

# Attachment No. 18.1

March 18, 2015 Press  
Release by A.M. Best



# NEWS RELEASE

A.M. BEST COMPANY, INC., OLDWICK, NJ • WASHINGTON, D.C. • MEXICO CITY • LONDON • DUBAI • SINGAPORE • HONG KONG

**CONTACTS: Robert Valenta**  
**Senior Financial Analyst**  
**(908) 439-2200, ext. 5291**  
[robert.valenta@ambest.com](mailto:robert.valenta@ambest.com)

**Christopher Sharkey**  
**Manager, Public Relations**  
**(908) 439-2200, ext. 5159**  
[christopher.sharkey@ambest.com](mailto:christopher.sharkey@ambest.com)

**Gerard Altonji**  
**Assistant Vice President**  
**(908) 439-2200, ext. 5626**  
[gerard.altonji@ambest.com](mailto:gerard.altonji@ambest.com)

**Jim Peavy**  
**Assistant Vice President, Public Relations**  
**(908) 439-2200, ext. 5644**  
[james.peavy@ambest.com](mailto:james.peavy@ambest.com)

## **A.M. Best Places Ratings of ARI Mutual Insurance Company Under Review with Positive Implications**

**OLDWICK, N.J., March XX, 2015**—A.M. Best has placed under review with positive implications the financial strength rating (FSR) of B+ (Good) and the issuer credit rating (ICR) of “bbb-” of **ARI Mutual Insurance Company (ARI)** (Newtown, PA).

The rating action follows the announcement that **AmTrust Financial Services, Inc.** (AmTrust) has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire ARI in a subscription rights sponsored demutualization transaction. As part of the transaction, ARI will convert to a stock company from a mutual company. The under review with positive implications reflects A.M. Best’s ratings of the property/casualty subsidiaries of AmTrust, which are assigned an FSR of A (Excellent) and the ICRs of “a.” ARI also entered into a commercial automobile quota share reinsurance agreement with AmTrust pertaining to all policies in effect as of March 1, 2015. Under the quota share, ARI cedes 40% of its net business to AmTrust.

The ratings will remain under review until the close of the transaction, which is expected by the fall of 2015. The transaction is subject to regulatory and policyholder approvals.

The methodology used in determining these ratings is Best’s Credit Rating Methodology, which provides a comprehensive explanation of A.M. Best’s rating process and contains the different rating criteria employed in the rating process. Best’s Credit Rating Methodology can be found at [www.ambest.com/ratings/methodology](http://www.ambest.com/ratings/methodology).

Key insurance criteria reports utilized:

- Rating Members of Insurance Groups



# NEWS RELEASE

A.M. BEST COMPANY, INC., OLDWICK, NJ • WASHINGTON, D.C. • MEXICO CITY • LONDON • DUBAI • SINGAPORE • HONG KONG

- Risk Management and the Rating Process for Insurance Companies
- Understanding BCAR for Property/Casualty Insurers

**This press release relates to rating(s) that have been published on A.M. Best's website. For all rating information relating to the release and pertinent disclosures, including details of the office responsible for issuing each of the individual ratings referenced in this release, please visit A.M. Best's Ratings & Criteria Center.**

**A.M. Best Company is the world's oldest and most authoritative insurance rating and information source. For more information, visit [www.ambest.com](http://www.ambest.com).**

**Copyright © 2015 by A.M. Best Company, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

####