



The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited

Rating Report

M.A. Aleem Khan and Sons (Pvt.) Limited

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Rating History

Dissemination Date	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating	Outlook	Action	Rating Watch
28-Feb-2019	BBB+	A2	Stable	Initial	-

Rating Rationale and Key Rating Drivers

M. A. Aleem Khan & Sons (Pvt) Limited (MAAKSONS) has been in the construction industry for many decades. The company has three generations of the sponsoring family in the business and has two main offices – Lahore and Islamabad. The sponsors have a very good understanding of the business. The reporting and functional responsibilities are clearly demarcated. The company has delivered multiple projects. MAAKSONS has a no limit contract license. Construction business is dependent on award of contract works. Given the slowdown in the economic activity, maintaining a continued healthy business pipeline would be a challenge. Alternatively, the company has a portfolio of properties. The envisaged strategy is to develop these properties to ensure revenue sustainability in the future. Properties are diverse and furnish different propositions to translate them into revenue streams. Although FY18 depicted robust results, the latest numbers reflect squeeze. The company has a mix of funded and non-funded banking lines to facilitate its business. The control environment may be strengthened by harnessing the audit quality and adopting quarterly accounts. The company has a defined strategy of building assets, required for its operations as well as investment purpose, through surplus cash. Occasionally, funded facilities are also utilized to finance acquisition.

The ratings are dependent on sustaining a steady revenue stream and financial risk profile. Any prolonged downturn in subdued business can negatively affect. Good corporate governance practice is considered essential.

Disclosure

Name of Rated Entity	M.A. Aleem Khan and Sons (Pvt.) Limited
Type of Relationship	Solicited
Purpose of the Rating	Entity Rating
Applicable Criteria	Methodology Corporate Ratings(Jun-18),Methodology Criteria Rating Modifier(Jun-18),Methodology Correlation Between Long-Term And Short-Term Rating Scale(Jun-18)
Related Research	Sector Study Construction(Apr-18)
Rating Analysts	Muhammad Obaid muhammad.obaid@pacra.com +92-42-35869504

Profile

Legal Structure M Aleem Khan & Sons (MAAKSONS) was officially registered as a Private Limited Company in 1984 but has been in business since 1951.

Background The Company commenced its business in 1951 with Public Works Development Authority and Irrigation Department thus successfully completing various projects of water management and irrigation systems. MAAKSONS scope of work comprises of construction of Roads and Highways, Bridges & Structures, Residential and Commercial Buildings, Canals and Tunnels, etc. Its consolidated turnover for the last 4 years is in excess of PKR 12 billion.

Operations Presently the Company holds "no limit" C-A license from Pakistan Engineering Council. Different license codes range from C-6 to C-A based on the contract value allowed to undertake within that contract band. Significant projects to its credit are Signal Free Corridor on Islamabad Highway and in DHA Lahore, Metro Lahore, 29 storey Telecom Tower Islamabad, Gulberg Green, 3x210 Thermal Power Station Muzaffargarh, Chashma Canal, etc. to name a few.

Ownership

Ownership Structure Mr. M. Aleem Khan, the founder of the company is identified as the man at the last mile and is entrusted with the oversight of the entire business.

Stability MAAKSONS is entirely a family owned business where the third generation has also joined in the recent years. The hierarchy has clear lines of authority terminating at the MD. His two sons and grandsons look after their respective areas. The two sons of M Nadeem Khan, Shehzer Khan and Shah Nawaz Khan took over the ownership from their mother and aunt in 2016.

Business Acumen The sponsoring family has been in the construction industry for over four decades with the MD having 60+ years of rich industry experience. The sponsors have a thorough understanding of the business as they are all actively involved in the running of the day to day affairs.

Financial Strength MAAKSONS has an adequate financial profile. The entity has a few subsidiaries, namely, MAAKCRETE, MAAK Asphalt, and MAAK Gas which have the main purpose of serving the parent organization. They are trying to diversify their business somewhat by entering the agriculture and dairy industry and also own MAAK Agro and MAAK Farms.

Governance

Board Structure The overall control of the company vests in three senior directors; MD and his two sons. Out of the 9 shareholders, seven male members of the family are executive directors whereas the two daughters-in-law of Mr M Aleem Khan are silent partners. There is no independent director on the board, hence the governance structure needs improvement.

Members' Profile Three of the board members carry extensive experience of the construction industry, while the other board members are relatively new in the Industry. The two sons of M Aleem Khan, M Waseem Khan and M Nadeem Khan joined the business in 1980s and have more than four decades of experience.

Board Effectiveness The Board members are actively involved in the planning and execution of the business projects and overseeing the operations on a regular basis.

Financial Transparency An independent director on the Board would ensure effective, transparent and independent oversight of the company's operations. The governance model is weak and needs improvement in order to comply with the corporate governance model. The company is in the practice of forming quarterly accounts. M/s. Kamran & Co. Chartered Accountants is the external auditor of the company and has expressed an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended June 30th, 2018.

Management

Organizational Structure The company operations are divided into two regions, Islamabad and Lahore, which operate independently under the oversight of MD/Chairman M A Aleem Khan. Company head office is in Lahore while in Islamabad is the regional office. Business pertaining to Lahore region is under the management of M Waseem Khan and his two sons.

Management Team MAAKSONS has a team of experienced and competent professionals who have been with the entity over a long period of time.

Effectiveness Functions of the management are clear and well-defined to effectively achieve its underlying goals and objectives. System of internal control is in place, although continuous review of these controls by an internal audit department would ensure further effectiveness of the management.

MIS MAAKSONS is currently using Axiom ERP System for generating daily reports in order to track project specific progress. It is a web based system which is accessible to all the staff working on project and generates reports on supplier, procurement, and inventory etc.

Control Environment MAAKSONS adheres to strict quality control standards as it is the need of the construction industry. The company maintains a comprehensive MIS reporting system for the management to keep track of its different project sites and activities.

Business Risk

Industry Dynamics Construction sector's share in GDP in FY18 was 2.82% against a share of 2.74% last year. This sector has witnessed a growth of ~9% against a growth of ~10% last year, as many CPEC related projects were ongoing during 2016-17. For FY19 the Federal Government has allocated PKR ~800 bln under PSDP spending, and considering 70% utilization history, there is a major cut in the expected construction activity which doesn't bode very well for the economy. Although if / when PMs' ambitious plan to build 5 million houses goes through it would provide a major impetus to the debilitating construction industry.

Relative Position Out of the 10,000+ firms registered with Pakistan Engineering Council as Constructors / Operators, only ~100 (1%), including MAAKSONS, hold the prestigious CA category (no limit) license which enables them to be on the pre-qualifying list of approved constructors.

Revenues During FY18 Signal Free Corridor in DHA Lahore which had a 9 month deadline added a significant jump in the revenues. For 3MFY19, revenue stands at PKR 623mln (FY18: 5,300mln; FY17: PKR 3,220mln; FY16: PKR 2,930mln; FY15: PKR 1,229mln), although there are more projects in pipeline which would add to the topline in the remaining 9 months.

Margins Like other companies in the construction industry, MAAKSONS has also experienced an erratic and less predictable topline primarily due to project based contractual nature of revenue. Short term borrowing increased by PKR 330mln at the end of 3MFY19, so the added markup on the STB would start showing up from 1HFY19 financials. MAAKSONS posted a meagre net profit of PKR 25mln for the 3MFY19 but the management is expecting major upcoming projects in the remaining 6 months.

Sustainability Given the slowdown in the economic activity, maintaining a continued healthy business pipeline would be a challenge. Although FY18 depicted robust results, the latest numbers reflect squeeze.

Financial Risk

Working Capital For working capital needs, which is a function of inventory and receivables, a company relies on both internal cash flows as well as short term borrowing (STB). MAAKSONS working capital management is good with improving negative net working capital days (FY18: -104 days, FY17: -23 days). During FY18, MAAKSONS added 330mln in STBs resulting in short-term total leverage of the company (room to borrow) reducing to 18% (FY17: 23%).

Coverages During 3MFY19, MAAKSONS free cash flows (FCFO), amounted to ~PKR 65mln (FY18: PKR 516mln; FY17: PKR 375mln). Core debt coverage ratio has reduced considerably during the period and would deteriorate further if additional business isn't realized in the remaining period (3MFY19: 1.9x, FY18: 3.2x, FY17: 3.4x). The company is utilizing 96% from its borrowing limit of PKR 750mln.

Capitalization At end-3MFY19, the company had a slightly leveraged capital structure, with a debt to debt plus equity ratio of 23% (FY18: 17%, FY17: 22%, FY16: 18%). Long term borrowings have reduced to PKR 117mln during the period (FY18: PKR 143mln, FY17: PKR 167mln) largely in response to slower business and retiring long term leases. Major portion of debt comprises STB.



M. A. Aleem Khan & Sons (Pvt) Ltd

BALANCE SHEET	30-Sep-18	30-Jun-18	30-Jun-17	30-Jun-16	30-Jun-15
	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual
Non-Current Assets	2,180	1,841	1,462	1,450	878
Investments (Incl. Associates)	-	-	-	-	-
Equity	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Securities	-	-	-	-	-
Investment Property	451	451	497	-	726
Current Assets	3,067	3,356	2,741	2,716	900
Inventory	-	-	-	-	-
Trade Receivables	531	544	318	269	202
Others	2,536	2,811	2,422	2,447	698
Total Assets	5,698	5,648	4,700	4,166	2,504
Debt	848	545	690	481	161
Short-Term	731	401	523	403	118
Long-term (Incl. Current Maturity of Long-Term Debt)	117	143	167	79	43
Other Short-Term Liabilities	2,074	2,352	1,595	1,536	450
Other Long-Term Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Shareholder's Equity	2,776	2,752	2,415	2,149	1,893
Total Liabilities & Equity	5,698	5,648	4,700	4,166	2,504
INCOME STATEMENT					
Turnover	623	5,300	3,220	2,930	1,229
Gross Profit	113	901	643	581	302
Other Income	(1)	2	0	1	2
Financial Charges	(14)	(55)	(44)	(31)	(28)
Net Income	25	337	266	256	115
Cashflow Statement					
EBITDA	109	861	576	526	225
Free Cashflow from Operations (FCFO)	65	516	375	323	139
Net Cash changes in Working Capital	(21)	132	(7)	(16)	85
Net Cash from Operating Activities	31	592	326	280	224
Net Cash from Investing Activities	(366)	(337)	(339)	(396)	(276)
Net Cash from Financing Activities	302	(230)	(3)	314	(40)
Net Cash Generated during the period	(32)	25	(16)	199	(91)
Ratio Analysis					
Performance					
Turnover Growth (same period last year)	NA	64.6%	9.9%	138.5%	524.5%
Gross Margin	18.2%	17.0%	20.0%	19.8%	24.6%
Net Margin	3.9%	6.4%	8.3%	8.7%	9.4%
ROE	3.6%	13.8%	11.7%	12.7%	6.3%
Coverages					
Debt Service Coverage (x) (FCFO/Gross Interest+CMLTD+Unc)	1.9	3.2	3.4	5.2	3.4
Interest Coverage (x) (FCFO/Gross Interest)	4.7	9.3	8.5	10.5	5.0
Debt Payback (Years) (Total Lt.Debt (excluding Covered Short T	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4
Liquidity					
Net Cash Cycle (Inventory Days + Receivable Days - Payable Da	-104	-39	-21	-8	-29
Capital Structure (Total Debt/Total Debt+Equity)	23%	17%	22%	18%	8%

Credit Rating Scale & Definitions

Credit rating reflects forward-looking opinion on credit worthiness of underlying entity or instrument; more specifically it covers relative ability to honor financial obligations. The primary factor being captured on the rating scale is relative likelihood of default.

Long Term Ratings		Short Term Ratings	
AAA	Highest credit quality. Lowest expectation of credit risk. Indicate exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments	A1+	The highest capacity for timely repayment.
AA+ AA AA-	Very high credit quality. Very low expectation of credit risk. Indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.	A1	A strong capacity for timely repayment.
A+ A A-	High credit quality. Low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions.	A2	A satisfactory capacity for timely repayment. This may be susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.
BBB+ BBB BBB-	Good credit quality. Currently a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in circumstances and in economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.	A3	An adequate capacity for timely repayment. Such capacity is susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.
BB+ BB BB-	Moderate risk. Possibility of credit risk developing. There is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as a result of adverse economic or business changes over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.	B	The capacity for timely repayment is more susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.
B+ B B-	High credit risk. A limited margin of safety remains against credit risk. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.	C	An inadequate capacity to ensure timely repayment.
CCC CC C	Very high credit risk. Substantial credit risk "CCC" Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favorable business or economic developments. "CC" Rating indicates that default of some kind appears probable. "C" Ratings signal imminent default.		
D	Obligations are currently in default.		



Outlook (Stable, Positive, Negative, Developing) Indicates the potential and direction of a rating over the intermediate term in response to trends in economic and/or fundamental business/financial conditions. It is not necessarily a precursor to a rating change. 'Stable' outlook means a rating is not likely to change. 'Positive' means it may be raised. 'Negative' means it may be lowered. Where the trends have conflicting elements, the outlook may be described as 'Developing'.

Rating Watch Alerts to the possibility of a rating change subsequent to, or in anticipation of, a) some material identifiable event and/or b) deviation from expected trend. But it does not mean that a rating change is inevitable. A watch should be resolved within foreseeable future, but may continue if underlying circumstances are not settled. Rating Watch may accompany Outlook of the respective opinion.

Suspension It is not possible to update an opinion due to lack of requisite information. Opinion should be resumed in foreseeable future. However, if this does not happen within six (6) months, the rating should be considered withdrawn.

Withdrawn A rating is withdrawn on a) termination of rating mandate, b) cessation of underlying entity, c) the debt instrument is redeemed, d) the rating remains suspended for six months, e) the entity/issuer defaults, or/and f) PACRA finds it impractical to surveil the opinion due to lack of requisite information.

Harmonization A change in rating due to revision in applicable methodology or underlying scale.

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- iii. The analyst is not a substantial shareholder of the customer being rated by PACRA [Annexure F; d-(ii)] Explanation: for the purpose of above clause, the term "family members" shall include only those family members who are dependent on the analyst and members of the rating committee

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Conduct of Business

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- (7) PACRA uses due care in preparation of this Rating Report. Our information has been obtained from sources we consider to be reliable but its accuracy or completeness is not guaranteed. PACRA does not, in every instance, independently verifies or validates information received in the rating process or in preparing this Rating Report.
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- (15) PACRA ensures that the rating assigned to an entity or instrument is not be affected by the existence of a business relationship between PACRA and the entity or any other party, or the non-existence of such a relationship | Chapter III; 12-2-(i)
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- (19) PACRA reviews all the outstanding ratings on semi-annual basis or as and when required by any creditor or upon the occurrence of such an event which requires to do so; | Chapter III | 18-(b)
- (20) PACRA initiates immediate review of the outstanding rating upon becoming aware of any information that may reasonably be expected to result in downgrading of the rating; | Chapter III | 18-(c)
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(22) PACRA's Rating Scale reflects the expectation of credit risk. The highest rating has the lowest relative likelihood of default (i.e, probability). PACRA's transition studies capture the historical performance behavior of a specific rating notch. Transition behavior of the assigned rating can be obtained from PACRA's Transition Study available at our website. (www.pacra.com). However, actual transition of rating may not follow the pattern observed in the past | Chapter III | 14-(F-VII)

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