GULF ISLAND FABRICATION INC
Form 10-K
March 08, 2010
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UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

x Annual Report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009

or

¨ Transition Report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the transition period from to

Commission File Number 0-22303

GULF ISLAND FABRICATION, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Louisiana	72-1147390
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

567 Thompson Road, Houma, Louisiana	70363
(Address of principal executive offices)	(zip code)

(985) 872-2100

(Registrant telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class registered	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, no par value	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (Nasdaq Global Select Market)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes ¨ No x

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes ¨ No x

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes x No ¨

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding twelve months (or for such shortest time that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes ¨ No ¨

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant s knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ¨

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer ¨ Accelerated filer x Non-accelerated filer ¨ Smaller reporting company ¨
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes ¨ No x

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant at June 30, 2009 was approximately $218,054,419.

The number of shares of the registrant s common stock, no par value per share, outstanding March 4, 2010 was 14,315,067.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant s definitive Proxy Statement prepared for use in connection with the registrant s 2010 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held April 22, 2010 have been incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

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GULF ISLAND FABRICATION, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K FOR

THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

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Forward-Looking Information

Certain statements included in this report and in oral statements made from time to time by management of the Company that are not statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements. In this report, forward-looking statements are included primarily in the sections entitled Business and Properties, Legal Proceedings, and Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. The words expect, believe, anticipate, project, plan, estimate, predict and similar expressions often identify forward-looking statements. Al statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results and outcomes to differ materially from the results and outcomes predicted in the statements and investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance upon them**.** Important factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from expectations or projections include those described under the heading Cautionary Statement in Item 1A. Risk Factors. Forward looking statements speak only as to the date of this report, and we undertake no obligation to update or revise such statements to reflect new circumstances or unanticipated events or circumstances.

PART I

Items 1 and 2. Business and Properties

Certain technical terms are defined in the Glossary of Certain Technical Terms beginning on page G-1.

General

We are a leading fabricator of offshore drilling and production platforms, hull and deck sections of floating production platforms and other specialized structures used in the development and production of offshore crude oil and natural gas (oil and gas) reserves. The company was founded in 1985 by a group of investors, including Alden J. Doc Laborde and Huey J. Wilson, and began operations at our fabrication yard on the Houma Navigation Canal in southern Louisiana, approximately 30 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Our Houma facilities are located on 630 acres, of which 283 are currently developed for fabrication activities with 347 acres available for future expansion. Effective January 31, 2006, we acquired the facilities, machinery and equipment of Gulf Marine Fabricators, L.P. (Gulf Marine) located on 372 acres in San Patricio and Nueces Counties, Texas.

Gulf Island Fabrication, Inc. serves as a holding company and conducts all of its operations through its subsidiaries, which include Gulf Island, L.L.C. (Gulf Island), Gulf Island Marine Fabricators, L.L.C. (Gulf Island Marine), Dolphin Services, L.L.C. (Dolphin Services) (performing offshore and onshore fabrication and construction services), Southport, L.L.C. (Southport) (specializing in the fabrication of living quarters for offshore platforms), and Gulf Marine.

Other Developments

In May 2007, we formed a limited liability company called Gulf Island Resources, L.L.C. (Gulf Island Resources) to hire laborers in Louisiana and Texas with similar rates and terms as contract labor service companies provide. The purpose of the company is to hire and retain labor to eliminate or reduce our need for contract labor required during the peak labor demand necessary to meet our scheduling requirements.

In late 2007, we decided to expand our operations in the marine construction area to reduce the fluctuations in work volume caused by the decrease in the fabrication of shallow water structures. The decline in the fabrication of shallow water structures is primarily related to the fact that the infrastructure for shallow water is fairly developed and as existing oil and gas production decreases it creates capacity to handle new oil and gas production without having to fabricate new structures. In 2007, we hired several manager level employees with many years of shipyard experience to manage the day to day operation of our marine construction projects. During 2008, we received contracts to fabricate nine brown water towboats, of which three of the boats have

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been delivered to our customers. In August 2008, we formed a limited liability company, Gulf Island Marine, to develop our marine construction operations. In late 2009, at a cost of $15 million we placed into service a 9,000 ton Dry Dock to supplement our marine construction operations in Houma. The Dry Dock is 240 feet long by 160 feet wide, and 140 feet wide between the wing walls. The bottom is 10 feet deep with 30 feet high walls above the bottom. The Dry Dock is used for maintenance and repairs to third party marine vessels, as well as to launch vessels being fabricated at our facilities.

In October 2008, we formed a limited liability company called Dolphin Steel Sales, L.L.C. (Dolphin Steel Sales) to increase the marketing efforts of our existing steel sales business. Our steel sales company operates a three acre facility adjacent to Gulf Island s main yard with a product line that includes plates and other products that utilize Gulf Island s capability to process the steel by cutting, shaping, forming and painting.

Website and Electronic Posting Disclosures

Our website address is www.gulfisland.com. We make available on or through our website, without charge and on the day such material is filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports. The SEC also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The SEC s website address is www.sec.gov. Our website and the information contained therein or connected thereto are not intended to be incorporated into this report on Form 10-K.

Description of Operations

Our primary activity is the fabrication of offshore drilling and production platforms, including jackets and deck sections of fixed production platforms, hull, tendon, and/or deck sections of floating production platforms (such as TLPs, SPARs, FPSOs and MinDOC s), piles, wellhead protectors, subsea templates and various production, compressor and utility modules. We also produce and repair pressure vessels used in the oil and gas industry, refurbish existing platforms, fabricate various other types of steel structures, and fabricate living quarters for installation on such platforms ranging in size from 4 to 250 beds, provide onshore and offshore scaffolding and piping insulation services, perform heavy lifts such as ship integration and TLP module integration, load and offload jack-up drilling rigs, semi-submersible drilling rigs, TLPs, SPARs or other similar cargo. We are capable of fabricating multiple processing modules to be installed in petro-chemical plants. We now provide our customers with the greatest amount of fabrication facilities on the Gulf of Mexico. Our marine division can fabricate towboats, barges, lift boats and mid-body sections for offshore supply vessels. Our Dry Dock has the capacity to lift 9,000 tons and is used for maintenance and repairs to third party marine vessels, as well as to launch vessels being fabricated at our facilities.

We use the latest welding and fabrication technology available, and all of our products are manufactured in accordance with industry standards, specifications and regulations, including those published by the American Petroleum Institute, the American Welding Society, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Bureau of Shipping and the United States Coast Guard. The quality management systems of our operating subsidiaries are certified as ISO 9001-2008 quality assurance programs. See Safety and Quality Assurance.

Through Gulf Island and Gulf Marine we fabricate the structural components of fixed platforms. A fixed platform is the traditional type of platform used for the offshore development and production of oil and gas, although in recent years there has been an increase in the use of floating production platforms as a result of increased drilling and production activities in deeper waters. Most fixed platforms built today can accommodate both drilling and production operations. These combination platforms are large and generally more costly than single-purpose structures. However, because directional drilling techniques permit a number of wells to be drilled from a single platform and because drilling and production can take place simultaneously, combination platforms are often more cost effective.

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The most common type of fixed platform consists of a jacket (a tubular steel, braced structure extending from the mudline on the seabed to a point above the water surface) which is supported on tubular pilings driven deep into the seabed and supports the deck structure located above the level of storm waves. The deck structure, extending above the surface of the water and attached to the tubular pilings extending out of the top end of the jacket, is designed to accommodate multiple functions, including drilling, production, separating, gathering, piping, compression, well support and crew quartering. Platforms can be joined by bridges to form complexes of platforms for very large developments or to improve safety by dividing functions among specialized platforms. Jacket-type platforms are generally the most viable solution for water depths of 1,000 feet or less. Although there is no height limit to the size of the jackets that can be fabricated at our Houma facilities, the dimensions of the Houma Navigation Canal prevent the transportation to the Gulf of Mexico of most jackets designed for water depths exceeding 800 feet. We can, however, build decks, piping and equipment modules, living quarters, piles and other components of platforms for installation in any water depth. Our Gulf Marine south yard in Texas, which is located on the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway and the 45 feet deep Corpus Christi Ship Channel, provides direct and unrestricted access to the Gulf of Mexico, which allows for unlimited fabrication or assembly of any size structure in use today. Often, customers split projects among fabricators, contracting with different companies for the fabrication of the jacket, deck sections, living quarters and piles for the same platform. Through the construction of these components, our Houma facility participates in the construction of platforms requiring jackets and/or hulls that are larger than those we could transport through the Houma Navigation Canal.

Most of the steel used in our operations arrives at our fabrication yards as steel plate. The plate is cut and rolled into tubular sections at rolling mills in the fabrication yards. The tubular sections (which vary in diameter up to 23 feet) are welded together in long straight tubes to become legs or into shorter tubes to become part of the network of bracing that support the legs. Various cuts and welds in the fabrication process are made by computer-controlled equipment that operates from data developed during the design of the structure. Our ability to fabricate and assemble the large tubular sections needed for jackets built for use in water depths over 300 feet distinguish us from all but two of our domestic competitors.

Jackets are built on skidways (which are long parallel rails along which the jacket will slide when it is transferred to a barge for towing out to sea) and are generally built in sections so that much of their fabrication is done on the ground. As each section of legs and bracing is complete, large crawler cranes pick up an entire side and roll up the section, which is then joined to another uprighted section. When a jacket is complete and ready for launch, it is pulled along the skidway onto a launch barge, which is gradually deballasted to compensate for the weight of the structure as more of it moves aboard the barge. Using ocean-going tugs, the barge and jacket are transported to the offshore installation site.

Decks are built either as single structures or in sections and are installed on location on fixed and floating platforms by marine construction contractors. The composition and quantity of petroleum in the well stream generally determine the makeup of the production deck on a processing platform. Typical deck equipment includes crude oil pumps, oil and gas separators and gas compressors. Unlike large jackets, which are transported in a horizontal position, decks are transported upright and, as a result, are not subject to the width restrictions of the Houma Navigation Canal. Therefore, the only limitation on our ability to fabricate decks in our Houma facility is the weight capacity of the barges that transport the decks from our yard to the installation site. Barges currently exist that have the weight capacity and other characteristics required to transport even the largest of the decks currently installed in the world, and management believes that currently there are no decks installed anywhere in the world that could not have been constructed at our facilities. While larger deck structures to be built in the future could exceed the capacities of currently existing barges, management does not believe that this will materially affect our share of the market for deck construction.

Gulf Island s subsidiaries have delivered the first deepwater dry tree drilling and production platform built in the United States. The MinDOC hull weighs approximately 19,000 short tons. The hull has three vertical columns arranged in a triangular shape connected to upper and lower pontoon sections. A vertical inner tube runs the full length of each leg and houses a variety of equipment used for ballast as well as instruments collecting data for stability. The

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MinDOC hull has a similar look to a Semisubmersible but has characteristics of a SPAR hull. It has superior stability and a higher load capacity over Semisubmersibles and SPARs. Its risers are tensioned by a hydraulic riser system rather than air cans or buoyancy cans used on SPARs. The platform is held in place by a 12 point mooring system, four mooring lines per column.

The deck sections that sit on top of the hull can be configured in a traditional rectangular shape or in a T-type configuration. The T-Type configuration is the method that was chosen for the MinDOC Hull Project. Two deck sections were fabricated by Gulf Island LLC with a combined weight of approximately 6,000 short tons.

The overall length and diameter of the columns is dictated by the amount of topsides payload the customer desires. The hull has a 40 year design life and meets the latest MMS requirements for extreme weather conditions including hurricane force conditions.

We can also fabricate TLPs and sections of, or structures and tendons used in connection with, TLPs. TLPs consist of a deck that sits atop one or more column-shaped hulls, which are positioned on site with vertical tendons running from the hulls to the seabed. The tendons hold the hulls partially submerged and are highly tensioned using the buoyancy of the hulls. This system develops a restoring force against wave, wind and current actions in proportion to the lateral displacement of the vessel. Wells for a TLP are often pre-drilled through a subsea template. Long, flexible production risers, which carry the petroleum to the deck of the TLP, are supported in tension by mechanical tensioner machines on the platform s deck and are directly subject to wave, wind and current forces. TLPs can be used in any water depth and are generally better suited than fixed platforms for water depths greater than 1,000 feet.

The size of a TLP depends on a number of factors, including the intended scope of production of the platform, the length of the production risers connected to the platform, the size of the deck to be installed on the platform and the water depth for which the platform is designed. We can fabricate deck sections and hulls for use with TLPs of any size. TLPs and other floating concepts are the alternatives of choice for deepwater drilling and production platforms, and we are well positioned to participate in the continued expansion into the deepwater areas since our acquisition of Gulf Marine.

We have fabricated subsea templates for use in connection with TLPs, which are structures that are installed on the seabed before development drilling begins. As exploration and drilling move into the deepwater of the Gulf of Mexico, we believe that there will be increased opportunities to fabricate subsea templates, as well as decks and other structures, for use in connection with TLPs.

In addition, we fabricate piles and other rolled goods, templates, bridges for connecting offshore platforms, wellhead protectors, various production, compressor and utility modules and other structures used in offshore oil and gas production and development activities. All of our products are installed by marine construction contractors.

Through Dolphin Services, we also provide interconnect piping services on offshore platforms, inshore steel and wood structure construction, fabrication of pressure vessels and large and small packaged skid units, and steel warehousing and sales. Interconnect piping services involve sending employee crews to offshore platforms that have been installed in the Gulf of Mexico in order to perform welding and other activities required to connect production equipment, service modules and other equipment to a platform prior to its becoming operational. Dolphin Services also contracts with oil and gas companies that have platforms and other structures located in the inland lakes and bays throughout the Southeast for various on-site construction and maintenance activities. At its existing facility located a quarter of a mile from the Gulf Island main yard, Dolphin Services can fabricate jackets up to 100 feet tall, along with decks and other steel structures. Dolphin Services has also been active in the refurbishment of existing platforms. Platform operators occasionally remove platforms previously installed in the Gulf of Mexico and return the platforms to a fabricator for refurbishment, which usually consists of general repairs, maintenance work and modification. Dolphin Services also serves state and local governments with various municipal and drainage projects such as pump stations, levee reinforcement, bulkheads and other levee and drainage projects.

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Facilities and Equipment

Facilities. Our corporate headquarters and Gulf Island s main fabrication yard are located on the east bank of the Houma Navigation Canal in Houma, Louisiana, approximately 30 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. This facility is situated on approximately 140 acres, of which 100 acres are developed for fabrication, and includes several buildings totaling 36,000 square feet that house administrative staff, 267,000 square feet of covered fabrication area, over 17,000 square feet of warehouse storage area and 8,000 square feet of training and medical facilities. The main yard also has approximately 2,800 linear feet of water frontage, of which 1,500 feet is steel bulkhead that permits load out of heavy structures.

Gulf Island s west yard is located across the Houma Navigation Canal from the main yard on 437 acres, 130 acres of which are developed for fabrication and over 300 acres of which are unimproved land that could be used for expansion. The west yard, which has approximately 72,000 square feet of covered fabrication area and 4,600 square feet of warehouse storage area, spans 6,750 linear feet of the Houma Navigation Canal, of which 2,350 feet is steel bulkhead. Our newly formed marine company when fully operational will be located in the west yard and the Dry Dock will primarily operate in the west yard slip**.** The marine company also utilizes a covered lean to area, connected to the panel line building, that is approximately 24,600 square feet.

Gulf Island s north yard, formerly the Southport facility, operates on the east bank of the Houma Navigation Canal adjacent to Gulf Island s main fabrication yard. The facility covers 23 acres and includes a two-story, 5,000 square foot administration building with an attached 5,300 square foot warehouse. The property has approximately 1,850 linear feet of water frontage, of which 380 linear feet is steel bulkhead that permits docking of large ocean going vessels and the loadout of heavy structures.

Dolphin Services operates from a 30-acre site located approximately a quarter of a mile from Gulf Island s main yard on a channel adjacent to the Houma Navigation Canal. The facility includes a 9,900 square foot building that houses administrative staff, approximately 32,000 square feet of covered fabrication area, 1,500 square feet of warehouse storage area, a 10,000 square foot blasting and coating facility and approximately 990 linear feet of water frontage, of which 660 feet is steel bulkhead.

Gulf Marine s south yard in Ingleside, Texas is located on the northwest corner of the intersection between the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Corpus Christi Ship Channel. The 45 feet deep Corpus Christi Ship Channel provides direct and unrestricted access to the Gulf of Mexico, which makes this site ideal for the fabrication or assembly of many types of large structures. This facility is situated on approximately 212 acres developed for fabrication and assembly, and includes a fabrication shop with 5,000 square feet of covered fabrication area, 10,000 square feet of warehouse storage area and 2,700 square feet of training facilities. The yard also has approximately 2,650 linear feet of water frontage, of which all is steel bulkhead. Gulf Marine s Specialized Lifting Device (SLD) is located in the south yard and is used to perform heavy lifts of up to 4,000 tons such as ship integration and TLP module integration, load and offload jack-up drilling rigs or production hulls, semi-submersible drilling rigs, TLPs, SPARs or other similar cargo. In addition, Gulf Marine has dredged an area 86 feet deep within 500 feet of the bulkhead to be used in conjunction with the heavy lifts. This area measures 800 feet by 200 feet at the base and can accommodate the largest existing semi submersible transport vessels. In addition, the graving dock measures 600 feet long by 250 feet wide and 40 feet deep. It has a reinforced concrete slab floor, sheet pile walls and pile supported relieving platforms around the perimeter to take the surcharge load applied by cranes. The south end of the graving dock, which opens to the Corpus Christi Ship Channel, has a removable sheet piled wall supported by steel struts. When flooded, the graving dock has a minimum of 30 feet of water over the concrete floor. The graving dock was constructed to facilitate the fabrication and assembly of certain components of the MinDOC hull. Although the graving dock was constructed to facilitate the MinDOC hull, it can used for fabricating any floating structure that will fit within its perimeters and can also be used for ship and floating rig repair.

During 2009, Gulf Marine began construction of a gate for the graving dock to be completed in June 2010. The graving dock gate is a steel barge like structure consisting of a steel reinforced wall and a buoyancy

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tank. The floating structure is 240 long x 35 wide x 40 deep and weighs approximately 950 tons. The gate structure has rubber seals that engage the walls and the graving dock floor. Although the de-ballasting of the dock will require pumps, the gate will be equipped with piping to allow the gate to be flooded without the use pumps. The removal and installation of the gate will be a much shorter duration than the previous process involving sheet pile removal and installation. Removal of the gate will be accomplished within a day and installation and de-ballasting is estimated to take 3-4 days, whereas installation and removal of sheet piles would take well over a month and require replacing sheet piles quite often. This process improvement will enable the dry-docking of vessels for repairs on a relatively quick turnaround and open up new markets for the Gulf Marine Fabrication facility.

Gulf Marine s north yard in Aransas Pass, Texas is located along the U.S. Intracoastal Waterway and is approximately three miles north of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel. This facility is situated on approximately 160 acres, of which 85 acres are dedicated to fabrication activities, and 55 acres are used for the storage of steel, prefabricated elements, equipment, and spare parts and includes several buildings with approximately 328,000 square feet of covered fabrication area, 22,000 square feet that house the administrative staff, 61,750 square feet of warehouse storage area and 16,000 square feet of training and medical facilities. The yard also has approximately 3,000 linear feet of water frontage, of which approximately 1,000 is steel bulkhead. The north yard can fabricate decks, skids and modules, jackets, piles, MinDOC, SPAR and TLP components, process piping, tanks, barges and drill rig structure components.

We own all of the foregoing properties.

Equipment. Gulf Island s main yard houses its Model 34 and Model 25 plate bending rolls, a computerized Vernon brace coping machine used for cutting steel in complex geometric sections, a Frye Wheelabrator and a U.S. Filter grit blast system, a hydraulic plate shear, a hydraulic press brake, and various other equipment needed to build offshore structures and fabricate steel components. Gulf Island s west yard has a Bertsch Model 38 plate bending roll, a computerized Vernon brace coping machine, and various other equipment used in our fabrication business. The brace coping machine installed in Gulf Island s west yard can handle pipe up to 1,500 pounds per foot and 54 inch outer diameter compared to the capacity of the current machine in the main yard, which is 1,000 pounds per foot and 48 inch outer diameter. The brace coping machine in the west yard provides additional efficiencies because it can cut 360 degrees without repositioning itself. Also, by having two machines, Gulf Island can double its capacity to cut braces thereby reducing idle production time in the yard. Gulf Island has a computerized numeric controlled plasma-arc cutting system that cuts and bevels steel up to one inch thick at a rate of two hundred inches per minute. The system can also etch into steel for piece markings and layout markings at a rate of three hundred inches per minute. Gulf Island also owns 16 crawler cranes, which range in tonnage capacity from 150 to 500 tons each and service both of Gulf Island s yards. Gulf Island may rent additional cranes on a monthly basis in times of very high activity levels. Gulf Island owns six rubber-tired, hydraulic modular transporters (KAMAG Type 2406) that allow fabricated deck sections that weigh as much as 1,200 tons to be transported around the facility. The transporters allow easier load-out of smaller decks and they provide more agility for the movement of deck sections throughout the yard than cranes. Gulf Island owns a deck barge which gives it the ability to move material and equipment to and from the various facilities more conveniently and reduce the cost of barge rentals and certain other transportation costs. Gulf Island performs routine repairs and maintenance on all of its equipment.

Gulf Island s plate bending rolls allow it to roll and weld into tubular pipe sections approximately 50,000 tons of plate per year. By having such capacity at its fabrication facility, Gulf Island is able to coordinate all aspects of platform construction, thereby reducing the risk of cost overruns, delays in project completion, and labor costs. In addition, these facilities allow Gulf Island to participate as subcontractor on projects awarded to other contractors. Gulf Island has a state of the art, fully enclosed, and environmentally friendly blast and coating facility that can operate 24 hours a day. The facility is automated and provides blasting and coating activities in support of our Houma fabrication projects. The design output of the facility also allows us to provide blast and paint services to the local shipbuilding industry. The use of this equipment provides Gulf Island a competitive advantage by reducing labor costs.

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Gulf Island s panel line system, located in its west yard, consists of six individual in-line fully automated systems utilized to cut, weld, and assemble panels to be used in marine vessel construction. The first station consists of an ESAB Avenger 3 Plasma cutting table for high speed cutting and beveling of steel plates and shapes. The second station incorporates an Ogden Model OSWS-5600 single sided welder complete with an electro magnetic plate holding system whereby two steel plates are automatically welded together in a single pass utilizing a multiple sub arc welding process. This process can be repeated up to four times with a result of a single panel having an overall dimension of 40 by 50 feet. An ESAB Avenger 3-13 plate marking and cutting machine is positioned at the third station which lays out the welded panels, marks the applicable locations for stiffeners installation, and cuts the plate to required configurations. The fourth station utilizes an Ogden Model SF-5600 stiffener fitting system to properly align and tack in place the plate stiffeners. The fifth station consists of an Ogden Model SW-5600-3 multiple stiffener welding system whereby three each longitudinal plate stiffeners can be automatically welded (both sides) in a single operation performing continuous or intermittent welding of the stiffeners. There is also an automated conveyor system that operates along the panel line which transfers the panels from station to station. The sixth station is a vertical lifting system that elevates the fabricated panels to the required height for transportation to the field.

Dolphin Services owns three spud barges for use in connection with its inshore construction activities. Each barge is equipped with a crane with a lifting capacity of 60 to 100 tons each. Dolphin Services also owns three Manitowoc 4100 cranes with lifting capacities of 200 to 230 tons each and two smaller crawler cranes with lifting capacities of 60 tons each.

Gulf Marine s SLD is a twin boom device with a below hook rating of 4,000 tons at a radius of 207 feet from the bulkhead. The 410-foot booms are 100 feet apart and provide a lifting height of 317 feet from the water. The unit is powered electro-hydraulically with each drum winch driven independently by two hydraulic motors. The lifting rate utilizing the double drum winch is 1.25 feet per minute and utilizing a single drum winch is 2.5 feet per minute. Gulf Marine also owns 12 crawler cranes, which range in tonnage capacity from 230 to 600 tons each. Gulf Marine s pipe mill is equipped with a Haeusler Quad Roll, and Bertsch Model 30, Model 34 and Model 36 plate bending roll machines for diameters ranging from 1 foot 6 inches to 10 feet and one large diameter plate bending roll machine, the Haeusler Quad Roll, for diameters ranging from 3 feet to 23 feet. The two Romar CNC-controlled flame planers, each with four torch stations (two torches per station), are used to cut steel plate up to 12 feet wide and 65 feet long. The Gulf Marine paint facility is equipped with a Pangborn shot blast machine, 20,000 square feet of climate controlled staging area and 16 feet by 14 feet by 125 feet paint booth that can operate 24 hours a day. Gulf Marine owns six rubber-tired, hydraulic modular transporters (KAMAG Type 2406) similar to those in our Houma facility.

Materials and Supplies

The principal materials and supplies we use in the fabrication business are standard steel shapes, steel plate, welding gases, fuel oil, gasoline and paint, all of which are currently available from many sources, and we do not depend upon any single supplier or source. The global credit crisis of late 2008 and 2009 that weakened demand and pricing began to reverse itself in late 2009. During the last several months demand for minerals and metals, including steel, has increased in China and in the slowly recovering economies in the United States and Europe. What was a standard delivery of 4-6 weeks for steel in 2009 is now 10-14 weeks for heat treated material. Steel prices have increased 10% to 30% from the 4th quarter of 2009 to now, with prices expected to continue to rise during 2010. We often negotiate escalation clauses in our contract terms to increase the contract price proportionally with the increase of cost of materials purchased during the life of the contract.

Safety and Quality Assurance

Management is concerned with the safety and health of our employees and maintains a stringent safety assurance program to reduce the possibility of accidents. Our safety department establishes guidelines to ensure compliance with all applicable state and federal safety regulations and provides training and safety education

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through orientations for new employees and subcontractors, daily crew safety meetings and first aid and CPR training. We also employ in-house medical personnel. We have a comprehensive drug program and conduct periodic employee health screenings. A safety committee, whose members consist of management representatives and peer-elected field representatives, meets once a month to discuss safety concerns and suggestions that could prevent accidents. We also reward our employees with safety awards distributed throughout the year. These awards are the result of observations and audits performed by the safety department and front line supervision.

We fabricate to the standards and regulations of the American Petroleum Institute, the American Welding Society, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Bureau of Shipping, United States Coast Guard and specific customer specifications. We use welding and fabrication procedures in accordance with the latest technology and industry requirements. Training programs have been instituted to upgrade skilled personnel and maintain high quality standards. In addition, we maintain on-site facilities for the non-destructive testing of all welds, which process is performed by an independent contractor.

The quality management systems of Gulf Island, Dolphin Services, Southport and Gulf Marine are certified as ISO 9001-2008 programs. ISO 9001-2008 is an internationally recognized verification system for quality management overseen by the International Standard Organization based in Geneva, Switzerland. The certification is based on a review of our programs and procedures designed to maintain and enhance quality production and are subject to annual review and recertification.

Customers and Contracting

Our customers are primarily major and independent oil and gas exploration and production companies. We also may perform sub-contract work for one or more of our competitors. Over the past five years, sales of structures and related services used in the Gulf of Mexico by oil and gas exploration and production companies accounted for approximately 74% of our revenue. Our international sales fluctuate from year-to-year depending on whether and to what extent our customers require installation of fabricated structures outside of the United States. Sales of fabricated structures installed outside the United States comprised between 1% and 25% of revenue during each of the last five years, and accounted for 1%, 20% and 24% of revenue for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

A large portion of our revenue has historically been generated by several customers, although not necessarily the same customers from year-to-year. For example, our largest customers (those which individually accounted for more than 10% of revenue in a given year) accounted for 48% of revenue in 2009 (36% for Bluewater Industries, Inc. and 12% for Eni US Operating Co. Inc.), 54% of revenue in 2008 (37% for Bluewater Industries, Inc. and 17% for Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering, Ltd.), and 70% of revenue in 2007 (28% for Bluewater Industries, Inc., 23% for Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering, Ltd., and 19% for Chevron Corporation). In addition, at December 31, 2009, 95% of our backlog, which consists of work remaining at December 31, 2009 and commitments received through February 25, 2010, was attributable to 20 projects involving 13 customers. The level of fabrication that we may provide to any particular customer depends, among other things, on the size of that customer s capital expenditure budget devoted to project construction plans in a particular year and our ability to meet the customer s delivery schedule. Thus, customers that account for a significant portion of revenue in one fiscal year may represent an immaterial portion of revenue in subsequent years.

While customers may consider other factors, including the availability, capability, reputation and safety record of a contractor, price and the ability to meet a customer s delivery schedule are the principal factors on which we are awarded contracts. Our contracts generally vary in length from one month to 24 months depending on the size and complexity of the project. Generally, our contracts and projects are subject to termination at any time prior to completion, at the option of the customer. Upon termination, however, the customer is generally required to pay us for work performed and materials purchased through the date of termination and, in some instances, cancellation fees.

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Most of our projects are awarded on a fixed-price, unit rate, alliance/partnering or cost-plus basis. Under fixed-price contracts, we receive the price fixed in the contract, subject to adjustment only for change orders approved by the customer. As a result, we retain all cost savings but are also responsible for all cost overruns. Under a unit rate contract, material items or labor tasks are assigned unit rates of measure. The unit rates of measure will generally be amount of dollars per ton, per foot, per square foot, per item installed, etc. A typical unit rate contract can contain hundreds to thousands of unit rates of measure that all accumulate to determine the total contract value. Profit margins are built in to the unit rates and, similar to a fixed price contract, we retain all cost savings but are also responsible for all cost overruns. Under typical alliance/partnering arrangements, the parties agree in advance to a target price that includes specified levels of labor and material costs and profit margins. If the project is completed at less cost than that targeted in the contract, the contract price is reduced by a portion of the savings. If the cost of completion is greater than that targeted in the contract, the contract price is increased, but generally to the target price plus the actual incremental cost of materials and direct labor costs. Accordingly, under alliance/partnering arrangements, we have some protection from cost overruns but also share a portion of any cost savings with the customer. Under cost-plus arrangements, pursuant to which we receive a specified fee in excess of our direct labor and material costs, we are protected against cost overruns but do not benefit directly from cost savings. Because we generally price materials as pass-through items on our contracts, the cost and productivity of our labor force are the primary factors affecting our operating costs. Consequently, it is essential that we control the cost and productivity of the direct labor hours worked on our projects. As an aid to achieving this control, we place a single project manager in charge of the production operations related to each project and give significant discretion to the project manager, with oversight by the applicable subsidiary s President and our President. As an incentive to control costs, each of Gulf Island, Gulf Island Marine, Dolphin Services and Gulf Marine give bonuses to its employees totaling 5% to 6% of their separate company income before taxes depending on job position.

Seasonality

Although high activity levels in the oil and gas industry and capacity limitations can somewhat diminish the seasonal effects on our operation, our operations have historically been subject to seasonal variations in weather conditions and daylight hours. Since most of our construction activities take place outdoors, the number of direct labor hours worked generally declines during the winter months due to an increase in rainy and cold conditions and a decrease in daylight hours. In addition, our customers often schedule the completion of their projects during the summer months in order to take advantage of the milder weather during such months for the installation of their platforms. In recent years, seasonality has had less of an impact on income, mainly due to our ongoing investment in machinery and equipment and covered fabrication areas.

The table below indicates for each quarter of the last three fiscal years the percentage of the annual revenue, gross profit and net income, and the number of direct labor hours worked. Because of seasonal effects, full year results are not likely to be a direct multiple of any particular quarter or combination of quarters. Reductions in industry activity levels may tend to increase the seasonal effects on our operations.

	2009				2008				2007			
	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.
Revenue	27%	25%	25%	23%	29%	28%	22% a	21%	23%	29%	26%	21%
Gross profit	30%	21%	28%	21%	44%	39%	12% a	5%	15%	25%	31%	29%
Net income	30%	19%	29%	22%	46%	41%	10% a	3%	14%	25%	32%	28%
Direct labor hours (in 000 s)	857	791	811	697	967	1,019	931 a	903	878	901	887	916

a. We experienced approximately 3 weeks of downtime at our Houma facilities and 5 days of downtime at our Texas facilities as a result of the hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast during the third quarter of 2008.

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Competition

The offshore platform fabrication industry is highly competitive and influenced by events largely outside of the control of offshore platform fabrication companies. Platform fabrication companies compete intensely for available projects, which are generally awarded on a competitive bid basis with customers usually requesting bids on projects one to three months prior to commencement. Our marketing staff contacts engineering companies and oil and gas companies believed to have fabrication projects scheduled to allow us an opportunity to bid for the projects. Although price and the contractor s ability to meet a customer s delivery schedule are the principal factors in determining which qualified fabricator is awarded a contract for a project, customers also consider, among other things, the availability of technically capable personnel and facility space, a fabricator s efficiency, condition of equipment, reputation, safety record and customer relations.

We currently have several domestic competitors, including J. Ray McDermott, S.A. and Kiewit Offshore Services, for the fabrication of platform jackets to be installed in water depths greater than 300 feet. In addition to these companies, we compete with other fabricators for platform jackets for intermediate water depths from 150 feet to 300 feet. A number of other companies compete for projects designed for shallower waters. Certain of our competitors have greater financial and other resources than we do.

We believe that while new competitors can enter the market for smaller structures relatively easily, it is more difficult to enter the market for jackets designed for use in water depths greater than 300 feet. This difficulty results from the substantial investment required to establish an adequate facility, the difficulty of locating a facility adjacent to an adequate waterway due to environmental and wetland regulations, and the limited availability of experienced supervisory and management personnel.

We believe that our competitive pricing, expertise in fabricating offshore structures and the certification of our facilities as ISO 9001-2008 fabricators will enable us to continue to compete effectively for projects destined for international waters. We recognize, however, that foreign governments often use subsidies and incentives to create jobs where oil and gas production is being developed. In addition, the increased transportation costs that are incurred when exporting structures from the U.S. to foreign locations may hinder our ability to successfully bid for projects against foreign competitors. Because of subsidies, import duties and fees, taxes on foreign operators, lower wage rates in foreign countries, fluctuations in the value of the U.S. dollar, the possible imposition of tariffs on raw materials imported into the United States and other factors, we may not be able to remain competitive with foreign contractors for projects designed for use in international waters, as well as those designed for use in the Gulf of Mexico.

Backlog

Our backlog is based on management s estimate of the direct labor hours required to complete, and the remaining revenue to be recognized with respect to, those projects as to which a customer has authorized us to begin work or purchase materials pursuant to written contracts, letters of intent or other forms of authorization. Often, however, management s estimates are based on incomplete engineering and design specifications. As engineering and design plans are finalized or changes to existing plans are made, management s estimate of the direct labor hours required to complete and price at completion for such projects is likely to change. In addition, all projects currently included in our backlog are subject to termination at the option of the customer, although the customer in that case is generally required to pay us for work performed and materials purchased through the date of termination and, in some instances, cancellation fees. However, due to the large dollar amounts of backlog estimated for certain projects, a termination of any one of these projects could substantially decrease our backlog, and could have a material adverse effect on our revenue, net income and cash flow.

As of December 31, 2009, we had a revenue backlog of $136.8 million and a labor backlog of approximately 1.5 million man-hours remaining to work, which consists of work remaining at December 31, 2009 and commitments received through February 25, 2010, compared to the revenue backlog of $209.8 million and a labor backlog of 2.3 million man-hours reported in our Form 10-K at December 31, 2008.

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Our backlog at December 31, 2008, was adjusted to reflect the removal of $150.4 million and 1.6 million man-hours associated with the MinDOC II project in which the customer had announced has been postponed indefinitely.

Of the backlog at December 31, 2009, $19.9 million, or 14.5%, represented projects destined for deepwater locations compared to $50.4 million, or 24.0%, of projects destined for deepwater locations included in the December 31, 2008 backlog.

Of the backlog at December 31, 2009, we expect to recognize revenues of approximately $109.0 million (79.7%) during calendar year 2010 and $27.8 million during calendar year 2011.

Government and Environmental Regulation

Many aspects of our operations and properties are materially affected by federal, state and local regulations, as well as certain international conventions and private industry organizations. The exploration and development of oil and gas properties located on the outer continental shelf of the United States is regulated primarily by the Bureau of Minerals Management Service of the United States Department of the Interior (MMS). The MMS has promulgated federal regulations under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act requiring the construction of offshore platforms located on the outer continental shelf to meet stringent engineering and construction specifications. Violations of these regulations and related laws can result in substantial civil and criminal penalties as well as injunctions curtailing operations. We believe that our operations are in compliance with these and all other regulations affecting the fabrication of platforms for delivery to the outer continental shelf of the United States. In addition, we depend on the demand for our services from the oil and gas industry and, therefore, can be affected by changes in taxes, price controls and other laws and regulations relating to the oil and gas industry. Offshore construction and drilling in certain areas has also been opposed by environmental groups and, in certain areas, has been restricted. To the extent laws are enacted or other governmental actions are taken that prohibit or restrict offshore construction and drilling or impose environmental protection requirements that result in increased costs to the oil and gas industry in general and the offshore construction industry in particular, our business and prospects could be adversely affected. We cannot determine to what extent future operations and earnings may be affected by new legislation, new regulations or changes in existing regulations.

Until our acquisition of the Gulf Marine facilities, the Houma Navigation Canal provided the only means of access from our facilities to open waters. The Houma Navigation Canal is considered to be a navigable waterway of the United States and, as such, is protected by federal law from unauthorized obstructions that would hinder water-borne traffic. Federal law also authorizes federal maintenance of the canal by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The canal requires dredging to maintain its water depth and, while federal funding for this dredging has been provided for over 40 years, there is no assurance that Congressional appropriations sufficient for adequate dredging and other maintenance of the canal will be continued indefinitely. If sufficient funding were not appropriated for that purpose, the Houma Navigation Canal could become impassable by barges or other vessels required to transport many of our products and could have a material and adverse effect on our operations and financial position.

Our operations and properties are subject to a wide variety of increasingly complex and stringent foreign, federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations, including those governing discharges into the air and water, the handling and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes, the remediation of soil and groundwater contaminated by hazardous substances and the health and safety of employees. These laws may provide for strict liability for damages to natural resources and threats to public health and safety, rendering a party liable for the environmental damage without regard to negligence or fault on the part of such party. Sanctions for noncompliance may include revocation of permits, corrective action orders, administrative or civil penalties and criminal prosecution. Certain environmental laws provide for strict, joint and several liability for remediation of spills and other releases of hazardous substances, as well as damage to natural resources. In addition, we may be subject to claims alleging personal injury or property damage as a result of alleged exposure to hazardous substances. Such laws and regulations may also expose us to liability for the conduct of or conditions caused by others, or for acts that were in compliance with all applicable laws at the time we performed them.

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The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, and similar laws provide for responses to and liability for releases of hazardous substances into the environment. Additionally, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, each as amended, and similar foreign, state or local counterparts to these federal laws, regulate air emissions, water discharges, hazardous substances and wastes, and require public disclosure related to the use of various hazardous substances. Compliance with such environmental laws and regulations may require the acquisition of permits or other authorizations for certain activities and compliance with various standards or procedural requirements. We believe that our facilities are in substantial compliance with current regulatory standards.

Our operations are also governed by laws and regulations relating to workplace safety and worker health, primarily the Occupational Safety and Health Act and regulations promulgated thereunder. In addition, various other governmental and quasi-governmental agencies require us to obtain certain permits, licenses and certificates with respect to our operations. The kinds of permits, licenses and certificates required by our operations depend upon a number of factors. We believe that we have all material permits, licenses and certificates necessary for the conduct of our existing business.

Our compliance with these laws and regulations has entailed certain additional expenses and changes in operating procedures, which during the last three years have resulted in annual expenditures between $450,000 to $750,000. We believe that compliance with these laws and regulations will not have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition for the foreseeable future. However, future events, such as changes in existing laws and regulations or their interpretation, more vigorous enforcement policies of regulatory agencies, or stricter or different interpretations of existing laws and regulations, may require additional expenditures by us, which expenditures may be material.

Our employees may engage in certain activities, including interconnect piping and other service activities conducted on offshore platforms and activities performed on the spud barges owned by us, which are covered by the provisions of the Jones Act, the Death on the High Seas Act and general maritime law. These laws operate to make the liability limits established under state workers compensation laws inapplicable to these employees and, instead, permit them or their representatives to pursue actions against us for damages or job related injuries, with generally no limitations on our potential liability. Our ownership and operation of vessels can give rise to large and varied liability risks, such as risks of collisions with other vessels or structures, sinkings, fires and other marine casualties, which can result in significant claims for damages against us for, among other things, personal injury, death, property damage, pollution and loss of business.

In addition, our operations are subject to extensive government regulation by the United States Coast Guard, as well as various private industry organizations such as the American Petroleum Institute, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Welding Society and the American Bureau of Shipping.

Insurance

We maintain insurance against property damage caused by fire, flood, explosion and similar catastrophic events that may result in physical damage or destruction to our facilities. All policies are subject to deductibles and other coverage limitations. We also maintain a builder s risk policy for construction projects, general liability insurance and maritime employer s liability insurance which are also subject to deductibles and coverage limitations. The Company and our subsidiaries, Gulf Island, Dolphin Services and Gulf Island Marine are self-insured for workers compensation and U.S. longshoreman and harbor workers except for losses in excess of $300,000 per occurrence. Gulf Marine and Gulf Island Resources workers compensation and U.S. longshoreman and harbor workers coverage is similar to that of Gulf Island, Dolphin Services and Gulf Island Marine, except that the coverage is subject to a $300,000 per occurrence deductible. Dolphin Steel Sales workers compensation and U.S. longshoreman and harbor workers coverage is similar to Gulf Marine and Gulf Island Resources except that the coverage is subject to no retention per occurrence. Although management

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believes that our insurance is adequate, there can be no assurance that we will be able to maintain adequate insurance at rates which management considers commercially reasonable, nor can there be any assurance that such coverage will be adequate to cover all claims that may arise.

Employees

Our workforce varies based on the level of ongoing fabrication activity at any particular time. As of December 31, 2009 and 2008, we had approximately 1,400 and 1,825 employees. Additionally, we will use contract labor when required to meet customer demand. During 2009, we began to reduce our headcount. These efforts have continued through early 2010, and, as of March 4, 2010, we had approximately 1,375 employees. None of our employees are employed pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement, and we believe our relationship with our employees is good.

Our ability to remain productive and profitable depends substantially on our ability to attract and retain skilled construction workers, primarily welders, fitters and equipment operators. In addition, our ability to expand our operations depends not only upon customer demand but also on our ability to increase our labor force. The demand for such workers is high and the supply is extremely limited, especially during periods of high activity in the oil and gas industry. While we believe our relationship with our skilled labor force is good, a significant increase in the wages paid by competing employers could result in a reduction in our skilled labor force, increases in the wage rates we may pay, or both. If either of these occurred in the near-term the profits expected from work in progress could be reduced or eliminated and in the long-term, to the extent such wage increases could not be passed on to our customers, our production capacity could be diminished and the growth potential could be impaired. In an effort to maintain our current workforce, we have enhanced several incentive programs and expanded our training facility to train our employees on productivity and safety matters.

Current global economic conditions and the steep decline in oil and gas prices have caused companies to remove projects from the bidding process or reduce the dollar value of projects. The current reduction in available work in the market and declines in profit from work that is available could cause us to undertake additional cost reduction measures, including further reduction in our workforce.

Item 1A. Risk Factors