



**PETROWEST ENERGY SERVICES TRUST ANNOUNCES 2009 FIRST QUARTER  
FINANCIAL RESULTS**

**Calgary, Alberta, May 13, 2009** - PetroWest Energy Services Trust (TSX: PRW.UN) announced today its interim consolidated financial results for the three month period ended March 31, 2009.

Consolidated revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2009 was \$42.8 million, a 28% decrease over consolidated revenue of \$59.0 million in the comparable period of 2008. Gross margin and EBITDA percentages both decreased by 7% compared to the comparable period of 2008. During the quarter, a \$4.5 million impairment was recorded relating to the property and equipment of the rig mobilization and demobilization business, as this part of the Trust's operations is directly affected by the significantly reduced drilling activity in the oil and gas sector. As at March 31, 2009 the revolving bank term loan (including bank overdraft) was \$73.8 million, a reduction of \$7.3 million from the \$81.1 million of net debt as at December 31, 2008 and a reduction of \$19.6 million since September 30, 2008. There was a decrease in working capital of \$5.8 million during the first quarter of 2009, after adjusting for net debt. The Trust obtained a waiver from the bank syndicate of the "funded debt to four quarters trailing EBITDA" financial covenant contained in the credit facility.

Ralph Hesje, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Trust stated that "the first quarter financial results are reflecting depressed oil and gas industry activity levels combined with challenging economic conditions. Margins declined due primarily to pricing pressures from customers and reduced equipment utilization rates. We continue to review our fixed cost structure and make changes accordingly. These changes relate to our consolidation of various entities within our operating segments which has resulted in consolidating certain management functions as well as improving operating efficiencies. Diversification to industrial and civil infrastructure projects remains a priority."

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**Financial Summary**

<b>(thousands)</b>	<b>For the three months ended March 31</b>	
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Revenue	<b>42,800</b>	59,039
Gross Margin <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>6,497</b>	12,850
Gross Margin Percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>15%</b>	22%
EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>4,649</b>	10,796
EBITDA Percentage <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>11%</b>	18%
Cash provided from operating activities	<b>9,366</b>	287
Net earnings (loss)	<b>(4,646)</b>	385
Total units outstanding	<b>32,926</b>	33,266
Weighted average units outstanding - basic	<b>32,926</b>	33,266

<sup>(1)</sup> See "Non-GAAP Measures" in Trust's MD&A (available at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com))

The Trust continues to focus on diversification into industrial and civil infrastructure activities. The oil and natural gas drilling sector will continue to impact the Trust's operations and financial results and will remain an important part of the Trust's operations going forward. However, infrastructure project demand is expected to be strong over the next couple of years as a result of government stimulus packages, with

more of the Trust's activities and resources anticipated to be focused and deployed in this area during the summer construction season. The amount of the Trust's services relating to the oil and gas sector will fluctuate as the activity in this sector changes in addition to the amount of non-oil and gas related projects which the Trust is successful in securing. The Trust continued to pursue geographic diversification in 2009 with redeployment of equipment and skilled personnel to capitalize on demand in nearby regions plus improving utilization rates and financial results.

## **SELECTED FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Selected financial information for the three month periods ended March 31, 2009 and 2008 is attached below. This information should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements for the twelve months ended December 31, 2008 and the Trust's Management, Discussion and Analysis, available under the Trust's profile on the SEDAR website at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and at [www.petro-west.com](http://www.petro-west.com).

## **FORWARD LOOKING INFORMATION**

*This news release contains forward-looking statements that involve substantial known and unknown risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements are identified by their use of terms and phrases such as "anticipate," "achievable," "believe," "expect," "estimate," "plan," "intend," "project," "may," "should", "could", "predict", "may," "will," or similar words suggesting future outcomes or language suggesting an outlook. Forward-looking statements and information are based on Petrowest's current beliefs as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to Petrowest concerning anticipated business performance. Although management of Petrowest considers these assumptions to be reasonable based on information currently available to it, they may prove to be incorrect. Forward-looking statements are subject to many external variables that are beyond Petrowest's control, such as fluctuating prices for crude oil and natural gas, changes in drilling activity, and general local and global economic, political, business and weather conditions. If any of these, or other uncertainties, materialize the actual results of Petrowest may vary materially from those expected.*

For further information, please contact Ralph Hesje, President and CEO, or Lloyd A. Wiggins, Chief Financial Officer, at (403) 237-0881 or [info@petro-west.com](mailto:info@petro-west.com).

# Petrowest Energy Services Trust

## Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Unaudited)

(In thousands of dollars)	As at March 31, 2009	As at December 31, 2008
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	-	2,348
Accounts receivable	36,161	47,761
Prepaid expenses and other	1,318	1,196
Inventory	5,718	5,476
	<b>43,197</b>	<b>56,781</b>
Property and equipment	91,104	99,336
Intangible assets	12,592	13,582
Goodwill	34,321	34,321
Future income taxes	667	727
	<b>181,881</b>	<b>204,747</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Bank overdraft	1,336	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	12,938	18,355
Revolving bank term loan	72,500	83,500
Current portion of obligations under capital leases	638	661
	<b>87,412</b>	<b>102,516</b>
Obligations under capital leases	725	874
Future income taxes	9,468	12,463
	<b>97,605</b>	<b>115,853</b>
<b>Unitholders' Equity</b>		
Units	292,492	292,492
Contributed surplus	663	635
Accumulated loss	(170,916)	(166,270)
Accumulated distributions to unitholders	(37,963)	(37,963)
	<b>84,276</b>	<b>88,894</b>
	<b>181,881</b>	<b>204,747</b>

**Petrowest Energy Services Trust**  
**Consolidated Statements of Earnings (Loss), Comprehensive Earnings (Loss) and**  
**Accumulated Earnings (Loss)**

For the three months ended March 31  
(Unaudited)

(In thousands of dollars)	2009	2008
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>42,800</b>	59,039
<b>Expenses</b>		
Operating expenses	36,303	46,189
General and administrative	1,848	2,054
Interest	1,132	1,936
Amortization of property and equipment	5,591	7,069
Amortization of intangible assets	990	1,227
Impairment of property and equipment	4,500	-
	<b>50,364</b>	58,475
	<b>(7,564)</b>	564
<b>Other income</b>		
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	(19)	(38)
Interest and other income/(expense)	2	(24)
Net earnings (loss) and comprehensive earnings (loss) before taxes	<b>(7,581)</b>	502
Future income tax expense (recovery)	<b>(2,935)</b>	117
<b>Net earnings (loss) and comprehensive earnings (loss)</b>	<b>(4,646)</b>	385
<b>Accumulated loss - beginning of period</b>	<b>(166,270)</b>	(133,694)
<b>Accumulated loss - end of period</b>	<b>(170,916)</b>	(133,309)
<b>Net earnings (loss) per unit - basic and diluted</b>	<b>(\$0.14)</b>	\$0.01

# Petrowest Energy Services Trust

## Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

For the three months ended March 31

(Unaudited)

(In thousands of dollars)	2009	2008
<b>Cash provided by (used in)</b>		
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Net earnings (loss) for the period	(4,646)	385
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization of property and equipment	5,591	7,069
Amortization of intangible assets	990	1,227
Impairment of property and equipment	4,500	-
Unit-based compensation	28	-
Future income taxes	(2,935)	117
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	19	38
	<b>3,547</b>	<b>8,836</b>
Changes in non-cash working capital		
Accounts receivable	11,600	(4,509)
Prepaid expenses and other	(122)	770
Inventory	(242)	682
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(5,417)	(5,492)
	<b>9,366</b>	<b>287</b>
<b>Financing activities</b>		
Unitholder distributions	-	(953)
Repayment of capital lease obligations	(172)	(193)
Proceeds from revolving term bank loan	-	5,000
Repayment of revolving term bank loan	(11,000)	-
	<b>(11,172)</b>	<b>3,854</b>
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(1,945)	(4,776)
Proceeds on property and equipment disposals	67	116
Purchase price adjustment	-	9
	<b>(1,878)</b>	<b>(4,651)</b>
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	<b>(3,684)</b>	<b>(510)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	<b>2,348</b>	<b>215</b>
Cash and cash equivalents (bank overdraft), end of period	<b>(1,336)</b>	<b>(295)</b>
<b>Supplementary cash flow information</b>		
Interest paid	1,225	1,729
<b>Non cash transactions</b>		
Property and equipment financed by capital leases	-	353