## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

#### FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the month of July 2015

ALON BLUE SQUARE ISRAEL LTD. (translation of registrant's name into English)

Europark Yakum, France Building, Yakum 60972 Israel (Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40 F:

Form 20-F 🗵 Form 40-F 🛘
Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):
Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):
Alon Blue Square Israel Ltd. (NYSE: BSI) (the "Company") announced today that Midroog Ltd. (an Israeli rating agency, a 51% subsidiary of Moody's ("Midroog")) has announced the downgrade of Series C debentures issued by the Company from Baa2 to Baa3, and keeping the rating under review with negative implications.
Attached to this Form 6-K is an unofficial English translation of the Midroog report, provided by Midroog, as well as a related Consent of Rating Agency.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

ALON BLUE SQUARE ISRAEL LTD.

By:

/s/ Elli Levinson-Sela Elli Levinson-Sela, Adv. General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

July 7, 2015



# Alon Blue Square Israel Ltd.

## **Monitoring report July 2015**

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## Alon Blue Square Israel Ltd.

Bond Rating	Baa3	Credit review

Midroog is downgrading the bond rating (Series C) of Alon Blue Square Israel Ltd. ("Blue Square" or the "Company" or the "Group") from Baa2 to Baa3, and is keeping the rating under review with negative implications.

Following is a breakdown of the bond series in circulation issued by the Company and rated by Midroog:

Bond Series	Security No.	Original Date of Issue	Fixed Annual Coupon	Linkage	Book Value of Bond Balance on March 31, 2015 (NIS M)	Remainder of Bond Repayment Years
C	1121334	Oct. 2010	2.50%	CPI	359.0	2015-2022

#### **Key Rating Rationale**

The downgrade is based on our assessment that the level of the Company's liquidity and financial flexibility have been impaired by negative developments in respect to its subsidiary (100%) Mega Retail Ltd. ("Mega"). On June 29, 2015, Mega petitioned the court for a creditors' arrangement designed to ease its cash flow situation and buy it time to rehabilitate its operations, based on a comprehensive recovery plan, which we believe further increases the level of the Blue Square's credit risk.

As we said in our last monitoring report, the Company gave Mega a "comfort letter" of up to NIS 240 million, designated, the Company says, to support Mega's working capital needs from time to time and financing its operation. Financing sources for this support were expected to arise from selling shares and possibly through a rights issue to Blue Square shareholders. In parallel, the Company declared embarkation on a sweeping recovery plan for Mega. At this point, in our opinion, Mega application for a creditors' arrangement and the uncertainty about the success of the arrangement create a significant threat to the Company's liquidity and financial flexibility, on the backdrop of the significant scope of guarantees, amounting to approximately NIS 470 million, which Blue Square extended to Mega's banks and credit insurance agencies. We also assess that the Company's financial flexibility has been damaged due to the state of its subsidiary, which will make it harder for the Company to refinance its liabilities and receive new credit facilities in the short run. However, the Company still has quite a bit of financial flexibility in the shape of liquid shares in its holdings, which are mostly unencumbered, and we believe the Company will tap this flexibility in the near term.

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The present rating does not factor in Mega deteriorating to a state of liquidation (in contrast to a court-sponsored creditors' arrangement plan, which the Company is seeking), a situation which is not unreasonable, which however will become clear very soon (a creditors' assembly is scheduled for July 12, 2015). Still, in contrast to the past, when we assumed that the recovery plan and Alon Blue Square's intentions to provide support would improve Mega's status in the foreseeable future – now, given the threat to Mega's continued operations, we are stressing mainly the liquidity and financial flexibility available to Blue Square.

We assess the Company's liquidity in the four quarters to come as weak, also considering the erosion in the Company's financial flexibility, as said above. We estimate the Company's ongoing sources of financing for the next four quarters at approximately NIS 330 million, including its stand-alone balance of cash as of June 30, 2015, which we estimate at approximately NIS 80 million, ongoing dividends from subsidiaries estimated at approximately NIS 25 million, and the rights issue the Company reported in the totally amount of NIS 150 million, in which the share of the controlling shareholder would be approximately NIS 110 million. Another financing source should come from selling shares in Blue Square Real Estate – we project cash flow of approximately NIS 120 million from this source, reflecting a decrease in holdings to about 51% (as of this report, the Company owns 61.3%).taking into consideration sensitivity on the price of the stock. On the other hand, we estimate the extent of ongoing uses (stand-alone) in the next four quarters at approximately NIS 260-320 million, under the scenario that Mega continues to operate, and including ongoing repayment of debt obligations and interest amounting to approximately NIS 150 million, an infusion of NIS 100-150 million to Mega, and ongoing expenses amounting to about NIS 15 million. With these assumptions and without assuming any more asset divestiture, the cash balance is projected to be between small amount to zero after four quarters, against minimal uses of approximately NIS 120 million in the following year (without factoring in additional support of Mega).

We assess the Company's level of leverage as very high, in the range of 85%-100%, according to our different scenarios, based on the value of its holdings and stand-alone debt balance (approximately NIS 700 million as of June 30, 2015, according to the Company's figures<sup>[1]</sup>), while adding the sum of the guarantees to the Company's liabilities balance, on the assumption that Mega could, with some probability, deteriorate to the point of liquidation, which would put the guaranties threat as more material. We also note that according to the Company's information, the downgrade could constitute cause to call in certain obligations.

As said, the present downgrade does not assume that Mega will enter liquidation in the short run, a situation likely to become clearer quickly, and that event could lead to a more severe liquidity crunch and to significant rating downgrade. Leaving the rating on negative credit watch is designed to test developments regarding a creditors' arrangement at Mega (a creditors meeting has been set for July 12, 2015), and the ramifications it would have for Blue Square's liquidity and financial flexibility.

<sup>1</sup> The above debt amount includes, in additional to the company's bonds and banks, also loans of subsidiaries guaranteed by the company (expect for Mega) in the sum of NIS 30 million as well as current debt balance to blue square real estate in the amount of NIS 50 million.

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#### Rating Outlook

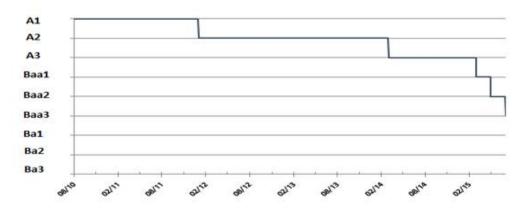
#### Factors that may improve the rating

A significant capital injection into the Company that would significantly reduce its leverage and/or reduced exposure to Mega by selling its operations, or parts of them

#### Factors that may lower the rating

- Mega entering into state of liquidation, in that way or another, in the short run
- Further erosion in liquidity, including calling in financial obligations

#### **Rating History**



#### About the Company

Alon Square is a public company listed on the Tel Aviv and New York stock exchanges. The Company is about 72.7% owned by Alon Israel Oil Company Ltd. a private holding company engaged in the retail and energy industries in Israel and overseas, which is owned by Bielsol Investments Ltd. (a private company controlled by Mr. Shraga Birran and held also by Mr. David Weissman) and purchasing cooperative agencies belonging to kibbutzim. The Company operates through four main subsidiaries: Mega Retail (100% holding), which concentrates the Group's retail food business; BEE Retail (100%), which presently holds mainly about 77.5% of Na'aman Ltd. and 35% of Kfar Hasha'ashuim; Dor Alon (71.17%), which is engaged in marketing and selling fuel in Israel; Blue Square Real Estate (61.19%), which owns real estate properties, most of which are currently leased for the Group's retail activity. The Company also has a 36.75% stake in Diners Club Israel Ltd. Mr. Amit Ben Yitzhak is the chairman of the board of directors and Mr. Avigdor Kaplan is the CEO.

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### Related Reports

Alon Blue Square Israel Ltd., Monitoring Report, May 2015

Alon Blue Square Israel Ltd., Monitoring Report, March 2015

The Retail Sector - Rating Methodology, August 2010

Financial Ratios Adjustment Methodology, November 2010

The reports are published on Midroog's website: <a href="www.midroog.co.il">www.midroog.co.il</a>.

Date of the report: July 7, 2015

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#### **KEY FINANCIAL TERMS**

Interest Net financing expenses from Income Statement

Cash Interest Financing expenses from income statement after adjustments for non-cash flow expenditures from

statement of cash flows

Operating profit (EBIT) Profit before tax, financing and onetime expenses/profits

Operating profit before amortization

EBIT + amortization of intangible assets. (EBITA)

Operating profit before depreciation and amortization (EBITDA)

EBIT + depreciation + amortization of intangible assets.

Operating profit before depreciation,

amortization and rent/leasing (EBITDAR)

EBIT + depreciation + amortization of intangible assets + rent + operational leasing.

Company's total balance sheet assets. Assets

Short term debt + current maturities of long-term loans + long-term debt + liabilities on operational Debt

leasing

Net debt Debt - cash and cash equivalent - long-term investments

Capitalization (CAP) Debt + total shareholders' equity (including minority interest) + long-term deferred taxes in balance

sheet

Capital investments

Capital Expenditures (CAPEX) Gross investments in equipment, machinery and intangible assets

Funds From Operations (FFO)\* Cash flow from operations before changes in working capital and before changes in other asset and

liabilities

Cash Flow from Current Operations (CFO)\* Cash flow from operating activity according to consolidated cash flow statements

Retained Cash Flow (RCF)\* Funds from operations (FFO) less dividend paid to shareholders

Free Cash Flow (FCF)\* Cash flow from operating activity (CFO) - CAPEX - dividends

\* It should be noted that in IFRS reports, interest payments and receipts, tax and dividends from investees will be included in the calculation of the operating cash flows, even if they are not entered in cash flow from operating activity.

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#### **Obligations Rating Scale**

Investment	Aaa	Obligations rated Aaa are those that, in Midroog's judgment, are of the highest quality and involve minimal credit risk.		
grade	Aa	Obligations rated Aa are those that, in Midroog's judgment, are of high quality and involve very low credit risk.		
	A	Obligations rated A are considered by Midroog to be in the upper-end of the middle rating, and involve low credit risk.		
	Baa	Obligations rated Baa are those that, in Midroog's judgment, involve moderate credit risk. They are considered medium grade obligations, and could have certain speculative characteristics.		
Speculative	Ba	Obligations rated Ba are those that, in Midroog's judgment, contain speculative elements, and involve a significant degree of credit risk.		
Investment	В	Obligations rated B are those that, in Midroog's judgment, are speculative and involve a high credit risk.		
	Caa	Obligations rated Caa are those that, in Midroog's judgment, have weak standing and involve a very high credit risk.		
	Ca	Obligations rated Ca are very speculative investments, and are likely to be in, or very near to, a situation of insolvency, with some prospect of recovery of principal and interest.		
	C	Obligations rated C are assigned the lowest rating, and are generally in a situation of insolvency, with poor prospects of repayment of principal and interest.		

Midroog applies numerical modifiers 1, 2 and 3 in each of the rating categories from Aa to Caa. Modifier 1 indicates that the bond ranks in the higher end of the letter-rating category. Modifier 2 indicates that the bonds are in the middle of the letter-rating category; and modifier 3 indicates that the bonds are in the lower end of the letter-rating category.

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#### CONSENT OF RATING AGENCY

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (No. 333-149175) of Alon Blue Square Israel Ltd. ("the Company") of the reference to our Baa3 rating (on local scale) for the Series C bonds issued by the Company and keeping the rating under review with negative implications, and of the unofficial translation of our Monitoring Report dated July 2015 with respect to the foregoing, included in this Current Report on Form 6-K.

Eran Heimer, CEO Midroog Ltd.

Tel-Aviv, Israel, July 7, 2015.

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