



## RICKMERS MARITIME REPORTS STEADY OPERATING CASH FLOW FOR FY2012

*For immediate release*

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS						
<i>In US\$ million except otherwise stated</i>	4Q2012	4Q2011	Change	FY2012	FY2011	Change
Charter Revenue	36.28	37.79	(4%)	144.29	149.47	(3%)
Cash Flow from Operating Activities	30.13	26.58	13%	109.25	110.29	(1%)
Net Profit	2.24	11.33	(80%)	27.62	40.33	(32%)
Cash Flow Available for Distribution <i>(before payment to debt capital providers)</i>	29.93	25.79	16%	106.02	107.25	(1%)
Distribution per Unit (US cents)	0.60	0.60	-	2.40	2.40	-

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Steady operating cash flow for the year at US\$109.2 million**
- **High operational efficiency for 4Q2012 and FY2012 with 99.8% and 98.9% fleet utilisation rate respectively**
- **Kaethe C. Rickmers' charter extended with MSC until September 2013**
- **Distribution per unit of 0.60 US cents to be paid on 28 March 2013**

**Singapore, 26 February 2013** – Rickmers Trust Management Pte. Ltd. (“RTM”), Trustee-Manager of Mainboard-listed Rickmers Maritime (the “Trust”), today announced the financial performance of the Trust for the fourth quarter and full year ended 31 December 2012 (“4Q2012” and “FY2012”).

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

Charter revenue in 4Q2012 remained steady at US\$36.3 million (4Q2011 at US\$37.8 million). The slight decrease of US\$1.5 million was due mainly to the lower daily charter rate of the vessel, Kaethe C. Rickmers. On a full year basis, revenue declined by 3% from US\$149.5 million in FY2011 to US\$144.3 million in FY2012.

Vessel operating expenses increased from US\$8.4 million in 4Q2011 to US\$8.8 million in 4Q2012 due to a contractual increase in fixed operating expenses and the vessel management fee that took

effect from 1 January 2012, as well as higher lubricant oil prices, additional insurance, anti-piracy related expenses and fuel consumed during unscheduled off-hire.

An annual review on the entire fleet for impairment resulted in a provision for vessel impairment of US\$4.5 million on Kaethe C. Rickmers and goodwill impairment of US\$2.1 million on three wholly owned subsidiary companies.

As a result of the marginal decline in charter revenue, increase in operating expenses and one-off non-cash impairment charges to vessel values, the Trust's net profit after tax decreased from US\$11.3 million in 4Q2011 to US\$2.2 million in 4Q2012. On a full year basis, the Trust's profit for 2012 was US\$27.6 million, which is US\$12.7 million lower than the profit recorded in the previous financial year.

### **FLEET OPERATIONS**

During 4Q2012, there were 13.8 days of scheduled off-hire for dry-docking and 3.5 days for unscheduled off-hire due to unforeseen repairs. For the full year 2012, there were 60.3 days of scheduled off-hire for dry-docking and 37.6 days of unscheduled off-hire for unforeseen repairs. In addition, Kaethe C. Rickmers incurred 29.4 idle-days before entering her new charter to MSC on 25 March 2012. Despite this, the vessel utilisation rate remained high at 98.9% for the full year.

Kaethe C. Rickmers' charter contract with MSC was extended for another six months from 25 March 2013 to 24 September 2013 (+/- 30 days). The Trust's fleet of 16 containerships is 100% chartered out on fixed-rate time charters with an average remaining charter period of 3.2 years and a current average net daily charter rate of US\$25,300 per vessel.

### **STABLE CASH FLOWS AND REPAYMENT OF DEBT**

The cash flows for the Trust remained steady in FY2012. Cash flow from operating activities increased 13% from US\$26.6 million in 4Q2011 to US\$30.1 million in 4Q2012, with operating cash flow for the full year remaining in-line with FY2011 at US\$109.2 million. The Trust continued its accelerated debt repayments to deleverage the business and achieve a robust financial structure. During the full year, debt repayments of US\$52.0 million were made to bring the face value of outstanding secured bank loans to US\$569.9 million, lowering the Trust's gearing to 59%, the lowest since 2008.

### **DISTRIBUTIONS**

The Trust maintained its distribution to Unitholders at US\$2.5 million for 4Q2012, a distribution of 0.60 US cents per unit. The declared distribution will be paid to Unitholders on 28 March 2013.

## **INDUSTRY OUTLOOK**

For 2013, containership capacity growth is forecasted at 6.6%<sup>1</sup> while global trade growth is projected to reach 6.1%<sup>1</sup>. However with a significant number of ships to be delivered in the next twelve months, and demand unlikely to absorb over-supply in 2013, no material increases in time charter rates and vessel values are expected in the short term.

The Chief Executive Officer of RTM, Mr Thomas Preben Hansen commented, "Improved industry fundamentals coupled with a possible stabilisation of the world's major economies, may pave the way for a brighter future for container shipping. However, liner companies will have to delicately manage their tonnage supply and maintain strict freight rate discipline, if the industry is to continue its recovery in 2013. The Trust, through its existing charter agreements, is protected from the current supply and demand imbalance. Rickmers Maritime fleet has US\$476.7 million of secured revenue between 1 January 2013 and the expiry of the last charter party contract in 2019. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we believe our leases will continue to generate stable and on-going cash flows."

**End**

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Clarkson Research Services, January 2013

*This press release should be read in conjunction with Rickmers Maritime's Fourth Quarter and Full Year Ended 31 December 2012 Financial Statements and Presentation Materials released via SGXNet on 26 February 2013.*

**For more details, please contact:**

**Rickmers Maritime**

Gerard Low Shao Khang

Chief Financial Officer

Tel: (65) 6506 6965

Email: [ir@rickmers-maritime.com](mailto:ir@rickmers-maritime.com)

**Kreab Gavin Anderson**

Jim Watson

Associate Director

Tel: (65) 9751 4830

Email: [jwatson@kreabgavinanderson.com](mailto:jwatson@kreabgavinanderson.com)

Matthew Tay

Associate

Tel: (65) 9668 7351

Email: [mtay@kreabgavinanderson.com](mailto:mtay@kreabgavinanderson.com)

**Rickmers Maritime (Bloomberg: RMT SP; Thomson Reuters: RIMT)**

Rickmers Maritime is a Singapore business trust formed to own and operate containerships under long-term, fixed-rate time charters to leading container liner companies including CMA CGM, Hanjin Shipping Co. Ltd., Italia Marittima S.p.A., Mediterranean Shipping Company S.A. and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd. Its objectives are to offer first-class services to its customers, generate stable and growing cash flows and maximise value for its unitholders.

Managed by Rickmers Trust Management Pte. Ltd., the Trust aims to provide its unitholders with regular quarterly cash distributions, while reinvesting a portion of its operating cash flow to ensure the long-term growth and sustainability of the Trust.

Rickmers Maritime is sponsored by the Rickmers Group, which is based in Hamburg, Germany. Rickmers Group was founded and is controlled by Mr. Bertram R.C. Rickmers, whose family has over 175 years of experience in the shipping industry. Rickmers Maritime is listed on the Mainboard of Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited.