

# **RatingsDirect**<sup>®</sup>

## **DRAFT: Royal Schiphol Group N.V.**

**Primary Credit Analyst:** Mar N Beltran, Madrid (34) 91-423-3193; mar.beltran@spglobal.com

## Table Of Contents

Rationale

Outlook

**Our Base-Case Scenario** 

**Company Description** 

**Business Risk** 

**Financial Risk** 

Liquidity

**Covenant Analysis** 

Government Influence

**Ratings Score Snapshot** 

Issue Ratings--Subordination Risk Analysis

Reconciliation

**Related** Criteria

DRAFT

WWW.SPGLOBAL.COM/RATINGSDIRECT

0120272F | Linx User

## **DRAFT: Royal Schiphol Group N.V.**



## Rationale

Business Risk: Excellent	Financial Risk: Intermediate
<ul> <li>Dominant market position within its wealthy and large catchment area.</li> <li>Supportive regulatory framework allowing Schiphol to adjust tariffs annually in response to cost pressures. However, a new framework will set tariffs every three years, starting in 2019, and will include a new mandatory contribution (to be determined by the shareholders of the group) to aviation activities from non-aviation activities, the impact of which is not known yet.</li> <li>High customer concentration on its main client, Air France-KLM, as well as a high share of transfer passengers. Transfer traffic represented about 36.9% of total passenger volume in 2017 and exposes Schiphol Airport to greater competition from other European hubs, such as Heathrow and Charles De Gaulle.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Expected weighted average adjusted ratio of funds from operations (FFO) to debt of 17%-20% from 2018, with sizable capital expenditures (capex) and dividend distributions constraining an improvement in credit metrics.</li> <li>Despite the lower ratios on the back of investments and higher shareholder returns, S&amp;P Global Ratings thinks Royal Schiphol Group N.V. (Schiphol Group) has sufficient financial capacity to meet its plan without impairing its financial risk profile in the next few years.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Current environmental and noise cap of 500,000 runway movements (air transport movements [ATMs]) until 2020, increasing congestion and operational risk, which adds pressure to profitability. The number of runway movements will continue due the delay in the opening of Lelystad Airport. This delay will contribute to the increase of terminal congestion at Schiphol and the acceleration of the</li> </ul>	

WWW.SPGLOBAL.COM/RATINGSDIRECT S&P Global Ratings. All rights reserved. No reprint or dissemination without S&P Global Ratings permission. See Terms of Use/Disclaimer on the 0120272F | Linx User last page.

terminal expansion construction works.

#### **Outlook: Stable**

Our stable outlook reflects our view that Schiphol Group will be able to maintain its position as the primary airport in its region, and demonstrate stable and moderate growth in passenger volumes. Despite a drop in EBITDA margin in 2017, due additional congestion costs and tariff reductions, we foresee Schiphol Group recovering its previous EBITDA margins to 41%-43% over 2019-2020. Furthermore, the stable outlook reflects that on the Netherlands, as the rating on Schiphol Group benefits from uplift thanks to our assessment of that the group enjoys a moderate likelihood of extraordinary government support.

#### Downside scenario

We could take a negative rating action if Schiphol Group's competitive position weakened. Such weakening could be indicated, among others, by more-volatile-than-expected profitability and EBITDA generation, for example, from stronger competition from other hubs or geopolitical shocks. We could also take a negative rating action if Schiphol Group's credit metrics were to weaken (specifically if FFO to debt declines below 13%) due to increased leverage to finance investments and dividends, if the capex program budget increases significantly, for example, and dividend distributions are maintained at a 60% pay-out ratio.

#### Upside scenario

In our view, an upgrade is unlikely at this stage. We believe that Schiphol Group is facing a period of volatility while it adjusts its tactical four-year plan to its current operational challenges (delayed opening of Lelystad Airport, significant terminal congestion, and a major capex program). All else being equal, we could potentially take a positive action if FFO to debt were to increase above 20% on a sustainable basis, if the outcome of the regulatory review was better than forecast for example.

## **Our Base-Case Scenario**

#### **Recent Developments**

- Traffic for full-year 2017 was 68.4 million, a 7.7% increase over full-year 2016 numbers, followed by a 6.7% growth in the first four months of 2018 because of greater airport transport movements, larger aircrafts, and an increased load factor. Despite this growth, 2018 is expected to deliver traffic volumes below the growth trend experienced in past, as the airport will likely reach its maximum capacity of 500,000 ATMs in 2018. Passenger numbers as of July 31, 2018, show solid passenger growth of 4.6%, due to more ATMs (+0.6%) larger aircraft and increased load factors.
- Despite high growth in traffic numbers, revenues grew by only 1.6% to €1.457 billion owing to a 7.10% drop in tariffs that took effect on April 1, 2017. EBITDA, on the other hand, dropped by around 5.5%, hit by additional operational expenses the airport undertook to streamline the substantially growing passenger flows, which the airport's operational capacity was incapable of handling without additional costs. We foresee this situation continuing for the rest of 2018 before the margins start stabilizing in 2019-2020.





#### Netherland's GDP And Schiphol Airport's Traffic, Revenue, And EBITDA Growth

Source: S&P Global Ratings.

Copyright © 2018 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.

- With the change in the charge and tariff setting regulation, whereby the charges are now determined for a threeyear period, starting from 2019-2021 as the first applicable period, Schiphol Group has proposed its tariff expectations to the airlines. Proposed tariffs are expected to be effective as of April 1, 2019. In addition to the 5.4% tariff increase for 2018, it is expected that the proposed increases for 2019-2021 will be shared with the airlines in September 2018.
- In February 2018, the Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management announced that the opening of Lelystad Airport, which was originally scheduled for April 2018 and then for 2019, would be postponed for at least one more year. The opening of Lelystad Airport is of extreme importance to Schiphol Group as it will be able to route part of its non-mainport traffic to Lelystad, thereby creating the needed capacity at Schiphol Airport to facilitate mainport traffic.
- A new CEO, Dick Benschop, started in May 2018. His previous appointments include Royal Dutch Shell and previously he was the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Given his experience in the public domain and his ample experience in the business world, he is well placed and able to address the complex challenges ahead for Schiphol Group and its relationships with its public stakeholders.

Our base-case assumptions incorporate Schiphol Airport's most recent traffic performance, the proposed tariff structure, and our macroeconomic assumptions for Netherlands and Eurozone.

#### Assumptions

In our base case for Schiphol Group, we assume:

- Annual GDP growth in Netherlands of about 2.8% in 2018 and 2.2% in 2019, as well as growth in Eurozone GDP of about 2.3% in 2018 and 1.9% in 2019.
- Annual passenger volume growth for Schiphol Airport of about 2.5%-2.8% in 2018, which is lower than the 7.7% achieved in 2017. Traffic statistics for the first four months of 2018 already indicate an upward trend for 2018, with passenger numbers exhibiting high-single-digit growth of growth of 4.6% as of July 31, 2018. However, we feel that the higher growth in passenger numbers will be constrained by the capacity issues at the terminal, and therefore expect some congestion for at least the rest of 2018 until Schiphol Group completes its expansion projects.
- We foresee an annual passenger growth of 1.0%-1.5% in 2019 and 2020, in line with European GDP growth and much lower than in the previous years. We expect airport charges to continue rising, due to substantial investment projects, which will drive down passenger growth rates. Furthermore, the airport is reaching full capacity. Our base case reflects about 5% in charges for 2018-2020 period.
- Aviation revenues in 2018 should benefit from a modest growth in passenger levels and largely from the 5.0% growth in airport charges, yet to be finalized and implemented. Therefore, we expect aviation revenues to improve significantly by around 7%-8%.
- We expect modest growth in non-aviation revenues over the next two years. Retail is increasingly hampered by crowded lounges and limited (commercial) floor space. Parking revenue growth on the other hand, will likely reduce owing to construction activities. On a like-for-like basis, we expect real estate revenues to remain largely unchanged. We expect total rental space available to increase by 2% annually. Occupancy rates are expected to be stable.
- We expect the adjusted EBITDA margin to drop below 40% in 2018, driven by operating costs growing faster than revenues, due to the airport congestions. We expect the EBITDA margin to recover to 41%-43% over 2019-2020.
- Increasing capex to an annual average of €600 million-€700 million in 2018-2020 for the expansion and upgrade of existing airport infrastructure.
- Dividends assumed at 55% (the midpoint of the group's policy of 60% of the previous year's net income), which we understand the company would have flexibility to manage in a stress situation.

Based on these assumptions, we arrive at the following credit measures:

- A weighted average ratio of S&P Global Ratings-adjusted FFO to debt of about 17%-19% in 2018-2020, compared with about 22% in 2017.
- A weighted average ratio of adjusted debt to EBITDA of 4.0x-4.5x in 2018-2020, compared with about 3.6x in 2017.

#### **Key Metrics**

	2017A	2018E	2019E	2020E	WA2018E-2020E
EBITDA margin (%)	39.5	39-40	40-41	42-43	N.A.
FFO/Debt (%)	21.9	19-20	17-18	17-18	17.0-18.5
Debt/EBITDA (x)	3.6	4.0-4.5	4.0-4.5	4.0-4.5	4.0-4.5
FFO interest coverage (x)	7.08	6.0-7.0	5.0-6.0	5.0-6.0	5.0-6.0

Note: All data S&P Global Ratings adjusted. A--Actual. E--Estimate. WA--Weighted average. FFO--Funds from operations. N.A.--Not available.

## **Company Description**

Schiphol Group owns and operates the largest of the Dutch airports, Schiphol Airport, the third-largest airport in Europe by number of passengers and by cargo volumes and one of Air France-KLM's two major hubs. With 497,000 ATMs and 68.4 million passengers in 2017, Schiphol Airport has a virtual monopoly on air travel originating and ending in the Netherlands and continues to be a major driver of the Dutch economy and a dominant player in the Global Airports Hub league in 2017. The group is 70% owned by Netherlands (unsolicited; AAA/Stable/A-1+), 20% by the Municipality of Amsterdam, 2% by the Municipality of Rotterdam, and 8% by Aeroports de Paris (ADP, A+/Stable/--). Schiphol Group has a cross-shareholding and co-operation agreement with ADP.

In addition to its operations in Amsterdam, a major capital city in Europe, Schiphol Group also owns and operates Lelystad Airport and Rotterdam Airport, and holds a 51% stake in Eindhoven Airport. Its international operations include a minority stake of 8% stake in ADP, a 18.7% stake in Brisbane Airport (BBB/Stable/--) and a management contract for Terminal 4 of JFK Airport in New York.

### Chart 2 Schiphol Airport's Ownership Structure As Of Dec. 31, 2017



Source: Royal Schiphol Group. Copyright © 2018 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.

Schiphol Group operates in four main business lines:

- Aviation;
- Consumer Products And Services (including Retail and Parking);
- Real Estate; and
- Alliances And Partnerships (includes e.g. hotel revenues).

In 2017, the group generated  $\in$ 1.5 billion of revenues ( $\in$ 1.4 billion in 2016) and reported EBITDA of  $\in$ 622 million ( $\in$ 658 million in 2016). The aviation business provides the most revenues, but the EBITDA contribution is well balanced among the three other main business segments. We do not expect significant changes to the contribution mix in the near term.

#### Chart 3

Royal Schiphol Group N.V. -- Revenues By Segment



#### Chart 4

Royal Schiphol Group N.V. -- EBITDA By Segment



Source: S&P Global Ratings. Copyright © 2018 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.

## **Business Risk: Excellent**

#### **Excellent competitive position**

Schiphol Group enjoys a dominant market position in the Netherlands and a strong market position in Europe, benefitting from a large and wealthy catchment area, despite slightly weaker than a year ago.

Schiphol Airport is the only major airport in The Netherlands and hence it provides an essential service to the Dutch economy. With 68.4 million passengers in 2017, Schiphol Airport continued to be a dominant player in the Global Airports Hub segment and a true multimodal hub. It enjoys a strong market position as the third-largest airport in Europe (11.9% market share in 2017), by number of passenger and cargo transported, with 326 direct destinations, and is one of the most important hubs for the region (36.9% transfer passengers in 2017). Its supported by a wealthy and large catchment area of 35 million people that live within a two-hour drive from the airport. The group's largest client, its home carrier KLM and subsidiary partners, generates half of its total aeronautical movements.

Schiphol Airport's growth is currently constrained by the limit of 500,000 ATMs, which unless expanded, will likely put the brakes on its growth. This limitation, along with inadequate terminal capacity, is already putting pressure on service levels and operational costs. The cap could be lifted after 2020; however, Schiphol Group and the relevant government authorities have yet to reach an agreement to lift the cap.

Schiphol Group has the ability to incentivize the reallocation of up to 70,000 flights, particularly origin and destination leisure flights, from Schiphol Airport to other Dutch airports, including to Lelystad Airport. This transfer plan is awaiting approval by air traffic control.

#### Favorable regulatory regime that supports earnings generation and return on investments.

In our view, Schiphol Group operates within a supportive regulatory framework, which allows the group to adjust

tariffs in response to cost pressures. Following the implementation of the Aviation Act in July 2006, Schiphol Airport is subject to a dual-till system of economic regulation, which allows the airport to set aeronautical charges that cover all aviation-related costs, including a regulated return on a defined aviation asset base. From July 2017, we understand that charges will be determined over a three-year period rather than annually, with the change taking effect for the 2019-2021 period. Management proposed tariff increases for this period, which are yet to be approved, and application of the new regime is untested. In addition, there is an introduction of a mandatory contribution from non-aviation activities to aviation activities, the level of which will be determined by Schiphol Group's shareholders. We have no indication yet as to what the level of the contribution will be. Overall, we expect the airport to continue to be remunerated on its capex at above its costs of capital, supporting a slight increase of profitability from 2017 levels. Regional airports are unregulated.

#### Some competition from alternative modes of transport.

Schiphol Group has a virtual monopoly on air travel in the Netherlands. However, given the very good rail network, Schiphol Airport is somewhat exposed to rail competition for certain destinations. The government's high-speed rail plans (to better connect the Netherlands to the high-speed rail networks of Belgium and Germany) are advanced. The London-Amsterdam direct service and Amsterdam-Brussels service started operations in April 2018. These connections will increase the potential catchment area of Schiphol Airport, but may also serve to increase competition on short-haul routes and bring Schiphol Airport into more direct competition with the airports in Paris and Brussels. At this stage, we see the overall impact on passenger volumes as neutral.

#### High reliance on a single airline, in line with other industry peers.

Schiphol Airport is the main hub of KLM, an airline of the Air France-KLM group and integrated in the SkyTeam alliance. Together, Air France and KLM flights accounted for 50.5% of Schiphol Airport's total ATMs in 2017, whereas about 63% of all ATMs were handled by airlines in the SkyTeam alliance, many under code-sharing agreements. To date, the impact of the presence of Air France-KLM and its partners has been positive, bringing additional passengers to the airport and helping develop an extensive network of destinations. However, high exposure to a single airline poses some threat or disadvantage to the airport, especially if the airline is not replaceable in the event of stressed scenarios.

Also, Schiphol Airport has a relatively high proportion of transfer and transit traffic (36.9% of total passenger volume in 2017) in comparison with other airports.

In the case of a failure of the France-KLM group, we expect some of SchipholAirport's traffic, particularly the long-haul transfer traffic, would be lost to other intercontinental hubs in the region.

#### Chart 5



#### Royal Schiphol Group N.V. -- EBITDA And EBITDA Margin

Copyright © 2018 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.

Schiphol Group has been able to sustain its adjusted EBITDA margin above the 40% mark in 2008-2017, including the period that saw one of the deepest financial crises. This highlights the robustness of Schiphol's position in the European market and control around its cost structure.

Congestion and current capacity constraints at the terminals are adding pressure to profitability and operational risk, along with an urgency to increase terminals and associated infrastructure capacity. Therefore, the Schiphol Airport has started a construction program to build a new pier and terminal, which includes over  $\in 1$  billion in capex in its first phase and a tight schedule for delivery over four years.

Despite additional costs and investments dedicated to address the capacity constraints, we expect the EBITDA margin to fall in the range of 39%-42% in the coming years. We expect the higher costs to be offset by increased revenues owing to increase tariff charges to compensate the substantial capex to increase airport capacity.

## Peer comparison

Table 1				
Royal Schiphol Group	N.V Peer Comparison			
Industry Sector: Infrastruct	ture			
	Royal Schiphol Group N.V.	Aeroports de Paris	Heathrow Funding Ltd.	Flughafen Zurich AG
Rating as of Aug. 23, 2018	A+/Stable/A-1	A+/Stable/	A- (Class A) and BBB+ (Class B)	AA-/Stable/

#### WWW.SPGLOBAL.COM/RATINGSDIRECT

#### AUGUST 23, 2018 10

S&P Global Ratings. All rights reserved. No reprint or dissemination without S&P Global Ratings permission. See Terms of Use/Disclaimer on the 0120272F | Linx User last page.

#### Table 1

#### Royal Schiphol Group N.V. -- Peer Comparison (cont.)

John Friday Providence	. i eer eemparisen	()		
(Mil. €)		Average of	past three fiscal years	
Revenues	1,438.5	3,160.0	3,429.9	902.5
EBITDA	612.9	1,381.6	2,110.9	503.5
Funds from operations (FFO)	471.2	1,009.7	1,097.3	423.8
Net income from cont. oper.	320.0	478.7	425.9	213.4
Cash flow from operations	405.1	1,020.4	1,314.1	430.7
Capital expenditures	392.6	718.0	804.4	204.9
Free operating cash flow	12.5	302.4	509.7	225.8
Discretionary cash flow	(145.7)	21.7	(25.9)	85.1
Cash and short-term investments	267.7	1,765.7	532.7	439.3
Debt	1,962.2	3,978.4	15,336.9	657.4
Equity	3,851.2	4,617.2	(2,248.6)	2,065.2
Adjusted ratios				
EBITDA margin (%)	42.6	43.7	61.5	55.8
Return on capital (%)	7.3	10.4	8.5	10.3
EBITDA interest coverage (x)	7.4	10.0	2.3	30.8
FFO cash int. cov. (X)	6.9	8.8	2.8	24.4
Debt/EBITDA (x)	3.2	2.9	7.3	1.3
FFO/debt (%)	24.0	25.4	7.2	64.5
Cash flow from operations/debt (%)	20.6	25.6	8.6	65.5
Free operating cash flow/debt (%)	0.6	7.6	3.3	34.4
Discretionary cash flow/debt (%)	(7.4)	0.5	(0.2)	12.9

In Europe, we see Heathrow and ADP as the closest peers to Schiphol Airport.

Outside Europe, Sydney Airport in Australia also enjoys a similar competitive position. That said, we see Heathrow as slightly stronger than ADP and Schiphol Airport for the following reasons:

- In terms of passenger numbers, Schiphol (68.4 million) is smaller than ADP (101.5 million) and Heathrow (78 million). However, all three are large and important hub airports in Europe and enjoy large catchment areas that cover wealthy markets where there is good propensity to fly.
- Heathrow has a higher proportion of long-haul traffic (51% in full-year2017) than ADP (40%) or Schiphol (29%). Long-haul services mean more passenger numbers per slot due to larger planes used, and are associated with higher retail revenues as passengers spend more time at the airport before boarding. Long-haul passengers also tend to be less price sensitive.
- Both Schiphol and ADP have high exposure to Air France-KLM, while Heathrow generates a large portion of its revenue from British Airways (BBB-/Stable/--), whose credit quality used to be better than Air France-KLM's.
- In terms of profitability, Schiphol Group's EBITDA margin is about 40%-45% (see charts 5 and 6), in line with that of ADP, while Heathrow has the highest profitability, at about 63%. Flughafen Zurich reports higher margins than

Schiphol and ADP, thanks to higher aeronautical revenues per passenger.

#### Chart 6



#### Selected Airport Peers' EBITDA Margin Comparison

\*S&P Adjusted full-year 2017 EBITDA margin for Aeroporti di Roma not yet available. Source: S&P Global Ratings.

Copyright © 2018 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.

On the other hand, compared with its peers, Schiphol Airport has the following strengths:

- Schiphol faces less competition in its local catchment area than Heathrow, which is in competition with Gatwick, City, Stansted, and Luton.
- Schiphol's airport charges, albeit increasing, are lower than those of both Heathrow and ADP. Although Heathrow capped the airport charges growth at a meager U.K. Retail Prices Index minus 1.5% per year, it remains one of the most expensive airports worldwide with €24.8 per passenger. ADP, under its new economic regulation agreement from 2016-2020, has capped its tariffs by the consumer price index plus 1%, resulting in about €17.9 per passenger. Although Schiphol experienced a 7% reduction in tariffs in 2017, it has increased tariffs by 5.4% in 2018 and those now stand at €12.1 per passenger.
- Schiphol Group and ADP both benefit from some business diversification, as they own four and three airports, respectively. Schiphol Group also owns stakes in few other airports. Heathrow operates only one asset.

#### Table 2

Selected Rated Ai	rports Key S	tatistics			
	Royal Schiphol Group N.V.*	Aeroports de Paris	Heathrow Funding Ltd.	Aeroporti di Roma SpA	Flughafen Zurich AG
Country of location	Netherlands	France	United Kingdom	Italy	Switzerland
Rating	A+/Stable/A-1	A+/Stable/	A- (Class A) and BBB+ (Class B)	BBB+/Watch Neg/A-2	AA-/Stable/
Business risk profile	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Strong	Strong
Financial risk profile	Intermediate	Intermediate	Aggressive	Modest	Modest

#### WWW.SPGLOBAL.COM/RATINGSDIRECT

S&P Global Ratings. All rights reserved. No reprint or dissemination without S&P Global Ratings permission. See Terms of Use/Disclaimer on the 0120272F | Linx User last page.

#### Table 2

2017 passengers (mil.)	68.5	101.5	78.0	46.9	29.4
Origin and destination (%)	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7
Transfer traffic (%)	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3
No. of ATMs ('000s)	496.7	704.7	474.0	352.0	270.5
Runways	6.0	10.0	2.0	5.0	3.0
Destinations	326.0	357.0	204.0	230.0	185.0
Long-haul passengers (%)	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2
Short-haul passengers (%)	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8

Top airline	KLM	Air France	British Airways	Alitalia	Air Lines (not rated)/Lufthansa
No. of airlines	104	161	81	100	72
Business passengers (%)	0.3	n/a	0.3	0.2	0.3
Leisure passengers (%)	0.7	n/a	0.7	0.8	0.7
Seat load factor	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Aeronautical revenues (% of total 2017 revenues)	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6
Aeronautical revenues per passenger (€)	12.1	17.9	24.8	13.7	21.2
Non-aeronautical revenues (% of total 2017 revenues)	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4

\*Royal Schiphol Group's traffic data is of Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. Source: S&P Global Ratings.

## Financial Risk: Intermediate

Schiphol Group's financial risk profile mainly reflects our forecast that the group's credit ratios will weaken slightly from the strong levels experienced in 2017, due to lower passenger growth expected against previous years, as well as the additional costs related to congestion and capex on capacity growth, thereby impacting its operating margins. We expect these negative trends to be partly compensated by higher tariffs.

In our base-case scenario, we assume the group will maintain weighted average adjusted FFO to debt of 17%-19% from 2018, which leaves some headroom for performance to weaken beyond our expectations without affecting credit quality.

The capacity issues at the terminals will continue at least until the new terminal expansion projects are up and running. In light of these additional expansion projects, the group's capex is expected to be in the range of €600 million-€700 million per year.

#### Financial summary Table 3

#### Royal Schiphol Group N.V. -- Financial Summary

#### Industry Sector: Infrastructure

	Fiscal year ended Dec. 31							
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013			
Rating history	A+/Stable/A-1	A+/Stable/A-1	A+/Stable/A-1	A+/Stable/A-1	A+/Stable/A-1			
(Mil. €)								
Revenues	1,457.5	1,434.7	1,423.2	1,473.9	1,382.1			
EBITDA	575.5	617.0	646.3	676.3	620.4			
Funds from operations (FFO)	454.6	474.5	484.7	521.8	479.3			
Net income from continuing operations	279.7	306.3	374.2	271.9	227.5			
Cash flow from operations	270.2	440.2	505.0	508.2	468.6			
Capital expenditures	441.8	302.9	433.0	390.9	323.5			
Free operating cash flow	(171.7)	137.2	72.1	117.3	145.1			
Discretionary cash flow	(320.3)	(50.2)	(66.6)	(18.3)	36.5			
Cash and short-term investments	170.4	238.7	394.0	183.3	489.3			
Debt	2,074.8	1,931.3	1,880.4	1,782.0	1,780.8			
Equity	3,978.2	3,859.6	3,715.7	3,452.7	3,309.3			
Adjusted ratios								
EBITDA margin (%)	39.5	43.0	45.4	45.9	44.9			
Return on capital (%)	6.1	7.4	8.4	8.7	7.6			
EBITDA interest coverage (x)	7.3	7.6	7.2	6.9	5.8			
FFO cash int. cov. (x)	7.1	6.7	6.8	5.1	5.8			
Debt/EBITDA (x)	3.6	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.9			
FFO/debt (%)	21.9	24.6	25.8	29.3	26.9			
Cash flow from operations/debt (%)	13.0	22.8	26.9	28.5	26.3			
Free operating cash flow/debt (%)	(8.3)	7.1	3.8	6.6	8.1			
Discretionary cash flow/debt (%)	(15.4)	(2.6)	(3.5)	(1.0)	2.0			

## Liquidity: Strong

We assess Schiphol Group's liquidity as strong, mainly deriving from ample liquidity sources on hand, such as the undrawn long-term revolving credit facility and available cash holdings; its ability to generate solid operating cash flows; and its demonstrated access to debt markets. Our assessment also reflects our projection of its ratio of liquidity sources to uses of more than 1.5x for the 12 months to March 31, 2019, and more than 1x in the 12-month period through March 31, 2020.

Principal Liquidity Sources	Principal Liquidity Uses
<ul> <li>We estimate liquidity sources for the 12 months started March 31, 2018, to mainly include:</li> <li>Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents of about €337 million;</li> <li>Availability under credit lines of €575 million; and</li> <li>Projected FFO of about €460 million-€470 million.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>We estimate liquidity uses for the 12 months from March 31, 2018, to mainly include:</li> <li>Debt maturities of €45 million over the next 12 months;</li> <li>Planned capex of about €700 million-€750 million; and</li> <li>Expected dividend payments of about €145 million.</li> </ul>
Debt maturities	
As of Dec. 31, 2017	

- 2018: €35.2 million
- 2019-2022: €689 million
- Thereafter: €1.386 billion

## **Covenant Analysis**

Schiphol Group's loan agreements with the European Investment Bank (EIB) include an own funds-to-total assets covenant calculated as equity as a percent of the total balance sheet. This ratio is tested annually and must remain higher than 30%.

## **Government Influence**

We add one notch of uplift to Schiphol Group's stand-alone credit profile to reflect what we see as a moderate likelihood of timely and sufficient extraordinary support by the Dutch government.

Our view of a moderate likelihood of government support is based on our assessment of Schiphol Group's:

- Important role, based on our view on the essential infrastructure nature of the group's main asset, Schiphol Airport, as a key element of The Netherlands' open and export-oriented economy. In our view, there is a clear need for the airport to continue to operate without disruption, as any interruption of its operations could have an important impact on a sector of the economy; and
- Limited link with the Dutch government. In our view, Schiphol Group is managed as a stand-alone entity with limited government interference. Its directors are appointed by a supervisory board that is not controlled by government-linked members. The Dutch government also has a limited track record of supporting entities of this nature.

## **Ratings Score Snapshot**

#### **Issuer Credit Rating**

A+/Stable/A-1

#### **Business risk: Excellent**

- Country risk: Very low
- Industry risk: Low
- Competitive position: Excellent

#### Financial risk: Intermediate

• Cash flow/Leverage: Intermediate

#### Anchor: a

#### Modifiers

- Diversification/Portfolio effect: Neutral (no impact)
- Capital structure: Neutral (no impact)
- Financial policy: Neutral (no impact)
- Liquidity: Strong (no impact)
- Management and governance: Satisfactory (no impact)
- Comparable rating analysis: Neutral (no impact)

#### Stand-alone credit profile : a

- Related government rating: AAA
- Likelihood of government support: Moderate (+1 notch from SACP)

## **Issue Ratings--Subordination Risk Analysis**

#### **Capital structure**

Schiphol Group's capital structure consists primarily of €1.4 billion of senior unsecured notes under its euro medium term note program plus unsecured bank loans of €491 million issued by the EIB. The group's total gross debt stands at €2.1 billion as of Dec. 31, 2017.

### Analytical conclusions

We rate the unsecured debt issued by Schiphol Group at 'A+', the same as the foreign currency issuer credit rating on The Netherlands, reflecting that priority liabilities in the form of secured loans are significantly less than 50%.

## Reconciliation

We adjust EBITDA by excluding the fair value gains on Schiphol Group's real estate portfolio, which is revalued at each reporting date. The fair value gain/loss on real estate assets flows through the profit and loss, but is a non-cash income/cost, and hence should be excluded from the EBITDA. We add €30 million of dividend from equity investments to EBITDA. We also adjust EBITDA with one time gain of €38 million from the sale of a Hilton hotel.

We also add guarantees to third parties of about  $\in$  32 million, a portion of accrued interest amounting to  $\in$  32 million, and fair value of currency swaps of  $\in$  17 million to the debt.

#### Table 4

Reconciliation Of Royal Schiphol Group N.V. Reported Amounts With S&P Global Ratings' Adjusted Amounts (Mil. €)

--Fiscal year ended Dec. 31, 2017--

#### **Royal Schiphol Group N.V. reported amounts**

	Debt	Shareholders' equity	EBITDA	Operating income	Interest expense	EBITDA	Cash flow from operations	Capital expenditures
Reported	2,109.8	3,936.2	622.4	358.7	77.9	622.4	267.1	442.7
S&P Global Ratings' adj	justments							
Interest expense (reported)						(77.9)		
Interest income (reported)						8.7		
Current tax expense (reported)						(50.4)		
Operating leases	6.1		3.3	0.3	0.3	3.0	3.0	
Postretirement benefit obligations/deferred compensation	37.2					(0.3)	0.9	
Surplus cash	(160.8)							
Capitalized interest					0.9	(0.9)	(0.9)	(0.9)
Dividends received from equity investments			30.3			30.3		
Non-operating income (expense)				81.5				
Non-controlling Interest/Minority interest		42.0						
Debt - Accrued interest not included in reported debt	32.2							
Debt - Guarantees	32.8							
Debt - Fair value adjustments	17.5							
EBITDA - Valuation gains/(losses)			(42.5)	(42.5)		(42.5)		
EBITDA - Other			(38.0)	(38.0)		(38.0)		

#### WWW.SPGLOBAL.COM/RATINGSDIRECT

#### AUGUST 23, 2018 17

S&P Global Ratings. All rights reserved. No reprint or dissemination without S&P Global Ratings permission. See Terms of Use/Disclaimer on the 0120272F | Linx User last page.

#### Table 4

Reconciliation Of Amounts (Mil. €)		ol Group N.	V. Reporte	d Amount	s With S&	&P Global Ra	tings' Adjus	ted
Total adjustments	(35.0)	42.0	(46.9)	1.4	1.2	(167.8)	3.0	(0.9)
S&P Global Ratings' a	djusted amount Debt	s Equity	EBITDA	EBIT	Interest expense	Funds from operations	Cash flow from operations	Capita expenditure
Adjusted	2,074.8	3,978.2	575.5	360.0	79.0	454.6	270.2	441.

## **Related Criteria**

- Criteria Corporates General: Reflecting Subordination Risk In Corporate Issue Ratings, March 28, 2018
- General Criteria: Methodology For Linking Long-Term And Short-Term Ratings, April 7, 2017
- · General Criteria: Rating Government-Related Entities: Methodology And Assumptions, March 25, 2015
- Criteria Corporates General: Methodology And Assumptions: Liquidity Descriptors For Global Corporate Issuers, Dec. 16, 2014
- General Criteria: Methodology: Industry Risk, Nov. 19, 2013
- General Criteria: Group Rating Methodology, Nov. 19, 2013
- Criteria Corporates Industrials: Key Credit Factors For The Transportation Infrastructure Industry, Nov. 19, 2013
- · Criteria Corporates General: Corporate Methodology: Ratios And Adjustments, Nov. 19, 2013
- Criteria Corporates General: Corporate Methodology, Nov. 19, 2013
- General Criteria: Country Risk Assessment Methodology And Assumptions, Nov. 19, 2013
- General Criteria: Methodology: Management And Governance Credit Factors For Corporate Entities And Insurers, Nov. 13, 2012
- General Criteria: Use Of CreditWatch And Outlooks, Sept. 14, 2009

#### **Business And Financial Risk Matrix**

	Financial Risk Profile									
<b>Business Risk Profile</b>	Minimal Modest		Intermediate	Significant	Aggressive	Highly leveraged				
Excellent	aaa/aa+	aa	a+/a	a-	bbb	bbb-/bb+				
Strong	aa/aa-	a+/a	a-/bbb+	bbb	bb+	bb				
Satisfactory	a/a-	bbb+	bbb/bbb-	bbb-/bb+	bb	b+				
Fair	bbb/bbb-	bbb-	bb+	bb	bb-	b				
Weak	bb+	bb+	bb	bb-	b+	b/b-				
Vulnerable	bb-	bb-	bb-/b+	b+	b	b-				

Ratings Detail (As Of August 23, 2018)	
Royal Schiphol Group N.V.	
Issuer Credit Rating	A+/Stable/A-1
Issuer Credit Ratings History	
06-Dec-2013	A+/Stable/A-1
26-Nov-2013	A/Watch Pos/A-1
14-Sep-2009	A/Stable/A-1
Related Entities	
Schiphol Nederland B.V.	
Issuer Credit Rating	A+/Stable/A-1
Senior Unsecured	A+

\*Unless otherwise noted, all ratings in this report are global scale ratings. S&P Global Ratings' credit ratings on the global scale are comparable across countries. S&P Global Ratings' credit ratings on a national scale are relative to obligors or obligations within that specific country. Issue and debt ratings could include debt guaranteed by another entity, and rated debt that an entity guarantees.

#### **Additional Contact:**

Infrastructure Finance Ratings Europe; InfrastructureEurope@spglobal.com

Copyright © 2018 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.

No content (including ratings, credit-related analyses and data, valuations, model, software or other application or output therefrom) or any part thereof (Content) may be modified, reverse engineered, reproduced or distributed in any form by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC or its affiliates (collectively, S&P). The Content shall not be used for any unlawful or unauthorized purposes. S&P and any third-party providers, as well as their directors, officers, shareholders, employees or agents (collectively S&P Parties) do not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness or availability of the Content. S&P Parties are not responsible for any errors or omissions (negligent or otherwise), regardless of the cause, for the results obtained from the use of the Content, or for the security or maintenance of any data input by the user. The Content is provided on an "as is" basis. S&P PARTIES DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE, FREEDOM FROM BUGS, SOFTWARE ERRORS OR DEFECTS, THAT THE CONTENT'S FUNCTIONING WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED OR THAT THE CONTENT WILL OPERATE WITH ANY SOFTWARE OR HARDWARE CONFIGURATION. In no event shall S&P Parties be liable to any party for any direct, indirect, incidental, exemplary, compensatory, punitive, special or consequential damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including, without limitation, lost income or lost profits and opportunity costs or losses caused by negligence) in connection with any use of the Content even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

Credit-related and other analyses, including ratings, and statements in the Content are statements of opinion as of the date they are expressed and not statements of fact. S&Ps opinions, analyses, and rating acknowledgment decisions (described below) are not recommendations to purchase, hold, or sell any securities or to make any investment decisions, and do not address the suitability of any security. S&P assumes no obligation to update the Content following publication in any form or format. The Content should not be relied on and is not a substitute for the skill, judgment and experience of the user, its management, employees, advisors and/or clients when making investment and other business decisions. S&P does not act as a fiduciary or an investment advisor except where registered as such. While S&P has obtained information from sources it believes to be reliable, S&P does not perform an audit and undertakes no duty of due diligence or independent verification of any information it receives. Rating-related publications may be published for a variety of reasons that are not necessarily dependent on action by rating committees, including, but not limited to, the publication of a periodic update on a credit rating and related analyses.

To the extent that regulatory authorities allow a rating agency to acknowledge in one jurisdiction a rating issued in another jurisdiction for certain regulatory purposes, S&P reserves the right to assign, withdraw, or suspend such acknowledgement at any time and in its sole discretion. S&P Parties disclaim any duty whatsoever arising out of the assignment, withdrawal, or suspension of an acknowledgment as well as any liability for any damage alleged to have been suffered on account thereof.

S&P keeps certain activities of its business units separate from each other in order to preserve the independence and objectivity of their respective activities. As a result, certain business units of S&P may have information that is not available to other S&P business units. S&P has established policies and procedures to maintain the confidentiality of certain nonpublic information received in connection with each analytical process.

S&P may receive compensation for its ratings and certain analyses, normally from issuers or underwriters of securities or from obligors. S&P reserves the right to disseminate its opinions and analyses. S&P's public ratings and analyses are made available on its Web sites, www.standardandpoors.com (free of charge), and www.capitaliq.com (subscription), and may be distributed through other means, including via S&P publications and third-party redistributors. Additional information about our ratings fees is available at www.standardandpoors.com/usratingsfees.

STANDARD & POOR'S, S&P and RATINGSDIRECT are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC.