



DRYSHIPS INC. ANNOUNCES OCEAN RIG UDW INC.'S PROPOSED OFFERING BY ITS WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARIES OF \$500.0 MILLION SENIOR SECURED NOTES DUE 2022

ATHENS, GREECE – JULY 8, 2014 - DryShips Inc. (NASDAQ: DRYS) (the “Company” or “DryShips”) a global provider of marine transportation services for drybulk and petroleum cargoes, and through its majority owned subsidiary, Ocean Rig UDW Inc. (“Ocean Rig”), of offshore deepwater drilling services, today announced that Ocean Rig, through its wholly owned subsidiaries, Drillships Ocean Ventures Inc. and Drillships Ventures Projects Inc. (the “Issuers”), intends to offer, subject to market and other conditions, \$500.0 million in aggregate principal amount of senior secured notes due 2022 (the “Notes”) in a private offering within the United States to qualified institutional buyers pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and to certain other persons outside of the United States in reliance on Regulation S under the Securities Act.

The Notes initially will be guaranteed by Ocean Rig and certain of the Issuers’ existing and future subsidiaries and the Notes and the related guarantees will be secured by a security interest in the *Ocean Rig Mylos*, the *Ocean Rig Skyros* and the *Ocean Rig Athena*, and by a pledge of the stock of the Issuers and the subsidiary guarantors.

Ocean Rig intends to use the net proceeds of this offering, if completed, together with the net proceeds of an expected concurrent new \$800.0 million senior secured term loan and cash on hand, to repay all of the outstanding amounts under its \$1.35 billion senior secured term loan facility.

This press release shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy the Notes and the related guarantees, nor shall there be any sale of the Notes and the related guarantees in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale is unlawful. Any offer of the Notes and related guarantees will be made only by means of a private offering memorandum.

The Notes and the related guarantees have not been, and will not be, registered under the Securities Act or the securities laws of any other jurisdiction and may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration or an applicable exemption from registration requirements under the Securities Act.

About DryShips

DryShips Inc. is an owner of drybulk carriers and tankers that operate worldwide. Through its majority owned subsidiary, Ocean Rig UDW Inc., DryShips owns and operates 13 offshore ultra deepwater drilling units, comprising of 2 ultra deepwater semisubmersible drilling rigs and 11 ultra deepwater drillships, one of which is scheduled to be delivered to the Company during 2015, one of which is scheduled to be delivered during 2016 and 2 of which are scheduled to be delivered during 2017. DryShips owns a fleet of 43 drybulk carriers (including newbuildings), comprising 13 Capesize, 28 Panamax and 2 Supramax, with a combined deadweight tonnage of about 4.6 million tons, and 10 tankers, comprising 6 Suezmax and 4 Aframax, with a combined deadweight tonnage of over 1.3 million tons.

DryShips' common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market where it trades under the symbol "DRYS."

The Company's website is at www.dryships.com.

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Forward-Looking Statements

Matters discussed in this release may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides safe harbor protections for forward-looking statements in order to encourage companies to provide prospective information about their business. The Company desires to take advantage of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and is including this cautionary statement in connection with this safe harbor legislation.

Forward-looking statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and financial performance and may include statements concerning plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events or performance, and underlying assumptions and other statements, which are other than statements of historical facts. The words "believe," "intend," "anticipate," "estimate," "project," "forecast," "plan," "potential," "may," "should," "expect" and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking statements in this release are based upon various assumptions, many of which are based, in turn, upon further assumptions, including without limitation, management's examination of historical operating trends, data contained in our records and other data available from third parties. Although we believe that these assumptions were reasonable when made, because these assumptions are inherently subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies which are difficult or impossible to predict and are beyond our control, we cannot assure you that it will achieve or accomplish these expectations, beliefs or projections.

Important factors that, in our view, could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements include the strength of world economies and currencies, general market conditions, including changes in charterhire and drilling dayrates and drybulk vessel, drilling rig and drillship values, failure of a seller to deliver one or more drilling rigs, drillships or drybulk vessels, failure of a buyer to accept delivery of a drilling rig, drillship, or vessel, inability to procure acquisition financing, default by one or more charterers of our ships, changes in demand for drybulk commodities or oil, changes in demand that may affect attitudes of time charterers and customer drilling programs, scheduled and unscheduled drydockings and upgrades, changes in our operating expenses, including bunker prices, drydocking and insurance costs, changes in governmental rules and regulations or actions taken by regulatory authorities, potential liability from pending or future litigation, domestic and international political conditions, potential disruption of shipping routes due to accidents and political events or acts by terrorists.

Risks and uncertainties are further described in reports filed by DryShips with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.