

Rating Action: Moody's assigns Aaa ratings to Temasek's proposed SGD notes

15 Nov 2021

Singapore, November 15, 2021 -- Moody's Investors Service has today assigned Aaa rating to the proposed 5-year SGD denominated senior unsecured notes to be issued by Temasek Financial (IV) Private Limited, a wholly owned financing subsidiary of Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited (Temasek, Aaa stable).

These notes are issued pursuant to Temasek Financial (IV) Private Limited's SGD5 billion guaranteed medium-term note (MTN) program rated (P)Aaa and are irrevocably and unconditionally guaranteed by Temasek. The proceeds will be used by Temasek and its investment holding companies to fund their ordinary course of business.

The outlook on the ratings is stable.

RATINGS RATIONALE

"Temasek's Aaa rating reflects its strong fundamental credit quality as an investment company, supported by steady dividend income and a large and high-quality investment portfolio. In addition, Temasek's largest investee companies and major dividend contributors have strong investment-grade credit qualities," says Jacintha Poh, a Moody's Vice President and Senior Credit Officer.

Temasek is an investment company and does not guarantee the financial obligations of its portfolio companies. Moody's only assessed the parent, its investment holding companies and special purpose funding vehicles in assigning the ratings. On this basis, Temasek continues to maintain a net cash position as of March 2021.

Moody's expects Temasek to maintain a conservative financial profile over the next 12-18 months, with the net debt to market value of its portfolio assets (excluding cash) staying below 5% and funds from operations (FFO) interest coverage above 15x.

The Aaa rating is also anchored by Temasek's excellent liquidity. Moody's expects the company to maintain a sizeable reserve of cash and liquid securities, which provide for strong debt service coverage to mitigate potential volatility in cash flow and asset value.

As a government-related issuer, Temasek's ratings benefit from its 100% ownership by the Government of Singapore through the Minister for Finance, although currently its Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) -- the measure of its standalone credit quality -- is also positioned at aaa.

The stable outlook reflects Moody's expectation that Temasek's credit metrics will remain strong and the company's management will retain its prudent and conservative approach to its investment and funding strategies.

In terms of environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations, Temasek has indirect exposure to environmental risk through its investee companies. However, Temasek's portfolio largely consists of companies that have low exposure to environmental risk. Moody's notes that Temasek has little exposure to the energy and resources sector, which has a high or moderate exposure to environmental risk.

Despite Temasek having a single shareholder, the governance risk for the company is largely tempered by the oversight exercised by a board that consists of ten independent directors out of a total 11 of directors, and by Temasek's track record of maintaining an extremely conservative financial profile.

FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO AN UPGRADE OR DOWNGRADE OF THE RATING

The rating is Aaa and cannot be upgraded.

Temasek has a BCA of aaa. Should the company's underlying credit fundamentals deteriorate, and its BCA is downgraded, Moody's Joint Default Analysis framework would become relevant to the rating analysis.

Temasek's BCA could be downgraded if (1) the company undertakes aggressive investments that materially worsen the credit quality of its investment portfolio; (2) the amount and quality of the company's cash and near-cash resources deteriorate significantly; or (3) there are indications of moral hazard behavior, such as providing funding support for nonperforming investee companies or channeling financial resources to its government shareholder, that could have an adverse impact on Temasek's financial position.

The methodologies used in this rating were Investment Holding Companies and Conglomerates published in July 2018 and available at https://www.moody.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx?docid=PBC_1125855, and Government-Related Issuers Methodology published in February 2020 and available at https://www.moody.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx?docid=PBC_1186207. Alternatively, please see the Rating Methodologies page on www.moody.com for a copy of these methodologies.

Temasek is an investment company based in Singapore and is 100%-owned by the Minister for Finance, a body corporate under the Singapore Minister for Finance (Incorporation) Act (Chapter 183).

REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

For further specification of Moody's key rating assumptions and sensitivity analysis, see the sections Methodology Assumptions and Sensitivity to Assumptions in the disclosure form. Moody's Rating Symbols and Definitions can be found at: https://www.moody.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx?docid=PBC_79004.

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Regulatory disclosures contained in this press release apply to the credit rating and, if applicable, the related rating outlook or rating review.

Moody's general principles for assessing environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks in our credit analysis can be found at http://www.moody.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx?docid=PBC_1288235.

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