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Another Dearborn Partners Core Rising and High & Rising Dividend SMA Portfolio Increase: Merck & Co., Inc.

On November 28, 2023, Merck & Co., Inc. (MRK) announced a 5.5% increase in its quarterly dividend per share to \$0.77 (\$3.08 annually) from \$0.73 (\$2.92 annually). The cash dividend will be paid on January 8, 2024 to holders of record as of December 15, 2023. This is the 12th consecutive annual increase in the dividend paid by Merck & Co., Inc.

From the press release:

At Merck, known as MSD outside of the United States and Canada, we are unified around our purpose: We use the power of leading-edge science to save and improve lives around the world. For more than 130 years, we have brought hope to humanity through the development of important medicines and vaccines. We aspire to be the premier research-intensive biopharmaceutical company in the world – and today, we are at the forefront of research to deliver innovative health solutions that advance the prevention and treatment of diseases in people and animals. We foster a diverse and inclusive global workforce and operate responsibly every day to enable a safe, sustainable and healthy future for all people and communities.

Merck & Co., Inc. is in the Health Care sector of both of our Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend separately managed account (SMA) portfolios. So far this year, 41 of 49 companies in our Core Rising Dividend portfolio have announced 43 dividend increases averaging about 8.7% more than these companies paid a year earlier. In our High & Rising Dividend Portfolio, 22 of 25 companies have announced 25 dividend increases averaging about 6.8% more than these companies paid a year earlier. No companies in these portfolios have reduced or suspended dividends so far this year.

Thank you for your continued interest in our Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend Strategy.

This dividend increase announcement is not a complete description of, nor a recommendation to invest in, any investment strategy (the "Strategy") mentioned herein. It is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer to sell nor a solicitation to buy, is not a recommendation regarding any securities transaction, nor is it an offer to provide advisory or other services by Dearborn Partners, L.L.C. The information contained in this writing should not be construed as financial or investment advice on any subject matter. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. There is no assurance the Strategy will be profitable, achieve its objectives, be suitable for you, or not incur losses. Some of the information herein has been obtained from third party sources. We believe such information is reliable but we have not in each case verified its accuracy or completeness. Any opinions herein are as of the date of this report and are subject to change without notice. Dividends are not guaranteed and must be authorized by the company's board of directors. There is no assurance that any Rising Dividend portfolio company will increase its dividend, or not reduce its dividend, or not have a significant decrease in its stock price. Dividend yield is one component of performance and should not be the only consideration for investment. Dearborn Partners L.L.C. is an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. For a complete list of all Dearborn Rising Dividend holdings that in the past year - increased their dividends, had no dividend increases, or had a dividend decrease, please contact the Dearborn Rising Dividend Team at RD@dearbornpartners.com. It

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should not be assumed that portfolio trades made in the future will be profitable, or will increase their dividends, or will equal the performance of the securities in this announcement.