

Cairo, April 2017

**Press Release: Egyptian Securitization Company S.A.E. – Fourth Issue 2014-2020**

**MERIS (MIDDLE EAST RATING & INVESTORS SERVICE) AFFIRMS THE NATIONAL SCALE RATINGS (NSR) TO THE FOURTH MULTIPLE-TRANCHE ASSET-BACKED SECURITIZATION BOND ISSUED BY THE EGYPTIAN SECURITIZATION COMPANY AND ORIGINATED BY CORPLEASE S.A.E.**

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MERIS (Middle East Rating & Investors Service) has affirmed the following ratings on the national scale to the multiple-tranche notes issued by the Egyptian Securitization Company S.A.E.:

**Tranche B: “AA” (sf)** to the EGP 228.6 million Mezzanine Subordinated Fixed-Rate Notes, due in January 2018, representing 63.40% of the aggregate issue size, with a coupon of 10.98% p.a. payable monthly;

**Tranche C: “A” (sf)** to the EGP 132 million Junior Subordinated Fixed-Rate Notes, due in January 2020, representing 36.60% of the aggregate issue size, with a coupon of 11.73% p.a. payable monthly.

The notes are redeemed sequentially in order of seniority and follow a pass-through amortization.

All of the above ratings are considered investment grade on the National Rating Scale. A “AA” grade represents **Very Strong** Creditworthiness relative to other domestic issues. An “A”-rated issuer or issue is considered of **Above Average** Creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers or issues. The (+/-) signs denote relative status within each rating category and the (sf) insertion stands for structured finance.

The ratings are a relative ranking of risk and address the expected loss posed to investors by the notes maturity. In MERIS's opinion, the transaction structure allows for timely payment of interest and ultimate repayment of principal with respect to the notes maturity.

Egyptian Securitization Company S.A.E. – a special purpose entity – was incorporated in Egypt in 2007 in accordance with the Capital Market Law 95/1992. The bond issue is backed by fixed rate auto, equipment or real estate leasing receivables from large and medium-sized corporate entities domiciled in Egypt. The leasing receivables have been originated by CorpLease between May 2009 and August 2014. The collateral portfolio comprises a static pool of 110 fully amortizing financial leasing contracts.

The credit enhancement currently available to the transaction, as measured by the NPV of the portfolio receivables plus the accumulated cash surplus account (residual cash balance and liquidity reserve) over the NPV of the transactions cash outflows (senior fees and expenses as well as bond amortization), stands at 4.5% as of November 30, 2016 compared to 1.6% at closing of the transaction. Thus measured, the credit enhancement is quite conservative, as it does not take into account any potential collections of the EGP 20.5 million of overdue rents. When adjusted for the L/G amount (EGP 95 million) available to the transaction, the overall credit support measures 30.9% as of November 30, 2016, compared to 15.6% at closing. In view of the amortization of the bond and the performance of the receivables, there has been a buildup of credit enhancement that is currently above the requirements for the ratings of the notes. To maintain the existing ratings of the transaction the external credit enhancement in the form of a bank letter of guarantee can be adjusted downwards by 20% to EGP 76 million effective immediately. Following the adjustment, the overall credit support will measure 25.6% of the outstanding principal balance of the bond.

The ratings assigned to the notes are based on: (1) a credit assessment of the initial portfolio of underlying leasing receivables, which reflects the Originator's strict underwriting, collection and monitoring guidelines and procedures; (2) the level of protection provided to investors by the internal credit support (overcollateralization net of expenses) in the size of 4.5% of the outstanding notes size and the external credit support (bank letter of guarantee) in the size of 26.3%, in addition to the structural subordination of tranche C to the more senior tranche; (3) the experience of the Servicer and the efficiency of its operating systems, in addition to the availability of a back-up servicing agreement with CIB (rated B3 by Moody's Investor Service, 2016).

The ratings assigned by **MERIS** also takes into consideration the following limitations of the transaction: (1) relatively short operating history of the Originator and hence, lack of sufficient data available regarding historical arrears, default and recovery; (2) the generally greater uncertainty associated with unrated Originators, and the use of securitization proceeds to fund the Originator's growing phase; mitigated, however, by the Originator's experienced management team and strict adherence to its underwriting policies and procedures, which assure a reasonable quality receivables pool, in addition to the Originator's well-known shareholders; (3) high linkage between the ratings of Class C notes to the ratings of CIB, in its capacity as an external credit support provider, i.e. issuer of the bank letter of guarantee in the amount of EGP 95 million; (4) remarkably high individual obligor concentrations exhibited by the pool; (5) notably high share of relatively longer tenor contracts, which carry relatively higher credit risk due to the slower build-up of owner's equity, partially mitigated by the relatively high seasoning of the portfolio and reasonable loan to value ratio; (6) the existence of legal uncertainties, given that the key legal concepts underpinning securitization transaction enforcement remain largely untested in judicial proceedings or in practice in Egypt, mitigated by the legal opinions provided by the transaction's legal advisor on issues such as true sale, separateness of accounts, commingling and consolidation risk.

**MERIS** will monitor the transaction on an on-going basis and will issue regular performance reports.

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