



**KIRBY CORPORATION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**KIRBY CORPORATION TO ANNOUNCE 2008 FOURTH  
QUARTER AND YEAR RESULTS ON JANUARY 28, 2009,  
WITH CONFERENCE CALL ON JANUARY 29, 2009**

**Houston, Texas (January 9, 2009)** -- Kirby Corporation ("Kirby") (NYSE:KEX) will announce its 2008 fourth quarter and year results at 5:00 p.m. central time on Wednesday, January 28, 2009. A conference call to discuss the results will be held at 10:00 a.m. central time on Thursday, January 29, 2009.

The telephone numbers to call to participate in the conference call are 888-328-2514 for domestic callers and 706-679-3262 for international callers. Please dial in five to ten minutes prior to the start of the call. The leader is Steve Holcomb. The conference ID number is 80621376.

An audio conference call playback will be available starting at approximately 1:00 p.m. central time on Thursday, January 29, 2009 through 5:00 p.m. central time on Friday, February 27, 2009 by dialing 800-642-1687 for domestic callers and 706-645-9291 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 2008 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 judgement 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, 2007, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.