



**KIRBY CORPORATION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**KIRBY CORPORATION TO ANNOUNCE 2009 FOURTH QUARTER AND  
YEAR RESULTS ON JANUARY 27, 2010,  
WITH CONFERENCE CALL ON JANUARY 28, 2010**

**Houston, Texas (January 6, 2010)** -- Kirby Corporation ("Kirby") (NYSE:KEX) will announce its 2009 fourth quarter and year results at 5:00 p.m. central time on Wednesday, January 27, 2010. A conference call to discuss the results will be held at 10:00 a.m. central time on Thursday, January 28, 2010.

The telephone numbers to call to participate in the conference call are 800-446-2782 for domestic callers and 847-413-3235 for international callers. Please dial in five to ten minutes prior to the start of the call. The host is Steve Holcomb. The confirmation number is 26131284.

An audio conference call playback will be available starting at approximately 1:00 p.m. central time on Thursday, January 28, 2010 through 5:00 p.m. central time on Friday, February 26, 2010 by dialing 888-843-8996 for domestic callers and 630-652-3044 for international callers.

A live audio webcast of the conference call will be available to the public and a replay will be available after the conference call by visiting Kirby's website at <http://www.kirbycorp.com/>.

The financial and other information to be discussed in the conference call will be available in the 2009 fourth quarter and year earnings press release and in a Form 8-K to be furnished by Kirby on the day of the call, both of which will be posted on Kirby's website at <http://www.kirbycorp.com/> in the Investor Relations section under Press Releases and SEC Filings.

Kirby Corporation, based in Houston, Texas, operates inland tank barges and towing vessels transporting petrochemicals, black oil products, refined petroleum products and agricultural chemicals throughout the United States' inland waterway system. Kirby also owns and operates four ocean-going barge and tug units transporting dry-bulk commodities in United States coastwise trade. Through the diesel engine services segment, Kirby provides after-market service for medium-speed and high-speed diesel engines and reduction gears used in marine, power generation and railroad applications.

Statements contained in this press release with respect to the future are forward-looking statements. These statements reflect management's reasonable judgment with respect to future events. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from those anticipated as a result of various factors, including cyclical or other downturns in demand, significant pricing competition, unanticipated additions to industry capacity, changes in the Jones Act or in U.S. maritime policy and practice, fuel costs, interest rates, weather conditions, and the timing, magnitude and the number of acquisitions made by Kirby. Forward-looking statements are based on currently available information and Kirby assumes no obligation to update such statements. A list of additional risk factors can be found in Kirby's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.