

Rickmers Holding AG**WKN:** A1TNA3 **ISIN:** DE000A1TNA39 **Land:** Deutschland**Nachricht vom 23.09.2013 | 07:59****Rickmers Holding GmbH & Cie. KG: Rickmers Group and Funds Affiliated with Apollo Global Management Establish Joint Venture to Invest in Container Shipping****Rickmers Holding GmbH & Cie. KG / Key word(s): Joint Venture**

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Rickmers Group and Funds Affiliated with Apollo Global Management Establish Joint Venture to Invest in Container Shipping

Venture to Initially Acquire Ships in the Secondary Market

Hamburg, September 23, 2013 - Rickmers Group ('Rickmers') and funds affiliated with Apollo Global Management, LLC (together with its consolidated subsidiaries 'Apollo') (NYSE: APO) have entered into a joint venture to invest in container ships, initially focused on secondary market vessels. The joint venture has the capacity to invest up to US\$500 million, and investments are expected to be made over a period of several years.

The joint venture may also be expanded over time to include new build tonnage and other ship-related investments if the parties identify attractive projects in those areas and mutually agree to pursue them. Rickmers will provide a range of services for the jointly acquired fleet of ships including technical and commercial ship management.

Information and Explanation of the Issuer to this News:

'This joint venture is a further milestone along the path we have embarked on to develop a number of new options for investing in and growing our businesses. Rickmers is excited about the prospects that this collaboration with a firm with the resources and capabilities that Apollo brings to this venture,' explains Ronald D Widdows, CEO of Rickmers Group.

'The successful issue of the Rickmers bond in June of this year has made this next step in Rickmers' growth and expansion possible,' adds Ignace Van Meenen, CFO of the Rickmers Group. 'Part of the proceeds from this issue were envisaged to finance growth opportunities just such as this new venture with Apollo, which will yield returns that are accretive for the Group and contribute to generating new business for our Maritime Services business segment.'

'We are looking forward to working with Bertram Rickmers and his strong management team. The Rickmers Group is a recognized leader in the German shipping community, and it has the scale, operating strength and industry knowledge to take advantage of growth opportunities at this challenging inflection point for the shipping industry. We are excited about this partnership, as we believe the combination of Rickmers' outstanding operating capabilities and entrepreneurial spirit and Apollo's shipping institutional knowledge and capital resources will allow us to drive a strong performance for our respective shareholders and investors,' Skardon Baker, Partner of Apollo European Principal Finance Fund, states.

'This investment builds on Apollo's previous maritime investments in the debt capital markets and private equity and demonstrates Apollo EPF's continued commitment to providing creative capital solutions to a variety of European industries and asset classes,' adds Fred Khedouri, Chief Investment Officer of Apollo's EPF Fund.

About Rickmers Group
Headquartered in Hamburg, the Rickmers Group is an established international provider of services for the maritime industry, vessel owner

and ocean carrier. It is internationally represented with more than 20 offices in eleven countries and over 50 sales agencies worldwide. The business activities of the Rickmers Group are divided into three segments: Maritime Assets, Maritime Services and Rickmers-Linie.

With its Maritime Assets segment, the Rickmers Group acts as asset manager for its own and for third-party vessels, initiates and coordinates vessel projects, arranges financing and acquires, charters out and sells vessels. In the Maritime Services business segment, the Rickmers Group provides ship management for Rickmers Group's own and for third party vessels, including technical and operational management, crewing, new building supervision and advisory and insurance-related services. In the Rickmers-Linie business segment, the Rickmers Group offers global break-bulk, heavy lift and project cargoes liner services and individual sailings complementing the liner services.

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About Apollo Global Management, LLC
Apollo is a leading global alternative investment manager with offices in New York, Los Angeles, Houston, London, Frankfurt, Luxembourg, Singapore, Mumbai and Hong Kong. Apollo had assets under management of approximately \$113 billion as of June 30, 2013 in private equity, credit and real estate funds invested across a core group of nine industries where Apollo has considerable knowledge and resources. For more information about Apollo, please visit www.agm.com.

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