

Dozens of cranes sold at US\$20 million Ritchie Bros. auction in Chicago

7/20/2009

CHICAGO, IL (July 20, 2009) – Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers (NYSE and TSX: RBA), the world's largest industrial auctioneer, sold more than US\$20 million of heavy equipment and trucks – including 61 cranes – at its unreserved public auction in Chicago, Illinois last week (July 16 & 17, 2009). More than 2,200 people from 49 U.S. states and 27 other countries registered to bid in person or online on more than 2,700 used equipment items, including more than 140 truck tractors and 160 trailers.

Out-of-state bidders purchased almost US\$14 million of equipment and trucks (67 percent), including more than US\$5 million of equipment purchased by bidders from outside the U.S. (25 percent). Over one-third of the bidders registered to bid online in real time. Online bidders purchased more than US\$7 million of equipment (35 percent).

"We saw even greater international participation than usual in Chicago, largely due to the number of cranes in the auction," said Richard Evans, Ritchie Bros. Regional Manager. "We sold cranes to buyers from across the U.S., Canada, even the Middle East – but we also saw strong demand for the other equipment in the auction, especially trucks. We've never sold so much transportation equipment in Chicago. The great lineup of equipment and our commitment to unreserved auctions attracted thousands of bidders and helped drive strong returns for sellers."

Imperial Crane Services of Bridgeview, Illinois sold 22 units from its 200-piece rental fleet at the Chicago auction.

"As a rental house it's important to keep our fleet up-to-date for the market," said Dave Dobson, Imperial Crane's Chief Financial Officer. "We decided to sell a large number of cranes in response to the current market conditions and our need to make room for the 30 new cranes we have on order for delivery this year, which is why we turned to Ritchie Bros. They had the knowledge and the capacity to handle the sale. The crane market is a worldwide market and Ritchie Bros. is able to reach that market with their advertising and their internet presence. We're not

surprised by the international interest at the auction and we're very pleased with the results we achieved."

There are 60 unreserved Ritchie Bros. auctions on the upcoming auction calendar at www.rbauction.com, including the next public auction at the Company's permanent auction site in Chicago (September 21 & 22, 2009).

About Ritchie Bros.

Established in 1958, Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers (NYSE and TSX: RBA) is the world's largest industrial auctioneer, selling more equipment to on-site and online bidders than any other company in the world. The Company has over 110 locations in more than 25 countries including 38 auction sites worldwide. Ritchie Bros. sells, through unreserved public auctions, a broad range of used and unused industrial assets, including equipment, trucks and other assets utilized in the construction, transportation, agricultural, material handling, mining, forestry, petroleum and marine industries. The Company maintains a web site at www.rbauction.com and sponsors an equipment wiki at www.RitchieWiki.com.

Investors and potential investors should note that this information may not be indicative of the overall financial performance of the Company for this or any period.

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