

MERITAGE HOMES REPORTS RESULTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER AND FULL YEAR 2013

Fourth Quarter EPS of \$1.19 Reflects 47% Increase in Home Closing Revenue and 12% Pre-Tax Margin; Full Year Home Closing Revenue Increases 51% and Total Order Value Increases 40% Over 2012

SCOTTSDALE, AZ -- (Marketwired) -- 02/05/14 -- Meritage Homes Corporation (NYSE: MTH), a leading U.S. homebuilder, today announced fourth guarter results for the period ended December 31, 2013.

Summary Operating Results (unaudited) (Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)

	Three	Mo	onths End	led		Twelve	Мо	nths Ende	d
	Dec	cer	mber 31,		December 31,				
	2013		2012	%Chg		2013		2012	%Chg
Homes closed (units)	1,468		1,240	18%		5 , 259		4,238	24%
Home closing revenue	\$ 533,492	\$	364,118	47%	\$1	,783,389	\$1	,184,360	51%
Average sales price									
- closings	\$ 363	\$	294	24%	\$	339	\$	279	21%
Home orders (units)	1,131		1,094	3%		5 , 615		4,795	17%
Home order value	\$ 414,584	\$	353,862	17%	\$1	,982,303	\$1	,414,772	40%
Average sales price									
- orders	\$ 367	\$	323	13%	\$	353	\$	295	20%
Ending backlog									
(units)						1,853		1,472	26%
Ending backlog value					\$	686 , 672	\$	479,266	43%
Average sales price									
- backlog					\$	371	\$	326	14%
Net earnings	\$ 46,089	\$	95 , 128	(52)%	\$	124,464	\$	105,163	18%
Diluted EPS	\$ 1.19	\$	2.49	(52)%	\$	3.25	\$	3.00	8%

MANAGEMENT COMMENTS

"2013 was another year of strong revenue growth and earnings acceleration for Meritage Homes, and the fourth quarter was our eleventh consecutive quarter of year-over-year growth in orders," said Steven J. Hilton, chairman and chief executive officer of Meritage Homes. "Our orders and closing volumes grew due to strong demand and a 19% increase in our active communities open at year-end. In addition, rising home prices pushed our total order value and closing revenue to their highest levels in more than five years. Price appreciation also contributed to our home closing gross margins expanding to 22.0% for the year and 23.2% in the fourth quarter.

"With those margin gains, we produced an 80% increase in full year home closing gross profit and grew our annual pre-tax earnings by a multiple of six times on a 51% increase in home closing revenue in 2013," he explained. "Our growth was less evident in our net earnings and earnings per share, as our 2012 annual results included a \$76.3 million net tax benefit, while 2013 results included a provision for tax expense of \$53.2 million."

Mr. Hilton continued, "The homebuilding market strengthened in 2013 as jobs, improved buyer confidence and a shortage of homes for sale drove housing starts higher," continued Mr. Hilton. "We believe market conditions remain positive for continued growth in 2014 and beyond. Based on our positive outlook, we invested approximately \$565 million during the year in land and development, and contracted for approximately 11,200 new lots in great locations at attractive prices, ending the year with about 25,700 total lots under control. We raised approximately \$280 million during 2013 through the issuance of senior unsecured notes and completed a \$110 million stock offering in January 2014 to further solidify our balance sheet and fund additional growth.

"We closed 2013 with significantly higher backlog, total assets and stockholders' equity than we had at the end of 2012, and believe we have sufficient liquidity to grow as the housing market continues to improve," concluded Mr.

Hilton. "At this time, we expect to grow our community count to 210-220 by the end of 2014."

FOURTH QUARTER RESULTS

- Net earnings of \$46.1 million (\$1.19 per diluted share) were net of a \$19.8 million provision for income taxes, while prior year net earnings of \$95.1 million (\$2.49 per diluted share) included a \$71.5 million net tax benefit primarily due to the reversal of a majority of our deferred tax asset valuation allowances.
- Home closing revenue increased 47% due to an 18% increase in home closings combined with a 24% increase in average price over the prior year period. The strongest growth was in the expanded East Region (Florida, the Carolinas and Tennessee), which grew closings and home closing revenue by 58% and 116%, respectively, compared to 31% growth in home closing revenue in both the West and Central Regions.
- The total value of homes ordered increased 17%, primarily due to a 13% increase in average selling price combined with a 3% increase in order volume. Average sales price for the fourth quarter increased to \$367,000 from \$323,000 in 2012. The fourth quarter of 2013 was Meritage's eleventh consecutive quarter of year-over-year growth in home orders, and monthly sales improved sequentially every month throughout the quarter, before including the Company's new Tennessee division, which added 26 orders in the fourth quarter of 2013.
- An average of 6.2 orders per community during the fourth quarter 2013 was the second highest fourth quarter in the last eight years, exceeded only by 2012's 7.0 average orders per community. California and Colorado sold the highest number of homes per average community.
- Cancellation rates increased to 15% in the fourth quarter of 2013, compared to 13% in the fourth quarter of 2012, but still remained well below historical rates for the Company.
- Ending backlog of orders was up 26% over the prior year, and the total value of orders in backlog was up 43%, aided by a 14% increase in the average sales price per home.
- Home closing gross profit increased 80% over the prior year, and home closing gross margin increased by 430 basis points to 23.2% in the fourth quarter of 2013 compared to 18.9% in the fourth quarter of 2012.
 Increased margins reflected the Company's success in managing smaller increases in its cost of sales relative to rising home prices.
- Commissions and selling expenses decreased by 60 basis points from the prior year, to 6.8% of home closing revenue in the fourth quarter of 2013, compared to 7.4% of home closing revenue in the fourth quarter of 2012, as higher closing revenue resulted in greater leverage of the fixed components within selling costs.
- General and administrative expenses for the fourth quarter of 2013 decreased by 30 basis points to 4.6% of total closing revenue in 2013, compared to 4.9% of total closing revenue in 2012, despite increasing by \$7.2 million over the prior year, primarily due to hiring of additional employees and higher compensation expense.
- Interest expense decreased to \$2.0 million or 0.4% of closing revenue in the fourth quarter of 2013, compared to \$5.5 million or 1.5% of closing revenue in the fourth quarter of 2012, as more interest was capitalized to assets under development.
- Earnings before income taxes increased 179% to \$65.9 million from \$23.6 million in the fourth quarters of 2013 and 2012, respectively. Pretax margin for the fourth quarter increased 570 basis points to 12.2% in 2013 compared to 6.5% in 2012.

FULL YEAR RESULTS

- Net income of \$124.5 million for the full year of 2013 included a \$53.2 provision for income taxes and a \$3.8 million loss on early extinguishment of debt, compared to 2012's net income of \$105.2 million, which included a net tax benefit of \$76.3 million and a \$5.8 million loss on early extinguishment of debt.
- Home closings and closing revenue increased 24% and 51%, respectively, for 2013 as compared to 2012.
- 2013 home closing gross margins improved by 360 basis points to 22.0% compared to 18.4% for 2012.
- Net orders for the year increased 17% in 2013 over 2012, and total order value increased 40% year over year, aided by a 20% increase in average sales prices.
- The total value of orders in backlog at year-end 2013 was 43% higher than the prior year's ending backlog.

BALANCE SHEET

Cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and securities at December 31, 2013, totaled \$363.8 million, compared to \$295.5 million at December 31, 2012. During 2013, Meritage received approximately \$280 million from the sale of \$175 million of 4.50% senior notes due 2018 and \$100 million of its 7.15% senior notes due 2020 (sold at a premium of \$106.699 for a yield of 5.875%). Approximately \$100 million of the

- capital raised was used to fully retire the Company's 7.731% senior subordinated notes due 2017. In January 2014, the company also issued approximately 2.53 million shares of common stock for net proceeds of approximately \$110 million.
- Meritage Homes expanded into the Nashville, Tennessee market through the acquisition of Phillips Builders in August 2013, which added approximately 500 lots to Meritage's total lot inventory.
- Real estate assets increased by \$292.1 million for the year 2012, ending at \$1.4 billion at December 31, 2013, compared to \$1.1 billion at December 31, 2012. Approximately 61% of the increase was in finished home sites (lots) and home sites under development, as Meritage acquired and developed lots for new communities in growing markets.
- Meritage ended the quarter with approximately 25,700 total lots under control, of which 74% were owned and 26% controlled under option and purchase contracts, compared to approximately 20,800 total lots at December 31, 2012. Based on its trailing twelve months' closings, Meritage controlled a 4.9 year supply of lots at the end of 2013.
- Net debt-to-capital ratio at December 31, 2013 was 39.1%, compared to 38.1% at December 31, 2012. Giving effect to the January equity offering, Meritage's pro forma net debt-to-capital ratio would have been 31.2%.
- The Company increased the borrowing capacity under its revolving credit facility to \$200 million from \$135 million during the fourth quarter, providing additional liquidity for working capital and growth, while also eliminating all restrictions on cash previously required under its letters of credit facilities.

CONFERENCE CALL

Management will host a conference call today to discuss the Company's results at 10:30 a.m. Eastern Time (7:30 a.m. Pacific Time). The call will be webcast with an accompanying slideshow available on the "Investor Relations" page of the Company's web site at http://investors.meritagehomes.com. Telephone participants may avoid any delays by pre-registering for the call using the following link to receive a special dial-in number and PIN.

Conference Call registration link: http://dpregister.com/10038596.

Telephone participants who are unable to pre-register may dial in to 888-317-6016 on the day of the call. International dial-in number is 1-412-317-6016.

A replay of the call will be available for fifteen days, beginning at 12:30 p.m. ET on February 5, 2014 on the website noted above, or by dialing 877-344-7529, and referencing conference number 10038596. For more information, visit meritagehomes.com.

Meritage Homes Corporation and Subsidiaries
Operating Results
(Unaudited)
(In thousands, except per share data)

Three Months Ended

Twelve Months Ended

	December 31,			Decemb	er 31.
			2012		2012
Homebuilding:					
Home closing revenue	\$ •		·		
Land closing revenue	2,702		468	31,270	9,314
Total closing	 				
revenue	536,194		364,586	1,814,659	1,193,674
Cost of home closings Cost of land closings	(409,918) (2,627)			(1,391,475) (26,766)	
Total cost of closings	 (412,545)		(295,613)	(1,418,241)	(975,475)
Home closing gross profit Land closing gross	 123 , 574		68,763	391 , 914	217,976

profit	75	210		4,504	223
Total closing gross profit	123,649	68 , 973		396,418	 218,199
Financial Services: Revenue Expense Earnings from financial services unconsolidated	2,077 (1,037)	526 (497)		6,037 (3,266)	779 (981)
entities and other, net	3,399	3,483		13,183	10,457
Financial services profit	4,439	 3,512		15 , 954	 10,255
Commissions and other sales costs General and	(36,190)	(26,883)		(126,716)	(94,833)
administrative expenses Earnings/(loss) from other unconsolidated	(24,923)	(17,739)		(91,510)	(68,185)
entities, net	(149)	124		(378)	(224)
Interest expense		(5,526)			
Other income/(loss), net Loss on early	1,032	1,139		2,792	(6,342)
extinguishment of debt				(3,796)	 (5,772)
Earnings before income taxes (Provision for)/benefit	65 , 879	23,600		177,672	28,854
from income taxes	(19,790)	71,528		(53 , 208)	76,309
Net earnings	\$ 46,089 ======	95 , 128	\$ ==	124 , 464	105,163
Earnings per share:					
Basic Earnings per share Weighted average	\$ 1.27	\$ 2.67	\$	3.45	\$ 3.09
shares outstanding Diluted	36,240	35 , 595		36,105	34,057
Earnings per share Weighted average	\$ 1.19	\$ 2.49	\$	3.25	\$ 3.00
shares outstanding	38,905	38,308		38,801	35 , 172

Meritage Homes Corporation and Subsidiaries Consolidated Balance Sheets (In thousands) (unaudited)

	December 31, 2013 	December 31, 2012
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 274,136	\$ 170,457
Investments and securities	89,687	86,074
Restricted cash		38,938
Other receivables	38,983	20,290

Real estate (1) Real estate not owned Deposits on real estate under option or contract Investments in unconsolidated entities Property and equipment, net	1,	11,	289 595 638		14, 12,	 351 085
Deferred tax asset Prepaid, other assets and goodwill		70, 39,	099 404 231		26,	488
Total assets		,003, =====				
Liabilities: Accounts payable Accrued liabilities Home sale deposits Liabilities related to real estate not owned Senior, senior subordinated, convertible senior notes and other borrowings		68, 166, 21,	018 611 996 289	\$	49, 96, 12,	801 377 377
Total liabilities	1,	 ,161,	969		 881,	 352
Stockholders' Equity: Preferred stock, par value \$0.01 Common stock, par value \$0.01 Additional paid-in capital Retained earnings		412, 428,	 362 961 069		390, 303,	 356 249 605
Total stockholders' equity		841, 				
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity		,003, =====				
(1) Real estate - Allocated costs: Homes under contract under construction Unsold homes, completed and under construction Model homes Finished home sites and home sites under development Land held for development Land held for sale Communities in mothball status	\$	262, 147, 81, 813, 52,	633 889 541 135 100 112 889	\$	192, 107, 62, 634, 56, 21,	948 466 411 106 118 650 488
Total real estate	\$1,	,405, =====	299	\$1,	113,	187

Supplemental Information and Non-GAAP Financial Disclosures (In thousands - unaudited):

	Three Months Ended December 31,			Twelve Months Ende December 31,				
		2013		2012		2013		2012
Depreciation and								
amortization	\$	2,765	\$	2,283	\$	9,934	\$	8,196
	===	======	==:	======	==	======	==	======
Summary of Capitalized								
Interest:								
Capitalized interest,								
beginning of period	\$	28 , 998	\$	20,185	\$	21,600	\$	14,810
Interest incurred		13,276		12,316		51 , 152		46,135
Interest expensed		(1,979)		(5 , 526)		(15 , 092)		(24,244)
Interest amortized to cost								

of home, land closings and impairments	(7,303)	(5,375)	(24,668)	(15,101)
Capitalized interest, end of period	·	\$ 21,600	\$ 32,992	·
		December 31, 2012		
Notes payable and other borrowings Stockholders' equity		\$ 722,797 694,210		
Total capital	1,746,447	1,417,007	1,856,786	
Debt-to-capital	51.8%	51.0%	48.7%	
Notes payable and other borrowings Less: cash and cash equivalents, restricted	\$ 905,055	\$ 722,797	\$ 905,055	
cash, and investments and securities		(295,469)		
Net debt Stockholders' equity	541,232 841,392	427,328 694,210	430,893 951,731	
Total net capital		\$1,121,538	\$1,382,624	
Net debt-to-capital		38.1%		

Meritage Homes Corporation and Subsidiaries Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (In thousands) (unaudited)

	Twelve Mon December 2013		
Cash flows from operating activities:	 104 464		105 160
Net earnings Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash used in operating activities:	\$ 124,464	Ş	105,163
Depreciation and amortization	9,934		8,196
Stock-based compensation	9,483		8,319
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	3,796		5 , 772
Equity in earnings from unconsolidated			
entities	(12,805)		(10, 233)
Deferred tax asset valuation benefit	(8,666)		(77,974)
Distribution of earnings from unconsolidated			
entities	13,013		9,648
Other	15,851		2,380
Changes in assets and liabilities:			

Increase in real estate	(281,944)	(299,185)
(Increase)/decrease in deposits on real estate under option or contract Increase in receivables and prepaid expenses	(36,974)	824
and other assets Increase in accounts payable and accrued	(18,429)	(6,301)
liabilities	86,604	29,385
Increase in home sale deposits		3,519
Net cash used in operating activities	(86,276)	(220,487)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment		(10,863)
Maturities of investments and securities		198,201
Payments to purchase investments and securities		
Cash paid for acquisitions	(18,624)	 (26,792)
Decrease/(increase) in restricted cash		(26,792)
Other	107	121
Net cash provided by investing activities	· ·	23,844
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayments of senior and senior subordinated		
notes		(315,080)
Proceeds from issuance of senior notes	281 , 699	426,500
Proceeds from sale of common stock, net		87 , 113
Other	10,047	(5,045)
Net cash provided by financing activities	188,924	193,488
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		(3,155)
Beginning cash and cash equivalents	170,457	173,612
Ending cash and cash equivalents (2)	\$ 274,136	\$ 170 , 457
	========	========

(2) Ending cash and cash equivalents as of December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012 excludes investments and securities and restricted cash totaling \$89.7 million and \$125.0 million, respectively.

Meritage Homes Corporation and Subsidiaries Operating Data (Dollars in thousands) (unaudited)

	December	Three Months		31, 2012
	Homes	Value	Homes	Value
Homes Closed:				
Arizona	297	\$ 96,408	232	\$ 67,910
California	205	98 , 472	243	91,813
Colorado	107	46,555	65	20,991
Nevada			22	4,042
West Region	609	241,435	562	184,756
Texas	522	148,853	465	113,206
Central Region	522	148,853	465	113,206

Carolinas	86	35 , 361	33	11,375
Florida	235		180	54 , 781
Tennessee	16	5,623		,
East Region	337	143,204	213	66,156
Total	1,468	\$ 533,492	1,240 \$	364,118
Homes Ordered:	========	=======		=======
Arizona	184	\$ 62,139	178 \$	56,426
California	169	78 , 828	251	103,275
Colorado	107	46,837	98	35 , 391
Nevada			9	2,018
West Region	460	187,804	536	197,110
Texas	437	133,608	389	97,458
Central Region	437	133,608	389	97,458
Carolinas	80	31,626	33	11,772
Florida	128	53,801	136	47,522
Tennessee	26	7,745		
East Region	234	93,172	169	59,294
Total	1,131	\$ 414,584	1,094 \$	353,862
	=========	=========	=======================================	

	December	Twelve Month		31, 2012
	Homes	Value	Homes	Value
Homes Closed: Arizona California Colorado Nevada	989 405	\$ 329,855 427,886 158,793	825 732 292	\$ 221,100 264,388 96,807 11,444
West Region	2,473	925,434	1,910	593,739
Texas	1,834	492,777	1,655	390,642
Central Region	1,834	492,777	1,655	390,642
Carolinas Florida Tennessee	691	93,210 264,066 7,902		41,888 158,091
East Region	952	365,178	673	199 , 979
Total	5 , 259	\$ 1,783,389	4,238	\$ 1,184,360
Homes Ordered: Arizona California Colorado Nevada	899 465	410,761	965 364	\$ 256,684 361,328 123,403 13,473

West Region	2,458	963,922	2,315	754 , 888
Texas	2,126	606,115	1 , 759	429,465
Central Region	2,126	606,115	1 , 759	429,465
Carolinas Florida Tennessee	298 696 37	•	142 579 	50,613 179,806
East Region	1,031	412,266	721	230,419
Total	5,615 ======	\$ 1,982,303 ========	4,795	\$ 1,414,772
Order Backlog: Arizona California Colorado Nevada	278 225 202 	107,463	249 315 142 14	\$ 80,816 124,588 50,089 3,105
West Region	705	297,086	720	258,598
Texas	792	245,655	500	132,317
Central Region	792	245,655	500	132,317
Carolinas Florida Tennessee	108 208 40	43,218 89,272 11,441	49 203 	17,341 71,010
East Region	356	143,931	252	88,351
Total	1,853	\$ 686,672	1,472	\$ 479 , 266

Meritage Homes Corporation and Subsidiaries Operating Data (unaudited)

Three Months Ended December 31, 2013 December 31, 2012 Beg. End Beg. End Active Communities:
 39
 40
 34
 38

 18
 22
 19
 17

 12
 14
 8
 12

 - - 2
 1
 Arizona California Colorado Nevada 69 76 63 68 West Region _____ Texas 73 70 68 65 -----73 70 68 65 Central Region 15 17 7 7 19 20 15 18 Carolinas Florida

Tennessee	3	5				
East Region	37	42	22	25		
Total		188		158		
		Twelve Mc	Months Ended			
		31, 2013	December			
			Beg.	End		
Active Communities:						
Arizona			37			
California			20			
Colorado		14				
Nevada	1		2	1		
West Region	68	76	69	68		
Texas	65	70	67	65		
Central Region	65	70	67	65		
Carolinas	7	17	3	7		
Florida	18	20	18	18		
Tennessee		5				
East Region	25	42	21	25		
Total	158	188				

About Meritage Homes Corporation

Meritage Homes is the ninth-largest public homebuilder in the United States, based on homes closed in 2012. Meritage builds and sells single-family homes for first-time, move-up, luxury and active adult buyers across the Western, Southern and Southeastern United States. As of December 31, 2013, the company had 188 actively selling communities in markets including Sacramento, San Francisco's East Bay, the Central Valley and Orange County, California; Houston, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Austin and San Antonio, Texas; Phoenix/Scottsdale, Green Valley and Tucson, Arizona; Denver, Colorado; Orlando and Tampa, Florida; Raleigh and Charlotte, North Carolina; York County, South Carolina and Nashville, Tennessee.

Meritage has designed and built more than 80,000 homes in its 28-year history, and has a reputation for its distinctive style, quality construction, and positive customer experience. Meritage is the industry leader in energy efficient homebuilding and in 2013, Meritage received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year for Sustained Excellence Award, for its innovation and industry leadership in energy efficient homebuilding. Meritage was the first national homebuilder to be 100 percent ENERGY STAR® qualified in every home it builds, and far exceeds ENERGY STAR standards today.

For more information, visit meritagehomes.com.

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements include management's expectations for positive housing market conditions, its plans to grow as the market improves and belief that it has sufficient liquidity to fund additional growth, and its projected community count by the end of 2014.

Such statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of Company management, and current market conditions, which are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. The Company makes no commitment, and disclaims any duty, to update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect future events or changes in these expectations.

Meritage's business is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. As a result of those risks and uncertainties,

the Company's stock and note prices may fluctuate dramatically. The risks and uncertainties include but are not limited to the following: weakness in the homebuilding market resulting from an unexpected setback in the current economic recovery; the availability of finished lots and undeveloped land; interest rates and changes in the availability and pricing of residential mortgages; the availability and cost of materials and labor; adverse changes in tax laws that benefit our homebuyers; the ability of our potential buyers to sell their existing homes; cancellation rates and home prices in our markets; inflation in the cost of materials used to construct homes; the adverse effect of slower order absorption rates; potential write-downs or write-offs of assets, including pre-acquisition costs and deposits; our potential exposure to natural disasters; competition; the adverse impacts of cancellations resulting from small deposits relating to our sales contracts; construction defect and home warranty claims; our success in prevailing on contested tax positions; our ability to preserve our deferred tax assets and use them within the statutory time limits; delays and risks associated with land development; our ability to obtain performance bonds in connection with our development work; the liquidity of our joint ventures and the ability of our joint venture partners to meet their obligations to us and the joint venture; the loss of key personnel; changes in or our failure to comply with laws and regulations; our lack of geographic diversification; fluctuations in guarterly operating results; our financial leverage and level of indebtedness; our ability to take certain actions because of restrictions contained in the indentures for our senior notes and our ability to raise additional capital when and if needed; our credit ratings; successful integration of future acquisitions; government regulations and legislative or other initiatives that seek to restrain growth or new housing construction or similar measures; acts of war; the replication of our "Green" technologies by our competitors; our exposure to information technology failures and security breaches; and other factors identified in documents filed by the company with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including those set forth in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 under the caption "Risk Factors," which can be found on our website.

Contacts:

Brent Anderson VP Investor Relations (972) 580-6360 (office) Brent.Anderson@meritagehomes.com

Source: Meritage Homes Corp.