

**Rating Action: Moody's affirms Volkswagen Bank GmbH's A1 long-term deposit and issuer ratings; changes outlook to stable from negative**

---

30 Mar 2021

Frankfurt am Main, March 30, 2021 -- Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) has today affirmed Volkswagen Bank GmbH's (VW Bank) A1 long-term deposit and issuer ratings and changed the outlook to stable from negative. Concurrently, the rating agency affirmed the bank's (P)A1 senior unsecured MTN program rating as well as its a3 Adjusted Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA).

All other ratings and rating inputs were unaffected by today's rating action. For a full list of all affected ratings, please refer to the end of this press release.

The rating actions follow the affirmation -- with an outlook change to stable from negative -- of Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft's (Volkswagen; the parent company of VW Bank) A3 issuer rating. For further details, please refer to the following press release "Moody's changes Volkswagen's outlook to stable, affirms A3 ratings" ([https://www.moodys.com/research/--PR\\_443011](https://www.moodys.com/research/--PR_443011)) published on March 26, 2021.

**RATINGS RATIONALE**

**AFFIRMATION OF VW BANK'S DEPOSIT AND ISSUER RATINGS AND OF THE ADJUSTED BCA**

The affirmation of VW Bank's A1 long-term deposit and issuer ratings, its (P)A1 senior unsecured MTN program rating as well as its a3 Adjusted BCA follows the affirmation of Volkswagen's A3 long-term issuer rating and change in outlook to stable on March 26, 2021 and reflects Moody's assessment of the very strong contractual and economic rationale for Volkswagen to support VW Bank.

VW Bank is fully owned by Volkswagen. Its automobile financing and other financing services are an integral part of the car manufacturer's business model and of strategic importance for the distribution of Volkswagen's vehicles. Further, a formal commitment of Volkswagen through a control and profit-and-loss transfer agreement is in place. The strength of the contractual and strategic links between Volkswagen and VW Bank results in an alignment of VW Bank's Adjusted BCA a3 with the parent's A3 long-term issuer rating.

**RATIONALE FOR THE STABLE OUTLOOK**

The stable outlook reflects the alignment of VW Bank's Adjusted BCA with the issuer rating of its ultimate parent Volkswagen, and the rating agency's expectation on the forward-looking liability structure of VW Bank.

**FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO AN UPGRADE OR DOWNGRADE OF THE RATINGS**

Owing to the intrinsic interlinkages of VW Bank with its automotive parent, its ratings are highly dependent on the creditworthiness of Volkswagen. Therefore, an upgrade of VW Bank's ratings could follow an upgrade of Volkswagen's rating.

VW Bank's ratings could also be upgraded if the rating agency were to assess that the increased issuance in instruments that are designated to absorb losses at failure was likely to be sustained. This could result in additional notches of rating uplift for VW Bank's various debt classes from Moody's Advanced LGF analysis.

Upward pressure on VW Bank's baa2 BCA could result from a combination of significantly improved profitability; significantly lower dependence on wholesale funding sources, coupled with a strong increase in the bank's on-balance-sheet liquidity; and a further improvement in the underlying quality of VW Bank's lending assets. However, a BCA upgrade would not trigger an upgrade of the bank's ratings.

VW Bank's ratings could be downgraded if Volkswagen's ratings were to be downgraded. A downgrade of VW Bank's ratings could also be triggered if Volkswagen were to loosen its ties with its bank subsidiary. This loosening could lead to a lowering of Moody's support assumption for VW Bank and a downgrade of the bank's Adjusted BCA to a level below the parent's issuer rating.

VW Bank's ratings could also be downgraded as a result of an unexpected and significant decrease in the

volume of the bank's junior senior unsecured and subordinated debt instruments, resulting in fewer notches of rating uplift from Moody's Advanced LGF analysis.

A downgrade of VW Bank's BCA could be triggered by the following a sudden and more pronounced erosion of the bank's asset quality, especially considering the bank's large exposure to car dealers, and the pressure that this could exert on both the bank's profitability and capitalisation; a more significant and sustained increase in the bank's dependence on wholesale funding sources, in particular if the issued instruments' terms no longer matched those of the bank's loan book; or the bank losing or reducing access to committed liquidity lines from its parent or having to substantially use available assets for securitisation. However, a lower BCA would likely be offset by higher uplift from affiliate support and not result in a rating downgrade.

#### LIST OF AFFECTED RATINGS

Issuer: Volkswagen Bank GmbH

..Affirmations:

...Long-term Bank Deposits, affirmed A1, outlook changed to Stable from Negative

...Long-term Issuer Ratings, affirmed A1, outlook changed to Stable from Negative

...Adjusted Baseline Credit Assessment, affirmed a3

...Senior Unsecured Medium-Term Note Program, affirmed (P)A1

..Outlook Action:

...Outlook changed to Stable from Negative

#### PRINCIPAL METHODOLOGY

The principal methodology used in these ratings was Banks Methodology published in March 2021 and available at [https://www.moodys.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx?docid=PBC\\_1261354](https://www.moodys.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx?docid=PBC_1261354). Alternatively, please see the Rating Methodologies page on [www.moodys.com](http://www.moodys.com) for a copy of this methodology.

#### 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.moodys.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx?docid=PBC\\_79004](https://www.moodys.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx?docid=PBC_79004).

For ratings issued on a program, series, category/class of debt or security this announcement provides certain regulatory disclosures in relation to each rating of a subsequently issued bond or note of the same series, category/class of debt, security or pursuant to a program for which the ratings are derived exclusively from existing ratings in accordance with Moody's rating practices. For ratings issued on a support provider, this announcement provides certain regulatory disclosures in relation to the credit rating action on the support provider and in relation to each particular credit rating action for securities that derive their credit ratings from the support provider's credit rating. For provisional ratings, this announcement provides certain regulatory disclosures in relation to the provisional rating assigned, and in relation to a definitive rating that may be assigned subsequent to the final issuance of the debt, in each case where the transaction structure and terms have not changed prior to the assignment of the definitive rating in a manner that would have affected the rating. For further information please see the ratings tab on the issuer/entity page for the respective issuer on [www.moodys.com](http://www.moodys.com).

For any affected securities or rated entities receiving direct credit support from the primary entity(ies) of this credit rating action, and whose ratings may change as a result of this credit rating action, the associated regulatory disclosures will be those of the guarantor entity. Exceptions to this approach exist for the following disclosures, if applicable to jurisdiction: Ancillary Services, Disclosure to rated entity, Disclosure from rated entity.

The ratings have been disclosed to the rated entity or its designated agent(s) and issued with no amendment resulting from that disclosure.

These ratings are solicited. Please refer to Moody's Policy for Designating and Assigning Unsolicited Credit Ratings available on its website [www.moody.com](http://www.moody.com).

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 [https://www.moody.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx?docid=PBC\\_1243406](https://www.moody.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx?docid=PBC_1243406).

The Global Scale Credit Rating on this Credit Rating Announcement was issued by one of Moody's affiliates outside the UK and is endorsed by Moody's Investors Service Limited, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5FA under the law applicable to credit rating agencies in the UK. Further information on the UK endorsement status and on the Moody's office that issued the credit rating is available on [www.moody.com](http://www.moody.com).

Please see [www.moody.com](http://www.moody.com) for any updates on changes to the lead rating analyst and to the Moody's legal entity that has issued the rating.

Please see the ratings tab on the issuer/entity page on [www.moody.com](http://www.moody.com) for additional regulatory disclosures for each credit rating.

Anna Stark  
Asst Vice President - Analyst  
Financial Institutions Group  
Moody's Deutschland GmbH  
An der Welle 5  
Frankfurt am Main 60322  
Germany  
JOURNALISTS: 44 20 7772 5456  
Client Service: 44 20 7772 5454

Alexander Hendricks, CFA  
Associate Managing Director  
Financial Institutions Group  
JOURNALISTS: 44 20 7772 5456  
Client Service: 44 20 7772 5454

Releasing Office:  
Moody's Deutschland GmbH  
An der Welle 5  
Frankfurt am Main 60322  
Germany  
JOURNALISTS: 44 20 7772 5456  
Client Service: 44 20 7772 5454



© 2021 Moody's Corporation, Moody's Investors Service, Inc., Moody's Analytics, Inc. and/or their licensors and affiliates (collectively, "MOODY'S"). All rights reserved.

**CREDIT RATINGS ISSUED BY MOODY'S CREDIT RATINGS AFFILIATES ARE THEIR CURRENT OPINIONS OF THE RELATIVE FUTURE CREDIT RISK OF ENTITIES, CREDIT COMMITMENTS, OR DEBT OR DEBT-LIKE SECURITIES, AND MATERIALS, PRODUCTS, SERVICES AND INFORMATION PUBLISHED BY MOODY'S (COLLECTIVELY, "PUBLICATIONS") MAY INCLUDE SUCH CURRENT OPINIONS. MOODY'S DEFINES CREDIT RISK AS THE RISK THAT AN ENTITY MAY NOT MEET ITS CONTRACTUAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS AS THEY COME DUE AND ANY ESTIMATED FINANCIAL LOSS IN THE EVENT OF DEFAULT OR IMPAIRMENT. SEE APPLICABLE MOODY'S RATING SYMBOLS AND DEFINITIONS PUBLICATION FOR INFORMATION ON THE TYPES OF CONTRACTUAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS ADDRESSED BY MOODY'S CREDIT RATINGS. CREDIT RATINGS DO NOT ADDRESS ANY OTHER RISK, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: LIQUIDITY RISK, MARKET VALUE RISK, OR PRICE VOLATILITY. CREDIT RATINGS,**

**NON-CREDIT ASSESSMENTS (“ASSESSMENTS”), AND OTHER OPINIONS INCLUDED IN MOODY’S PUBLICATIONS ARE NOT STATEMENTS OF CURRENT OR HISTORICAL FACT. MOODY’S PUBLICATIONS MAY ALSO INCLUDE QUANTITATIVE MODEL-BASED ESTIMATES OF CREDIT RISK AND RELATED OPINIONS OR COMMENTARY PUBLISHED BY MOODY’S ANALYTICS, INC. AND/OR ITS AFFILIATES. MOODY’S CREDIT RATINGS, ASSESSMENTS, OTHER OPINIONS AND PUBLICATIONS DO NOT CONSTITUTE OR PROVIDE INVESTMENT OR FINANCIAL ADVICE, AND MOODY’S CREDIT RATINGS, ASSESSMENTS, OTHER OPINIONS AND PUBLICATIONS ARE NOT AND DO NOT PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PURCHASE, SELL, OR HOLD PARTICULAR SECURITIES. MOODY’S CREDIT RATINGS, ASSESSMENTS, OTHER OPINIONS AND PUBLICATIONS DO NOT COMMENT ON THE SUITABILITY OF AN INVESTMENT FOR ANY PARTICULAR INVESTOR. MOODY’S ISSUES ITS CREDIT RATINGS, ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER OPINIONS AND PUBLISHES ITS PUBLICATIONS WITH THE EXPECTATION AND UNDERSTANDING THAT EACH INVESTOR WILL, WITH DUE CARE, MAKE ITS OWN STUDY AND EVALUATION OF EACH SECURITY THAT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR PURCHASE, HOLDING, OR SALE.**

MOODY’S CREDIT RATINGS, ASSESSMENTS, OTHER OPINIONS, AND PUBLICATIONS ARE NOT INTENDED FOR USE BY RETAIL INVESTORS AND IT WOULD BE RECKLESS AND INAPPROPRIATE FOR RETAIL INVESTORS TO USE MOODY’S CREDIT RATINGS, ASSESSMENTS, OTHER OPINIONS OR PUBLICATIONS WHEN MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION. IF IN DOUBT YOU SHOULD CONTACT YOUR FINANCIAL OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL ADVISER.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS PROTECTED BY LAW, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COPYRIGHT LAW, AND NONE OF SUCH INFORMATION MAY BE COPIED OR OTHERWISE REPRODUCED, REPACKAGED, FURTHER TRANSMITTED, TRANSFERRED, DISSEMINATED, REDISTRIBUTED OR RESOLD, OR STORED FOR SUBSEQUENT USE FOR ANY SUCH PURPOSE, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IN ANY FORM OR MANNER OR BY ANY MEANS WHATSOEVER, BY ANY PERSON WITHOUT MOODY’S PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT.

MOODY’S CREDIT RATINGS, ASSESSMENTS, OTHER OPINIONS AND PUBLICATIONS ARE NOT INTENDED FOR USE BY ANY PERSON AS A BENCHMARK AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED FOR REGULATORY PURPOSES AND MUST NOT BE USED IN ANY WAY THAT COULD RESULT IN THEM BEING CONSIDERED A BENCHMARK.

All information contained herein is obtained by MOODY’S from sources believed by it to be accurate and reliable. Because of the possibility of human or mechanical error as well as other factors, however, all information contained herein is provided “AS IS” without warranty of any kind. MOODY’S adopts all necessary measures so that the information it uses in assigning a credit rating is of sufficient quality and from sources MOODY’S considers to be reliable including, when appropriate, independent third-party sources. However, MOODY’S is not an auditor and cannot in every instance independently verify or validate information received in the rating process or in preparing its Publications.

To the extent permitted by law, MOODY’S and its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, licensors and suppliers disclaim liability to any person or entity for any indirect, special, consequential, or incidental losses or damages whatsoever arising from or in connection with the information contained herein or the use of or inability to use any such information, even if MOODY’S or any of its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, licensors or suppliers is advised in advance of the possibility of such losses or damages, including but not limited to: (a) any loss of present or prospective profits or (b) any loss or damage arising where the relevant financial instrument is not the subject of a particular credit rating assigned by MOODY’S.

To the extent permitted by law, MOODY’S and its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, licensors and suppliers disclaim liability for any direct or compensatory losses or damages caused to any person or entity, including but not limited to by any negligence (but excluding fraud, willful misconduct or any other type of liability that, for the avoidance of doubt, by law cannot be excluded) on the part of, or any contingency within or beyond the control of, MOODY’S or any of its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, licensors or suppliers, arising from or in connection with the information contained herein or the use of or inability to use any such information.

NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO THE ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, COMPLETENESS,

MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE OF ANY CREDIT RATING, ASSESSMENT, OTHER OPINION OR INFORMATION IS GIVEN OR MADE BY MOODY'S IN ANY FORM OR MANNER WHATSOEVER.

Moody's Investors Service, Inc., a wholly-owned credit rating agency subsidiary of Moody's Corporation ("MCO"), hereby discloses that most issuers of debt securities (including corporate and municipal bonds, debentures, notes and commercial paper) and preferred stock rated by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. have, prior to assignment of any credit rating, agreed to pay to Moody's Investors Service, Inc. for credit ratings opinions and services rendered by it fees ranging from \$1,000 to approximately \$5,000,000. MCO and Moody's Investors Service also maintain policies and procedures to address the independence of Moody's Investors Service credit ratings and credit rating processes. Information regarding certain affiliations that may exist between directors of MCO and rated entities, and between entities who hold credit ratings from Moody's Investors Service and have also publicly reported to the SEC an ownership interest in MCO of more than 5%, is posted annually at [www.moodys.com](http://www.moodys.com) under the heading "Investor Relations — Corporate Governance — Director and Shareholder Affiliation Policy."

Additional terms for Australia only: Any publication into Australia of this document is pursuant to the Australian Financial Services License of MOODY'S affiliate, Moody's Investors Service Pty Limited ABN 61 003 399 657AFSL 336969 and/or Moody's Analytics Australia Pty Ltd ABN 94 105 136 972 AFSL 383569 (as applicable). This document is intended to be provided only to "wholesale clients" within the meaning of section 761G of the Corporations Act 2001. By continuing to access this document from within Australia, you represent to MOODY'S that you are, or are accessing the document as a representative of, a "wholesale client" and that neither you nor the entity you represent will directly or indirectly disseminate this document or its contents to "retail clients" within the meaning of section 761G of the Corporations Act 2001. MOODY'S credit rating is an opinion as to the creditworthiness of a debt obligation of the issuer, not on the equity securities of the issuer or any form of security that is available to retail investors.

Additional terms for Japan only: Moody's Japan K.K. ("MJKK") is a wholly-owned credit rating agency subsidiary of Moody's Group Japan G.K., which is wholly-owned by Moody's Overseas Holdings Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of MCO. Moody's SF Japan K.K. ("MSFJ") is a wholly-owned credit rating agency subsidiary of MJKK. MSFJ is not a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization ("NRSRO"). Therefore, credit ratings assigned by MSFJ are Non-NRSRO Credit Ratings. Non-NRSRO Credit Ratings are assigned by an entity that is not a NRSRO and, consequently, the rated obligation will not qualify for certain types of treatment under U.S. laws. MJKK and MSFJ are credit rating agencies registered with the Japan Financial Services Agency and their registration numbers are FSA Commissioner (Ratings) No. 2 and 3 respectively.

MJKK or MSFJ (as applicable) hereby disclose that most issuers of debt securities (including corporate and municipal bonds, debentures, notes and commercial paper) and preferred stock rated by MJKK or MSFJ (as applicable) have, prior to assignment of any credit rating, agreed to pay to MJKK or MSFJ (as applicable) for credit ratings opinions and services rendered by it fees ranging from JPY125,000 to approximately JPY550,000,000.

MJKK and MSFJ also maintain policies and procedures to address Japanese regulatory requirements.