

Ref. : JCIL/BSE/2025 Date : December 31, 2025

To The Secretary, BSE Limited Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers, Dalal Street, Mumbai - 400 001

Dear Sir,

Scrip Code: 500147

# Sub: Intimation of update in Credit Rating

Pursuant to the provisions of Regulation 30 read with Schedule III Part A Para A (3) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, please be informed that CARE Ratings Limited has updated the ratings of the Company as under:

Facilities	Rating	Rating Action
Long-term / Short-term	CARE BBB / CARE A3+	Placed on Rating Watch
Bank Facilities	(RWD) (Triple B ; Outlook:	with Developing
	A Three Plus) (Rating	Implications
	Watch with Developing	
	Implications)	

The reasons for update in Credit rating as provided by CARE Ratings Limited are as below:

"CARE Ratings Limited (CareEdge Ratings) has placed the ratings outstanding on the bank facilities of John Cockerill India Limited (JCIL) under rating watch with developing implications considering the shareholders' approval for the proposed acquisition of the global metals business of John Cockerill Group by way of acquisition of 100% equity stake in John Cockerill Metals International SA from its ultimate parent entity, John Cockerill SA, subject to requisite approvals. As per the approved scheme, the consideration for the acquisition will be up to EUR 50 million (~Rs. 500 crore) which could include an upfront advance payment in cash and the balance to be paid on a deferred basis over five years as interest free loan from the promoter with an option to convert the outstanding debt into equity upon expiry of the deferral period. The objective of the acquisition is to consolidate and enhance the

John Cockerill India Limited

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strategic operations of the Group's metals business and the transaction is expected to conclude by February 2026. While the transaction could significantly improve the scale and geographical diversification of JCIL's operations, the exact details of the financial risk profile of the business proposed to be acquired, final consideration and its funding arrangement remain to be known. CareEdge Ratings will continue to closely monitor the developments in this regard and take a view once further clarity emerges on the transaction.

The ratings continue to draw comfort from JCIL's established track record of operations, its global presence and geographical diversification of operations owing to strong parentage and strong order book position providing medium-term revenue visibility. The above rating strengths are, however, offset by the fixed price nature of contracts exposing the company to increase in input costs, moderate profitability due to competitive nature of industry, customer concentration risk and correlation with capex cycle of the steel industry."

Kindly take the same on record.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
For John Cockerill India Limited

Nidhi Narayan Salampuria Company Secretary FCS 10448

Encl: as above



John Cockerill India Limited



# Annexure-2 Draft Press Release John Cockerill India Limited

December 31, 2025

Facilities/Instruments	Amount (₹ crore)	Rating <sup>1</sup>	Rating Action
Long Term / Short Term Bank	347.50	CARE BBB / CARE A3+	Placed on Rating Watch with Developing
Facilities	J=7.30	(RWD)	Implications

Details of instruments/facilities in Annexure-1.

# Rationale and key rating drivers

CARE Ratings Limited (CareEdge Ratings) has placed the ratings outstanding on the bank facilities of John Cockerill India Limited (JCIL) under rating watch with developing implications considering the shareholders' approval for the proposed acquisition of the global metals business of John Cockerill Group by way of acquisition of 100% equity stake in John Cockerill Metals International SA from its ultimate parent entity, John Cockerill SA, subject to requisite approvals. As per the approved scheme, the consideration for the acquisition will be up to EUR 50 million (~Rs. 500 crore) which could include an upfront advance payment in cash and the balance to be paid on a deferred basis over five years as interest free loan from the promoter with an option to convert the outstanding debt into equity upon expiry of the deferral period. The objective of the acquisition is to consolidate and enhance the strategic operations of the Group's metals business and the transaction is expected to conclude by February 2026. While the transaction could significantly improve the scale and geographical diversification of JCIL's operations, the exact details of the financial risk profile of the business proposed to be acquired, final consideration and its funding arrangement remain to be known. CareEdge Ratings will continue to closely monitor the developments in this regard and take a view once further clarity emerges on the transaction.

The ratings continue to draw comfort from JCIL's established track record of operations, its global presence and geographical diversification of operations owing to strong parentage and strong order book position providing medium-term revenue visibility. The above rating strengths are, however, offset by the fixed price nature of contracts exposing the company to increase in input costs, moderate profitability due to competitive nature of industry, customer concentration risk and correlation with capex cycle of the steel industry.

# Rating sensitivities: Factors likely to lead to rating actions Positive factors

• Improvement in scale of operations above Rs. 600 crore and PBILDT margin above 3% on a sustained basis translating into adequate accruals.

## **Negative factors**

- Decline in order book position leading to reduced revenue visibility
- Moderation in PBILDT margin below 2% on a sustained basis
- Any significant deterioration in the operating cycle putting pressure on liquidity position

Analytical approach: Standalone while factoring in operational and business linkages with JC Group

Outlook: Not applicable

#### **Detailed description of key rating drivers:**

#### **Key strengths**

#### Strong parentage and established track record of JCIL in industrial construction activity

JCIL is majorly held by JC group (75% shareholding by John Cockerill group as on December 31, 2024). Headquartered in Belgium, JC group is an international supplier specialising in the production of machinery for steel plants (cold rolling mills, pickling lines, processing lines, automation, and process controls etc.), industrial heat recovery equipment, boilers, defence equipment etc. The operations of the group are classified under the five heads namely: Energy, Defence, Industry, Environment and Services. JCIL has over three decades of experience in the designing, manufacturing, erection and commissioning of cold rolling mill complexes, processing lines, chemical equipment, industrial furnaces and auxiliary equipment meeting global demand for ferrous and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Complete definition of ratings assigned are available at <a href="https://www.careratings.com">www.careratings.com</a> and other CARE Ratings Limited's publications.



nonferrous industries. Over the years, the company has catered to domestic and international clientele with revenue spread across geographies. The established track record of the company is expected to benefit it in winning new orders and retaining reputed clientele.

#### Adequate capital structure

The company continues to maintain an adequate capital structure with healthy net worth of Rs. 201 crore as on Dec 31, 2024 translating into overall gearing of 0.40x (PY: 0.67x). With access to sizeable customer advances, backed by bank guarantees, the company's reliance on external bank borrowings remains negligible as reflected in nil utilisation of fund-based working capital limits. JCIL is expected to maintain an adequate capital structure in the coming year.

#### Strong order book position with reputed clientele

JCIL has an orderbook worth more than Rs. 1,100 crore from reputed clientele like Tinplate Company of India Ltd, Jindal India Limited and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Private Limited (rated CARE A1+) etc. The sizeable order book provides medium term revenue visibility. Moreover, the track record of repeat orders from reputed clientele also benefits its business profile. JCIL benefits from an established global presence, which has enabled access to a geographically diverse range of clients. The company exports primarily to countries such as Bangladesh, Spain, US, Mexico, Kenya, Myanmar and Egypt. In CY24, exports contributed approximately 3% to the total revenue

#### **Key weaknesses**

# Moderate scale of operations and low profitability

The company's scale of operations declined by 42% YoY to Rs. 389 crore in CY24 and ~19% YoY to Rs. 255.52 crore in 9M CY25, primarily due to slower order execution amid a challenging market environment. In addition to industry-wide pricing pressure and intense competition, order intake was also affected by global geopolitical tensions, which led to delays in investment decisions and project finalizations by customers, particularly in export-driven markets. As a result, CY24 saw a cash loss, in contrast to the cash profit recorded during the corresponding period last year. PBILDT margin declined to -0.83% in CY24 mainly due to lower absorption of fixed costs. The company has taken several initiatives to counter the headwinds including reinforcement of its sales team to accelerate order inflow and improvement in operating efficiencies which is expected to support its performance over the medium term. The same is reflected in improvement of the PBILDT margin to 5% in 9M CY25. Nevertheless, profitability is expected to remain subdued in the near term due to evolving market environment.

#### **Customer concentration risk**

The company primarily serves the steel sector, focusing on the design, manufacturing, erection, and commissioning of facilities. Despite some rotation, revenue remains highly concentrated, with the top 10 customers contributing 99% in CY24. This is due to India's limited number of major steelmakers, shaped by high capital requirements, strict regulations and industry consolidation. As a result, the company faces customer concentration risk and any delay or loss of orders from a few key clients could impact revenues and cash flow. While the company has structured its contractual arrangements to include phased payments such as 10%–30% advance on order receipt, milestone-based payments during engineering and dispatch and retention money post commissioning, the timing and realization of these cash flows remain closely tied to the financial health, capex cycle, and decision making of a small group of large customers.

#### Exposed to input price volatility and inherent cyclicality of the steel industry

The contracts are fixed price in nature. Thus, the company is exposed to input price volatility. The company tries to mitigate the risk by procuring the materials on receipt of the order. Further the contract execution period is short with timeline typically spanning 1-2 years providing some mitigant. Prospects of steel industry are strongly co-related to economic cycles. Demand for steel is sensitive to trends of industries, viz. automotive, construction, infrastructure and consumer durables, which are the key consumers of steel products. These key user industries in turn depend on various macroeconomic factors, such as consumer confidence, employment rates, interest rates and inflation rates, etc. in the economies in which they sell their products. When downturns occur in these economies or sectors, steel industry may witness decline in demand, thereby impacting volumes, revenue and margins of steel makers. The company is mainly engaged in the design, manufacturing, erection and commissioning of facilities for steel players. Thus, the order book and hence, the performance of the company is primarily dependent on the prospects of the highly cyclical steel industry.

#### **Liquidity**: Adequate

The liquidity profile remains adequate marked by free cash and liquid investments of more than Rs. 140 crore as on September 30, 2025. It is projected to generate GCA of Rs. 12-15 crore p.a. over the next 1-2 years. Its debt comprises of customer advances, backed by bank guarantee, worth Rs. 75 crore as on Dec 31, 2024 with no fixed repayment obligations. The utilisation of fund-



based limits remained Nil for the twelve months ended November 2024, which provides additional cushion. The current ratio improved slightly at 1.21x as on 31st December 2024 (9MFY24: 1.10x).

**Assumptions/Covenants:** Not applicable

Environment, social, and governance (ESG) risks: Not applicable

# **Applicable criteria**

**Definition of Default** 

Liquidity Analysis of Non-financial sector entities

Rating Outlook and Rating Watch

Manufacturing Companies

<u>Financial Ratios – Non financial Sector</u>

**Short Term Instruments** 

Notching by Factoring Linkages in Rating

# About the company and industry

# **Industry classification**

Macroeconomic indicator	Sector	Industry	Basic industry
Industrials	Capital Goods	Industrial Products	Other Industrial Products

Incorporated in 1986, John Cockerill India Limited (JCIL, formerly known as CMI FPE Limited) is promoted by Mr. T R Mehta as Flat Products Equipment India Limited (FPE). In June 2008, FPE was acquired by Cockerill Maintenance and Ingenerie SA group (CMI, now rebranded as JC group). Since then, the company has been a part of the JC group. JCIL designs, manufactures and installs cold-rolling mills, galvanising lines, colour-coating lines, tension levelling lines, skin-pass mills, acid regeneration plants, wet-flux lines and pickling lines for ferrous and non-ferrous industries world-wide. It has two manufacturing facilities at Taloja and Hedavali, in Maharashtra and has global footprints across Asia, Africa, Middle East, Europe, North America, and South America

Brief Financials (₹ crore)	December 31, 2023 (A)	December 31, 2024 (A)	9M CY25 (UA)
Total operating income	666.25	389.19	255.52
PBILDT*	24.64	-3.25	12.80
Profit after tax (PAT)	21.64	-5.38	3.32
Overall gearing (x)	0.67	0.40	NA
Interest coverage (x)	10.88	-1.67	9.41

A: Audited UA: Unaudited NA: Not Available CY: Calendar Year; Note: these are latest available financial results

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: Not applicable

Rating history for last three years: Annexure-2

Detailed explanation of covenants of rated instrument / facility: Annexure-3

Complexity level of instruments rated: Annexure-4

Lender details: Annexure-5

Annexure-1: Details of instruments/facilities

<sup>\*</sup>PBILDT: Profit before interest, lease rentals, depreciation and tax



Name of the Instrument	ISIN	Date of Issuance (DD-MM-YYYY)	Coupon Rate (%)	Maturity Date (DD-MM- YYYY)	Size of the Issue (₹ crore)	Rating Assigned and Rating Outlook
Fund-based/Non- fund-based-LT/ST	-	-	-	-	104.00	CARE BBB / CARE A3+ (RWD)
Fund-based/Non- fund-based-LT/ST	-	-	-	-	243.50	CARE BBB / CARE A3+ (RWD)

# **Annexure-2: Rating history for last three years**

		Current Ratings			Rating History			
Sr. No.	Name of the Instrument/Bank Facilities	Туре	Amount Outstanding (₹ crore)	Rating	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2025- 2026	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2024- 2025	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2023- 2024	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2022- 2023
1	Fund-based/Non- fund-based-LT/ST	LT/ST	104.00	CARE BBB / CARE A3+ (RWD)	1)CARE BBB; Stable / CARE A3+ (08-Apr-25)	-	1)CARE BBB+; Stable / CARE A2 (07-Mar-24)	1)CARE BBB+; Stable / CARE A2 (17-Mar-23)
2	Fund-based/Non- fund-based-LT/ST	LT/ST	243.50	CARE BBB / CARE A3+ (RWD)	1)CARE BBB; Stable / CARE A3+ (08-Apr-25)	-	1)CARE BBB+; Stable / CARE A2 (07-Mar-24)	1)CARE BBB+; Stable / CARE A2 (17-Mar-23)

LT: Long term; ST: Short term; LT/ST: Long term/Short term

# Annexure-3: Detailed explanation of covenants of rated instruments/facilities: Not applicable

# **Annexure-4: Complexity level of instruments rated**

Sr. No.	Name of the Instrument	Complexity Level	
1	Fund-based/Non-fund-based-LT/ST	Simple	

## **Annexure-5: Lender details**

To view lender-wise details of bank facilities please <u>click here</u>

# **Annexure-6: List of entities consolidated:** Not applicable

**Note on complexity levels of rated instruments:** CareEdge Ratings has classified instruments rated by it based on complexity. Investors/market intermediaries/regulators or others are welcome to write to care@careedge.in for clarifications.



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#### About us:

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