

#### **NEWS RELEASE**

# PRIME US REIT LOCKS IN LOWER INTEREST RATES TO PROVIDE UPLIFT TO DISTRIBUTABLE INCOME

**Singapore, 30 April 2020** – KBS US Prime Property Management Pte. Ltd., the manager (the "**Manager**") of Prime US REIT ("**PRIME**"), a real estate investment trust with a high-quality office portfolio in the United States (the "**U.S.**"), today announced the restructuring of its interest rate swaps.

PRIME restructured its existing interest rate swaps by entering into a new agreement with Bank of America that locks in lower financing costs on its borrowings through 2026. The new interest rate swaps inclusive of interest rate spread on PRIME's US\$330 million debt facility effectively lowers the weighted average interest rate of 3.3%<sup>1</sup> to 2.8%.

Ms Barbara Cambon, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer of the Manager of PRIME, said, "We leveraged our strong relationship with the banks and utilised Prime US REIT's strong credit profile to reduce financing costs and increase distributable income to unitholders. The new hedge structure has locked in rates below 3.0%, inclusive of the interest rate spread on the loans, through 2026. This provides annual interest expense savings in excess of US\$1.0 million per year through 2023. In line with our proactive capital management strategy, we will continue to improve efficiency of our capital structure and maximise cash flow and value to unitholders."

In the recent key business and operational review for 1 January 2020 to 31 March 20202 ("1Q 2020") announced on 28 April 2020, PRIME reported an 6.7% outperformance in its net property income ("NPI") against IPO projection to US\$23.5 million, reinforced by the diversified and established tenant base. The portfolio expanded 13.6% to US\$1.42 billion² with the maiden acquisition of Park Tower and

DBS Bank Ltd. was the sole financial adviser and issue manager for the initial public offering of Prime US REIT.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Based on interest expense (excluding amortisation of upfront debt-related transaction costs and commitment fees) on loans and borrowings from 01 January to 31 March 2020

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 2}$  Based on appraised valuation of US\$1.25 billion as at 31 December 2019



maintained a high occupancy rate of 94.9% with a long weighted average lease expiry ("WALE") of 4.9 years. As at 31 March 2020, PRIME continue to have a strong balance sheet with gearing ratio of 33.7% and interest coverage of 5.8x<sup>3</sup>.

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## **About Prime US REIT**

Prime US REIT ("**PRIME**") is a diversified Singapore real estate investment trust ("**REIT**") with a focus on stabilised income-producing office assets in the United States ("**U.S.**"). PRIME offers investors a unique exposure to a high-quality portfolio of 12 prime and freehold office properties, strategically located in ten primary markets in the U.S., with a total appraised value of US\$1.42 billion.

With a geographically diversified portfolio of strategically-located prime office assets in key U.S. office markets, PRIME is well-positioned to achieve its key objectives to provide Unitholders with regular and stable distributions through long-term growth in distributions per unit and net asset value per unit growth while maintaining an appropriate capital structure.

#### **About the Sponsor**

KBS Asia Partners Pte. Ltd. ("KAP") is the sponsor of PRIME. KAP's shareholders include founding members of KBS, who is one of the largest U.S. commercial real estate managers with US\$11.6 billion of assets under management as at 31 December 2019, and more than US\$41.8 billion of transactional volume since inception in 1992.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Calculated as net income plus tax expense, net finance expense, change in fair value of derivatives and amortisation of lease commissions, minus net change in fair value of investment properties divided by interest expense and commitment fees on debt for the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 March 2020.



### **About the Manager**

PRIME is managed by KBS US Prime Property Management Pte. Ltd. which is jointly owned by KBS Asia Partners Pte. Ltd., Keppel Capital Two Pte. Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Keppel Capital Management Pte Ltd., Times Properties Private Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SPH and Experion Holdings Pte. Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of AT Holdings Pte. Ltd.

The Manager has general powers of management over the assets of PRIME. The Manager's main responsibility is to manage PRIME's assets and liabilities for the benefit of Unitholders.

The Manager will set the strategic direction and provide, investment, asset management, capital management, internal audit, human resource, information technology, accounting, compliance and investor relations services to PRIME.



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