

Forward Air Corporation Reports Fourth Quarter and Fiscal 2013 Results, New Two Million Share Stock Buyback Authorization and Increased Quarterly Cash Dividend

GREENEVILLE, Tenn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Forward Air Corporation (NASDAQ:FWRD) today reported results for the fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2013.

Operating revenue for the quarter ended December 31, 2013 increased 16.5% to \$181.1 million from \$155.5 million for the same quarter in 2012. Income from operations was \$23.2 million, compared with \$24.0 million for the fourth quarter of 2012, a decrease of 3.3%. Net income per diluted share for the fourth quarter of 2013 was \$0.50 compared with \$0.54 in the same quarter of 2012.

Operating revenue for the year ended December 31, 2013 increased 11.7% to \$652.5 million from \$584.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2012. Income from operations was \$84.4 million, compared with \$83.5 million in 2012. Net income per diluted share for the year ended December 31, 2013 was \$1.77 compared with \$1.78 in 2012.

Bruce A. Campbell, Chairman, President and CEO, said, "Without a doubt, the fourth quarter of 2013 proved to be more challenging than we anticipated. Like all of the transports, we have continuously fought weather related issues. From the middle of November up until this past week, weather has been an issue in one or more of our operating regions. While there is only so much we can do to mitigate the impact of weather, we do have plans in place to address the opportunities that are specific to our Company."

Starting with the Forward Air, Inc. business segment, Mr. Campbell said, "Airport-to airport volumes were up a respectable 5.9% and Complete, without the major customer loss in the prior year comparison, has returned to growth mode. The issue simply put was pricing. We made the strategic decision not to push through a general rate increase (GRI) this past fall. We have subsequently seen a tightening of capacity and a continued decline in our competitors' service levels which will allow us to implement a GRI effective the first week of March. With year-over-year weekly tonnage growth consistently in the mid-single digits and an estimated 2.75% net benefit from our 2014 GRI, we feel our airport-to-airport network is well positioned for the balance of the year."

Moving to the Forward Air Solutions segment, Mr. Campbell said, "With substantial year-over-year revenue growth but a decline in operating income, we were clearly disappointed with Solutions fourth quarter results. We have developed a comprehensive plan with the sole focus on improving operating margins. We believe this plan, which includes an across the board GRI, to be very actionable with immediate and quantifiable results expected within the

first half of 2014."

Turning to our TQI business segment, Mr. Campbell said, "With our new operating system now in place, additional new equipment coming online and the ongoing success in recruiting owner-operators we are excited at what will be our first full year of our TQI service offering. We feel confident of substantial topline growth producing double digit operating margins for 2014."

In closing Mr. Campbell said, "This past week we closed on the previously announced purchase of drayage and intermodal transportation provider Central States Trucking (CST). Our team is very excited about the potential of this new service offering. With a solid group of talented transportation professionals and a scalable platform, for organic as well as acquisition related growth, we look forward to taking advantage of ample opportunities in 2014. We're delighted to welcome CST to the Forward Air family."

In commenting on the Company's guidance for the first quarter, Rodney L. Bell, Senior Vice President and CFO said, "We anticipate our first quarter 2014 revenues will increase in the range of 19% to 23% over the comparable 2013 period, and we expect income per diluted share to be between \$0.36 and \$0.40 per share. This compares to \$0.36 per share in the first quarter of 2013."

On February 7, 2014, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.12 per share of common stock. The dividend is payable to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 10, 2014, and is expected to be paid on March 24, 2014. This represents a 20% increase in our dividend as compared to the prior year quarter.

This quarterly dividend is pursuant to a cash dividend policy approved by the Board of Directors, which anticipates a total annual dividend of \$0.48 per share of common stock, payable in quarterly increments of \$0.12 per share of common stock. The actual declaration of future cash dividends, and the establishment of record and payment dates, is subject to final determination by the Board of Directors each quarter after its review of the Company's financial performance.

Also, on February 7, 2014, our Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase authorization for up to two million shares of the Company's common stock. In connection with this action, the board cancelled the Company's 2007 share repurchase authorization. The amount and timing of any repurchases under the Company's new repurchase authorization will be at such prices as determined by management of the Company. Share repurchases may be commenced or suspended from time to time for any reason. The Company currently has approximately 30,522,079 shares outstanding.

Review of Financial Results

Forward Air will hold a conference call to discuss fourth quarter and year end 2013 results on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. EST. The Company's conference call will be available online at www.forwardair.com or by dialing 877-209-9922. A replay of the conference call will be available at www.forwardair.com beginning shortly after the completion of the live call.

About Forward Air Corporation

Forward Air Corporation operates three business segments, Forward Air, Inc., Forward Air Solutions, Inc. and Total Quality, Inc.

Forward Air, Inc. is a high-service-level contractor to the air cargo industry providing time-definite ground transportation services through a network of 88 terminals located on or near major airports in the United States and Canada. It provides these services as a cost-effective alternative to air transportation of cargo that must be delivered at a specific time but is relatively less time-sensitive than traditional air freight or when air transportation is not economical.

Forward Air Solutions, Inc. is a provider of pool distribution services. Pool distribution involves the consolidation and shipment of several smaller less-than-truckload shipments to a common area or region. Once at the regional destination, the loads are deconsolidated, then grouped with other shipments with common delivery points, and delivered in a very precise, time-sensitive manner. Our pool distribution network consists of 24 terminals within the mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Midwest and Southwestern United States.

Total Quality, Inc. utilizes industry-leading temperature-controlled equipment, 24-hour monitoring and tracking technology and layered security features to provide our customers with the highest level of service. In addition to our core pharmaceutical services, we provide brokerage transportation services. Headquartered in central Michigan, we service the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Forward Air Corporation Consolidated Statements of Income (In thousands, except per share data) (Unaudited)

		Three moi	months ended		Year ended			
	Dec	ember 31, 2013	Dec	cember 31, 2012	December 31, 2013		December 31, 2012	
Operating revenue:		2010						
Airport-to-airport	\$	103,866	\$	100,691	\$	392,323	\$	390,697
Logistics	•	33,347	•	20,473	•	120,822	•	83,787
Other		6,947		6,639		26,570		26,137
Pool distribution		36,925		27,722		112,766		83,825
Total operating revenue		181,085		155,525		652,481	-	584,446
Operating expenses:								
Purchased transportation								
Airport-to-airport		44,241		40,519		162,847		160,065
Logistics		22,643		15,447		82,339		63,203
Other		2,204		1,989		7,911		7,241
Pool distribution		10,140		7,221		32,593		22,211
Total purchased transportation		79,228		65,176		285,690		252,720
Salaries, wages and employee benefits		41,949		37,597		151,097		135,006
Operating leases		8,387		7,164		29,310		27,989
Depreciation and amortization		6,202		5,081		23,579		21,021
Insurance and claims		3,455		3,177		12,619		11,309
Fuel expense		4,610		2,767		15,145		10,038
Other operating expenses		14,051		10,529		50,686		42,831
Total operating expenses		157,882		131,491		568,126		500,914
Income from operations		23,203		24,034		84,355		83,532
Other income (expense):								
Interest expense		(131)		(150)		(532)		(391)
Other, net		27		20		99		14
Total other expense		(104)		(130)		(433)		(377)
Income before income taxes		23,099		23,904		83,922		83,155
Income taxes		7,514		7,944		29,455		30,487
Net income	\$	15,585	\$	15,960	\$	54,467	\$	52,668
Net income per share:								
Basic	\$	0.51	\$	0.55	\$	1.81	\$	1.82
Diluted	\$	0.50	\$	0.54	\$	1.77	\$	1.78
Weighted average shares outstanding:								
Basic		30,490		29,190		30,135		28,967
Diluted		31,129		29,716		30,762		29,536
Dividends per share:	\$	0.10	\$	0.10	\$	0.40	\$	0.34

Forward Air Corporation Consolidated Balance Sheets (In thousands) (Unaudited)

		2013	December 31, 2012 (a)	
Assets				
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	127,367	\$	112,182
Accounts receivable, net		76,500		75,262
Other current assets		16,493		10,952
Total current assets		220,360		198,396
Property and equipment		271,050		239,138
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization		116,287		105,581
Net property and equipment		154,763		133,557
Goodwill and other acquired intangibles:				
Goodwill		88,496		43,332
Other acquired intangibles, net of accumulated amortization		40,110		22,102
Total net goodwill and other acquired intangibles		128,606		65,434
Other assets		2,540		1,800
Total assets	\$	506,269	\$	399,187
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity Current liabilities: Accounts payable	\$	16,267	\$	11,168
Accounts payable Accrued expenses	φ	18,275	φ	16,476
Current portion of debt and capital lease obligations		69		276
Total current liabilities		34,611		27,920
Debt and capital lease obligations, less current portion		3		58
Other long-term liabilities		8,940		7,098
Deferred income taxes		26,850		12,440
Commitments and contingencies		_0,000		,
Shareholders' equity:				
Common stock		305		292
Additional paid-in capital		107,726		64,644
Retained earnings		327,834		286,735
Total shareholders' equity		435,865		351,671
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$	506,269	\$	399,187

⁽a) Taken from audited financial statements, which are not presented in their entirety.

Forward Air Corporation Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (In thousands) (Unaudited)

	Three months ended			ended
	December 31, 2013		Dec	ember 31, 2012
Operating activities:				
Net income	\$	15,585	\$	15,960
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities				
Depreciation and amortization		6,202		5,081
Gain on change in fair value of earn-out liability		(615)		_
Share-based compensation		1,559		1,500
Loss on disposal of property and equipment		14		59
Provision for loss (recovery) on receivables		189		(27)
Provision for revenue adjustments		826		586
Deferred income taxes		198		(417)
Tax benefit for stock options exercised		(500)		(31)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities				
Accounts receivable		5,709		(943)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets		1,360		298
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		(175)		841
Net cash provided by operating activities		30,352		22,907
Investing activities:				
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment		308		44
Purchases of property and equipment		(2,173)		(854)
Other		(18)		4
Net cash used in investing activities		(1,883)		(806)
Financing activities:				
Payments of debt and capital lease obligations		(24)		(140)
Proceeds from exercise of stock options		3,136		_
Payments of cash dividends		(3,070)		(2,938)
Repurchase of common stock (repurchase program)		(354)		_
Common stock issued under employee stock purchase plan		159		140
Tax benefit for stock options exercised		500		31
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		347		(2,907)
Net increase in cash		28,816		19,194
Cash at beginning of period		98,551		92,988
Cash at end of period	\$	127,367	\$	112,182
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Forward Air Corporation Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (In thousands) (Unaudited)

	Year ended			d
	December 31, 2013		Dec	ember 31, 2012
Operating activities:				
Net income	\$	54,467	\$	52,668
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities				
Depreciation and amortization		23,579		21,021
Gain on change in fair value of earn-out liability		(615)		_
Share-based compensation		6,178		6,050
(Gain) loss on disposal of property and equipment		(454)		318
Provision for loss on receivables		423		199
Provision for revenue adjustments		2,531		2,003
Deferred income taxes		4,856		2,043
Tax benefit for stock options exercised		(3,707)		(385)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities				
Accounts receivable		1,447		(6,542)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets		(215)		(1,331)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		2,349		(7,458)
Net cash provided by operating activities		90,839		68,586
Investing activities:				
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment		1,973		911
Purchases of property and equipment		(35,439)		(21,353)
Acquisition of business, net of cash acquired		(45,328)		_
Other		(129)		(263)
Net cash used in investing activities		(78,923)		(20,705)
Financing activities:				
Payments of debt and capital lease obligations		(20,375)		(551)
Proceeds from exercise of stock options		33,002		15,740
Payments of cash dividends		(12,141)		(9,947)
Repurchase of common stock (repurchase program)		(354)		_
Common stock issued under employee stock purchase plan		296		259
Cash settlement of share-based awards for minimum tax withholdings		(866)		(386)
Tax benefit for stock options exercised		3,707		385
Net cash provided by financing activities		3,269		5,500
Net increase in cash		15,185		53,381
Cash at beginning of year		112,182		58,801
Cash at end of year	\$	127,367	\$	112,182

Forward Air Corporation Segment Information (In millions) (Unaudited)

Three months ended

	Dec	ember 31, 2013	Percent of Revenue	December 31, 2012		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Percent Change
Operating revenue								
Forward Air	\$	132.1	72.9%	\$	128.4	82.6%	\$ 3.7	2.9%
FASI		37.0	20.4		27.9	17.9	9.1	32.6
TQI		13.3	7.4		_	_	13.3	100.0
Intercompany eliminations		(1.3)	(0.7)		(0.8)	(0.5)	(0.5)	62.5
Total		181.1	100.0		155.5	100.0	25.6	16.5

Purchased transportation						
Forward Air	62.0	46.9	58.1	45.3	3.9	6.7
FASI	10.9	29.5	7.8	27.9	3.1	39.7
TQI	7.3	54.9	_	_	7.3	100.0
Intercompany eliminations	(1.0)	76.9	(0.7)	87.5	(0.3)	42.9
Total	79.2	43.7	65.2	41.9	14.0	21.5
Salaries, wages and employee benefits						
Forward Air	27.4	20.7	27.7	21.6	(0.3)	(1.1)
FASI	12.6	34.1	9.9	35.5	2.7	27.3
TQI	1.9	14.3			1.9	100.0
Total	41.9	23.2	37.6	24.2	4.3	11.4
Operating leases						
Forward Air	5.4	4.1	5.2	4.1	0.2	3.8
FASI	3.0	8.1	2.0	7.2	1.0	50.0
TQI						
Total	8.4	4.6	7.2	4.6	1.2	16.7
Depreciation and amortization						
Forward Air	4.1	3.1	3.9	3.0	0.2	5.1
FASI	1.3	3.5	1.2	4.3	0.1	8.3
TQI	0.8	6.0			8.0	100.0
Total	6.2	3.4	5.1	3.3	1.1	21.6
Insurance and claims						
Forward Air	2.3	1.7	2.5	1.9	(0.2)	(8.0)
FASI	1.0	2.7	0.7	2.5	0.3	42.9
TQI	0.2	1.5	_		0.2	100.0
Total	3.5	1.9	3.2	2.1	0.3	9.4
1 3 44		1.0				
Fuel expense						
Forward Air	1.0	8.0	1.0	8.0	_	_
FASI	2.2	5.9	1.7	6.1	0.5	29.4
TQI	1.4	10.5	_	_	1.4	100.0
Total	4.6	2.6	2.7	1.7	1.9	70.4
Other energting expenses						
Other operating expenses Forward Air	10.1	7.7	8.4	6.5	1.7	20.2
FASI	4.3	11.6	2.2	7.9	2.1	95.5
TQI	-	—		—		33.3
Intercompany eliminations	(0.3)	23.1	(0.1)	12.5	(0.2)	200.0
Total	14.1	7.8	10.5	6.8	3.6	34.3
Total	14.1	1.0	10.5	0.0	3.0	J4.J
Income from operations						
Forward Air	19.8	15.0	21.6	16.8	(1.8)	(8.3)
FASI	1.7	4.6	2.4	8.6	(0.7)	(29.2)
TQI	1.7	12.8			1.7	100.0
Total	\$ 23.2	12.8%	\$ 24.0	15.4%	\$ (0.8)	(3.3)%

Forward Air Corporation Segment Information (In millions) (Unaudited)

Year ended						
	Percent of		Percent of		Percent	
December 31, 2013	Revenue	December 31, 2012	Revenue	Change	Change	

Operating revenue						
Forward Air	\$ 501.1	76.8%	\$ 501.7	85.9%	\$ (0.6)	(0.1)%
FASI	113.4	17.4	85.0	14.5	28.4	33.4
TQI	41.8	6.4	<u> </u>	_	41.8	100.0
Intercompany eliminations	(3.8)	(0.6)	(2.3)	(0.4)	(1.5)	65.2
Total	652.5	100.0	584.4	100.0	68.1	11.7
Purchased transportation						
Forward Air	230.9	46.1	231.4	46.1	(0.5)	(0.2)
FASI	34.5	30.4	23.3	27.4	11.2	48.1
TQI	23.2	55.5	_	_	23.2	100.0
Intercompany eliminations	(2.9)	76.3	(2.0)	87.0	(0.9)	45.0
Total	285.7	43.8	252.7	43.3	33.0	13.1
Salaries, wages and employee benefits						
Forward Air	105.4	21.0	103.1	20.6	2.3	2.2
FASI	39.3	34.7	31.9	37.5	7.4	23.2
TQI	6.4	15.3	_	_	6.4	100.0
Total	151.1	23.2	135.0	23.1	16.1	11.9
Operating leases	20.0	4.0	00.4		(0.0)	(4.0)
Forward Air	20.2	4.0	20.4	4.1	(0.2)	(1.0)
FASI	9.0	7.9	7.6	9.0	1.4	18.4
TQI	0.1	0.2			0.1	100.0
Total	29.3	4.5	28.0	4.8	1.3	4.6
Depreciation and amortization						
Forward Air	16.2	3.2	16.4	3.3	(0.2)	(1.2)
FASI	5.0	4.4	4.7	5.5	0.3	6.4
TQI	2.4	5.8	_	_	2.4	100.0
Total	23.6	3.6	21.1	3.6	2.5	11.8
			·			
Insurance and claims						
Forward Air	8.7	1.8	8.9	1.8	(0.2)	(2.2)
FASI	3.3	2.9	2.4	2.8	0.9	37.5
TQI	0.5	1.2			0.5	100.0
Total	12.5	1.9	11.3	1.9	1.2	10.6
Fuel expense						
Forward Air	4.0	8.0	4.2	8.0	(0.2)	(4.8)
FASI	7.0	6.2	5.8	6.8	1.2	20.7
TQI	4.2	10.1	_	_	4.2	100.0
Total	15.2	2.3	10.0	1.7	5.2	52.0
Other operating expenses	-				. =	<u>.</u> .
Forward Air	37.0	7.4	35.8	7.1	1.2	3.4
FASI	13.2	11.6	7.3	8.6	5.9	80.8
TQI	1.4	3.3	(0.0)	40.0	1.4	100.0
Intercompany eliminations	(0.9)	23.7	(0.3)	13.0	(0.6)	200.0
Total	50.7	7.8	42.8	7.3	7.9	18.5
Income from operations	70 7	45.5	0.4.5	40.0	(0.0)	(0.4)
Forward Air	78.7	15.7	81.5	16.2	(2.8)	(3.4)
FASI	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.4	0.1	5.0
TQI Total	\$ 84.4	8.6 12.9%	\$ 83.5	14.3%	3.6 \$ 0.9	100.0 1.1%
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Forward Air Corporation Forward Air Inc. Operating Statistics

	Three months ended				
	De	cember 31, 2013	De	cember 31, 2012	Percent Change
Operating ratio		85.0%		83.2%	2.2%
Business days		64.0		64.0	_
Business weeks		12.8		12.8	_
Airport-to-airport: Tonnage					
Total pounds ¹		482,861		456,007	5.9
Average weekly pounds ¹		37,724		35,626	5.9
Linehaul shipments					
Total linehaul		716,672		727,274	(1.5)
Average weekly		55,990		56,818	(1.5)
Forward Air Complete shipments		122,735		135,680	(9.5)
As a percentage of linehaul shipments		17.1%		18.7%	(8.6)
Average linehaul shipment size		674		627	7.5
Revenue per pound ²					
Linehaul yield	\$	17.00	\$	17.41	(1.9)
Fuel surcharge impact		1.75		1.95	(0.9)
Forward Air Complete impact	_	2.80	_	2.74	0.3
Total airport-to-airport yield	\$	21.55	\$	22.10	(2.5)
Logistics: Miles					
Owner operator ¹		8,001		8,501	(5.9)
Third party ¹		4,253		4,152	2.4
Total Miles	_	12,254	_	12,653	(3.2)
Revenue per mile	\$	1.69	\$	1.65	2.4
Cost per mile	\$	1.27	\$	1.22	4.1%

¹ - In thousands

² - In cents per pound; percentage change is expressed as a percent of total yield.

Forward Air Corporation Forward Air Inc. Operating Statistics

	December 31,	December 31,	Percent
	2013	2012	Change
Operating ratio	84.3%	83.8%	0.6%
Business days	255.0	255.0	_
Business weeks	51.0	51.0	_
Airport-to-airport: Tonnage			
Total pounds ¹	1,803,243	1,778,397	1.4
Average weekly pounds ¹	35,358	34,871	1.4
Linehaul shipments Total linehaul	2 755 271	2 701 507	(1.2)
Average weekly	2,755,271 54,025	2,791,597 54,737	(1.3) (1.3)
Average weekly	54,025	54,757	(1.3)
Forward Air Complete shipments	476,005	645,207	(26.2)
As a percentage of linehaul shipments	17.3%	23.1%	(25.1)
Average linehaul shipment size	654	637	2.7
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Revenue per pound ² Linehaul yield	\$ 17.06	\$ 17.13	(0.3)
Fuel surcharge impact	ت 17.06 1.87	э 17.13 1.90	(0.3)
Forward Air Complete impact	2.88	2.97	(0.2)
Total airport-to-airport yield	\$ 21.81	\$ 22.00	(0.4)
rotal all port-to-all port yield	Ψ 21.01	Ψ 22.00	(0.5)
Logistics: Miles			
Owner operator ¹	34,401	35,091	(2.0)
Third party ¹	14,916	16,162	(7.7)
Total Miles	49,317	51,253	(3.8)
Revenue per mile	\$ 1.63	\$ 1.64	(0.6)
Cost per mile	\$ 1.21	\$ 1.24	(2.4)%

¹ - In thousands

Important Information

This press release contains "forward-looking statements," as defined in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Forward-looking statements are statements other than historical information or statements of current condition and relate to future events or our future financial performance. Some forward-looking statements may be identified by use of such terms as "believes," "anticipates," "intends," "plans," "estimates," "projects" or "expects."

² - In cents per pound; percentage change is expressed as a percent of total yield.

Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. The following is a list of factors, among others, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements: economic factors such as recessions, inflation, higher interest rates and downturns in customer business cycles, our inability to maintain our historical growth rate because of a decreased volume of freight moving through our network or decreased average revenue per pound of freight moving through our network, increasing competition and pricing pressure, surplus inventories, loss of a major customer, the creditworthiness of our customers and their ability to pay for services rendered, our ability to secure terminal facilities in desirable locations at reasonable rates, the inability of our information systems to handle an increased volume of freight moving through our network, changes in fuel prices, claims for property damage, personal injuries or workers' compensation, employment matters including rising health care costs, enforcement of and changes in governmental regulations, environmental and tax matters, the handling of hazardous materials, the availability and compensation of qualified independent owner-operators and freight handlers needed to serve our transportation needs and our inability to successfully integrate acquisitions. As a result of the foregoing, no assurance can be given as to future financial condition, cash flows or results of operations. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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Source: Forward Air Corporation