

# Rating Action: Moody's Ratings upgrades Colonial to Baa1, stable outlook

16 Sep 2024

Frankfurt am Main, September 16, 2024 -- Moody's Ratings (Moody's) today upgraded Inmobiliaria Colonial SOCIMI, S.A.'s ("Colonial" or "the company") long term issuer rating to Baa1 from Baa2 and changed the outlook to stable from positive.

## RATINGS RATIONALE

The upgrade reflects expected improvements to credit metrics with a sustainably lower leverage driven by a conservative financial policy with the benefits of recent capital increase and continuing strong operating performance. The operating performance is characterized by low vacancy rate and robust rental growth, reflecting the good asset quality of Colonial's prime office property portfolio.

We project Moody's-adjusted Debt/Gross Assets to reduce sustainably below 40% by 2025 from current 45%. The company has highlighted reduced sustainable leverage appetite post capital raise executed in July 2024, which we consider a governance factor in our rating. We assume a repayment of debt from an existing higher cash balance while additional assets contributed as part of the capital raise mitigate the expected effect from disposals on earnings. Continued asset recycling will be available next to existing cash to fund capital spending that we estimate between €150-250 million annually to 2026. Despite remaining a relative weak point of Colonial's credit metrics, Moody's-adjusted fixed charge cover will stay at or above 3x in the next 18 months given like-for-like rental growth and paydown of debt alongside partial pre-hedging offsets higher cost of refinancing.

Colonial's credit strengths also include a persistent strong operating performance despite sector wide concerns around structural changes in the office market; good liquidity management, supported by good access to capital markets, and a substantial amount of unencumbered assets.

Despite being well prepared with a strong asset base, secular changes from a widely accepted hybrid work model remain a challenge for future performance. A very low property yield results in lower cash and earnings-based credit metrics, alongside

pressure from higher interest rates. Capital recycling remains more difficult with low volumes of transactions in the market.

The stable outlook reflects the stabilising business environment for landlords and limited impact of secular headwinds on Colonial's operating performance.

# LIQUIDITY

Colonial's solid liquidity is based on €425 million of cash and cash equivalent and €2.6 billion of RCF as of June 2024. The company also received €350 million of cash from its capital raise with Criteria and some disposal proceeds post balance sheet date.

Colonial faces around €1.6 billion in debt maturities until end of 2025. We also expect the company to spend €350 to 400 million mainly on capital expenditures related to its project pipeline, renovations and other property improvements during this period. Given its SOCIMI status we also included around €200 million of dividends until December 2025 in our assessment. The company has highlighted further potential for asset recycling that we expect to improve liquidity over time. The company's large unencumbered asset base provides financial flexibility if need be.

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

Factors that could lead to an upgrade

- Continued substantial outperformance of the office market resulting in strong rental growth

- Changes to the company's financial policy that will keep Moody's-adjusted debt/gross assets well below 35%

- Moody's-adjusted fixed charge cover sustainably towards 4x

- The rating of the government of Spain (Baa1 positive) may pose a constraint to the rating of Colonial

Factors that could lead to a downgrade

- Moody's-adjusted fixed charge cover sustained sustained below 3x
- Moody's-adjusted gross debt/total assets above 40%
- Failure to maintain a positive operating track record
- Unfavourable changes to the business environment for property owners

PRINCIPAL METHODOLOGY

The principal methodology used in this rating was REITS and Other Commercial Real Estate Firms published in February 2024 and available at <a href="https://ratings.moodys.com/rmc-documents/414558">https://ratings.moodys.com/rmc-documents/414558</a>. Alternatively, please see the Rating Methodologies page on <a href="https://ratings.moodys.com">https://ratings.moodys.com</a> for a copy of this methodology.

#### COMPANY PROFILE

Colonial ranks among Europe's largest listed office owners. As of 30 June 2024, the GAV of Colonial's portfolio amounted to €11.3 billion. Colonial's portfolio is primarily located in the CBDs of Paris, Madrid and Barcelona, while a minority of assets is in semi-central areas of Madrid and Barcelona.

## 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 on <a href="https://ratings.moodys.com/rating-definitions">https://ratings.moodys.com/rating-definitions</a>.

For any affected securities or rated entities receiving direct credit support/credit substitution from another entity or entities subject to a credit rating action (the supporting entity), and whose ratings may change as a result of a credit rating action as to the supporting entity, the associated regulatory disclosures will relate to the supporting entity. Exceptions to this approach may be applicable in certain jurisdictions.

For ratings issued on a program, series, category/class of debt or security, certain regulatory disclosures applicable to each rating of a subsequently issued bond or note of the same series, category/class of debt, or security, or pursuant to a program for which the ratings are derived exclusively from existing ratings, in accordance with Moody's rating practices, can be found in the most recent Credit Rating Announcement related to the same class of Credit Rating.

For provisional ratings, the Credit Rating 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.

Moody's does not always publish a separate Credit Rating Announcement for each Credit Rating assigned in the Anticipated Ratings Process or Subsequent Ratings Process.

This rating is solicited. Please refer to Moody's Policy for Designating and Assigning Unsolicited Credit Ratings available on its website <u>https://ratings.moodys.com</u>.

Regulatory disclosures contained in this press release apply to the credit rating and, if applicable, the related rating outlook or rating review.

At least one ESG consideration was material to the credit rating action(s) announced and described above.

Moody's general principles for assessing environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks in our credit analysis can be found at <u>https://ratings.moodys.com/documents/PBC 1355824</u>.

The Global Scale Credit Rating(s) discussed in this Credit Rating Announcement was(were) issued by one of Moody's affiliates outside the UK and is(are) endorsed for use in the UK in accordance with the UK CRA Regulation.

Please see https://ratings.moodys.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 issuer/deal page on https://ratings.moodys.com for additional regulatory disclosures for each credit rating.

Oliver Schmitt VP - Senior Credit Officer Corporate Finance 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

Christian Hendker, CFA Associate Managing Director Corporate Finance 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 © 2024 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 credit 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, Inc. and have also publicly reported to the SEC an ownership interest in MCO of more than 5%, is posted annually at 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 JPY100,000 to approximately JPY550,000,000.

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