acuité believes, the structure associated with the debt ensures timely repayment of the debt obligations over the medium term.

Weaknesses

Moderate financial risk profile

The financial risk profile of the RGS is moderate considering high gearing, moderate networth and coverage ratios. The gearing of the group stood high at 5.69 times as on March'25(Prov.) as against 5.11 times as on March'2024 and 6.01 times as on March'2023. The total debt of the group stood at Rs.38.90 Cr. as on March 31st 2025(Prov.) which consists of a long term debt of Rs.19.59 Cr, unsecured loans of Rs.18.22 Cr. and current portion of long term debt (CPLTD) of Rs.1.27 Cr. However, RGS's cash flows remain sufficient to meet its debt obligations, as evidenced by above unity average DSCR of 1.53 times during the tenure of the loan and the exercise of a cash sweep in prior years for prepayment of debt. Acuité believes that the financial risk profile of the company will remain moderate over the medium term on account of the stable operating performance of the solar plant over the years.

Susceptibility of operating performance to climatic risks

The performance of the solar plant is highly dependent on favourable climatic conditions, including solar radiation levels, which have a direct impact on the plant load factor (PLF). Acuité believes that the company's business profile and financial profile can be adversely impacted by the presence of inherent climate risk and regulatory risk in any instances of tariff revision. In FY2025 (Prov.) the average plant load factor (PLF) declined to 14.01 per cent as compared to 14.47 per cent in FY2024.

Assessment of Adequacy of Credit Enhancement under various scenarios including stress scenarios (applicable for ratings factoring specified support considerations with or without the "CE" suffix)

RGS maintains a Debt Service Reserve Account (DSRA) equivalent to 2 quarters of principal and interest payments along with ESCROW mechanism.

Stress case Scenario

Acuité believes that, given the presence of 2 quarters of DSRA and waterfall payment in ESCROW mechanism, RGS will be able to service its debt on time, even in a stress scenario

Rating Sensitivities

- Substantial improvement in PLF while maintaining profitability margins over the medium term.

- Sustainable improvement in Leverage and Solvency position of the group.
- Significant deterioration in plant load factor (PLF) leading to lower-than-expected PLF.
- Delays in receivables from the off takers, leading to a deterioration in working capital cycle and liquidity profile of the group.

Liquidity Position

Adequate

RGS liquidity is adequate marked by moderate generation of net cash accruals to its maturing debt obligations. The liquidity position of the company is adequately supported by presence of Trust and retention account (TRA) to monitor the cash flows generated from the projects, presence of waterfall mechanism, presence of 2-quarters equivalent Debt Service Reserve Account (DSRA) in the form of a fixed deposit for interest and principal repayment obligation coupled. The DSCR is expected to remain above unity with average DSCR at ~1.53 times until the tenure of the loans.

Outlook: Stable

Other Factors affecting Rating

None

Key Financials

Particulars	Unit	FY 25 (Provisional)	FY 24 (Actual)
Operating Income	Rs. Cr.	6.68	6.11
PAT	Rs. Cr.	(0.43)	(1.23)
PAT Margin	(%)	(6.50)	(20.08)
Total Debt/Tangible Net Worth	Times	5.69	5.11
PBDIT/Interest	Times	1.44	1.28

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

Not Applicable

Any Other Information

None

Applicable Criteria

- 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>
- Default Recognition: <https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-52.htm>
- Infrastructure Sector: <https://www.acuite.in/view-rating-criteria-51.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. Acuité'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 Apr 2024	Term Loan	Long Term	12.21	ACUITE BBB- Stable (Assigned)

Annexure - Details of instruments rated

Lender's Name	ISIN	Facilities	Date Of Issuance	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date	Quantum (Rs. Cr.)	Complexity Level	Rating
Not Applicable	Not avl. / Not appl.	Proposed Long Term Bank Facility	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	Not avl. / Not appl.	2.56	Simple	ACUITE BBB- Stable Reaffirmed
Tata Cleantech Capital Limited	Not avl. / Not appl.	Term Loan	09 Feb 2023	Not avl. / Not appl.	08 Feb 2038	9.65	Simple	ACUITE BBB- Stable Reaffirmed

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

Sr.No.	Name of the company
1	ENGENDER DEVELOPERS PRIVATE LIMITED
2	STPL HORTICULTURE PRIVATE LIMITED
3	SHERISHA ROOFTOP SOLAR SPV THREE PRIVATE LIMITED
4	SHERISHA SOLAR SPV TWO 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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