Summary: Caraustar Industries Inc. Sep 08

Description: Abstract
The ratings on Austell, Ga.-based Caraustar Industries Inc. reflect its near-term refinancing risk, high debt burden, weak earnings, cyclical and mature end markets, and elevated raw material, energy, and transportation costs. The ratings also reflect aggressive industry capacity closures and modestly rising product prices. Caraustar is one of the largest U.S. manufacturers of 100% recycled paperboard. Paperboard markets are mature, highly competitive, energy intensive, and subject to product substitution from competing paperboard grades and alternative materials, such as plastics and flexible packaging. In addition, the price of the primary raw material, old corrugated containers, is volatile. Caraustar continues to carry out significant portfolio rationalization and "rightsizing" activities, such as selling and exiting several businesses, and closing multiple mills and converting...

Companies mentioned in this report are:
- Caraustar Industries Inc.

Action: Review

Standard and Poors RatingsXpress Credit Research provides in-depth coverage of international corporates, financial institutions, insurance companies, utilities, sovereigns and structured finance programs. RatingsXpress Credit Research lets users determine the credit rating of holdings and identify key factors underlying an issuer’s creditworthiness, distinguishes the different risk exposures for new and existing deals, and provides an understanding of how their analysts interpret key regulatory, political and environmental events and their economic impact.

This product consists of a Summary Analysis: Bi-annual (at least). An abbreviated analysis containing Standard & Poor’s issuer credit ratings as of the time the article was published. The analysis includes a rating rationale - the basis on which the rating was assigned - and an outlook section if the issuer is not on CreditWatch. Financial statistics are not included.

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