

April 23, 2007



Forward Air Corporation Reports First Quarter 2007 Results

GREENEVILLE, Tenn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--

Forward Air Corporation (NASDAQ:FWRD) today reported results for the first quarter ended March 31, 2007.

Operating revenue for the quarter ended March 31, 2007 increased 6.1% to \$87.4 million from \$82.3 million for the same quarter in 2006. Income from operations was \$15.8 million, compared with \$17.0 million in the prior-year quarter, a decrease of 6.5%. As a percent of operating revenue, income from operations declined to 18.2% from 20.7% for the same quarter last year. Net income for the quarter ended March 31, 2007 was \$10.3 million, compared with \$11.0 million in the prior-year quarter. Income per diluted share from operations for the first quarter of 2007 was \$0.34 compared with \$0.35 in the prior-year quarter, a decrease of 2.9%.

Bruce Campbell, President and CEO, commented, "Without question, the first quarter of 2007 presented many challenges for the Forward Air team. The chief challenge for our team was trying to effectively manage and control our purchased transportation costs in light of the difficult operating conditions. These increased costs drove lower operating margins for the quarter than we had anticipated. We have implemented new procedures which should result in an immediate improvement in our management of purchased transportation costs going forward. Fortunately, our strict cost discipline in other key operating expense areas proved effective during the quarter despite the environment."

Commenting further, "While our system weight volume for the quarter was flat, we continued to experience an increase in shipment count, which was effectively offset by a smaller average weight per shipment. During the quarter, we were very encouraged by the results achieved and progress made in our 'Completing the Model' initiatives, especially our logistics initiative, which once again produced excellent results."

Rodney L. Bell, Senior Vice President and CFO, said, "The Company's cash flows from operations were strong in the first quarter generating \$10.4 million, which was a 16.6% increase from the \$8.9 million generated in the first quarter of 2006. We spent approximately \$22.2 million in the quarter completing our Chicago facility and purchasing the land for our Dallas facility."

Review of Financial Results

Forward Air will hold a conference call to discuss first quarter 2007 results on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. EDT. The Company's conference call will be available online at www.forwardair.com or by dialing 800-841-9385. A replay of the conference call will be

available at www.forwardair.com beginning shortly after completion of the live call.

About Forward Air

Forward Air is a high-service-level contractor to the air cargo industry providing time-definite ground transportation services through a network of 81 terminals located on or near major airports in the United States and Canada. The Company 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 CORPORATION
Condensed Statements of Income (Unaudited)
(In thousands, except per share data)

| | Three months ended | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| | 3/31/07 | 3/31/06 |
| Operating revenue | \$87,353 | \$82,330 |
| Operating expenses: | | |
| Purchased transportation | 37,974 | 32,436 |
| Salaries, wages and employee benefits | 19,013 | 18,793 |
| Operating leases | 3,735 | 3,446 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 2,380 | 2,399 |
| Insurance and claims | 1,702 | 1,481 |
| Other operating expenses | 6,710 | 6,819 |
| | 71,514 | 65,374 |
| Total operating expenses | | |
| Income from operations | 15,839 | 16,956 |
| Other income (expense): | | |
| Interest expense | (40) | (25) |
| Other, net | 753 | 634 |
| | 713 | 609 |
| Total other income | | |
| Income before income taxes | 16,552 | 17,565 |
| Income taxes | 6,259 | 6,557 |
| | \$10,293 | \$11,008 |
| Net income | \$10,293 | \$11,008 |
| Income per share: | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.34 | \$ 0.35 |
| Diluted | \$ 0.34 | \$ 0.35 |

FORWARD AIR CORPORATION
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets
(In thousands, except share data)

| | 3/31/07 | 12/31/06 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| | (Unaudited) | Audited (a) |

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Assets | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash | \$ 5,435 | \$ 8,231 |
| Short-term investments | 42,075 | 61,650 |
| Accounts receivable, less allowance of \$810 in 2007 and \$860 in 2006 | 48,908 | 48,486 |
| Other current assets | 10,247 | 9,196 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total current assets | 106,665 | 127,563 |
| Property and equipment | 126,356 | 101,190 |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization | 49,374 | 47,875 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total property and equipment, net | 76,982 | 53,315 |
| Goodwill and other acquired intangibles: | | |
| Goodwill | 15,588 | 15,588 |
| Other acquired intangibles, net of accumulated amortization of \$2,338 in 2007 and \$2,019 in 2006 | 10,912 | 10,731 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total goodwill and other acquired intangibles | 26,500 | 26,319 |
| Other assets | 2,705 | 5,817 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total assets | \$212,852 | \$213,014 |
| | ===== | ===== |

Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 6,777 | \$ 7,949 |
| Accrued expenses | 9,905 | 11,144 |
| Current portion of capital lease obligations | 41 | 40 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total current liabilities | 16,723 | 19,133 |
| Capital lease obligations, less current portion | 786 | 796 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 2,345 | 1,271 |
| Deferred income taxes | 7,558 | 6,587 |
| Shareholders' equity: | | |
| Common stock, \$0.01 par value: | | |
| Authorized shares - 50,000,000 | | |
| Issued and outstanding shares - 30,167,408 in 2007 and 30,372,082 in 2006 | 302 | 304 |
| Retained earnings | 185,138 | 184,923 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total shareholders' equity | 185,440 | 185,227 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$212,852 | \$213,014 |
| | ===== | ===== |

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

FORWARD AIR CORPORATION
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)
(In thousands)

Three months ended

| | 3/31/07 | 3/31/06 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| | ----- | ----- |
| Operating activities: | | |
| Net income | \$ 10,293 | \$ 11,008 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 2,380 | 2,399 |
| Share-based compensation | 593 | 224 |
| Gain on sale of property and equipment | (62) | (191) |
| Provision for (recovery) loss on receivables | (93) | 39 |
| Provision for revenue adjustments | 655 | 593 |
| Deferred income taxes | 1,797 | 327 |
| Increase in income taxes payable for stock options exercised | 7 | (394) |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities | | |
| Accounts receivable | (952) | (1,013) |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | (440) | (128) |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | (2,734) | (5,682) |
| Income taxes | (1,024) | 1,753 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 10,420 | 8,935 |
| Investing activities: | | |
| Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment | 188 | 3,105 |
| Purchases of property and equipment | (22,570) | (2,421) |
| Proceeds from sales or maturities of available-for-sale securities | 64,095 | 45,700 |
| Purchases of available-for-sale securities | (44,520) | (46,155) |
| Other | (704) | (25) |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities | (3,511) | 204 |
| Financing activities: | | |
| Payments of capital lease obligations | (9) | (9) |
| Payments on line of credit | -- | (1,504) |
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options | 196 | 1,431 |
| Payments of cash dividends | (2,127) | (2,200) |
| Repurchase of common stock | (7,538) | (4,400) |
| Cash settlement of share-based awards for minimum tax withholdings | (220) | -- |
| Increase in income taxes payable for stock options exercised | (7) | 394 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (9,705) | (6,288) |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Net (decrease) increase in cash | (2,796) | 2,851 |
| Cash at beginning of period | 8,231 | 332 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Cash at end of period | \$ 5,435 | \$ 3,183 |
| | ===== | ===== |

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." 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.

Source: Forward Air Corporation