# M.D.C. Holdings Announces First Quarter 2009 Results

- Cash flow from operations of \$239.5 million, including \$161.4 million tax refund
- Quarter-end cash and investments of \$1.61 billion
- No borrowings on homebuilding line of credit
- Pre-tax loss of \$41.1 million; includes asset impairments of \$14.6 million
- Net loss of \$40.9 million vs. \$72.8 million in 2008
- Diluted loss per share of \$0.88 vs. \$1.58 in 2008
- Total revenue of \$175.9 million vs. \$395.8 million in 2008
- SG&A expenses of \$53.6 million vs. \$83.8 million in 2008
- Closed 580 homes at an average selling price of \$287,900
- Net orders for 676 homes with an estimated value of \$191.0 million

PRNewswire-FirstCall DENVER

M.D.C. Holdings, Inc. today reported results for its first quarter ended March 31, 2009. The Company announced a net loss for the quarter of \$40.9 million, or \$0.88 per diluted share, which included pre-tax charges of \$14.6 million for asset impairments and a \$15.3 million increase in our deferred tax valuation allowance. The net loss for the 2008 first quarter was \$72.8 million, or \$1.58 per diluted share, which included pre-tax charges of \$54.8 million for asset impairments and an increase in our deferred tax valuation allowance of \$10.6 million.

Larry A. Mizel, MDC's chairman and chief executive officer, stated, "During the first quarter of 2009, we battled many of the same issues we faced in 2008, including high foreclosure rates, rising unemployment and low consumer confidence. While declining home prices and historically low interest rates have improved affordability across our markets, we have yet to see a meaningful recovery in sales activity."

Mizel continued, "In an effort to accelerate our sales pace, we are introducing smaller, more affordable homes in many of our markets. These homes are designed both to meet the current needs of our customers and to allow for a more efficient construction process. As we await a recovery in homebuilding activity, we will continue to pursue and implement improvements to our business processes that we believe will enhance profitability for our Company in the future."

Mizel concluded, "On the strength of nearly \$240 million of operating cash flow, our cash and investments balance grew to more than \$1.6 billion during the quarter. With no borrowings outstanding on our homebuilding line of credit and no senior debt maturities until 2012, we are well positioned with the option to take advantage of market opportunities as they arise. However, in the face of continued economic and regulatory uncertainty, we will take a cautious and conservative approach to redeploying our capital."

### Homebuilding Results

Homebuilding loss before taxes for the quarter ended March 31, 2009 improved to \$18.3 million compared with a loss of \$77.3 million for the same period in 2008. The loss in 2009 was lower in large part due to a decline in asset impairments, an improvement in home gross margin and a decrease in marketing, commissions and general and administrative expenses ("SG&A"), partially offset by the impact of closing fewer homes and a lower average selling price compared with the same period in 2008.

Homebuilding revenue for the 2009 first quarter fell to \$173.0 million, compared with \$388.3 million in the first quarter of 2008. The decline in revenue was primarily the result of a year-over-year decline in home closings of 49%. All of our markets experienced significant year-over-year decreases in home closings in the first quarter of 2009. Most notable were the decreases in Arizona, California and Nevada, where our homebuilding activity has been most heavily concentrated. Additionally, the average selling price during the first quarter of 2009 was down 8% from the prior year. Each of our markets experienced a decrease in its average selling price with the exception of Virginia, which showed a significant increase due to changes in the size and style of the homes that were closed during the quarter. Home gross margins during the first quarter of 2009 increased to 15.4% from 11.5% in the first quarter of 2008, primarily due to significant prior period impairments, which lowered the lot cost basis on homes that closed during the quarter, and also due to a \$3.6 million reduction of our warranty reserves. These positive adjustments partially were offset by the decline in the average selling prices of homes closed and by a shift in mix to a higher percentage of low-margin model and finished spec home closings during the first quarter of 2009.

Homebuilding SG&A decreased to \$31.0 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2009, compared with \$63.3 million for the same period in the prior year. The decrease in SG&A resulted from various cost saving initiatives associated with right-sizing our operations in response to the reduced level of home closings. Also contributing

to this decrease was a reduction in marketing expenses, primarily due to a significant reduction in sales office and model home expenses related to a 57% reduction in the number of model homes, as well as a decline in commission expenses resulting from fewer home closings and lower average selling prices.

During the first quarter of 2009, we recognized \$14.6 million of asset impairments, a decrease of 73% from the 2008 first quarter. The impairments were concentrated in Nevada, which experienced a significant decrease in the value of homes during the 2009 first quarter. Overall, the year-over-year decrease in asset impairments can be attributed to a decrease in the total number of owned lots at March 31, 2009 and the impact of recording significant impairments over the last ten quarters, thereby reducing our exposure to further impairments.

Net orders for the first quarter ended March 31, 2009 totaled 676 homes with an estimated sales value of \$191.0 million, compared with net orders for 1,098 homes with an estimated sales value of \$324.0 million during the same period in 2008. The lower net orders for the quarter contributed to a significant decline in our backlog compared to the prior year, although we saw a slight increase compared to the quarter ended December 31, 2008. We ended the first quarter of 2009 with a backlog of 629 homes under contract with an estimated sales value of \$196.0 million, compared with a backlog of 1,909 homes with an estimated sales value of \$623.0 million at March 31, 2008. During the first quarter of 2009, the Company's cancellation rate dropped to 23% compared with 43% during the same period in 2008. Each of our markets experienced a decline in cancellation rate, primarily resulting from a decrease in mortgage-related issues and a decline in the number of prospective home buyers with a contingency to sell an existing home.

Christopher M. Anderson, MDC's senior vice president and chief financial officer, said, "We continued to focus on controlling our expenses during the quarter, as evidenced by a 51% decline in homebuilding SG&A from the same period last year. While we are hopeful that the significant declines in our cancellation rate and our impairments are signs of stabilization for our industry and our Company, we continue to look for opportunities to reduce our overhead as we navigate an uncertain homebuilding market and drive toward a goal of once again achieving a sustainable level of profitability."

### Financial Services and Other

Income before taxes from the Company's Financial Services and Other segment for the quarter ended March 31, 2009 was \$1.6 million compared with \$4.1 million for the same period in 2008. The decreases in the 2009 first quarter primarily resulted from a combined decrease in gains on sales of mortgage loans and broker origination fees. These declines partially were offset by reductions in general and administrative expenses for our mortgage operations.

### Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Highlights

For the quarter ended March 31, 2009, the Company generated \$239.5 million in operating cash flow and ended the quarter with \$1.61 billion in cash and investments. Our strong operating cash flow primarily was the result of a \$161 million tax refund, combined with a continued reduction of our inventories. Total lots owned including WIP lots at March 31, 2009 decreased by 35% from a year ago and 7% from December 31, 2008, leaving a total inventory balance of \$556.0 million at March 31, 2009, compared with \$1.25 billion at March 31, 2008 and \$637.3 million at December 31, 2008. For the 2,284 lots we controlled under option contracts at March 31, 2009, we only had \$9.7 million at risk.

## About MDC

Since 1972, MDC has built and financed the American dream for almost 160,000 families. MDC's commitment to customer satisfaction, quality and value is reflected in each home its subsidiaries build. As one of the largest homebuilders in the United States, the Company has homebuilding divisions across the country, including Denver, Colorado Springs, Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Tucson, California, Northern Virginia, Maryland, Philadelphia/Delaware Valley and Jacksonville. The Company also provides mortgage financing, insurance and title services, primarily for MDC homebuyers, through its wholly owned subsidiaries, HomeAmerican Mortgage Corporation, American Home Insurance Agency, Inc. and American Home Title and Escrow Company, respectively. M.D.C. Holdings, Inc. is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "MDC." For more information, visit www.mdcholdings.com.

### Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements in this release, including statements regarding our business, financial condition, results of operation, cash flows, strategies and prospects, constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Company to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Such factors include, among other things, (1) general economic

conditions, including changes in consumer confidence, inflation or deflation and employment levels; (2) changes in business conditions experienced by the Company, including cancellation rates, net home orders, home gross margins, and land and home values; (3) changes in interest rates, mortgage lending programs and the availability of credit; (4) the relative stability of debt and equity markets; (5) competition; (6) the availability and cost of land and other raw materials used by the Company in its homebuilding operations: (7) the availability and cost of performance bonds and insurance covering risks associated with our business; (8) shortages and the cost of labor; (9) weather related slowdowns; (10) slow growth initiatives; (11) building moratoria; (12) governmental regulation, including the interpretation of tax, labor and environmental laws; (13) changes in consumer confidence and preferences; (14) terrorist acts and other acts of war; and (15) other factors over which the Company has little or no control. Additional information about the risks and uncertainties applicable to the Company's business is contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009, which is scheduled to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission today. All forward-looking statements made in this press release are made as of the date hereof, and the risk that actual results will differ materially from expectations expressed in this press release will increase with the passage of time. The Company undertakes no duty to update publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. However, any further disclosures made on related subjects in our subsequent filings, releases or presentations should be consulted.

M.D.C. HOLDINGS, INC. **Consolidated Statements of Operations** (In thousands, except per share amounts) (Unaudited)

> Three Months Ended March 31,

-----2009 2008 ----

Revenue

Home sales revenue \$166,982 \$355,792 Land sales revenue 2,618 28,568 Other revenue 6,332 11,418 Other revenue

Total Revenue 175,932 395,778

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Costs and Expenses

 

 Home cost of sales
 141,325
 315,037

 Land cost of sales
 1,341
 27,949

 Asset impairments
 14,569
 54,832

 Marketing expenses
 8,832
 19,203

 Commission expenses
 6,358
 13,433

 General and administrative expenses 38,381 51,188 Other operating expenses 265 1,724
Related party expenses 5 5

Total Operating Costs and Expenses 211,076 483,371

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(35,144) (87,593) Loss from Operations

Other income (expense)
Interest income 4,071 10,476
Interest expense (9,740) (130) Gain (loss) on sale of other assets (260) 21

Loss Before Taxes (41,073) (77,226)

Benefit from income taxes, net 220 4,406

NET LOSS \$(40,853) \$(72,820)

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\$(0.88) \$(1.58) Basic ====== ===== Diluted \$(0.88) \$(1.58) ===== WEIGHTED-AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING 46,397 45,953 Basic ====== ===== Diluted 46,397 45,953 DIVIDENDS DECLARED PER SHARE \$0.25 \$0.25 ===== ===== M.D.C. HOLDINGS, INC. Consolidated Balance Sheets (Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts) (Unaudited) March 31, December 31, 2009 2008 Assets Cash and cash equivalents \$1,584,631 \$1,304,728 Short-term investments 22,909 54,864 Unsettled trades, net 57,687 3.254 Restricted cash 471 670 Receivables Home sales receivables 12,306 17,104 Income taxes receivable 6,931 170,753 Other receivables 13,596 16,697 Mortgage loans held-for-29.900 68.604 sale, net Inventories, net Housing completed or under 349,405 415,500 construction Land and land under development 206,581 221,822 Property and equipment, net 37,119 38,343 Deferred tax asset, net of valuation allowance Related party assets 28.627 28.627 Prepaid expenses and other assets, net 79,539 77,421 **Total Assets** \$2,373,151 \$2,474,938 \_\_\_\_\_ ======== Liabilities Accounts payable \$21,100 \$28,793 332,825 Accrued liabilities 319.667 Mortgage repurchase facility 4,117 34,873 Senior notes, net 997,640 997,527 **Total Liabilities** 1,342,524 1,394,018 Commitments and Contingencies

Stockholders' Equity Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value; 25,000,000 shares authorized; none issued or outstanding

Common stock, \$0.01 par value; 250,000,000 shares authorized; 46,838,000 and 46,789,000 issued and outstanding, respectively, at

March 31, 2009 and 46,715,000 and 46,666,000 issued and outstanding, respectively, at December 31, 2008 468 467 Additional paid-in-capital 790.361 788.207 Retained earnings 240,457 292,905 Treasury stock, at cost; 49,000 shares at March 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008 (659)(659)Total Stockholders' Equity 1,030,627 1,080,920 Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity \$2,373,151 \$2,474,938 M.D.C. HOLDINGS, INC. Information on Segments (Dollars in thousands) (Unaudited) Three Months Ended March 31, 2009 2008 ----REVENUE Homebuilding West \$74,682 \$223,379 Mountain 44,117 70,482 40.492 East 67.345 Other Homebuilding 13,683 27,049 Total Homebuilding 172,974 388,255 Financial Services and Other 5,563 10,180 Corporate 50 184 Inter-company adjustments (2,655)(2,841)Consolidated \$175,932 \$395,778 ====== ====== (LOSS) INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES Homebuilding West \$(10,303) \$(61,391) Mountain (4,811)(11,608)East (2,371)(2,379)Other Homebuilding (831)(1,896)**Total Homebuilding** (18,316)(77, 274)Financial Services and Other 1,621 4,148 Corporate (24,378)(4,100)Consolidated \$(41,073) \$(77,226) ======= \_\_\_\_\_ **ASSET IMPAIRMENTS** 

March 31, December 31, 2009 2008

\$13,067

964

======

254

\$14,569

\$48,312

1,033

\$54,832

======

3,954

1,533

284

West

East

Mountain

Other Homebuilding

Consolidated

Homebuilding

\$210,626 \$255,652 West 270,753 288,221 131,866 151,367 Mountain East

Other Homebuilding 29,228 38.179

**Total Homebuilding** 642,473 733,419

Financial Services and Other 100,430 139,569 Corporate 1,676,205 1,647,907

Inter-company adjustments (45,957)(45,957)

Consolidated \$2,373,151 \$2,474,938

M.D.C. HOLDINGS, INC. Selected Financial Data (Dollars in thousands) (Unaudited)

Three Months

Ended March 31, Change

2009 2008 Amount %

SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

General and Administrative

Expenses

Homebuilding \$15,779 \$30,702 \$(14,923) -49%

Financial Services

and Other \$4,498 \$7,023 \$(2,525) -36% Corporate (1) \$18,109 \$13,468 \$4,641 34%

\$38,386 \$51,193 \$(12,807) -25% Total 

SG&A as a % of Home Sales Revenue

Homebuilding Segments 18.5% 17.8% 0.7% Corporate Segment (1) 10.8% 3.8% 7.0%

Depreciation and

Amortization (2) \$3,893 \$8,612 \$(4,719) -55%

Home Gross Margins (3) 15.4% 11.5% 3.9%

Interest in Home Cost of Sales as a % of Home

Sales Revenue -4.8% -4.4% -0.4%

Cash Provided by (Used in)

Operating Activities \$239,493 \$230,733 \$8,760 4% Investing Activities \$82,690 \$(43) \$82,733 N/A Financing Activities \$(42,280) \$(41,604) \$(676) 2%

Corporate and

Homebuilding Interest

Interest capitalized,

beginning of period \$39,239 \$53,487 \$(14,248) -27%

Interest capitalized, net of

\$4,844 \$14,453 \$(9,609) -66% interest expense

Previously capitalized interest included

\$(8,033) \$(15,773) \$7,740 -49% in home cost of sales

Interest capitalized,

\$36,050 \$52,167 \$(16,117) -31% end of period

- (2) Includes depreciation and amortization of long-lived assets and amortization of deferred marketing costs.
- (3) Home sales revenue less home cost of sales (excluding commissions, amortization of deferred marketing, project cost write offs and asset impairments) as a percent of home sales revenue. During the three months ended March 31, 2009 and March 31, 2008, we closed homes on lots for which we had previously recorded \$43.2 million and \$49.9 million, respectively, of asset impairments.

M.D.C. HOLDINGS, INC. Selected Financial Data (Dollars in thousands) (Unaudited)

Three Months
Ended March 31, Change
-----2009 2008 Amount %

HOMEAMERICAN OPERATING

**ACTIVITIES** 

Principal amount of mortgage

loans originated \$126,507 \$164,743 \$(38,236) -23%

Principal amount of mortgage

loans brokered \$12,965 \$59,571 \$(46,606) -78%

Capture Rate 82% 58% 24% Including brokered loans 90% 75% 15%

Mortgage products (% of mortgage

loans originated)

Fixed rate 100% 94% 6% Adjustable rate interest only 0% 2% -2% Adjustable rate - other 0% 4% -4% Prime loans (4) 42% 63% -21% Alt A loans (5) 0% 0% 0% Government loans (6) 58% 37% 21% Sub-prime loans (7) 0% 0% 0%

- (4) Prime loans generally are defined as loans with Fair, Isaac and Company ("FICO") scores greater than 620 and that comply with the documentation standards of the government sponsored enterprise guidelines.
- (5) Alt-A loans are defined as loans that would otherwise qualify as prime loans except that they do not comply with the documentation standards of the government sponsored enterprise guidelines.
- (6) Government loans are loans either insured by the Federal Housing Administration or guaranteed by the Department of Veteran Affairs.
- (7) Sub-prime loans generally are defined as non government insured loans that have FICO scores of less than or equal to 620.

M.D.C. HOLDINGS, INC. Homebuilding Operational Data (Dollars in thousands) (unaudited)

March 31, December 31, March 31, 2009 2008 2008

HOMES COMPLETED OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION Unsold Home Under

Construction - Final 293 451 449

Unsold Home Under Construction - Frame Unsold Home Under Co - Foundation	nstruction	41			
Total Unsold Homes U Construction Sold Homes Under Con Model Homes	Jnder 648	821 471	409 1.340		
Homes Completed or Construction	Under		3,079 =====		
LOTS OWNED (excluding completed or under con Arizona California Nevada	struction) 1,365 695	1,458 839 1,111	2,423 1,150 1,241		
West		3,408	4,814		
Colorado Utah	621	2,597 642	830		
Mountain -	3,144	 3,144 3,239 3,720 			
Delaware Valley Maryland Virginia East	180 227		287 336		
Florida Illinois	242 141 	257 141 	165		
Other Homebuilding		39	98 726		
Total :	7,149 =====		10,021		

M.D.C. HOLDINGS, INC. Homebuilding Operational Data (Dollars in thousands) (unaudited)

March 31, December 31, March 31, LOTS CONTROLLED UNDER OPTION Arizona California Nevada West Colorado Utah Mountain **Delaware Valley** Maryland Virginia 1,072

				_
East			987 	- 1,848 -
Florida Illinois		438 -	-	
Other Homebuild	ding			- 471 470 -
Total				3,130 == =====
NON-REFUNDABLE Cash Letters of Credit		\$5,526 3,257	\$5,14! 4,3	5 \$6,476 58 4,221
Total Non-Refundable Option Deposits \$8,783 \$9,503 \$10,697 ====== ==============================				
Homebu (Dolla (U Thr I	uilding ars in t naudit ree Mo March	onths Endo	nal Data i) ed Change	
		2008 		t %
HOMES CLOSED (UI Arizona California Nevada	NITS) 172 59 74 	351 154 180	(179 (95) (106	) -51% -62% ) -59%
Colorado Utah	40	117 82	(42)	-22% -51%
Mountain			(68	3) -34%
Delaware Valley Maryland Virginia	26 41	6 49 65	(23) (24)	2) -39% -47% -37%
East -		145		-41%
Florida Illinois		12	(3) -	
Other Homebuilding 58 107 (49) -46%				
Total :		1,136 =====		
AVERAGE SELLING PRICES PER HOME CLOSED				
Arizona California Colorado Delaware Valley Florida	398. 352 4	1 444.6 .3 354.4 24.9 42	(46. 4 (2. 25.8	9.6) -17% 5) -10% 1) -1% (0.9) 0% 2) -6%

Illinois	320.4	400.5	(80.1)	-20%	
Maryland	440.	6 496.	9 (56.3	) -11%	
Nevada	203.0	247.	3 (44.3	) -18%	
Utah	298.6	340.1	(41.5)	-12%	
Virginia	508.5	453.5	55.0	12%	
Company Aver	age 9	287.9	\$313.2	\$(25.3)	-8%

M.D.C. HOLDINGS, INC. Homebuilding Operational Data (Dollars in thousands) (Unaudited)

		larch 31,	Change		
	2009 2008		Amount	%	
ORDERS FOR HOMES, I Arizona California Nevada	NET (UNI 158 75		(124) (84)	-53%	
West		622 	(294)	-47%	
Colorado Utah	41	163 44			
Mountain		207	(32)	-15%	
Delaware Valley Maryland Virginia	37 56	14 22 47 70	(10)	-21%	
East	107	139	(32)	-23%	
Florida Illinois		115 15			
Other Homebuilding			130	(64) -49%	
Total		1,098 =====			

Estimated Value of Orders for

Homes, net \$191,000 \$324,000 \$(133,000) -41%

Estimated Average Selling

Price of Orders for Homes, net \$282.5 \$295.1 \$(12.5) -4%

Cancellation Rate(8) 23% 43% -20%

(8) We define "Cancellation Rate" as the approximate number of cancelled home order contracts during a reporting period as a percent of total home orders received during such reporting period.

M.D.C. HOLDINGS, INC. Homebuilding Operational Data (Dollars in thousands) (Unaudited)

March 31, December 31, March 31,

2009 2008 2008

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BACKLOG (UNITS)

Arizona 144 158 523 California 65 49 208

Nevada	74	53	308	
West	283	260 	1,039	
Colorado Utah	115 43	42		
Mountain	158 	114	399	
Delaware Valley Maryland Virginia		2 27 58 36	124	
East	142 	121	277	
Florida Illinois Other Homebuilding		35 3 46 :		94
Total	629 ===	533 ===	1,909	=
Backlog Estimated Sales Value \$196,000 \$173,000 \$623,000 ======== =========================				
ACTIVE SUBDIVISIONS				
Arizona California	37 16	44 18	62 34	
Nevada	23	24	34	
West	 76 	86 	130	
Colorado Utah	45 22	49 22	49 24	
Mountain	67 	71 	73	
Delaware Valley Maryland Virginia	12 10	3 11 12	2 17 19	
East	 24 	26 	38	
Florida Illinois	7 1	7 1	15 4	
Other Homebuilding		8	8 19	9
Total	175 ===	191 ===	260 ===	
Average for quarter en	ded	182	202	272

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SOURCE: M.D.C. Holdings, Inc.

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Web Site: <a href="http://www.mdcholdings.com/">http://www.mdcholdings.com/</a>

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