

Clarus Reports Record Fourth Quarter and Full Year 2018 Results, Introduces Strong 2019 Outlook

- Fourth Quarter Sales up 9% to \$57.3 Million With Gross Margin up 300 Basis Points to 35.6% –
- Expects Full Year 2019 Sales to Grow Approximately 8% to \$230 Million and Adjusted
 EBITDA to Increase Approximately 20% to \$25 Million –

SALT LAKE CITY, March 04, 2019 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Clarus Corporation (NASDAQ: CLAR) ("Clarus" and/or the "Company"), a company focused on the outdoor and consumer industries, seeking opportunities to acquire and grow businesses that can generate attractive shareholder returns, reported financial results for the fourth quarter and full year ended December 31, 2018, and provided its financial outlook for 2019.

Fourth Quarter 2018 Financial Highlights vs. Same Year-Ago Quarter

- Sales increased 9% to \$57.3 million.
- Gross margin increased 300 basis points to 35.6%.
- Net income was \$3.5 million or \$0.12 per share, compared to \$6.0 million or \$0.20 per share. The fourth quarter of 2017 included an income tax benefit of \$6.1 million related to the implementation of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.
- Adjusted net income before non-cash items increased 27% to \$5.9 million or \$0.19 per share, compared to \$4.6 million or \$0.15 per share.
- Adjusted EBITDA increased 30% to \$6.6 million and as a percentage of sales, adjusted EBITDA increased 190 basis points to 11.6%.
- Repurchased 101,833 shares of its common stock for approximately \$1.0 million (\$9.60 per share), bringing the total amount purchased during 2018 to 519,070 shares or \$4.3 million (\$8.31 per share). The Company maintains a \$30 million share repurchase program, which still has approximately \$13.5 million available.

Full Year 2018 Financial Highlights vs. 2017

- Sales increased 24% to \$212.1 million.
- Gross margin increased 340 basis points to 34.9%.
- Net income was \$7.3 million or \$0.24 per share, compared to \$(0.7) million or \$(0.02) per share. Net loss in 2017 included the aforementioned income tax benefit of \$6.1 million.
- Adjusted net income before non-cash items increased significantly to \$19.3 million or \$0.64 per share, compared to \$4.7 million or \$0.16 per share.

- Adjusted EBITDA increased significantly to \$20.8 million, compared to \$6.1 million, and as a percentage of sales, adjusted EBITDA increased 630 basis points to 9.8%.
- Free cash flow, defined as net cash provided by operating activities less capital expenditures, was \$8.0 million compared to \$(11.7) million.

Management Commentary

"As indicated in our preliminary results, our brand momentum led to a record fourth quarter and full year that well-exceeded our outlook," stated John Walbrecht, president of Clarus. "Our brands and products continue to resonate with our consumers across all markets, and this was driven by innovation throughout our entire product portfolio, an accelerated go-to-market strategy and the execution of our growth strategy.

"These results are also showing in our financial results. For the year, we grew sales 24% and more than tripled adjusted EBITDA, generating a \$20 million increase in free cash flow versus 2017. This has allowed us to enhance shareholder-friendly capital allocation measures, including the initiation of a quarterly dividend and share repurchases. It has also afforded us the means to continue an accelerated product R&D and innovation strategy, which we believe sets us up well for 2019.

"In fact, we expect that 2019 will see the introduction of approximately 300 new products across all of Black Diamond's primary product categories, and the continuation of our enhanced go-to-market strategy at Sierra and SKINourishment focused on new product introductions, expanded distribution, and better consumer engagement. We believe that our current playbook of 'innovate and accelerate' will continue to provide us with strong organic growth in 2019, enabling us to further scale and leverage our portfolio. We also remain opportunistic in an M&A strategy that seeks to find other 'super-fan brands' in which we can deploy our unique brand strategy playbook."

Fourth Quarter 2018 Financial Results

Sales in the fourth quarter of 2018 increased 9% to \$57.3 million compared to \$52.7 million in the same year-ago quarter. The increase was driven by 8% growth in Black Diamond and 14% from Sierra. On a constant currency basis, total sales were up 9%.

Gross margin increased 300 basis points to 35.6% compared to 32.6% in the year-ago quarter. The increase was primarily due to favorable channel and product mix across the portfolio, including strong product margins in Black Diamond apparel and Sierra Bullets.

Selling, general and administrative expenses in the fourth quarter were \$16.5 million, unchanged versus the year-ago quarter. As a percentage of sales, selling, general and administrative expenses declined 260 basis points to 28.7% as the Company drove cost efficiencies despite strong brand growth, partially offset by the continued strategic investments in demand creation and product innovation within Black Diamond and Sierra.

Net income in the fourth quarter was \$3.5 million or \$0.12 per diluted share, compared to \$6.0 million or \$0.20 per diluted share in the year-ago quarter. Net income in the fourth quarter of 2018 included \$2.2 million of non-cash charges and \$0.2 million of transaction and restructuring costs, compared to a \$1.7 million non-cash benefit, \$0.2 million in transaction costs, \$0.1 million in merger and integration costs, and minimal restructuring

costs in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Adjusted net income, which excludes the non-cash items, as well as transaction, merger and integration, and restructuring costs, increased 27% to \$5.9 million or \$0.19 per diluted share, compared to \$4.6 million or \$0.15 per diluted share in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Adjusted EBITDA increased 30% to \$6.6 million compared to \$5.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2017. As a percentage of sales, adjusted EBITDA increased 190 basis points to 11.6% compared to 9.7% in the year-ago period.

Full Year 2018 Financial Results

Sales in 2018 increased 24% to \$212.1 million compared to \$170.7 million in 2017. The increase was driven by the inclusion of Sierra, which contributed \$35.4 million in total sales and \$25.0 million in incremental sales during the year, and growth in Black Diamond apparel, climb and mountain product categories. Excluding the Sierra acquisition, sales increased 10%. On a constant currency basis, total sales were up 23%.

Gross margin in 2018 increased 340 basis points to 34.9% compared to 31.5% in 2017. The increase was primarily due to favorable channel and product mix, the positive impact from foreign exchange, and more normalized levels of discontinued merchandise. Excluding a fair value inventory step-up associated with the Sierra acquisition, adjusted gross margin in 2018 increased 260 basis points to 35.4%.

Selling, general and administrative expenses in 2018 increased 16% to \$65.2 million compared to \$56.3 million in 2017. As a percentage of sales, selling, general and administrative expenses declined 230 basis points to 30.7% as the Company drove cost efficiencies despite strong brand growth, partially offset by the continued strategic investments in demand creation and product innovation within Black Diamond and Sierra.

Income tax benefit in 2018 was \$0.8 million compared to a \$5.1 million benefit in 2017. The higher income tax benefit in 2017 was largely due to the implementation of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

Net income in 2018 improved significantly to \$7.3 million or \$0.24 per diluted share, compared to a net loss of \$0.7 million or \$(0.02) per diluted share in 2017. Net income in 2018 included \$11.4 million of non-cash charges, \$0.5 million of transaction costs, and \$0.1 million of restructuring costs, compared to a net loss in 2017 that included \$3.2 million of non-cash charges, \$2.1 million in transaction costs, \$0.2 million in restructuring costs, and \$0.1 million in merger and integration costs.

Adjusted net income in 2018, which excludes the non-cash charges as well as transaction, merger and integration, and restructuring costs, increased significantly to \$19.3 million or \$0.64 per diluted share, compared to \$4.7 million or \$0.16 per diluted share in 2017.

Adjusted EBITDA in 2018 increased significantly to \$20.8 million compared to \$6.1 million in 2017. As a percentage of sales, adjusted EBITDA improved 630 basis points to 9.8%.

Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities for 2018 and 2017 were \$11.4 million and \$(8.9) million, respectively. Capital expenditures for 2018 was \$3.4 million compared to \$2.8 million in 2017. Free cash flow, defined as net cash provided by operating activities less

capital expenditures, for 2018 was \$8.0 million compared to \$(11.7) million in 2017.

At December 31, 2018, cash and cash equivalents totaled \$2.5 million compared to \$1.9 million at December 31, 2017. The Company's debt balance at December 31, 2018, was \$22.1 million compared to \$20.8 million at December 31, 2017.

2019 Outlook

Clarus anticipates fiscal year 2019 sales to grow approximately 8% to \$230 million compared to 2018. The Company also expects adjusted EBITDA to increase approximately 20% to \$25 million compared to 2018.

Additionally, in fiscal year 2019 the Company expects capital expenditures to be approximately \$4.5 million and free cash flow to be approximately \$10 million.

Net Operating Loss (NOL)

The Company estimates that it has available NOL carryforwards for U.S. federal income tax purposes of approximately \$141 million. The Company's common stock is subject to a rights agreement dated February 7, 2008 that is intended to limit the number of 5% or more owners and therefore reduce the risk of a possible change of ownership under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Any such change of ownership under these rules would limit or eliminate the ability of the Company to use its existing NOLs for federal income tax purposes. However, there is no guaranty that the rights agreement will achieve the objective of preserving the value of the NOLs.

Conference Call

The Company will hold a conference call today at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time to discuss its fourth guarter and full year 2018 results.

Date: Monday, March 4, 2019

Time: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (3:00 p.m. Mountain time)

Toll-free dial-in number: 1-877-511-3707 International dial-in number: 1-786-815-8672

Conference ID: 5990475

Please call the conference telephone number 5-10 minutes prior to the start time. An operator will register your name and organization. If you have any difficulty connecting with the conference call, please contact Liolios at 1-949-574-3860.

The conference call will be broadcast live and available for replay<u>here</u> and via the investor relations section of the Company's website at www.claruscorp.com.

A replay of the conference call will be available after 8:00 p.m. Eastern time on the same day through March 18, 2019.

Toll-free replay number: 1-855-859-2056 International replay number: 1-404-537-3406

Replay ID: 5990475

About Clarus Corporation

Clarus Corporation is focused on the outdoor and consumer industries, seeking opportunities to acquire and grow businesses that can generate attractive shareholder returns. The Company has substantial net operating tax loss carryforwards which it is seeking to redeploy to maximize shareholder value. Clarus' primary business is as a leading developer, manufacturer and distributor of outdoor equipment and lifestyle products focused on the climb, ski, mountain, and sport markets. The Company's products are principally sold under the Black Diamond®, Sierra®, PIEPS®, and SKINourishment® brand names through specialty and online retailers, distributors and original equipment manufacturers throughout the U.S. and internationally. For additional information, please visit www.claruscorp.com or the brand websites at www.blackdiamondequipment.com, www.sierrabullets.com or www.sierrabullets.com or www.sierrabullets.com or

Use of Non-GAAP Measures

The Company reports its financial results in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). This press release contains the non-GAAP measures: (i) adjusted gross margin and adjusted gross profit, (ii) net income (loss) before non-cash items and related income (loss) per diluted share, and adjusted net income (loss) before non-cash items and related income (loss) per diluted share, (iii) earnings before interest, taxes, other income or expense, depreciation and amortization ("EBITDA"), and adjusted EBITDA, and (iv) free cash flow. The Company believes that the presentation of certain non-GAAP measures, i.e.: (i) adjusted gross margin and adjusted gross profit, (ii) net income (loss) before non-cash items and related income (loss) per diluted share, and adjusted net income (loss) before non-cash items and related income (loss) per diluted share, (iii) EBITDA and adjusted EBITDA, and (iv) free cash flow, provide useful information for the understanding of its ongoing operations and enables investors to focus on period-over-period operating performance, and thereby enhances the user's overall understanding of the Company's current financial performance relative to past performance and provides, along with the nearest GAAP measures, a baseline for modeling future earnings expectations. Non-GAAP measures are reconciled to comparable GAAP financial measures in the financial tables within this press release. The Company cautions that non-GAAP measures should be considered in addition to, but not as a substitute for, the Company's reported GAAP results. Additionally, the Company notes that there can be no assurance that the above referenced non-GAAP financial measures are comparable to similarly titled financial measures used by other publicly traded companies.

Forward-Looking Statements

Please note that in this press release we may use words such as "appears," "anticipates," "believes," "plans," "expects," "intends," "future," and similar expressions which constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are made based on our expectations and beliefs concerning future events impacting the Company and therefore involve a number of risks and uncertainties. We caution that forward-looking statements are not guarantees and that actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Potential risks and uncertainties that could cause the actual results of operations or financial condition of the Company to differ materially from those expressed or implied by forward-looking statements in this release include, but are not

limited to, the overall level of consumer demand on our products; general economic conditions and other factors affecting consumer confidence, preferences, and behavior; disruption and volatility in the global currency, capital, and credit markets; the financial strength of the Company's customers; the Company's ability to implement its business strategy, the ability of the Company to execute and integrate acquisitions; changes in governmental regulation, legislation or public opinion relating to the manufacture and sale of bullets and ammunition by our Sierra segment, and the possession and use of firearms and ammunition by our customers; the Company's exposure to product liability or product warranty claims and other loss contingencies; stability of the Company's manufacturing facilities and suppliers; the Company's ability to protect patents, trademarks and other intellectual property rights; any breaches of, or interruptions in, our information systems; fluctuations in the price, availability and quality of raw materials and contracted products as well as foreign currency fluctuations; our ability to utilize our net operating loss carryforwards; changes in tax laws and liabilities, tariffs, legal, regulatory, political and economic risks; and the Company's ability to declare a dividend. More information on potential factors that could affect the Company's financial results is included from time to time in the Company's public reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and Current Reports on Form 8-K. All forward-looking statements included in this press release are based upon information available to the Company as of the date of this press release, and speak only as of the date hereof. We assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this press release.

Company Contact:

Warren B. Kanders
Executive Chairman
Tel 1-203-552-9600
warren.kanders@claruscorp.com
or
John C. Walbrecht
President
Tel 1-801-993-1344
john.walbrecht@claruscorp.com
or
Aaron J. Kuehne
Chief Administrative Officer and
Chief Financial Officer
Tel 1-801-993-1364
aaron.kuehne@claruscorp.com

Investor Relations:

Liolios Cody Slach Tel 1-949-574-3860 CLAR@liolios.com

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

	December 31, 2018		December 31, 2017		
Assets	-				
Current assets					
Cash	\$	2,486	\$	1,856	
Accounts receivable		35,943		35,817	
Inventories		64,933		58,138	
Prepaid and other current assets		5,115		3,633	
Income tax receivable		24		-	
Total current assets		108,501		99,444	
Dronatty and aguinment not		22 401		24 245	
Property and equipment, net		23,401		24,345	
Other intangible assets, net Indefinite lived intangible assets		19,416 41,694		23,238 41,843	
Goodwill		18,090		41,643 17,745	
		2,026		834	
Other long-term assets	•		\$		
Total assets	\$	213,128	Ф	207,449	
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity					
Current liabilities					
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$	21,489	\$	19,456	
Income tax payable		210		328	
Current portion of long-term debt		41			
Total current liabilities		21,740		19,784	
Long-term debt		22,105		20,842	
Deferred income taxes		2,919		3,666	
Other long-term liabilities		159		175	
Total liabilities		46,923		44,467	
Stockholders' Equity					
Preferred stock, \$.0001 par value; 5,000					
shares authorized; none issued					
·		-		-	
Common stock, \$.0001 par value; 100,000 shares authorized;				•	
33,244 and 32,917 issued and 29,748 and 30,041 outstanding, respectively		3		3	
Additional paid in capital		488,404		485,285	
Accumulated deficit		(304,577)		(310,390)	
Treasury stock, at cost		(18,102)		(12,415)	
Accumulated other comprehensive income		477		499	
Total stockholders' equity		166,205		162,982	
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$	213,128	\$	207,449	

CLARUS CORPORATION CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

		Three Months Ended			
	December 31, 2018		Decer	mber 31, 2017	
Sales Domestic sales	\$	32,870	\$	29,129	
International sales	Ψ	24,437	Ψ	23,548	
Total sales		57,307		52,677	
Cost of goods sold		36,889		35,489	
Gross profit		20,418		17,188	
Operating expenses					
Selling, general and administrative		16,459		16,469	
Restructuring charge		51		44 82	
Merger and integration Transaction costs		- 120		82 219	
Transaction costs		120		219	
Total operating expenses		16,630		16,814	
Operating income		3,788		374	
Other expense					
Interest expense, net		(319)		(340)	
Other, net		(390)		(92)	
Total other expense, net		(709)		(432)	
Income (loss) before income tax		3,079		(58)	
Income tax benefit		(469)		(6,077)	
Net income	\$	3,548	\$	6,019	
Net income per share:					
Basic	\$	0.12	\$	0.20	
Diluted		0.12		0.20	
Weighted average shares outstanding:		00.040		20.044	
Basic		29,843		30,041	
Diluted		30,532		30,176	

CLARUS CORPORATION CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

	Year Ended December 31,			
	 2018	-	2017	
Sales				
Domestic sales	\$ 112,537	\$	88,603	
International sales	 99,604		82,084	
Total sales	212,141		170,687	
Cost of goods sold	138,179		116,877	
Gross profit	73,962		53,810	
Operating expenses				
Selling, general and administrative	65,151		56,295	
Restructuring charge	137		160	
Merger and integration	-		82	
Transaction costs	 503		2,088	
Total operating expenses	 65,791		58,625	
Operating income (loss)	 8,171		(4,815)	
Other (expense) income				
Interest expense, net	(1,339)		(1,288)	
Other, net	 (359)		343	
Total other expense, net	 (1,698)		(945)	
Income (loss) before income tax	6,473		(5,760)	
Income tax benefit	(828)		(5,087)	
Net income (loss)	\$ 7,301	\$	(673)	
Net income (loss) per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.24	\$	(0.02)	
Diluted	0.24		(0.02)	
Weighted average shares outstanding:				
Basic	29,915		30,022	
Diluted	30,255		30,022	

CLARUS CORPORATION RECONCILIATION FROM GROSS PROFIT TO ADJUSTED GROSS PROFIT AND ADJUSTED GROSS MARGIN

THREE MONTHS ENDED

	December 31, 2018		De	cember 31, 2017
Gross profit as reported	\$ 20,418	Gross profit as reported	\$	17,188
Plus impact of inventory fair value adjustment		Plus impact of inventory fair value adjustment		1,678
Adjusted gross profit	\$ 20,418	Adjusted gross profit	\$	18,866
Adjusted gross profit	Φ 20,410	Adjusted gross profit	φ	10,000
Gross margin as reported	35.6 %	Gross margin as reported		32.6 %
Adjusted gross margin	35.6 %	Adjusted gross margin		35.8 %
	TWELVE MO	ONTHS ENDED		
	December 31, 2018		De-	cember 31, 2017
Gross profit as reported	\$ 73,962	Gross profit as reported	\$	53,810
Plus impact of inventory fair value adjustment	1,049	Plus impact of inventory fair value adjustment		2,098
Adjusted gross profit	\$ 75,011	Adjusted gross profit	\$	55,908
Gross margin as reported	34.9 %	Gross margin as reported		31.5 %
Adjusted gross margin	35.4 %	Adjusted gross margin		32.8 %

RECONCILIATION FROM NET INCOME TO NET INCOME BEFORE NON-CASH ITEMS, ADJUSTED NET INCOME BEFORE NON-CASH ITEMS AND RELATED EARNINGS PER DILUTED SHARE (In thousands, except per share amounts)

Three Months Ended

	Thice Months Ended							
	De	cember 31, 2018		r Diluted Share	De	cember 31, 2017		r Diluted Share
Net income	\$	3,548	\$	0.12	\$	6,019	\$	0.20
Amortization of intangibles		971		0.03		1,193		0.04
Depreciation		1,109		0.04		1,053		0.03
Amortization of debt issuance costs		65		0.00		17		0.00
Stock-based compensation		585		0.02		452		0.01
Loss (gain) from removal of accumulated translation								
adjustment		27		0.00		(53)		(0.00)
Inventory fair value of purchase accounting		-		-		1,678		0.06
Income tax benefit		(469)		(0.02)		(6,077)		(0.20)
Cash paid for income taxes		(122)		(0.00)		15		0.00
Net income before non-cash items	\$	5,714	\$	0.19	\$	4,297	\$	0.14
Restructuring charge		51		0.00		44		0.00
Merger and integration		-		-		82		0.00
Transaction costs		120		0.00		219		0.01
State cash taxes on adjustments		(6)		(0.00)		(10)		(0.00)
AMT cash taxes on adjustments		(3)		(0.00)		(7)		(0.00)
Adjusted net income before non-cash items	\$	5,876	\$	0.19	\$	4,625	\$	0.15
					_		_	

RECONCILIATION FROM NET INCOME (LOSS) TO NET INCOME BEFORE NON-CASH ITEMS, ADJUSTED NET INCOME BEFORE NON-CASH ITEMS AND RELATED EARNINGS PER DILUTED SHARE (In thousands, except per share amounts)

Twelve Months Ended December 31, Per Diluted December 31, Per Diluted 2017 2018 Share **Share** \$ \$ Net income (loss) 7,301 0.24 \$ (673)\$ (0.02)Amortization of intangibles 3.873 0.13 2.376 80.0 0.10 Depreciation 4,423 0.15 2.883 Accretion of note discount 833 0.03 Amortization of debt issuance costs 436 0.01 28 0.00 Stock-based compensation 2,652 0.09 1,181 0.04 Loss (gain) from removal of accumulated translation 199 0.01 (202)(0.01)adjustment Inventory fair value of purchase accounting 1,049 0.03 2,098 0.07 Income tax benefit (828)(0.03)(5,087)(0.17)Cash paid for income taxes (418)(0.01)(931) (0.03)Net income before non-cash items \$ 18,687 \$ 0.62 \$ 2,506 \$ 80.0 Restructuring charge 137 0.00 160 0.01 Merger and integration 82 0.00 503 0.02 Transaction costs 2,088 0.07 State cash taxes on adjustments (21)(0.00)(67) (0.00)AMT cash taxes on adjustments (12) (0.00)(45) (0.00)

19,294

\$

0.64

\$

4,724

\$

0.16

Adjusted net income before non-cash items

RECONCILIATION FROM NET INCOME TO EARNINGS BEFORE INTEREST, TAXES, DEPRECIATION, AND AMORTIZATION (EBITDA), AND ADJUSTED EBITDA

(In thousands)

	Three Months Ended			
	December 31, 2018		Decer	mber 31, 2017
Net income	\$	3,548	\$	6,019
Income tax benefit Other, net Interest expense, net		(469) 390 319		(6,077) 92 340
Operating income		3,788		374
Depreciation Amortization of intangibles		1,109 971		1,053 1,193
EBITDA	\$	5,868	\$	2,620
Restructuring charge Merger and integration Transaction costs Inventory fair value of purchase accounting Stock-based compensation		51 - 120 - 585		44 82 219 1,678 452

Adjusted EBITDA

\$

6,624

5,095

RECONCILIATION FROM NET INCOME (LOSS) TO EARNINGS BEFORE INTEREST, TAXES, DEPRECIATION, AND AMORTIZATION (EBITDA), AND ADJUSTED EBITDA (In thousands)

		December 31,		
		2018		
Net income (loss)	\$	7,301	\$	(673)
Income tax benefit		(828)		(5,087)
Other, net		359		(343)
Interest expense, net		1,339		1,288
Operating income (loss)		8,171		(4,815)
Depreciation		4,423		2,883
Amortization of intangibles		3,873		2,376
EBITDA	\$	16,467	\$	444
Restructuring charge		137		160
Merger and integration		-		82
Transaction costs		503		2,088
Inventory fair value of purchase accounting		1,049		2,098
Stock-based compensation		2,652		1,181
Adjusted EBITDA	\$	20,808	\$	6,053



Source: Clarus Corporation