

## Annual Report Analysis (Consolidated)

Source: CRORES. All figures Crores. Pipeline: v5-Gemini — W1a → W3 → W1b+W2+W2F (parallel, notes-injected) → Merge.

### Investor Snapshot

#	Analytical Point	Sentiment
1	<i>Sterling &amp; Wilson is in a state of severe financial distress, characterized by a 61.24% revenue collapse to 2,015 Cr and a massive net loss of 1,175 Cr that has completely eroded the company's net worth.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative
2	<i>Revenue quality is under significant pressure as EPC contracts dried up, though the high-margin O&amp;M portfolio of 6.4 GWp provides a critical, stable annuity-like revenue stream.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral
3	<i>Operating margins have deteriorated to -56%, reflecting a broken operational engine and weakening competitive positioning in international markets.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative
4	<i>The company reported a staggering net loss of 1,175 Cr, leading to a negative net worth of - 244 Cr and a ROCE of -65%, indicating massive value destruction.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative
5	<i>Total debt ballooned from 446 Cr to 2,030 Cr with interest rates as high as 12.5%, leaving the company entirely dependent on high-cost borrowing and promoter support for survival.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative
6	<i>Cash flow from operations is deeply negative at - 1,829 Cr, signaling a rapid cash burn that fails to cover even basic maintenance requirements.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative
7	<i>Capital allocation is currently non-existent for growth, as all available liquidity and debt are being diverted to fund operational losses and legacy project failures.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative
8	<i>Earnings quality is poor, evidenced by unbilled revenue at 21.6% of sales and 51% of trade receivables ( 408 Cr) being older than three years with minimal provisioning.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative
9	<i>Governance is a concern due to a 10.78% increase in KMP pay despite near-insolvency and a heavy reliance on former promoter indemnities to maintain "going concern" status.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative
10	<i>Contingent liabilities of 1,208 Cr (60% of revenue) and outstanding GST demands of 345 Cr pose significant threats to future liquidity and solvency.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative
11	<b>The strategic pivot toward the Indian market and diversification into BESS and Green Hydrogen, backed by Reliance's 40% stake, offers a potential long-term recovery path.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive
12	Investment View: WATCH; stance remains cautious until Operating EBITDA turns positive and the company demonstrates successful collection of legacy receivables and indemnity claims.	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral

### 1. BUSINESS OVERVIEW (In Bullet Points)

- **Business Segments:** SWREL operates primarily in Solar EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) and Operations and Maintenance (O&M).
- **Revenue Drivers:** The EPC segment is the primary driver but faced extreme volatility in FY23 due to the commodity super-cycle and legacy project completions. The O&M segment acts as a high-margin "annuity" business with a 6.4 GWp portfolio.

- **Cost Drivers:** Heavily weighted toward raw materials (modules) and site overheads. FY23 saw margin suppression due to spiked labor costs and productivity losses in developed markets.
- **Industry Position:** Holds the #1 market position in Australia; currently pivoting focus back to India to leverage a more familiar cost environment.
- **Expansion Plans:** Focused on "Diversified Renewables," specifically Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Green Hydrogen, aiming to add 2 GW of capacity annually.
- **Acquisitions & Ownership:** Significant shift in ownership to Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) via Reliance New Energy Limited (RNEL), providing a "fortress balance sheet" and integration into RIL's green energy ecosystem.
- **Geographical Presence:** Australia (40% revenue), India (31%), North America (22%), and others including LATAM and MENA (7%).
- **Segment Performance:** EPC Works Contracts plummeted from ₹4,974.46 Cr to ₹1,823.50 Cr. O&M services contributed ₹189.86 Cr (9.42% of revenue), with 57% of contracts now from third parties.

## 2. MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY & OUTLOOK

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- Management strategy has shifted from "global expansion at any cost" to "financial discipline and strategic alignment," characterized as a "sober resilience."
- The integration with Reliance New Energy Limited (RNEL) is the central pillar of the turnaround, reinforcing procurement power and global EPC bidding capabilities.
- Management admits to failures in managing site overheads in international markets (US and Australia), leading to suppressed margins and productivity losses.
- A strategic pivot is underway to target 3-4 GWp of order bookings domestically in India to leverage RIL synergies and a stable cost environment.
- The company is implementing "Uberisation" of manpower in the O&M segment, using digitization and remote monitoring to target 99.7% plant availability with reduced headcount.
- Management is highly optimistic about India's 500 GW non-fossil fuel target by 2030 and views the global energy crisis as a catalyst for accelerated RE adoption.
- Caution remains regarding module price volatility and the commodity cycle, which continue to pose risks to fixed-price EPC contracts.
- The company is repositioning as a "diversified renewables company" to capture "Value at Risk" through BESS and Green Hydrogen hybrid solutions.
- The exit of SP Group representatives from the board and their replacement by RIL-nominated leadership marks the final stage of the management transition.
- The board prioritized talent retention by seeking a waiver for excess remuneration paid to the Manager despite FY23 losses.
- **Management Tone Verdict:** Management exhibits a "**Calculated Recovery**" tone. They are retreating from the aggressive global expansion that led to the current margin collapse to the "safe harbor" of the Indian market and RIL's balance sheet. While transparent about international execution failures, the narrative is heavily reliant on the "RIL halo" to justify future growth, showing a team that is technically competent but humbled by macro-economic headwinds.

### 3. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

#### 3.1 Financial Statements

Source: Screener.in — all monetary values in Crores. Use these numbers directly.

##### P&L Statement (₹Crores)

Line Item	Mar 2023	Mar 2022
Sales -	2,015.00	5,199.00
Sales Growth %	-61.24	2.33
Expenses -	3,139.00	6,102.00
Material Cost % -	0.00	0.00
Raw material cost	0.00	0.00
Change in inventory	0.00	0.00
Manufacturing Cost %	138.00	109.00
Employee Cost %	12.00	4.00
Other Cost %	6.00	4.00
Operating Profit	-1,124.00	-903.00
OPM %	-56.00	-17.00
Other Income -	111.00	95.00
Exceptional items	0.00	1.00
Other income normal	111.00	94.00
Interest	151.00	87.00
Depreciation	15.00	15.00
<b>Profit before tax</b>	<b>-1,179.00</b>	<b>-910.00</b>
Tax %	0.00	1.00
<b>Net Profit -</b>	<b>-1,175.00</b>	<b>-916.00</b>
Minority share	5.00	6.00
Exceptional items AT	0.00	1.00
Profit excl Excep	-1,175.00	-917.00
Profit for PE	-1,170.00	-910.00
Profit for EPS	-1,170.00	-909.00
Profit Growth %	-28.00	-219.00
EPS in Rs	-61.65	-47.94
Dividend Payout %	0.00	0.00

**Balance Sheet (₹ Crores)**

Line Item	Mar 2023	Mar 2022
Equity Capital	19.00	19.00
Reserves	-244.00	898.00
Borrowings -	2,030.00	446.00
Long term Borrowings	700.00	0.00
Short term Borrowings	1,315.00	435.00
Lease Liabilities	15.00	11.00
Other Borrowings	0.00	0.00
Other Liabilities -	1,386.00	2,137.00
Non controlling int	-15.00	-11.00
Trade Payables	650.00	1,403.00
Advance from Customers	589.00	425.00
Other liability items	162.00	320.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>3,190.00</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>
Fixed Assets -	44.00	42.00
Land	23.38	16.30
Building	9.94	6.39
Plant Machinery	46.22	42.31
Computers	11.11	8.58
Furniture n fittings	2.24	2.07
Vehicles	1.80	1.96
Intangible Assets	0.90	0.00
Other fixed assets	9.81	10.64
Gross Block	105.40	88.25
Accumulated Depreciation	61.16	46.06
CWIP	0.00	0.00
Investments	0.00	0.00
Other Assets -	3,146.00	3,457.00
Inventories	2.00	4.00
Trade receivables -	790.00	784.00
Receivables over 6m	529.00	570.00
Receivables under 6m	268.00	256.00
Prov for Doubtful	-7.00	-42.00
Cash Equivalents	95.00	504.00
Loans n Advances	126.00	173.00
Other asset items	2,133.00	1,993.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,190.00</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>

## Cash Flow Statement (□Crores)

Line Item	Mar 2023	Mar 2022
Cash from Operating Activity -	-1,829.00	-1,690.00
Profit from operations	-1,105.00	-690.00
Receivables	35.00	65.00
Inventory	2.00	-1.00
Payables	-688.00	-504.00
Loans Advances	-1.00	0.00
Other WC items	-56.00	-554.00
Working capital changes	-708.00	-994.00
Direct taxes	-22.00	-16.00
Other operating items	0.00	0.00
Exceptional CF items	6.00	10.00
Cash from Investing Activity -	-12.00	949.00
Fixed assets purchased	-9.00	-13.00
Fixed assets sold	0.00	3.00
Investments purchased	0.00	0.00
Investments sold	0.00	0.00
Interest received	4.00	48.00
Loans to subsidiaries	0.00	0.00
Acquisition of companies	0.00	0.00
Other investing items	-7.00	912.00
Cash from Financing Activity -	1,431.00	978.00
Proceeds from shares	0.00	1,090.00
Proceeds from borrowings	1,584.00	18.00
Repayment of borrowings	-4.00	-51.00
Interest paid fin	-143.00	-75.00
Dividends paid	0.00	0.00
Financial liabilities	-5.00	-4.00
Other financing items	0.00	0.00
<b>Net Cash Flow</b>	<b>-410.00</b>	<b>238.00</b>
Free Cash Flow	-1,838.00	-1,700.00
CFO/OP	161.00	185.00

## Key Ratios (₹Crores)

Line Item	Mar 2023	Mar 2022
Debtor Days	143.00	55.00
Inventory Days	0.00	0.00
Days Payable	0.00	0.00
Cash Conversion Cycle	143.00	55.00
Working Capital Days	32.00	17.00
ROCE %	-65.00	-66.00

### 3.2 Financial Analysis Summary

- **Revenue** plummeted by **61.24%** to **₹2,015.00 Cr**, primarily driven by a massive contraction in the EPC Works Contracts segment which fell from **₹4,974.46 Cr** to **₹1,823.50 Cr**, leading to a severe deterioration in **Asset Turnover** from **1.49x** to **0.63x**.
- **Operating Profit** margins (**OPM %**) collapsed to **-56.00%** from **-17.00%** as **Expenses** remained sticky; specifically, **Employee Cost %** tripled to **12.00%** of **Revenue** despite a crash in sales, signaling significant negative operating leverage and high fixed costs.
- **Net Profit** loss deepened to **₹1,175.00 Cr**, which completely eroded the **Net Worth**, causing **Reserves** to turn negative at **-₹244.00 Cr** and resulting in a highly distressed **Debt/Equity** ratio of **-9.02**.
- **Finance Cost** surged **88.90%** YoY to **₹151.00 Cr** despite lower business volume, driven by a massive spike in **Total Debt** to **₹2,030.00 Cr** (from **₹446.00 Cr**) to fund operational losses, with interest rates on new secured loans ranging as high as **12.50%**.
- **Trade Receivables** quality is a major concern as **Debtor Days** ballooned from **55** to **143 days**; notably, undisputed receivables older than 3 years increased to **₹408.03 Cr**, representing over **51%** of gross receivables and signaling high collection risk.
- **Working Capital** is heavily strained by **Other asset items** of **₹2,133.00 Cr**, which includes **₹436.12 Cr** of unbilled **Revenue** and **₹1,203.77 Cr** of "Other receivables" largely comprising bank guarantee invocations and promoter recoverables under indemnity agreements.
- **Cash from Operating Activity** was deeply negative at **-₹1,829.00 Cr**, exacerbated by a **₹688.00 Cr** outflow for **Trade Payables** as the company cleared old dues while failing to generate cash from its core **Profit from operations** of **-₹1,105.00 Cr**.
- **Free Cash Flow (FCF)** remained severely negative at **-₹1,838.00 Cr**, forcing the company to rely entirely on external financing, evidenced by **Proceeds from borrowings** of **₹1,584.00 Cr** to maintain liquidity.
- **Contingent Liabilities** of **₹1,208.29 Cr** represent **60%** of annual **Revenue**, with **₹780.65 Cr** tied to **Liquidated Damages (LDs)** that management has not provided for, relying instead on promoter indemnity agreements to shield the **Balance Sheet**.
- **Revenue** recognition remains aggressive via the Percentage of Completion Method, while the use of an **18-month operating cycle** allows the company to classify long-standing disputed assets as "current," potentially masking the true severity of the **Working Capital** trap.
- **Other Assets** are dominated by **₹304.66 Cr** in "Balance with government authorities" (GST/VAT inputs), which are slow to realize in a loss-making scenario, further locking up cash.
- **Other Expenses** include **₹36.12 Cr** in legal and professional fees, reflecting the heavy cost of ongoing arbitrations and litigations.

- The dominant financial theme of the year is a severe liquidity and solvency crisis where a **61% Revenue** collapse and massive **Net Profit** losses have wiped out **Net Worth**, leaving the entity entirely dependent on high-cost **Total Debt** and promoter indemnities.

### 3.3 Contingent Liabilities & Commitments

- **Liquidated Damages (LDs):** ₹780.65 Cr in claims from customers for project delays, not acknowledged as debt. Management relies on "Indemnity Agreements" with the SP Group to cover these.
- **GST Demands:** ₹345.04 Cr in outstanding demands, impacting potential future cash flows.
- **Tax Disputes:** Includes ₹14.14 Cr in Income Tax demands, ₹37.20 Cr for South Africa tax disputes, and ₹30.95 Cr for Egypt VAT inspections.
- **Legal/Arbitration:** A specific arbitration for ₹255.10 Cr involves a 93.30 MW project. Additionally, a USA legal suit involves a claim of ₹157.44 Cr against the company.
- **Capital Commitments:** Minimal, as the company is in a maintenance-heavy capex phase.

### 3.9 Earnings Quality & Forensic Checks

#	Check	Impact	Status	Evidence	Notes Detail
1	PAT vs CFO trend	Profit ↓ — earnings overstate cash	☐	Net Loss ₹1,175 Cr vs CFO - ₹1,829 Cr; FCF at -₹1,838 Cr.	CFO/OP ratio at 161% is misleading due to massive operating losses and payables reduction.
2	Receivables & channel-stuffing signal	Revenue ↓ — collection risk	☐	Revenue fell 61.2% while Gross Receivables remained high at ₹797.02 Cr.	Note 12: Undisputed receivables >3 years rose to ₹408.03 Cr (51% of total).
3	Revenue timing (unbilled / contract assets)	Revenue ↑↓ — aggressive recognition	☐	Unbilled Receivables ₹436.12 Cr; Advances from Customers ₹589 Cr.	Note 3.15: POCM method used; Note 19: High unbilled revenue indicates lag in invoicing.
4	Revenue from related parties %	Revenue ↑↓ — concentration risk	☐	Receivables from SP & Co and affiliates exceed ₹100 Cr.	Note 12 & 17: Transition to Reliance complete but financial links to SP Group persist.
5	Inventory vs revenue growth	Neutral — minimal impact	☐	Inventory decreased from ₹4 Cr to ₹2 Cr; Revenue fell 61%.	Note 31: Massive contraction in Works Contracts segment reduced working capital needs.
6	Inventory valuation method change	Neutral — no policy shift	☐	Inventory value ₹2.00 Cr vs Total Assets ₹3,190 Cr.	Note 3: No change in valuation policy reported in the annual report.
7	Exceptional items in operating profit	Profit ↑ — non-core boost	☐	Other Income ₹111 Cr vs Operating Profit -₹1,124 Cr.	Note 17: Includes promoter recoverables and indemnity-related items.
8	Depreciation rate vs useful life policy	Profit ↑ — low charge	☐	Depreciation constant at ₹15 Cr; Gross Block increased to ₹105.40 Cr.	Note 3: Straight-line method used; rates appear consistent with industry standards.
9	Provision reversals boosting PAT	Profit ↑ — aggressive accounting	☐	Provision for doubtful debts reduced from ₹42 Cr to ₹7 Cr.	Note 3.12: ECL applied optimistically; 51% of receivables are over 3 years old.
10	Tax rate consistency	Profit ↑ — non-cash credit	☐	Tax rate 0% on P&L; Direct taxes paid ₹22 Cr in CFO.	Note 3.19: DTA of ₹98.11 Cr recognized based on "convincing evidence" of future profits.
11	CWIP age and stalling projects	Neutral — no impact	☐	CWIP is ₹0.00 Cr for both Mar 2023 and Mar 2022.	Balance Sheet: Fixed assets are primarily land and machinery for execution.
12	Deferred tax asset recognition adequacy	Profit ↑ — valuation risk	☐	DTA of ₹98.11 Cr recognized amidst a net loss of ₹1,175 Cr.	Note 3.19: Management justifies DTA via future profit projections despite 61% revenue drop.
13	RPT quantum and trend	Profit ↑ — shifting risk	☐	Other Financial Assets (Current) spiked to ₹1,260.72 Cr.	Note 17 & 58: Includes "recoverable from promoters" to offset project losses and LDs.
14	Dividend paid vs FCF adequacy	Neutral — no outflow	☐	Dividend Payout 0%; Free Cash Flow -₹1,838 Cr.	Cash Flow: All liquidity preserved to fund massive operating losses.
15	Auditor KAM: Revenue Recognition	Revenue ↑ — aggressive recognition	☐	POCM based on technical estimates.	Misjudgment in "cost to complete" leads to aggressive front-ending of margins.
16		Profit ↑ — valuation risk	☐	₹436.12 Cr unbilled; reliance on project assessments.	High risk of non-recoverability for long-outstanding dues.

#	Check	Impact	Status	Evidence	Notes Detail
	Auditor KAM: Trade Receivable Valuation				
17	Auditor KAM: Promoter Indemnity	Profit ↑ — solvency risk	□	Reliance on SP Group indemnity for LDs.	Management treats these as "recoverable" rather than making necessary provisions.
18	Accounting Policy: Operating Cycle	Neutral — liquidity masking	□	18-month operating cycle used for EPC.	Allows long-term project assets to stay "current," masking true liquidity ratios.
19	Legal Claims: Counter-claim recognition	Profit ↑ — aggressive accounting	□	Recognized ₹460.49 Cr counter-claim as "recoverable."	Recognized as an asset despite being part of active litigation in the USA.

## 4. MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE

**A. Auditor Report & Key Audit Matters** \* **Audit Opinion Type:** Unqualified. \* **Key Audit Matters (KAMs):** \* **Revenue Recognition (POCM):** Significant technical estimates in "cost to complete" for EPC contracts. Misjudgment leads to aggressive front-ending of margins. \* **Valuation of Trade Receivables and Unbilled Revenue:** Focus on recoverability of ₹436.12 Cr in unbilled amounts. \* **Promoter Indemnity (Note 58):** Reliance on SP Group indemnity for Liquidated Damages (LDs) and project losses. Management treats these as "recoverable" rather than provisions. \* **Emphasis of Matter:** Noted regarding the impact of the change in control and the ongoing reliance on promoter indemnities to support the "Going Concern" assumption. \* **Auditor Change:** Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP was appointed as joint Statutory Auditor in FY22 to serve alongside Kalyaniwalla & Mistry LLP.

### B. Related Party Transactions

Party	Relationship	Nature	Amount (₹Cr)	Concern
<i>SP &amp; Co Pvt Ltd</i>	Former Promoter	Trade Receivables	40.12 Cr	<b>High collection risk</b>
<i>SP &amp; Co Pvt Ltd</i>	Former Promoter	Other Receivables	25.84 Cr	<b>Unclear substance</b>
<i>Sterling &amp; Wilson Pvt Ltd</i>	Group Entity	Receivables	13.60 Cr	<b>Legacy exposure</b>
<i>S&amp;W International FZE</i>	Subsidiary	Receivables	19.64 Cr	<b>Inter-company dependency</b>
<i>Promoters (SP Group)</i>	Former Promoter	Indemnity Recoverable	1,203.77 Cr	<b>Critical solvency risk</b>

- **RPT Risk:** RPT Receivables (excl. Indemnity) / Revenue is 4.92%. However, the company's net worth is entirely dependent on the former promoter (SP Group) honoring ₹1,203.77 Cr in indemnities.

**C. Shareholding** \* **Promoters:** 72.73% (Mar 2023) vs 76.70% (Mar 2022). \* **FII:** 2.18% | **DII:** 4.38% | **Public:** 20.71%. \* **Pledged Shares:** Promoters sold 5.83% during the year to meet Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) requirements.

**D. Board Composition + KMP Compensation** \* **Total Directors:** 8 | **Independent %:** 50.00% | **Women Directors:** 2. \* **KMP Compensation:** \* **Chandra Kishore Thakur (Manager):** ₹2.26 Cr (+10.78% YoY). \* **Bahadur Dastoor (CFO):** ~₹2.26 Cr. \* **Analysis:** KMP pay is rising/stable despite a 61.24% collapse in revenue and a deepening operating loss. The company paid ₹1.00 Cr in excess of statutory limits to C.K. Thakur and is seeking a shareholder waiver.

### F. Capital Allocation & Capex

Action	FY Current (₹Cr)	FY Prior (₹Cr)	Signal
<b>Capex</b>	9.00 Cr	13.00 Cr	□
<b>Net Debt Change</b>	1,584.00 Cr	18.00 Cr	□
<b>Interest Payments</b>	143.00 Cr	75.00 Cr	□

• **CAPEX Analytical Notes:**

- **CFO Coverage:** Negative; funding gap bridged entirely by fresh borrowings of ₹1,584.00 Cr.
- **Nature:** Maintenance-heavy; **Gross Block increased by only ₹17.15 Cr.**
- **Efficiency:** Revenue fell 61.24% while debt rose 355%. Capex is not translating into growth.

**H. Risks \* Liquidated Damages:** ₹780.65 Cr potential outflow (38% of revenue) due to project delays.

(Severity: □) \* **Receivable Aging:** ₹408.03 Cr (51% of total) is >3 years old and at risk of write-off. (Severity: □) \*

**Promoter Indemnity:** ₹1,203.77 Cr asset is illiquid and depends on SP Group's solvency. (Severity: □) \*

**Refinancing Risk:** ₹1,315 Cr in short-term borrowings with interest up to 12.5%. (Severity: □) \* **Tax Litigation:**

₹345.04 Cr GST demand impacts cash flow. (Severity: □)

## 5. SCORECARD & VERDICT

### Part A: Scorecard

Dimension	Rating (1-5)	Delta	Key Evidence	One-line Rationale
Business Quality	2	↓	61% Revenue drop; -56% OPM	Weakening competitive position in international markets and high cyclicality.
Financial Health	1	↓	D/E -9.02; CFO -₹1,829 Cr	Net worth wiped out; survival depends entirely on debt and promoter support.
Earnings Quality	1	↓	CFO < PAT; 51% Receivables > 3yrs	Aggressive revenue recognition and lack of provisioning for old receivables.
Management & Governance	2	↓	Excess KMP pay; Indemnity reliance	Governance concerns regarding RPTs and lack of alignment in executive pay.
Capital Allocation & Earnings Visibility	2	↓	ROCE -65%; Debt for Ops	Value-destructive borrowing to fund losses rather than growth-oriented capex.

**BUSINESS POSITIVES (for this company this year) \*** □ **RIL Parentage:** Acquisition by Reliance provides a "fortress balance sheet" and long-term strategic stability. \* □ **O&M Resilience:** High-margin O&M portfolio of 6.4 GWp provides a stable annuity-like revenue stream. \* □ **Strategic Pivot:** Intentional shift back to the Indian market (31% revenue) to leverage familiar cost structures. \* □ **Diversification:** New focus on BESS and Green Hydrogen targets high-growth segments of the RE market.

**BUSINESS NEGATIVES / CONCERNS (for this company this year) \*** □ **Solvency Crisis:** Net worth turned negative (-₹244 Cr) following a ₹1,175 Cr net loss. \* □ **Revenue Collapse:** Total revenue fell by 61.24% as EPC works contracts dried up. \* □ **Debt Explosion:** Total debt ballooned to ₹2,030 Cr with interest rates as high as 12.5%. \* □ **Receivables Risk:** 51% of receivables (₹408 Cr) are older than 3 years with minimal provisioning. \* □ **Contingent Liabilities:** ₹1,208 Cr in liabilities (60% of revenue) poses a massive threat to future cash flows. \* □ **Negative CFO:** Deeply negative CFO of -₹1,829 Cr indicates the business is burning cash rapidly.

**OVERALL SCORECARD SUMMARY** Sterling & Wilson is currently in a state of severe financial distress, with its net worth completely eroded by massive operational losses and legacy project failures. While the entry of Reliance as a promoter provides a critical liquidity lifeline, the company's standalone financial health is poor,

characterized by negative equity, high-cost debt, and aggressive accounting for receivables. Governance is clouded by a heavy reliance on indemnities from the former promoter to remain a "going concern." The business is on a stabilizing but highly fragile trajectory, where survival is contingent on the successful execution of the RIL-led turnaround and the recovery of promoter-backed assets.

## Part B: Governance Check Matrix

#	Check	Status	Evidence
1	Audit opinion clean?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unqualified opinion (p.41)
2	Promoter pledge = 0?	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific pledge disclosed; MPS sale completed
3	KMP pay < 5% of PAT?	<input type="checkbox"/>	PAT is negative; KMP pay is ₹2.26 Cr+
4	RPT quantum < 5% of revenue?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Receivables (excl. indemnity) are 4.92%; total exposure is much higher
5	Board > 50% independent?	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 out of 8 directors are independent
6	At least 1 woman director?	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 women directors on board
7	No statutory dues outstanding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	₹45.04 Cr GST demand outstanding
8	No fraud reported?	<input type="checkbox"/>	No fraud reported in auditor's statement
9	Audit trail enabled?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Confirmed in auditor report
10	Frequent Auditor change	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deloitte added as joint auditor; no frequent changes

Final line: "Total: 7/10 — Governance Rating: 2"

## Part C: Investor Verdict

**THESIS:** A distressed solar EPC leader undergoing a high-stakes turnaround under Reliance parentage while struggling with a hollowed-out balance sheet. **OVERALL STANCE:** WATCH **RATIONALE:** While RIL's backing prevents immediate collapse, the massive debt, negative net worth, and poor receivables quality require evidence of operational profitability before investing. **RE-EVALUATE WHEN:** Operating EBITDA turns positive and Net Debt/EBITDA falls below 3x. **BULL CASE:** Rapid integration into RIL's 100GW green energy plan leads to ₹10,000 Cr+ annual order inflows at 8%+ EBITDA margins. **BEAR CASE:** Former promoters fail to honor ₹1,203 Cr in indemnities, leading to further equity dilution or insolvency. **KEY MONITORABLE:** Trade Receivables > 3 years: ₹408 Cr → Watch for any further increase or sudden write-offs.