

ATWOOD OCEANICS INC
Form DEF 14A
January 03, 2013

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only** (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

ATWOOD OCEANICS, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transactions applies: N/A

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(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies: N/A

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined): N/A

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction: N/A

(5) Total fee paid: None

.. Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

.. Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid: N/A

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.: N/A

(3) Filing Party: N/A

(4) Date Filed: N/A

ATWOOD OCEANICS, INC.

15835 Park Ten Place Drive

Houston, Texas 77084

January 7, 2013

Dear Shareholder:

You are cordially invited to join us for our 2013 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 10:00 A.M., Houston Time, at the principal executive offices of Atwood Oceanics, Inc., 15835 Park Ten Place Drive, Houston, Texas 77084.

The materials following this letter include the formal Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders and the proxy statement. The proxy statement describes the business to be conducted at the meeting, which includes the election of seven members of our Board of Directors to serve one-year terms, an advisory, non-binding resolution to approve our executive compensation for fiscal year 2012, the approval of our 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan, the approval of the amendment and restatement of our Certificate of Formation which, among other things, removes the requirement that our Board of Directors be fixed at seven members, and the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent auditors for the 2013 fiscal year. At the Annual Meeting, we will also report on industry matters of current interest to our shareholders, and you will have an opportunity to ask questions following the completion of business.

It is important that your shares be represented. Regardless of whether you plan to attend the meeting in person, please take a moment now to vote your proxy over the Internet, by telephone, or, if printed proxy materials are mailed to you, by completing and signing the form of proxy and promptly returning it in the envelope provided. The Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders on the following page includes instructions on how to vote your shares.

The officers and directors of Atwood Oceanics, Inc. appreciate and encourage shareholder participation. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Saltiel

President and Chief Executive Officer

ATWOOD OCEANICS, INC.
15835 PARK TEN PLACE DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77084

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

DATE Thursday, February 14, 2013

TIME 10:00 A.M., Houston Time

PLACE 15835 Park Ten Place Drive
Houston, Texas 77084

- ITEMS OF BUSINESS
1. To elect the seven members of our Board of Directors specified in the accompanying proxy statement to serve one-year terms.
 2. To approve, by a shareholder non-binding advisory vote, the compensation of our named executive officers.
 3. To approve our 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan.
 4. To approve the amendment and restatement of our Certificate of Formation which, among other things, removes the requirement that our Board of Directors be fixed at seven members.
 5. To ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent auditors for fiscal year 2013.
 6. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

RECORD DATE You may vote, in person or by proxy, at the Annual Meeting if you were a holder of record of our common stock at the close of business on December 18, 2012.

VOTING BY PROXY In order to avoid additional soliciting expense to us, please vote your proxy as soon as possible, even if you plan to attend the meeting. Shareholders of record can vote by one of the following methods:

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1. Call 1-800-690-6903 to vote by telephone;
2. Go to *www.proxyvote.com* to vote over the Internet; or
3. MARK, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN your proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. If you are voting by telephone or the Internet, please do not mail your proxy card.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIAL FOR THE
SHAREHOLDERS MEETING TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2013.**

A COPY OF THE PROXY STATEMENT, A FORM OF PROXY, AND THE ATWOOD
OCEANICS, INC. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS ARE

AVAILABLE AT *www.proxyvote.com*.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Walter A. Baker

Corporate Secretary

January 7, 2013

2013 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

ATWOOD OCEANICS, INC.

PROXY STATEMENT

This proxy statement relates to the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Atwood Oceanics, Inc. for use at the 2013 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on February 14, 2013 at 10:00 A.M., Houston Time, at our principal executive offices, 15835 Park Ten Place Drive, Houston, Texas, 77084 and at any and all adjournments or postponements thereof. This proxy statement contains information about the items being voted on at the Annual Meeting. Please read it carefully.

This proxy statement, a form of proxy and voting instructions are expected to be mailed on or about January 7, 2013. Our 2012 Annual Report to Shareholders, including consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2012, is expected to be mailed at the same time. The Annual Report is not to be considered as a part of the proxy solicitation material or as having been incorporated by reference into this proxy statement.

Our principal executive office is located at 15835 Park Ten Place Drive, Houston, Texas 77084, our telephone number is (281) 749-7800 and our website address is www.atwd.com. Information contained on our website, including information referred to in this proxy statement, is not to be considered as part of the proxy solicitation material and is not incorporated by reference into this proxy statement.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT VOTING

Who is entitled to vote?

Only holders of record of our common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, on December 18, 2012 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. As of the record date, there were 65,630,331 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the meeting. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote on all matters, except the election of directors. In the election of directors, a shareholder may exercise his right to cumulate votes as detailed under "What are the requirements to elect the directors and approve each of the proposals?" below. No other class of securities will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

A complete list of shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting will be open to the examination of any shareholder for any purpose germane to the Annual Meeting for a period of 10 days prior to the meeting at the Company's principal executive offices set forth above during usual business hours. Such list shall also be open to the examination of any shareholder present at the meeting.

Who is soliciting my proxy to vote my shares?

Our Board of Directors is soliciting your proxy, or your authorization for our representatives to vote your shares. Your proxy will be effective for the Annual Meeting and at any adjournments or postponements thereof.

What are the Board of Directors' voting recommendations regarding the election of directors and proposals?

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote as follows:

	Proposal to be Voted Upon	Recommendation
Proposal No. 1	Election of seven nominees to the Board of Directors	<i>FOR</i> Each Nominee
Proposal No. 2	Advisory vote on the Company's executive compensation	<i>FOR</i>
Proposal No. 3	Approval of the Company's 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan	<i>FOR</i>
Proposal No. 4	Approval of the amendment and restatement of the Company's Certificate of Formation	<i>FOR</i>
Proposal No. 5	Ratification of the Company's independent auditors	<i>FOR</i>

What constitutes a quorum?

For business to be conducted at the meeting, a quorum constituting a majority of the shares of common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote must be in attendance or represented by proxy. Abstentions and broker non-votes (defined below) will be considered as present for quorum purposes.

How do I vote?

Shareholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting may vote in person or by proxy. Proxies may be submitted over the Internet, by telephone or by mail. Proxies submitted over the Internet or by telephone must be received by 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time, on Wednesday, February 13, 2013. Submitting a proxy authorizes the persons appointed as proxies to vote your shares at the Annual Meeting in the manner that you have indicated. The persons named in the form of proxy (Mark L. Mey and Walter A. Baker) have advised that they will vote all shares represented by proxy unless authority to so vote is withheld by the shareholder granting the proxy. In the election of directors, such persons will have the discretion to cumulate the votes of the shares represented by proxy, although the exercise of such discretion is not expected. If your proxy does not indicate your vote, the persons named in the proxy will vote your shares *FOR* the Board's director nominees, *FOR* approval of the advisory resolution regarding executive compensation, *FOR* approval of our 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan, *FOR* the approval of the amendment and restatement to our Certificate of Formation, and *FOR* the ratification of the appointment of our independent auditors. If any other matters properly come before the meeting, your shares will be voted in accordance with the discretion of the persons named in the proxy.

Can I change my vote?

A proxy may be revoked by a shareholder at any time before it is voted by giving notice of the revocation in writing to the Company's Corporate Secretary at 15835 Park Ten Place Drive, Houston, Texas 77084, by submitting another valid proxy by mail, telephone or over the Internet that is later dated and, if mailed, is properly signed, or by voting in person at the meeting.

What are the requirements to elect the directors and approve each of the proposals?

The election of directors at the Annual Meeting requires the vote of holders of a plurality of the shares represented in person or by proxy at a meeting at which a quorum is present. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not affect the election outcome.

Each share of common stock entitles its owner to one vote except with respect to the election of directors. With respect to the election of directors, each shareholder has the right to vote in person or by proxy the number of shares registered in his name for as many persons as there are directors to be elected, or to cumulate such votes and give one candidate as many votes as shall equal the number of directors to be elected multiplied by the number of his shares, or to distribute the votes so cumulated among as many candidates as he may desire. In the event of cumulative voting, the candidates for directors receiving the highest number of votes, up to the number of directors to be elected, shall be elected.

If a shareholder desires to exercise his right to cumulate votes for directors, the laws of the State of Texas, the state in which we are incorporated, require the shareholder to give our Corporate Secretary written notice of such intention on or before the day preceding the meeting. Such notice should be sent to: Atwood Oceanics, Inc., P. O. Box 218350, Houston, Texas 77218, Attn: Corporate Secretary. If any shareholder gives such notice, all shareholders have the right to use cumulative voting at the meeting. The persons named in the form of proxy (Mark L. Mey and Walter A. Baker) are not expected to exercise the right to cumulate votes for the election of the directors named elsewhere in this proxy statement, although such persons shall have discretionary authority to do so.

The advisory vote on the Company's executive compensation and the ratification of the appointment of independent auditors each require the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock present or represented by proxy who are entitled to vote, and who voted for or against the proposal, at a meeting at which a quorum is present. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of these proposals.

The approval of our 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock present or represented by proxy who are entitled to vote, and who voted for or against the proposal, at a meeting at which a quorum is present; provided that the total votes cast on the proposal represent a majority of the shares of common stock entitled to vote on the proposal. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the approval of our 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan, except that abstentions will count as a vote cast with respect to the requirement that total votes cast represent a majority of the shares of common stock entitled to vote.

Approval of the amendment and restatement of the Company's Certificate of Formation will require the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have the same effect as a vote *AGAINST* the approval of the amendment and restatement.

If my shares are held in a street name by my broker, will my broker vote my shares for me?

Brokers holding shares must vote according to specific instructions they receive from the beneficial owners of those shares. If brokers do not receive specific instructions, brokers may in some cases vote the shares in their discretion. Under New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) rules, the proposal to ratify the appointment of independent auditors is considered a discretionary item. This means that brokerage firms may vote in their discretion on this matter on behalf of clients who have not furnished voting instructions at least 10 days before the date of the meeting. In contrast, the election of directors, the advisory vote on executive compensation, the approval of the 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan, and the approval of the amendment and restatement of our Certificate of Formation are non-discretionary items. This means brokerage firms that have not received voting instructions from their clients on these proposals may not vote on them. These so-called broker non-votes will be considered to be present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum.

What happens if I am a registered holder?

If your shares are registered directly in your name, you are the holder of record of such shares. As the holder of record, you have the right to give your proxy directly to us, to give your voting instructions by telephone or over the Internet or to vote in person by ballot at the meeting.

What happens if I abstain or withhold my vote on any proposal?

Abstentions are counted as present in determining whether the quorum requirement is satisfied. With respect to the director elections, the advisory vote on our executive compensation and the ratification of the appointment of independent auditors, abstentions will have no effect on the outcome. Abstentions will have no effect on the

outcome of our 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan, except that they will count as a vote cast with respect to the requirement that total votes cast represent a majority of the shares of common stock entitled to vote. Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote *AGAINST* the approval of the amendment and restatement.

Does Atwood offer electronic delivery of proxy materials?

Yes. We are making this proxy statement, the form of proxy and our 2012 Annual Report available to shareholders electronically via the Internet on www.proxyvote.com. On or about January 7, 2013, we began mailing to our shareholders proxy materials and a Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders containing instructions on how to access this proxy statement and our Annual Report and how to vote by telephone or online. The notice is not a form for voting.

What is householding ?

Securities and Exchange Commission rules allow us to deliver a single copy of our Annual Report and proxy statement to any household not participating in electronic proxy material delivery at which two or more shareholders reside, if we believe the shareholders are members of the same family. This rule benefits both you and the Company. We believe it eliminates duplicate mailings to shareholders living at the same address and reduces our printing and mailing costs. This rule applies to any Annual Report or proxy statement. Each shareholder will continue to receive a separate proxy card or voting instruction card.

Your household may have received a single set of proxy materials this year. If you prefer to receive your own copy, or if you have received multiple copies and prefer a single set, please make your request by calling 1-800-690-6903, using the website www.proxyvote.com, by e-mail at sendmaterial@proxyvote.com, or in writing to Atwood Oceanics, Inc., c/o Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, 17 Battery Place, New York, New York 10004.

If a broker or other nominee holds your shares, you may continue to receive some duplicate mailings. Certain brokers will eliminate duplicate account mailings by allowing shareholders to consent to such elimination or through implied consent if a shareholder does not request continuation of duplicate mailings. Since not all brokers and nominees may offer shareholders the opportunity this year to eliminate duplicate mailings, you may need to contact your broker or nominee directly to discontinue duplicate mailings to your household.

What if I plan to attend the Annual Meeting?

Attendance at the Annual Meeting will be limited to shareholders as of the record date, December 18, 2012. Each shareholder may be asked to present valid picture identification, such as a driver's license or passport. Shareholders holding common stock in brokerage accounts or by a bank or other nominee will be required to show a brokerage statement or account statement reflecting stock ownership as of the record date. Cameras, recording devices and certain other electronic devices will not be permitted at the Annual Meeting.

How are proxies being solicited?

We are soliciting the proxies and will bear the entire cost of this solicitation. It is expected that the solicitation will be primarily by mail, telephone and facsimile. We have arranged for Okapi Partners, LLC, 437 Madison Ave., 28th Floor, New York, New York 10022, to solicit proxies on our behalf for a fee of \$8,500 plus out-of-pocket expenses. Proxies may also be solicited personally by our directors, officers and other employees in the ordinary course of business. No additional compensation for soliciting proxies will be paid to our directors, officers or other regular employees for their proxy solicitation efforts. We will also reimburse brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their out-of-pocket expenses in sending these materials to you.

What do I do if I receive more than one notice or proxy card?

If you hold your shares in more than one account, you will receive a notice or proxy card for each account. To ensure that all of your shares are voted, please sign, date and return all proxy cards or use each proxy card or notice to vote by telephone or Internet. Please be sure to vote all of your shares.

Will there be any other business conducted at the Annual Meeting?

The Board of Directors is not aware of any other matters that are to be presented for action at the meeting. However, if any other matters properly come before the meeting, your shares will be voted in accordance with the discretion of the appointed proxies.

Who is the Transfer Agent?

Our Transfer Agent is Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company. All communications concerning shareholders of record accounts, including address changes, name changes, common stock transfer requirements, and similar issues can be handled by contacting Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company by phone at 212-509-4000, ext. 206, via email at cstmail@continentalstock.com, or in writing at 17 Battery Place, New York, New York 10004.

PROPOSAL NO. 1**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

At our Annual Meeting of Shareholders, seven directors are to be elected for terms of one year each. All seven director nominees are currently serving as directors and are standing for re-election.

Nominees	Present Position	Served as a Director	Age
	with the Company	Continuously Since	
Deborah A. Beck	Director	February 2003	65
George S. Dotson	Director	February 1988	72
Jack E. Golden	Director	September 2009	64
Hans Helmerich	Director	February 1989	54
James R. Montague	Director	June 2006	65
Robert J. Saltiel	Director; President and Chief Executive Officer	February 2010	49
Phil D. Wedemeyer	Director	October 2011	63

The nominees have agreed to be named in this proxy statement and have indicated a readiness to continue to serve if elected. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors has determined that each of the nominees qualifies for election under its criteria for the evaluation of directors and has recommended that each of the candidates be nominated for election. If any nominee becomes unable to serve before the Annual Meeting, shares represented by proxy may be voted for a substitute designated by the Board, unless a contrary instruction is indicated on the proxy. The Board has no reason to believe that any of the nominees will become unavailable. As detailed under Corporate Governance Director Independence below, the Board has affirmatively determined that each of the nominees, other than Mr. Saltiel, qualifies as independent as that term is defined under the rules of the NYSE and the SEC.

Information about Nominees

Deborah A. Beck has served on the Board of Directors since February 2003. Ms. Beck served as Executive Vice President Planning and Technology and a member of the Management Committee of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company from 2000 until her retirement in 2006. Ms. Beck joined Northwestern Mutual in 1975 and during her tenure served in various executive capacities, including Senior Vice President-Insurance Operations, Vice President New Business, and Vice-President of Policy Benefits and Assistant General Counsel. Northwestern Mutual is a leading direct provider of individual life insurance and offers insurance products, investment products and advisory services. Ms. Beck also serves as a director of West Bend Mutual Insurance Company, a private property and casualty insurance company.

George S. Dotson has served on the Board of Directors since February 1988. Mr. Dotson served as an advisor to Helmerich & Payne, Inc. from March 2006 to March 2009 and was a Director from March 1989 to March 2007. He served as Vice President Drilling of Helmerich & Payne, Inc. and President of Helmerich & Payne International Drilling Co. from 1977 until his retirement in 2006. Helmerich & Payne, Inc. is a publicly-traded energy-oriented company primarily engaged in contract drilling of oil and gas wells both in the United States and internationally. Mr. Dotson also serves as a director of EdgeMarc Energy Holdings, LLC, a privately-held oil and gas exploration and production company.

Jack E. Golden has served on the Board of Directors since September 2009. Dr. Golden is managing partner of Edgewater Energy LLC, a Texas based oil and gas company. Previously, Dr. Golden was employed by BP p.l.c. from 1982 through his retirement in 2005, where he served in various executive capacities including Group Vice President Exploration and Production. As Group Vice President Exploration and Production, he directed significant portions of BP's global exploration and production operations. Dr. Golden also serves as a director of Cobalt International Energy, Inc., a publicly-traded independent exploration and production company.

Hans Helmerich has served on the Board of Directors since February 1989. Since March 2012, Mr. Helmerich has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, as well as a director, of Helmerich & Payne, Inc., a publicly-traded energy-oriented company primarily engaged in contract drilling of oil and gas wells both in the United States and internationally, previous to which he served as President and Chief Executive Officer, as well as a director, for over 20 years. Mr. Helmerich also serves as a director of Cimarex Energy Co., a publicly-traded energy exploration and production company, and as a trustee of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company.

James R. Montague has served on the Board of Directors since June 2006. Mr. Montague served as President of Encana Gulf of Mexico, Inc., a subsidiary of Encana Corporation which is involved in oil and gas exploration and production, from December 2001 to until his retirement in October 2002. Previously, Mr. Montague served as President of two subsidiaries of International Paper Company, IP Petroleum Company, an oil and gas exploration and production company, and GCO Minerals Company, which manages International Paper Company's mineral holdings from 1996 to June 2001. Mr. Montague also serves as a director of Magellan Midstream Partners, L.P., a publicly-traded limited partnership engaged in the transportation, storage and distribution of refined petroleum products, and serves as the non-executive Chairman of the Board of Davis Petroleum Company, a private company. Mr. Montague was a director of PVR Partners, L.P., a publicly-traded limited partnership which owns and manages coal and natural resource properties and related assets and owns and operates midstream natural gas gathering and processing businesses, from August 2001 until September 2012.

Robert J. Saltiel has served as the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer since December 2009 and was first elected to the Board of Directors in February 2010. Mr. Saltiel has more than 25 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, having served in a variety of leadership roles focused on general management, operations, marketing and strategic planning. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Saltiel was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Transocean Ltd. and from July 2003 to December 2009 served in various other executive roles at Transocean Ltd., including Executive Vice President, Performance and Senior Vice President of Transocean's North and South America Unit, which covered the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, Canada, Trinidad and Brazil.

Phil D. Wedemeyer has served on the Board of Directors since October 2011. In July 2011, Mr. Wedemeyer retired as a partner from Grant Thornton LLP, an international accounting firm, where he had served since August 2007. From May 2003 to July 2007, Mr. Wedemeyer served in various capacities with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), including serving as the Director, Office of Research and Analysis, from August 2005 to July 2007 and Deputy Director, Division of Registration and Inspection, from March 2004 to August 2005. Prior to his service with the PCAOB, Mr. Wedemeyer spent more than 31 years at Arthur Andersen SC, an international accounting firm, including 21 years as a partner. Mr. Wedemeyer serves as a director of HMS Income Fund Inc., a public business development corporation, and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant.

If a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting, the seven nominees receiving the greatest number of votes cast will be elected as directors.

Recommendation of the Board

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR election as directors of the persons nominated herein.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

General

The Board has established corporate governance practices to assist in the exercise of its responsibilities under applicable law and the listing standards of the NYSE and to govern the employees of the Company. These governance practices are contained in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, committee charters and Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. We have instituted mandatory sign-off and training for employees on our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and other relevant compliance topics, including our Anti-Bribery Compliance Program.

The non-management directors of our Board meet regularly in executive session at each regularly scheduled Board meeting without management participation. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that non-management directors will meet in executive session at least twice annually. Currently, the director who presides at these meetings is the Chairman of the Board. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that, if the Chairman ceases to be independent, then the presiding director will be chosen by a vote of the non-management directors or independent directors, as the case may be.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors evaluates the Company's and our Board of Directors governance practices and formally reviews all committee charters along with recommendations from the various committees of the Board of Directors at least annually. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors also receives updates as necessary regarding new developments in the corporate governance arena. In addition, our committee charters require, among other things, that the committees and the Board of Directors annually evaluate their own performance. Our current Corporate Governance Guidelines, committee charters, and Code of Business Conduct and Ethics may be found on our website at www.atwd.com under Investor Information Corporate Governance. Information contained on our website, including information referred to in this proxy statement, is not to be considered as part of this proxy statement and is not incorporated into this proxy statement. We will continue to monitor our governance practices in order to maintain our high standards.

Board Leadership

The Board of Directors has chosen not to combine the positions of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, and currently, Mr. George S. Dotson serves as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Dotson presides over the Board of Directors as it provides advice to and independent oversight of management, allowing our Chief Executive Officer to focus on strategic decisions, as well as have primary responsibility for managing our business. The Board of Directors believes that having separate positions is the appropriate leadership structure for us at this time and demonstrates our commitment to good corporate governance.

Codes of Ethics

Included with our Corporate Governance Guidelines detailed on our website, www.atwd.com, and available in print to any shareholder who requests a copy, are our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and our Code of Ethics for the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, currently Mr. Saltiel and Mr. Mey, respectively. We intend to satisfy the disclosure requirement regarding any changes in these codes of ethics we have adopted and/or any waiver therefrom by posting such information on our website or by filing a Form 8-K for such events.

Related Party Transaction Policy

Our Board of Directors has adopted a policy whereby all transactions with related parties must be made in compliance with the Board's policy on related party transactions. Such transactions must be recommended by management and must be on terms no less favorable to us than could be obtained from unrelated third parties. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving all related party transactions. No transactions requiring approval occurred during fiscal year 2012.

Risk Management

Our Board of Directors has oversight responsibility of the processes established to report and monitor material risks applicable to us. Our Audit Committee assists our Board of Directors in oversight of the integrity of the Company's financial statements, our compliance with standards of business ethics and legal and regulatory requirements and various matters relating to our publicly available financial information and our internal and independent auditors. Certain risks associated with the performance of our executive management fall within the authority of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, which is responsible for evaluating potential conflicts of interest and independence of directors and Board of Directors candidates, monitoring and developing corporate governance principles and overseeing the process by which our Board of Directors, our Chief Executive Officer and our executive management are evaluated. Risks associated with retaining executive management fall within the scope of the authority of our Compensation and Human Resources Committee (the Compensation Committee), which assists our Board of Directors in reviewing and administering compensation, benefits, incentive and equity-based compensation plans. To assist in satisfying these responsibilities, the Compensation Committee has retained its own compensation consultant and meets regularly with management to understand the financial, human resources and shareholder implications of compensation decisions being made. Responsibility for risk oversight that does not fall within the scope of authority of our four standing committees of the Board of Directors rests with our entire Board of Directors. Our Board of Directors also has the responsibility for monitoring and assessing any potential material risks identified by its committees, or otherwise ensuring management is monitoring and assessing, and, to the extent appropriate, mitigating such risks. Risks falling within this area include, but are not limited to, general business and industry risks, operating risks, financial risks and compliance risks.

The Board of Directors has delegated to management the responsibility to manage risk and bring to the attention of the Board of Directors the most material risks to our Company. We have not assigned the responsibility for all risk management to a single risk management officer within our executive management. Rather, we rely on a management committee to administer an enterprise risk management (ERM) program that is designed to ensure that all significant risks to the Company, on a consolidated basis, are being managed and monitored appropriately. Our Internal Audit Department oversees an annual enterprise risk assessment (ERA). The ERA is designed to identify the portfolio of the Company's business risks, to individually evaluate their potential magnitude and likelihood of occurrence, and to identify existing and potential future mitigation strategies. The ERM program assesses the most significant risks from the ERA, identifies other operational, commercial, macroeconomic and geopolitical risks facing the Company, monitors key indicators to assess the effectiveness of the Company's risk management activities, and manages risks to be within the Company's desired risk profile. Meetings are held at least quarterly to discuss risk mitigation efforts to manage identified risks. The management team present in the risk management meetings includes our President and Chief Executive Officer, our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and the other members of our management team charged with evaluating the Company's disclosure controls. Meetings are facilitated by our Internal Audit Department head. Our Board of Directors monitors ERM and other risk management information provided to it to assess the Company's risk management practices and systems in light of the risk philosophy and risk tolerance of the Board. The ERM results are reported to the Board of Directors each quarter to assist in its oversight of risk management.

Process for Communication by Interested Parties with the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has established a process whereby interested parties may communicate with the Board of Directors and/or with any individual director. Interested parties, including shareholders, may send communications in writing, addressed to the Board of Directors or an individual director, c/o the Corporate Secretary, Atwood Oceanics, Inc., 15835 Park Ten Place Drive, Houston, Texas 77084. The Corporate Secretary will forward these communications as appropriate to the addressee depending on the facts and circumstances outlined in the communication. The Board of Directors has directed the Corporate Secretary not to forward certain items such as spam, junk mailings, product inquiries, resumes and other forms of job inquiries, surveys

and business solicitations. Additionally, the Board of Directors has advised the Corporate Secretary not to forward material that is illegal or threatening, but to make the Board of Directors aware of such material which it may request be forwarded, retained or destroyed at the Board of Directors' discretion. The interested party may alternatively submit such communications through the MySafeWorkplace system. The MySafeWorkplace system can be contacted via telephone at 1-800-461-9330 or on the internet at www.MySafeWorkplace.com. The interested party should click "Go" on "Make A Report", choose Atwood Oceanics Management, Inc. as the organization, and then select "Communicate with Non-Management Directors" as the Incident Type. The communication process is also further detailed on our website, www.atwd.com, along with other of our corporate governance guidelines, and is available in print to any shareholder who requests a copy.

Director Independence

Our Board of Directors has determined that all six of the current non-management directors of the Company (Ms. Beck and Messrs. Dotson, Golden, Helmerich, Montague and Wedemeyer) qualify as independent under the corporate governance rules of the NYSE and that each member of the Audit Committee qualifies as independent under Rule 10A-3 of the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act). Each of the six non-management directors of the Company are also non-employee directors as defined under Rule 16b-3 of the Exchange Act and outside directors as defined in section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code). The Board of Directors has not established separate independence requirements beyond those of the NYSE, Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act or the Code.

In determining the independence of Messrs. Helmerich and Dotson, the Board of Directors specifically considered the relationship of Helmerich & Payne, Inc. (H&P) and Helmerich & Payne International Drilling Co. (H&PIDC) to the Company. As of December 31, 2012, H&PIDC owned 8,000,000 shares of common stock, or approximately 12.19% of the issued and outstanding shares. H&P is the parent of H&PIDC. The Board determined that neither H&P nor H&PIDC are affiliates of the Company. In determining the independence of Mr. Wedemeyer in light of the expectation that he will be contracting to provide independent advice to Deloitte & Touche LLP in fiscal year 2013, the Board of Directors considered his service to and relationship with Deloitte & Touche LLP. In fiscal year 2012, we paid Deloitte & Touche LLP \$1,293,967 for tax and other non-audit services, which the Company believes reflects market rates for services rendered. The Board determined that the utilization of Deloitte & Touche LLP for tax and other non-audit services did not affect the determination of Mr. Wedemeyer's independence.

In addition, we have made no contributions to any tax exempt organization in which any independent director serves as an executive officer.

Specific Experience, Qualifications and Skills of the Members of Our Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is comprised of highly qualified individuals with unique and special skills that assist in effective management of the Company for the benefit of our shareholders. Each of our directors possesses certain experience, qualifications, attributes and skills, as further described below, that led to our conclusion that he or she should serve as a member of our Board of Directors. In addition to the biographical information with respect to each of our directors under the heading *Proposal No.1 Election of Directors Information about Nominees*, the following table shows additional experience and qualifications of our individual directors:

<i>Directors</i>	<i>Specific Qualifications and Skills</i>
Deborah A. Beck	<p>Over 30 years of executive experience</p> <p>Service on other boards, including on audit and compensation committees</p> <p>Leadership experience of complex organizations, including management responsibility for approximately 1,200 employees</p>
George S. Dotson	<p>Broad legal and compliance experience</p> <p>Over 30 years of public company contract drilling industry experience</p> <p>Service on other boards, including publicly-traded companies</p> <p>International oil and gas drilling experience</p> <p>Leadership experience of complex organizations and operations of a major corporation</p>
Jack E. Golden	<p>Finance experience</p> <p>Over 20 years of public company oil and gas exploration and production company management experience</p> <p>Service on other boards, including a publicly-traded independent exploration and production company board, and on compensation committees</p>
Hans Helmerich	<p>Over 20 years of executive experience with publicly-traded contract drilling company with international operations</p>

Service on other boards, including a publicly-traded contract drilling company and a publicly-traded exploration and production company

Extensive knowledge of leadership in complex organizations and other aspects of operating a major corporation

Experience as a chief executive officer of a publicly-traded company

James R. Montague

Service as chief executive officer of three subsidiary companies of two large publicly-traded companies

Service on other publicly-traded companies boards, including service on audit and compensation committees

Extensive experience in the oil and gas exploration industry, including both onshore and offshore

Directors

Robert J. Saltiel

Specific Qualifications and Skills

Serves as our President and Chief Executive Officer

Over 25 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, with leadership roles focused on general management, operations, marketing and strategic planning

Over nine years of executive experience with publicly-traded offshore contract drilling companies with international operations

Phil D. Wedemeyer

More than 30 years of public accounting firm experience

Service with the PCAOB

Service on the Auditing Standards Board of the AICPA

In-depth knowledge of accounting rules and regulation, including expertise in SEC filings, and international audit standards.

Service on other publicly-traded company boards, including on audit and compliance committees

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD AND MEETINGS

The Board of Directors held six meetings in fiscal year 2012, of which two were telephonic meetings. Each director attended 100% of the total meetings of the Board and each director attended 100% of the total meetings of the committees on which such director served. Additionally, the non-management members of the Board of Directors met in executive session four times, each of which meetings was attended in person by each non-management director. The Company does not have a policy with regard to Board of Directors attendance at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders. Last year, one member of the Board of Directors, Mr. Saltiel, attended the Annual Meeting of Shareholders held on February 9, 2012.

The Board currently has, and appoints members to, four standing Committees: Audit, Compensation, Executive, and Nominating and Corporate Governance. The following chart shows the current committee membership and positions of each director:

Director	Audit Committee	Compensation Committee	Executive Committee	Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee
Deborah A. Beck	X	X (Chair)		X
George S. Dotson	X	X	X (Chair)	X
Jack E. Golden	X	X		X
Hans Helmerich			X	X
James R. Montague	X	X		X (Chair)
Robert J. Saltiel			X	
Phil D. Wedemeyer +	X (Chair)	X		X

+ Audit Committee Financial Expert

Audit Committee. The Audit Committee consists of Ms. Beck and Messrs. Dotson, Golden, Montague and Wedemeyer (Chair). The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Wedemeyer serves as the audit committee financial expert as that term is defined under the applicable federal securities laws and regulations. The Audit Committee reviews our accounting policies and audit procedures, and supervises internal accounting controls. The Audit Committee held nine meetings during fiscal year 2012, of which five were telephonic. Our Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee, a copy of which is accessible on our website, www.atwd.com, and is available in print to any shareholder upon request.

Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee consists of Ms. Beck (Chair) and Messrs. Dotson, Golden, Montague and Wedemeyer and is responsible for administration of our stock incentive plans and for the review and recommendation to the full Board of Directors of all compensation for our directors, officers and employees. During fiscal year 2012, there were seven meetings of the Compensation Committee, of which three were telephonic. Our Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Compensation Committee which is accessible on our website, www.atwd.com, and is available in print to any shareholder upon request. Pursuant to the charter, the Compensation Committee may delegate its authority to a subcommittee or subcommittees, provided that the subcommittee is composed entirely of independent directors and has a published charter.

Executive Committee. The Executive Committee consists of Messrs. Dotson (Chair), Helmerich and Saltiel and is responsible for review of major decisions and acts as delegated by the Board of Directors. During fiscal year 2012, there was one meeting of the Executive Committee. Our Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Executive Committee which is accessible on our website, www.atwd.com, and is available in print to any shareholder upon request.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee consists of Ms. Beck and Messrs. Dotson, Golden, Helmerich, Montague (Chair) and Wedemeyer and is responsible for assisting the Board of Directors in determining the appropriate size and composition of the Board of Directors, as well as in monitoring and making recommendations regarding the Board of Directors performance. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee held two meetings during fiscal year 2012. Our Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee which is accessible on our website, www.atwd.com, and is available in print to any shareholder upon request.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for, among other things, the selection and recommendation to the Board of Directors of nominees for election of directors. Working closely with the full Board, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee develops criteria for open Board positions, taking into account such factors as it deems appropriate, which may include the current composition of the Board, the range of talents and skills already represented on the Board, and the need for other particular expertise. Applying these criteria, the Committee considers candidates for Board membership suggested by its members as well as management and shareholders. From time to time, the Committee may retain third-party executive search firms to identify and review candidates. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider all director nominees recommended to it, including those recommended by third parties, and shareholders. Such nominations should be directed to any member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has no formal diversity policy, but thoughtfully considers the unique qualifications and skills of any candidate or nominee for the Board of Directors. A specific process for communication between shareholders and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is accessible on our website, www.atwd.com, under Investor Information Corporate Governance Contact the Atwood Oceanics, Inc. Board of Directors. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will evaluate all nominees, for the following:

personal qualities such as leadership, statesmanship and responsiveness;

general management qualities such as a global perspective on our business, short term results, strategic thinking and planning, knowledge of our business and preparedness;

financial expertise such as value creation, capital planning, and communications with the financial investment communities; and

qualities relating to the use of human resources such as developing management talent and creating an effective organization.

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Effective after the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, the Compensation Committee recommended, and the Board approved, the following compensation for our non-management directors, plus reimbursement of reasonable expenses:

	Annual Cash Retainer
Board	\$ 40,000
Chairman of the Board (additional retainer)	\$ 65,000
Audit Committee Chair (additional retainer)	\$ 15,000
Compensation Committee Chair (additional retainer)	\$ 10,000
Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Chair (additional retainer)	\$ 9,000

In addition, non-management directors receive a \$2,500 attendance fee for Board meetings attended in person and a \$1,000 attendance fee for telephonic meetings. Committee members receive a \$1,750 attendance fee for committee meetings attended in person and \$1,000 attendance fee for telephonic committee meetings. For fiscal year 2012, each director also received an annual grant of restricted stock under the Company's Amended

and Restated 2007 Long-Term Incentive Plan (2007 Plan) with a grant date fair value of \$115,000. In addition, upon being first elected to the Board, outside directors receive a grant of restricted stock with a grant date fair value of \$115,000. Such restricted stock grants vest 13 months following the date of grant unless vesting is deferred to a longer period under the Company's Non-Employee Directors Deferred Compensation Plan (Director Deferred Plan). In August 2012, the Board approved an increase in the annual Board cash retainer to \$50,000 and an increase in grant date fair value of the annual and initial grants of restricted stock to \$150,000, effective after the 2013 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in		Total (\$)
	Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)(1)(2)	
Deborah Beck	63,250	115,000	178,250
George Dotson	106,250	115,000	221,250
Jack Golden	54,000	115,000	169,000
Hans Helmerich	48,250	115,000	163,250
James Montague	76,000	115,000	191,000
Phil D. Wedemeyer	92,500	230,000(3)	322,500

- (1) The amounts in this column represent the grant date fair value of restricted stock awards granted for fiscal year 2012. Under SEC rules, the amounts shown exclude the impact of estimated forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions. The grant date fair value of these awards is calculated using the closing price of our common stock on the date of grant. For additional information, see Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2012 (our 2012 Form 10-K).
- (2) The number of restricted stock awards outstanding at September 30, 2012 for each director was as follows: Ms. Beck 2,462; Mr. Dotson 2,462; Mr. Golden 2,462; Mr. Helmerich 5,802; Mr. Montague 11,272; and Mr. Wedemeyer 5,315. The amounts for Mr. Helmerich and Mr. Montague include 3,340 and 11,272 restricted stock awards, respectively, the vesting of which has been deferred under the Director Deferred Plan until their respective retirements from the Board.
- (3) Mr. Wedemeyer's stock awards include an initial grant of restricted stock with a \$115,000 grant date fair value received upon joining the Board in October 2011 and his annual grant of restricted stock with a \$115,000 grant date fair value in March 2012.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT
Five Percent Owners

The following table reflects certain information known to us concerning persons beneficially owning more than 5% of our outstanding common stock as of close of business on December 31, 2012, based on the most recent information filed with the SEC by the person listed, other than with respect to H&PIDC. Information regarding H&PIDC was provided to us by H&PIDC. Unless otherwise noted, each shareholder listed below has sole voting and disposition power with respect to the shares listed.

Name and Address	Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned	Percent of Class
H&PIDC (1) 1437 South Boulder Avenue Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119	8,000,000	12.19%
Wellington Management Company, LLP (2) 280 Congress Street Boston, MA 02210	6,849,762	10.44%
Columbia Wanger Asset Management, LLC. (3) 227 West Monroe Street, Suite 3000 Chicago, IL 60606	5,028,028	7.66%
The London Company (4) 1801 Bayberry Court, Suite 301 Richmond, Virginia 23226	3,288,421	5.01%

- (1) Mr. Helmerich, one of our current directors and a director nominee, is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and a director of H&P. H&P owns 100% of H&PIDC. H&PIDC owns of record 8,000,000 shares of common stock. Mr. Helmerich has disclaimed beneficial ownership of the common stock owned by H&PIDC.
- (2) The information set forth above concerning shares of common stock beneficially owned by Wellington Management Company, LLP (Wellington) in its capacity as investment advisor was obtained from Amendment No. 1 to a Schedule 13G dated March 12, 2012 filed with the SEC by Wellington. Based on the amendment, Wellington has shared voting power with respect to 5,819,304 shares and shared dispositive power with respect to 6,849,762 shares.
- (3) The information set forth above concerning shares of common stock beneficially owned by Columbia Wanger Asset Management, LLC (Columbia) was obtained from Amendment No. 7 to a Schedule 13G dated February 10, 2012 filed with the SEC by Columbia which report includes shares held by Columbia Acorn Trust, a Massachusetts business trust, for which Columbia is an advisor. Based on the amendment, Columbia had sole voting power with respect to 4,540,557 shares and sole dispositive power with respect to 5,028,028 shares of our common stock.
- (4) The information set forth above concerning shares of common stock beneficially owned by The London Company (London) was obtained from a Schedule 13G dated October 10, 2012 filed with the SEC by London. Based on the Schedule 13G, London has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to 3,054,213 shares and shared dispositive power with respect to 234,208 shares.

Director and Executive Officer Shareholdings

The following table sets forth the amount of common stock beneficially owned as of the close of business on December 31, 2012, by each of our directors and director nominees, by each of the executive officers identified in the Summary Compensation Table below (named executive officers), and by all of our directors and executive officers as a group. For our directors and executive officers, the information includes shares that they could acquire through March 1, 2013 by the exercise of stock options. As of December 31, 2012, none of the

shares shown below were pledged. Unless otherwise indicated below, each of the named persons and members of the group has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares shown.

Name of Director, Director Nominee, Named Executive Officer or Group	Shares of Common	
	Stock Beneficially Owned (1)	Percent of Class
Deborah A. Beck	33,346	*
George S. Dotson	45,628	*
Jack E. Golden	7,626	*
Hans Helmerich	49,546	*
Glen P. Kelley (2)	99,415	*
Mark L. Mey	11,543	*
James R. Montague	5,250	*
Arthur M. Polhamus	3,328	*
Robert J. Saltiel	105,094	*
Barry M. Smith	37,729	*
Phil D. Wedemeyer	2,853	*
All directors, director nominees, and executive officers as a group (16 persons)	448,287	*

* Indicates ownership of less than 1% of the outstanding shares of common stock

- (1) The number of shares beneficially owned by the directors and executive officers listed in the table includes shares that may be acquired within 60 days of December 31, 2012 by exercise of stock options as follows: Ms. Beck 16,000; Mr. Helmerich 24,000; Mr. Kelley 60,705; Mr. Mey 9,043; Mr. Polhamus 3,328; Mr. Saltiel 54,671; and Mr. Smith 19,181.
- (2) Mr. Kelley resigned from his role as Senior Vice President, Marketing and Business Development effective January 1, 2013. Mr. Kelley will stay on at the Company for a transition term as a non-executive employee until he retires effective December 31, 2013.

COMPENSATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS

AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

During fiscal year 2012, Ms. Beck and Messrs. Dotson, Golden, Montague and Wedemeyer served on the Compensation Committee. No member of our Compensation Committee is or was an officer or employee of the Company or had any relationships requiring disclosure by us under Item 404 of Regulation S-K.

During fiscal year 2012, no executive officer of the Company served as (i) a member of the compensation committee (or other board committee performing equivalent functions) of another entity, one of whose executive officers served on our Compensation Committee, (ii) a director of another entity, one of whose executive officers served on our Compensation Committee, or (iii) a member of the compensation committee (or other board committee performing equivalent functions) of another entity, one of whose executive officers served as our director.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table sets forth our executive officers, the office held by such officer, the date of first election to that office and the age of each officer as of the close of business on January 7, 2013.

Name	Offices Held	Date of	
		First Election	Age
Robert J. Saltiel	President and Chief Executive Officer	December 2009	49
Mark L. Mey	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	August 2010	49
Glen P. Kelley	Former Senior Vice President, Marketing and Business Development	March 2010	64
Arthur M. Polhamus	Vice President, Operations	February 2011	58
Barry M. Smith	Vice President, Technical Services	June 2008	54
Walter A. Baker	Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary	February 2011	51
Luis A. Jimenez	Vice President, Human Resources	December 2010	62
Mark W. Smith	Vice President, Corporate Services	August 2011	42
Michael A. Campbell	Vice President, Controller	January 2009	43
Geoffrey C. Wagner	Vice President, Marketing and Business Development	October 2012	34

No family relationship exists between any of our executive officers or the directors nominated for election at the Annual Meeting. All of our executive officers serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors and may be removed at any time with or without cause.

Robert J. Saltiel has served as the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer since December 2009 and was first elected to the Board of Directors in February 2010. Mr. Saltiel has more than 25 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, having served in a variety of leadership roles focused on general management, operations, marketing and strategic planning. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Saltiel was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Transocean Ltd. and from July 2003 to December 2009 served in various other executive roles at Transocean Ltd., including Executive Vice President, Performance and Senior Vice President of Transocean's North and South America Unit, which covered the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, Canada, Trinidad and Brazil.

Mark L. Mey has served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company since August 2010. Mr. Mey brings to the Company more than 20 years of experience in the energy and financial services industries. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Mey served as Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and a director of Scorpion Offshore Ltd., a publicly-traded offshore drilling contractor, from August 2005 until it was acquired in July 2010. Prior to 2005, he held various senior financial and other roles in the drilling and financial services industries.

Glen P. Kelley served as the Company's Senior Vice President, Marketing and Business Development from March 2010 until January 2013. Mr. Kelley resigned from his role as Senior Vice President, Marketing and Business Development effective January 1, 2013. Mr. Kelley will stay on at the Company for a transition term as a non-executive employee until he retires effective December 31, 2013. Previously, Mr. Kelley served the Company as Senior Vice President Marketing and Administration from December 2004 to March 2010, Vice President Contracts and Administration from October 1988 to December 2004, and Manager of Operations Administration from January 1983 until October 1988.

Arthur M. Polhamus has served as the Company's Vice President, Operations since February 2011. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Polhamus spent nearly 16 years at Transocean Ltd., the world's largest offshore drilling contractor, in positions of increasing general management and operations responsibility involving both domestic and international offshore drilling operations. Mr. Polhamus served Transocean as Managing Director of the West Africa South Division from January 2009 to January 2011 prior to which he served as Division Manager of the North American Division from December 2006 to December 2008.

Barry M. Smith has served as the Company's Vice President, Technical Services since June 2008. From January 2008 to June 2008, Mr. Smith served as General Manager of Technical Services of the Company, prior to which he served as Manager of Maintenance since he joined the Company in June 2006. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Smith worked for 20 years at Transocean, Ltd., the last 10 years of which he served as Corporate Maintenance Manager.

Walter A. Baker has served as Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of the Company since February 2011. Mr. Baker brings over 25 years of legal experience to the Company, including over 18 years of experience in the offshore drilling industry. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Baker served as Vice President, General Counsel of Frontier Drilling, Inc., an offshore drilling contractor, from March 2010 until it was acquired in July 2010. Previously, he worked for approximately 15 years in the legal department of Transocean, Ltd. and its predecessor entities, GlobalSantaFe Corporation and Global Marine Inc., most recently as Associate General Counsel from November 2007 until December 2009.

Luis A. Jimenez has served as the Company's Vice President, Human Resources since December 2010. Mr. Jimenez has more than 20 years of experience in the development and execution of human resources policies and programs. Previously, Mr. Jimenez served the Company as Director, Human Resources from September 2007 to December 2010 and Director, Compensation and Benefits from March 2007 to September 2007. Prior to joining the Company in March 2007, he served as Director, Compensation & Benefits at The Shaw Group, Inc. from March 2005 to March 2007 and Director, Compensation, Benefits & HRIS at De Lage Landen Financial Services, a leading provider of asset based financing from September 2003 to March 2005. Previously, Mr. Jimenez held various human resources roles at Halliburton Company, including Director Global Compensation and Benefits.

Mark W. Smith has served as Vice President, Corporate Services of the Company since August 2011. Mr. Smith has over 17 years of experience in the financial, consulting and energy industries. From February 2009 to August 2011, Mr. Smith served as the head of the Internal Audit Department of the Company. Prior to joining the Company, he was a partner at Calvetti, Ferguson & Wagner P.C., a Houston-based accounting firm from April 2006 to February 2009, assisting public companies with Sarbanes-Oxley 404 compliance, internal audit outsourcing and process improvement, prior to which Mr. Smith spent more than 10 years at major accounting and consulting firms, including PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and Arthur Andersen.

Michael A. Campbell has served as the Company's Vice President, Controller since January 2009. From January 2006 to January 2009, Mr. Campbell served as General Manager of Financial Services. He joined the Company in March 2001 in the position of Controller.

Geoffrey C. Wagner has served as Vice President, Marketing and Business Development since October 2012. Previously, Mr. Wagner served the Company as Director, Marketing and Business Development from March 2010 to October 2012. Prior to joining the Company, he served from January 2005 to March 2010 in varying positions of increasing responsibility with Transocean Ltd., an offshore drilling contractor, including manager, corporate planning, manager, asset divestiture services, performance manager and rig manager, prior to which he was employed by SeaRiver Maritime, Inc., and ExxonMobil company.

PROPOSAL NO. 2

ADVISORY RESOLUTION ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Our Board of Directors is submitting a Say on Pay proposal for shareholders for consideration. This proposal provides shareholders with the opportunity to cast a non-binding, advisory vote on the Company's executive compensation program. Our overall compensation program is intended to ensure that the compensation and incentive opportunities provided to our executives and employees remain competitive and provide the motivation to deliver the extra effort that leads to returning value to our shareholders. The primary objective of our executive compensation program is to provide competitive pay opportunities that are commensurate with the Company's performance, that recognize individual initiative and achievements and that enable us to retain and attract qualified executive officers who are focused on our goals and long term success. The Board of Directors invites you to review carefully the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and the tabular and other disclosures on executive compensation contained herein. While the vote does not bind the Board of Directors to any particular action, the Board of Directors values the input of our shareholders, and will take into account the outcome of this vote in considering future compensation arrangements.

At our 2011 Annual Meeting of Shareholders held on February 10, 2011, our shareholders voted in favor of holding annual advisory votes on executive compensation. In light of this result, our Board of Directors has decided that future advisory votes on executive compensation will be held annually until the next shareholder advisory vote on the frequency of such votes, which in accordance with applicable regulations, will occur no later than our Annual Meeting of Shareholders held in 2017.

Approval of the non-binding, advisory vote on compensation requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock present or represented by proxy who are entitled to vote, and who voted for or against the proposal, at a meeting at which a quorum is present. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the approval of the non-binding, advisory vote on compensation.

Recommendation of the Board

*The Board of Directors recommends a vote **FOR** approval of the compensation paid by the Company to its named executive officers as described in this proxy statement.*

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The following Compensation Discussion and Analysis should be read in conjunction with Executive Compensation included elsewhere in this proxy statement. In this Compensation Discussion and Analysis, named executive officers refers to our executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table below.

OVERVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2012

In the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, the offshore drilling industry continued to strengthen and the prospects for our industry in both established and frontier basins improved significantly. With the combined effect of higher oil prices and increased demand for offshore drilling services, rig contracting activity improved, particularly in the ultra-deepwater market sector. In this encouraging context, we posted the best results in our history, which included the achievement of record revenues and net income, the successful delivery of our newbuild, ultra-deepwater, dynamically positioned semisubmersible, the *Atwood Condor*, the successful delivery and start-up of the first of our three newbuild high-specification jackup rigs, the *Atwood Mako*, the commitments to build two additional ultra-deepwater drillships, the *Atwood Achiever* and *Atwood Admiral*, and the expansion of our contract revenue backlog by approximately 73% to \$2.6 billion as of September 30, 2012. We also delivered excellent stock performance relative to our metrics peer group in fiscal year 2012.

Moreover, we continued our history of providing high-quality drilling services safely, efficiently and reliably, having built an excellent reputation with our clients, investors and other stakeholders. Our multiyear program to replenish and expand our worldwide fleet with high-specification floaters and jackups, combined with a strong balance sheet and an experienced, dedicated workforce, continues to leverage the Company for future growth and sustained financial performance. In particular, in fiscal year 2012:

We remained focused on delivering superior drilling services and operational excellence to our clients as demonstrated by strong reliability, safety and environmental performance across our fleet. Our operations excellence, as evidenced by our high level of revenue utilization, continues to be a point of differentiation from our competitors and is highly valued by our clients. Specifically, improvements in the reliability and efficiency of our subsea blowout preventer maintenance and testing reduced our non-productive time associated with these functions in fiscal year 2012.

We continued to focus on improving our safety performance and reducing the occurrence of high-potential incidents. We achieved our best-ever safety results in fiscal year 2012, reducing our Total Recordable Incident Rate to 0.68, a stretch level on our corporate goals and metrics, from a rate of 1.14 in fiscal year 2011. We incurred only one Lost Time Incident, down from four in fiscal year 2011, and also achieved a stretch level on our Incident Severity Rate corporate goal. In addition, we implemented process safety metrics and auditing across our fleet. Most importantly, however, we completed fiscal year 2012 without a fatality.

We delivered excellent financial results in 2012. Our fiscal year 2012 net income of \$272.2 million and revenue of \$787 million were the highest in our 44-year history.

We received delivery of the *Atwood Condor*, our newbuild ultra-deepwater, dynamically-positioned semisubmersible, and successfully mobilized the vessel to the U.S. Gulf of Mexico where the rig began operations under its 21 month contract in October 2012. We also took delivery of the *Atwood Mako*, the first of three newbuild high-specification jackup rigs, which began its one-year drilling program offshore Thailand in September 2012.

We continued with the construction of two high-specification jackup rigs and three ultra-deepwater drillships, each of which will significantly modernize and expand our rig fleet and increase our future revenue and earnings potential. We are confident that our use of world-class shipyards, proven rig designs, turnkey construction contracts and experienced onsite project management teams will position us for continued success.

We secured attractive inaugural contracts on our newbuilds, the *Atwood Advantage*, *Atwood Mako* and *Atwood Manta*. Most notably, our contract on our newbuild ultra-deepwater drillship, the *Atwood Advantage*, is for a firm duration of three years, with delivery of the vessel currently expected in September 2013.

We extended our revenue backlog by approximately 73% to \$2.6 billion at September 30, 2012, through contracts on our newbuilds, as well as contract extensions on the *Atwood Osprey* and *Vicksburg*, and new fixtures on the *Atwood Aurora*, *Atwood Beacon* and *Atwood Hunter*.

We completed our major refurbishment project on the *Atwood Falcon* on-time and on-budget and we delivered both the *Atwood Condor* and *Atwood Mako* ahead of schedule, a testament to the competence of our project teams.

We completed our Enterprise Resource Planning implementation project on schedule and on budget.

We increased our financial flexibility and access to additional funds to fuel future growth through the issuance of \$450 million senior notes in January 2012 and through the increase in availability under our revolving credit facility.

THE ROLE OF THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Our executive compensation program is administered by the Compensation and Human Resources Committee (the "Compensation Committee"). All of the members of the Compensation Committee are independent as required by the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), are non-employee directors as defined by Rule 16b-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and are outside directors as defined for the purposes of section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code ("Code"). The Compensation Committee currently consists of five members: Deborah A. Beck (Chair), George S. Dotson, Jack E. Golden, James R. Montague and Phil D. Wedemeyer. The Compensation Committee's responsibilities include, among other things, the following:

making recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding (i) compensation of executive officers, including our named executive officers (other than the President and Chief Executive Officer), and (ii) both long-term and short-term incentive compensation and equity-based plans for all employees of the Company;

recommending to the Board of Directors the compensation of non-employee directors of the Company;

reviewing and approving Company goals and objectives relevant to the President and Chief Executive Officer's compensation, evaluating the President and Chief Executive Officer's performance in light of those goals and objectives, and either as a Compensation Committee or together with the other independent directors (as directed by the Board of Directors), determining and approving the President and Chief Executive Officer's compensation level based on this evaluation;

reviewing and discussing with management the Company's compensation policies and practices in order to produce the Compensation Committee report included in this proxy statement;

reviewing the Company's incentive compensation arrangements to determine whether they encourage excessive risk-taking; and

performing such general oversight and investigation functions related to Company compensation inherent to the responsibilities designated in the Compensation Committee's charter or set forth in resolutions of the Board of Directors.

For fiscal year 2012, the Compensation Committee engaged Longnecker & Associates ("L&A") as its professional consultant to provide information and advice with respect to competitive practices relevant to our compensation programs and policies. The primary role of L&A is to provide the Compensation Committee with compensation market data and information regarding compensation trends in our industry and to

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make recommendations regarding the design of our program. The Compensation Committee believes it is important and beneficial to have independent third party analysis, and L&A has extensive experience in providing

executive compensation advice, including specific experience in the oil and gas industry. The Compensation Committee considered the discussions with and guidance from L&A, as well as the compensation studies created and assembled by L&A, in making competitive compensation decisions. L&A does not provide to the Compensation Committee any services or advice on matters unrelated to compensation and reports directly to and takes direction from the Chair of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee has determined that the advice provided by L&A with regard to executive compensation was free from any relationships that could impair the professional advice or compromise the integrity of the information and data provided to the Compensation Committee. The fees earned by L&A for services provided to the Compensation Committee totaled \$105,847 for fiscal year 2012. Management does not direct or oversee the retention or activities of L&A with respect to our executive compensation program and did not engage L&A in any other capacity for fiscal year 2012.

The Compensation Committee may delegate its responsibilities to one or more individual Committee members to the extent permitted by law, the listing standards of the NYSE and the Compensation Committee's charter.

COMPENSATION PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

A fundamental element of our competitive position continues to be the ability to attract and retain individuals who can successfully lead the organization and drive the execution of our operational and commercial objectives. The compensation programs adopted by the Compensation Committee are intended to provide compensation and incentive opportunities to our executive officers, including named executive officers, and other employees that are competitive and provide the motivation to deliver superior effort and performance in order to increase value for our shareholders. The primary objectives of our compensation program are to provide competitive pay opportunities that are commensurate with the Company's performance, recognize individual contributions and achievements, and retain and attract qualified employees and executive officers, including our named executive officers, who are focused on our near-term goals and long-term success.

Specifically, the executive compensation program is designed to:

ensure that the compensation program supports the achievement of our short-term and long-term strategic plans by retaining and attracting executive officers critical to our long-term success;

reward each of our executive officers for long-term strategic management and for their individual contributions to enhance shareholder value;

offer incentives to motivate performance with respect to individual and company-wide goals and metrics, as well as our performance relative to our competitors; and

focus the commitment of our executive officers on the long-term interests of our shareholders through equity awards.

Periodically, the Compensation Committee reviews the objectives and components of our executive compensation program to ensure they are appropriate and achieve their intended purpose, while allowing us to keep compensation costs manageable. To establish compensation parameters for our executive officers, including our named executive officers, the Compensation Committee evaluated the information provided by L&A relative to a compensation peer group (discussed below), including each element of compensation separately and the total direct compensation (the combined value of annual base salary, annual incentives and long-term incentive grants) for each executive officer. It is our belief that, while the market 50th percentile represents a desirable benchmark for the components of our compensation program, the combined value represented by total direct compensation can exceed the market 50th percentile, provided that certain factors are met; most notably, superior Company performance as compared to our compensation peer group. From the data and analysis provided by L&A, the Compensation Committee concluded that, for fiscal year 2012, overall base salaries and annual incentives for our named executive officers are aligned with the market 50th percentile of our compensation peer group and that the

value of long-term incentive awards is at or near the market 75th percentile of our compensation peer group in recognition of superior performance, in particular as measured against our approved fiscal year 2012 corporate goals and metrics. Moreover, the Compensation Committee determined that our process for determining executive compensation is well aligned with shareholder interests. The Compensation Committee will consider the results of the shareholder vote on the non-binding resolution with respect to approval of the compensation of our named executive officers contained in this proxy statement in determining its compensation policies and practices in the future.

CONSIDERATIONS

In making compensation determinations relative to our executive officers, the Compensation Committee takes into account the following important considerations:

Company Results

We believe that the compensation provided to our executive officers should be closely related to the Company's overall results as measured against goals approved by the Board of Directors each year. The Compensation Committee evaluates each individual's overall contribution to the Company's ongoing and long-term performance and approves performance targets, which include safety and financial measures, and also establishes incentive compensation targets for each individual executive officer, expressed as a percentage of annual base salary. Compensation targets are correlated with competitive market data and provide for differentiation in job responsibilities.

Individual Performance

At the beginning of fiscal year 2012, our President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Saltiel, made recommendations to the Compensation Committee for the individual performance objectives for each executive officer, other than himself, based upon the responsibilities assigned to each executive. These objectives included both objective factors such as the executive's role in achieving the goals and metrics considered in the formula-based portion of the bonus discussed below, as well as subjective factors such as overall corporate results, execution of newbuild and other rig projects, achievement of safety and operational excellence, achievement of fleet manning requirements, successful implementation of an enterprise resource planning system, employee development, and the extension of our contract backlog.

Competitive Benchmarking

The Compensation Committee considers competitive industry data in making executive pay determinations and utilizes an executive compensation benchmarking peer group of companies ("compensation peer group") which the Compensation Committee believes is the most appropriate benchmarking peer group. The compensation peer group reflects the scope, complexity and profile of our operations and is comprised of ten companies: Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc., Ensco plc, Helmerich & Payne, Inc., Hercules Offshore, Inc., Noble Corporation, Oceaneering International, Inc., Oil States International, Inc., Patterson-UTI Energy, Inc., Precision Drilling Corporation and Rowan Companies, Inc. The compensation peer group was developed with the input of L&A and includes some of the larger offshore drilling companies with which we compete for business and talent as well as other relevant companies with levels of revenues and assets similar to ours. The Committee will review and refine the compensation peer group periodically, as appropriate, based on, among other things, the recommendations made by L&A.

COMPONENTS OF OUR EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION PROGRAM

In order to achieve the objectives of our executive compensation program, we have developed a balanced compensation package consisting of base salary, annual cash incentive bonus and long-term stock incentive awards. The Compensation Committee may vary, from time to time, the composition and structure of the

compensation program, the allocation among components and the criteria associated with each component. The incorporation of cash and equity elements is intended to balance the reward associated with short-term performance with the potential for achieving longer term results, as well as with effective retention. The mix of pay elements is relevant to the compensation determinations made by the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee utilized information provided by L&A in the analysis of each component and the mix of these components as compared to our compensation peer group. In addition, each of our named executive officers are provided with change-in-control agreements, perquisites and benefits. Each one of these elements of compensation serves a particular purpose, as discussed below.

For 2012, our executive compensation program consisted of five components:

base salaries;

annual cash incentive bonuses;

long-term stock-based incentive compensation;

change-in-control arrangements; and

perquisites and benefits.

Base Salaries

Base salaries, which are tied to the calendar year rather than fiscal year, compensate our executive officers for services rendered and are set in proportion to the job responsibilities of each individual. At the discretion of the Compensation Committee, the salaries of our executive officers are generally reviewed following the end of each fiscal year in recognition of individual performance. We seek to compensate for market movement of salaries in our compensation peer group, utilizing data provided by L&A relative to competitive trends and other relevant information to determine individual salary adjustments as warranted. Mr. Saltiel's salary is determined by the Compensation Committee and is approved by the Company's independent directors acting as a group, whereas the salaries of other executive officers are determined by the Compensation Committee with input and recommendations from Mr. Saltiel. In addition to job responsibility and competitive market salary movement, we give consideration to individual performance, to the ordinal rank of pay level for each executive, and to our overall financial condition and industry conditions.

Base salaries for the 2012 calendar year were set in December 2011 for each of the named executive officers as follows:

Executive Officer	2012 Base Salary	% Increase over 2011
Robert J. Saltiel	\$ 703,000	4.0%
Mark L. Mey	\$ 416,000	4.0%
Glen P. Kelley	\$ 322,400	4.0%
Arthur M. Polhamus	\$ 280,800	4.0%
Barry M. Smith	\$ 262,500	8.0%

Changes for 2013. Effective January 1, 2013, the Compensation Committee approved increases in base salaries for our named executive officers, other than Mr. Kelley, based on market data provided by L&A as follows:

Executive Officer	2013 Base Salary	% Increase over 2012
Robert J. Saltiel	\$ 738,000	5.0%
Mark L. Mey	\$ 440,000	5.8%

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Arthur M. Polhamus	\$	330,000	17.5%
Barry M. Smith	\$	315,000	20.0%

Mr. Kelley resigned from his role as Senior Vice President, Marketing and Business Development effective January 1, 2013, and pursuant to the terms of the agreement governing his transition, is provided a salary of \$100,000 for 2013. See Agreement with Mr. Kelley, below. Base salaries for 2013 for Messrs. Polhamus and Smith reflect market adjustments to the market 50th percentile for the base salaries of these officers and internal and external comparisons of job responsibilities.

Annual Incentive Bonuses

We provide incentive compensation to our executive officers in the form of an annual cash incentive bonus relating to safety, financial, operational and individual achievements during the prior fiscal year for the purpose of rewarding and recognizing their contributions toward approved Company goals and metrics, encouraging further individual contributions to shareholder value.

The fiscal year 2012 target incentive bonus amounts were determined by the Compensation Committee as a percentage of annual base salary in the range of competitive bonus amounts of our compensation peer group as furnished by L&A. These targets for our named executive officers ranged from 50% to 200% for Mr. Saltiel, from 37.5% to 150% for Mr. Mey, from 32.5% to 150% for Mr. Kelley, and from 27.5% to 110% for Mr. Polhamus and Mr. Smith. These targets are based upon achievement of threshold, target, or stretch measures of performance as described herein, and are designed to place a significant portion of total direct compensation at risk, generally with a greater portion of total compensation at risk the more senior the executive. Executive officers must meet threshold levels of performance for each measure in order to receive any payout for the respective measure. Target bonus awards are subject to review based on market movement as well as to pro-rata adjustment due to promotions occurring during the fiscal year or other relevant changes in job responsibilities.

The Compensation Committee set a portion equal to 50% of the incentive bonus target to be formulaic and directly linked to the achievement of Company-wide goals and metrics and individual objectives approved previously by our Board of Directors. The final determinations of this portion of the annual incentive bonus are based upon the extent to which results for the fiscal year met, failed to meet or exceeded our established goals and metrics. The goals and metrics for the Company include results related to safety, financial performance, and share price performance, as well as approved individual objectives for each executive officer.

The remaining 50% of the annual incentive bonus awarded to each executive officer was non-formulaic and was determined by the Compensation Committee's subjective assessment of a broader set of factors including, but not limited to, overall corporate results, execution of newbuild and other projects, achievement of safety and operational reliability targets, achieving fleet manning requirements, implementation of an enterprise resource planning system, strategy development, employee development, and the expansion of our contract backlog, as well as each executive officer's individual performance and contributions.

The combination of the formula-based and the non-formulaic portions of the annual incentive bonus are designed to result in decisions for our executive officers that sharpen the focus on our key performance measures and enable a closer alignment with shareholder value creation and competitive norms. The Compensation Committee believes that the non-formulaic factors ensure that our executive officers focus on a broader set of financial, operational and other factors, and the Committee's subjective assessment of these factors enables closer alignment of executive officer pay levels with shareholder value creation and talent attraction, motivation and retention in a challenging competitive environment. The Compensation Committee seeks input from Mr. Saltiel on executive officer performance and internal equity for executive officers other than himself. In determining the individual bonus amounts paid to our executive officers, following review of fiscal year 2012 results and individual performance, the Compensation Committee also reviewed information provided by L&A with regard to compensation practices, trends, and target levels of compensation within our compensation peer group.

Company Goals and Metrics

Recommendations were made by Mr. Saltiel at the beginning of fiscal year 2012 for the Company's goals and metrics, and these recommendations were subsequently reviewed as appropriate and endorsed by the

Compensation Committee. In determining the goals and metrics for fiscal year 2012, the Committee linked the metrics to the Company's budget as approved by the Board of Directors. For each performance measure, the Compensation Committee established appropriate metrics and specific targets as shown below. Each metric was associated with a threshold, target and a stretch level of possible achievement. Each performance measure also was assigned a weighting factor to reflect the Company's goals and priorities as interpreted by the Compensation Committee.

Performance Category	Metric	Weight	Threshold	Target	Stretch
Safety Performance	Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR)(1)	12.5%	0.85	0.77	0.68
	Incident Severity Rate(2)	12.5%	19	16	13
Financial Performance	Net Income (\$ in millions)(3)	45%	\$215.7	\$246.0	\$271.6
Relative Stock Performance	Stock Price Performance vs. Metrics Peer Group	15%	3rd Quartile	4 of 7	1st Quartile
Individual Objectives	See Individual Objectives below.	15%			

(1) TRIR is the number of recordable incidents per 200,000 man hours.

(2) Incident Severity Rate is the number of lost time days due to work related injuries per 200,000 man hours.

(3) For purposes of determining achievement of this metric, net income is calculated in accordance with GAAP.

Safety Performance. For fiscal year 2012, the Compensation Committee determined to divide the Safety Performance measure into two equally weighted components, TRIR and Incident Severity Rate. Incident Severity Rate was added to provide a measure of the level of seriousness of recordable injuries, which is not reflected in the TRIR metric. The Incident Severity Rate complements the TRIR metric and the Compensation Committee believes the combination of these two measures better reflects the Company's safety performance. In determining target, threshold and stretch levels for safety performance, the Compensation Committee reviewed the Company's current and historical safety goals and performance, the overall expectations of our clients, and also standards of excellence in safety performance established by the International Association of Drilling Contractors, of which the Company is an active member.

Financial Performance. In determining net income levels, the Compensation Committee considered the Company's approved historical and projected operating budgets, financial performance and strategic goals. The Compensation Committee believes that net income is a financial measure widely used by financial analysts and investors in evaluation our performance and that tying a significant portion of our named executive officers' annual incentive bonus to this measure more closely aligns these officers' interests with those of our shareholders.

Relative Stock Performance. Stock performance is measured against the following metrics peer group: Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc., Ensco plc, Noble Corporation, Rowan Companies, Inc., Seadrill Ltd., and Transocean, Ltd. The Compensation Committee recognizes that each of these metrics peer group companies is associated with revenue levels, rig fleet sizes and market capitalization levels that are higher than the Company's. However, the Compensation Committee has included them due to fundamental features of their rig operations, safety focus, client services and competitive conditions.

Individual Objectives. Achievement of individual objectives by each executive officer comprises the remaining 15% of the formulaic portion of the annual bonus. These objectives are approved by the Compensation Committee based on recommendations from Mr. Saltiel for each of the other executive officers, and by the Committee's own determination as it relates to the individual objectives for Mr. Saltiel. The individual objectives are designed to align each executive officer's performance with the achievement of the key strategic priorities for the Company in the fiscal year and to focus each executive officer's efforts in areas where they may exert the greatest influence given each officer's scope of responsibility. Mr. Saltiel's objectives are designed to reflect the most critical Company-wide objectives for the fiscal year and cover all functions.

Individual Bonus Parameters

In connection with the establishment of the above measures and after consideration of information provided by L&A regarding competitive incentive targets and the Compensation Committee's own determination of appropriate incentive levels to encourage achievement of such measures, the Compensation Committee established bonus percentage multiples as a function of 2012 calendar year base salary for each executive officer, which multiples were tied to achievement of the threshold, target or stretch levels for each metric. The multiples for the named executive officers are as follows:

Executive Officer	Threshold	Target	Stretch
Robert J. Saltiel	50%	100%	200%
Mark L. Mey	37.5%	75%	150%
Glen P. Kelley	32.5%	65%	150%
Arthur M. Polhamus	27.5%	55%	110%
Barry M. Smith	27.5%	55%	110%

In setting multiples, the Compensation Committee believes that a stretch multiple greater than 100% was reflective of competitive norms and was appropriate for our executive officers. Multiples were established reflecting the Compensation Committee's belief that the more senior the executive officer is, the greater the portion of total compensation that should be at risk. For each particular metric calculation, the Compensation Committee determined whether the Company had met the threshold, target or stretch level and then used the multiple of calendar year base salary for each executive officer, based upon the level achieved.

In the event a metric does not meet the threshold performance level, none of the bonus is earned for that metric. Similarly, achieving the stretch performance level earns the maximum percentage for a metric. In the event that a metric was achieved at a level between defined achievement levels, the Compensation Committee makes a linear interpolation to determine the bonus earned for that metric.

Evaluation of Performance Results

For fiscal year 2012, the Compensation Committee reviewed the Company's overall results against approved corporate performance targets as follows:

Safety Performance. For fiscal year 2012, the Compensation Committee set the target for TRIR at 0.77. We concluded the fiscal year with a TRIR of 0.68 which met our stretch goal and represented a decrease from our TRIR of 1.14 achieved in fiscal year 2011. As the TRIR met the stretch goal, the Compensation Committee approved a level of payment of the portion of the annual bonus attributable to this metric for each named executive officer as shown below in the table under "Formulaic Portion of the Annual Incentive Bonus". The Incident Severity Rate target for fiscal year 2012 was 16. We achieved an Incident Severity Rate of 1.4 in 2012, which significantly outperformed our stretch goal of 13. As the Incident Severity Rate outperformed the stretch goal, the Compensation Committee approved a level of payment of the portion of the annual bonus attributable to this metric for each named executive officer as shown below in the table under "Formulaic Portion of the Annual Incentive Bonus".

Financial Performance. The net income target for fiscal year 2012 was \$246.0 million as established by the Company's fiscal year 2012 budget approved by the Board of Directors. We achieved actual net income of \$272.2 million, which exceeded the target amount by \$26.2 million. As the net income exceeded the stretch amount of \$271.6 million, the Compensation Committee approved the level of payment of the portion of the annual bonus attributable to this metric for each named executive officer as shown below in the table under "Formulaic Portion of the Annual Incentive Bonus".

Relative Stock Performance. Fiscal year 2012 stock price performance compared against our metrics peer group ranked third of seven companies. The Compensation Committee reviewed the achievement of this

performance measure at a level between the approved target and the stretch amount and authorized the level of payment of the bonus amount attributable to this metric for each named executive officer as shown below in the table under Formulaic Portion of the Annual Incentive Bonus .

Individual Objectives. For fiscal year 2012, each of the executive officers, other than Mr. Saltiel, was evaluated on the achievement of his respective individual objectives by the Compensation Committee with input on performance provided by Mr. Saltiel. Mr. Saltiel's performance against his individual objectives was determined by the Compensation Committee and ratified by the Company's independent directors acting together as a group.

Mr. Saltiel, President and Chief Executive Officer, is responsible for the strategic decisions concerning the Company as well as having primary responsibility for the management of our business. Mr. Saltiel's individual objectives were established by the Compensation Committee and included, among others, ensuring safe and reliable start-ups of the *Atwood Condor* and *Atwood Mako* and timely crewing, improving safety performance and metrics, ensuring implementation of minimum operating standards and a fleet-wide competency program, achieving term contracts for our newbuild units, achieving or exceeding budgeted revenues and earnings, increasing financial flexibility, and implementing an enterprise resource planning system. Based on these considerations, the Compensation Committee subjectively assessed Mr. Saltiel's performance for fiscal year 2012 and determined that he achieved these objectives at an absolute level of 105%.

Mr. Mey, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, is primarily responsible for financial matters such as establishing cash flow and earnings estimates, implementing our annual budget process, ensuring appropriate funding for our strategic growth projects, maintaining internal financial controls, managing taxation issues and meeting financial reporting and compliance requirements. In addition, Mr. Mey provides oversight and leadership to the Company's supply chain function. Mr. Mey's individual objectives included, among others, securing financing for additional growth, implementing an enterprise resource planning system, optimizing the global supply chain function, and streamlining the financial reporting process. The Committee subjectively assessed Mr. Mey's performance for fiscal year 2012 and determined that he achieved these objectives at an absolute level of 95%.

Mr. Kelley, Senior Vice President, Marketing and Business Development, was primarily responsible for contractual and marketing matters in fiscal year 2012 that drove and sustained Company revenue by impacting rig utilization and operating margin. Mr. Kelley's individual objectives included, among others, the contracting of rigs with expiring contracts in calendar year 2012, closure of contracts for the newbuilds, *Atwood Mako*, *Atwood Manta* and *Atwood Advantage*, securing new clients for the Company, and contracting to reactivate or divest our stacked units. The Committee subjectively assessed Mr. Kelley's performance for fiscal year 2012 and determined that he achieved these objectives at an absolute level of 95%.

Mr. Polhamus, Vice President, Operations, is the Company's principal operating officer and is responsible for the overall direction and oversight of worldwide rig operations. Mr. Polhamus's individual objectives included, among other things, improving safety results, developing an employee development program, establishing minimum operating standards, operational reliability, and operational readiness for the *Atwood Condor* and *Atwood Mako*. The Committee subjectively assessed Mr. Polhamus's performance for fiscal year 2012 and determined that he had achieved these objectives at an absolute level of 110%.

Mr. Smith, Vice President, Technical Services, is responsible for the Company's engineering and maintenance functions. He also leads the group charged with the execution of the Company's newbuild construction projects and activities as well as regulatory, maintenance and upgrade projects that may involve the active rig fleet. Mr. Smith's individual objectives included, among others, timely delivery of the *Atwood Condor* and *Atwood Mako*, completion of other projects according to respective schedules, implementation of new maintenance protocols, and operational reliability. The Committee subjectively assessed Mr. Smith's performance for fiscal year 2012 and determined that he achieved these objectives at an absolute level of 110%.

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The Compensation Committee endorsed the determinations made by Mr. Saltiel with respect to the level achieved by each named executive officer, and determined the level achieved by Mr. Saltiel, which were collectively between 95% and 110%, as shown below:

Executive Officer	Weight of FY2012 Formula - Based Individual Objectives			Absolute Level Achieved (1)			Adjusted Weight			Annual Bonus Target as % of Salary	Level Achieved as % of Bonus Target
	Objective	Achieved	Adjusted	Weight	Objective	Achieved	Adjusted	Weight	Target	Achieved	
Robert J. Saltiel	15%	x	105%	=	15.8%	x	100%	=	15.8%		
Mark L. Mey	15%	x	95%	=	14.3%	x	75%	=	10.7%		
Glen P. Kelley	15%	x	95%	=	14.3%	x	65%	=	9.3%		
Arthur M. Polhamus	15%	x	110%	=	16.5%	x	55%	=	9.1%		
Barry Smith	15%	x	110%	=	16.5%	x	55%	=	9.1%		

(1) This column reflects the overall assessment of individual performance results measured against established individual objective for fiscal year 2012.

Formulaic Portion of the Annual Incentive Bonus.

At the end of fiscal year 2012, the Compensation Committee completed the evaluation of our results and the weighing of metrics discussed above to ensure that the formula-driven portion of the incentive bonus determinations was appropriate and commensurate with the accomplishments posted. Formulaic bonus determinations for fiscal year 2012 for named executive officers were as follows:

Metrics	Corporate Goals and Metrics		Adjusted Level by Named Executive Officer				
	Weight	Level Achieved	Mr. Saltiel	Mr. Mey	Mr. Kelley	Mr. Polhamus	Mr. Smith
TRIR	12.5%	Stretch	25.0%	18.8%	18.8%	13.8%	13.8%
Incident Severity Rate	12.5%	Stretch	25.0%	18.8%	18.8%	13.8%	13.8%
Net Income	45%	Stretch	90.0%	67.5%	67.5%	49.5%	49.5%
Stock Price Performance vs. Metrics Peer Group	15%	Between Target and Stretch	21.7%	16.3%	15.4%	11.9%	11.9%
Individual Objectives	15%	95% to 110%	15.8%	10.7%	9.3%	9.1%	9.1%
Total Formulaic Percentage	100%		177.4%	131.9%	129.7%	98.0%	98.0%
Annual Base Salary			\$703,000	\$416,000	\$322,400	\$280,800	\$262,500
Formulaic Portion 50% of Annual Base Salary times Total Formulaic Percentage			\$623,500	\$274,500	\$209,000	\$137,500	\$128,500

Non-Formulaic Portion of Annual Incentive Bonus

For each of the executive officers, other than Mr. Saltiel, the Compensation Committee determined the non-formulaic portion of the annual incentive bonus by assessing the officer's performance against individual objectives with consideration being given to other relevant factors not covered directly by the individual objectives, including, but not limited to, overall corporate results, execution of newbuild and other projects, achievement of safety and operational reliability targets, achieving fleet manning requirements, implementation of an enterprise resource planning system, employee development, the expansion of our contract backlog, and other factors as they related to both individual and overall Company performance in fiscal year 2012. The competitive compensation data provided by L&A for the position held by each officer was also considered, as appropriate. The Committee awarded Mr. Saltiel an amount for the non-formulaic portion of the annual incentive bonus, primarily based on the Committee's assessment of his personal contributions, his leadership, and the performance of the Company in key functional areas. Non-formulaic bonus determinations for fiscal year 2012 for named executive officers were as follows:

	Mr. Saltiel	Mr. Mey	Mr. Kelley	Mr. Polhamus	Mr. Smith
Annual Base Salary	\$ 703,000	\$ 416,000	\$ 322,400	\$ 280,800	\$ 262,500
Total Non-Formulaic Percentage	182.6%	138.0%	112.3%	101.5%	115.4%
Non-Formulaic Portion 50% of Annual Base Salary times Total Non-Formulaic Percentage	\$ 642,000	\$ 287,100	\$ 181,000	\$ 142,500	\$ 151,500

Final Bonus Determination.

At the end of fiscal year 2012, the Compensation Committee completed the evaluation of our results and the weighing of metrics discussed above to ensure that the combined formula-driven and the non-formulaic portions of the incentive bonus determinations, which are intended to reward the performance and contributions of our executive officers, were appropriate and commensurate with the accomplishments posted. In addition, the Compensation Committee reviewed the market survey information provided by L&A to ensure that the incentive bonus amounts resulting from this evaluation fully support our compensation philosophy and are closely aligned with shareholder interests. The Compensation Committee made the final bonus determinations for our named executive officers as follows:

	Mr. Saltiel	Mr. Mey	Mr. Kelley	Mr. Polhamus	Mr. Smith
Annual Base Salary	\$ 703,000	\$ 416,000	\$ 322,400	\$ 280,800	\$ 262,500
Approved Multiplier (Target) as % of Annual Salary	100.0%	75.0%	65.0%	55.0%	55.0%
Bonus Target Amount Target x Annual Base Salary	\$ 703,000	\$ 312,000	\$ 209,560	\$ 154,440	\$ 144,375
Formulaic Portion	\$ 623,500	\$ 274,500	\$ 209,000	\$ 137,500	\$ 128,500
Non-Formulaic Portion	\$ 642,000	\$ 287,100	\$ 181,000	\$ 142,500	\$ 151,500
Total Bonus Amount	\$ 1,265,500	\$ 561,600	\$ 390,000	\$ 280,000	\$ 280,000

Total Bonus Amount as % of Salary	180%	135%	121%	100%	107%
Total Bonus Amount as % of the Maximum Bonus Opportunity	90%	90%	81%	91%	97%

The Compensation Committee's incentive bonus recommendations were endorsed by L&A based upon its review of relevant competitive information, including analysis of incentive and performance-related bonus amounts paid by our compensation peer group for comparable jobs at the market 50th percentile level and of the proportion represented by bonus amounts in the total direct compensation for each benchmarked job. The bonus amounts recommended by the Compensation Committee for fiscal year 2012 are higher than the market 50th percentile level in recognition of superior Company results and are generally aligned with competitive market data. The proportion represented by the bonus amounts as a percentage of the total direct compensation remains within the overall competitive range. The Compensation Committee believes that the recommended fiscal year 2012 incentive bonus awards support the objectives of our compensation program.

Long-Term Stock Incentive Awards

The Compensation Committee considers stock ownership by management through stock-based compensation arrangements beneficial in aligning management's and shareholders' interests. Under the provisions of our shareholder-approved Atwood Oceanics, Inc. Amended and Restated 2007 Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended (the "2007 Plan"), the Compensation Committee has the ability to grant stock options, restricted stock awards, stock appreciation rights ("SARs"), and performance units to eligible employees and to grant nonqualified stock options, restricted stock awards, SARs and performance units to eligible directors.

The Compensation Committee grants long-term incentive awards to our executive officers, including our named executive officers, in line with competitive market norms based upon each officer's performance in a fiscal year. These awards are primarily designed to tie a portion of each executive officer's compensation to longer-term future performance of the Company and to support the philosophy adopted by the Compensation Committee. The grant determinations are made by the Compensation Committee using as a reference the relevant competitive market information and recommendations provided to the Compensation Committee by L&A, in order to provide an appropriate level of total direct compensation compared to compensation of executive officers in our compensation peer group. The Compensation Committee sets the individual grant values to reflect (a) the level of responsibility of each executive officer and his potential impact on the long-term success of the business, (b) the intent to encourage distinctive levels of long-term performance and contributions, (c) talent retention considerations as appropriate, and (d) tenure with the Company.

Determination of Awards

For fiscal year 2012, the Compensation Committee awarded annual grants of restricted stock awards and stock options to our named executive officers. The Compensation Committee also determined to grant a special award of performance-based restricted stock units for fiscal year 2012. For fiscal year 2013, the Compensation Committee determined to replace the annual grant of stock options with an annual grant of performance-based restricted stock units. In determining to award performance-based restricted stock units in 2012 and 2013, the Compensation Committee considered and recognized the increased level of competition for senior level talent in the offshore drilling industry, competitive pay for performance practices, and the unprecedented execution challenges that the Company anticipates over the next several years, including delivery, contracting, manning and start-up of newbuild rigs. Furthermore, the Compensation Committee intends to ensure a strong level of alignment between the prospective compensation provided to our named executive officers and the measurable outcomes of superior longer-term performance. In so doing, the Compensation Committee determined to provide our executive officers, including our named executive officers, with meaningful incentives to focus on and achieve industry-leading share price performance for the Company relative to its major offshore drilling peers. The Compensation Committee also reviewed information and recommendations provided to the Compensation Committee by L&A, as well as relevant information provided by the Company's outside legal and tax counsel.

For annual long-term incentive awards, the Compensation Committee determines the number of awards granted each year by first determining a target aggregate grant date fair value to be awarded to each named executive officer. The target aggregate grant date fair value is then allocated among the types of awards granted for such year. For fiscal year 2012, the Compensation Committee determined to allocate the target aggregate grant date fair value equally between restricted stock awards and stock options. For the special awards of performance-based restricted stock units in fiscal year 2012, the Compensation Committee established a separate target grant date fair value for such awards for each named executive officer based on a multiple of such officer's 2012 salary. For fiscal year 2013, the Compensation Committee determined to allocate the target aggregate grant date fair value equally between restricted stock and performance-based restricted stock units.

We do not time the release of material nonpublic information for the purpose of affecting the value of executive compensation.

Restricted Stock Awards

Restricted stock awards granted to named executive officers under the 2007 Plan cliff vest 100% at the end of the three year period following the date of grant, subject to accelerated vesting upon a change-in-control.

Stock Options

Non-qualified stock options granted to named executive officers under the 2007 Plan vest 25% each year, beginning one year from the date of grant, subject to accelerated vesting upon a change-in-control. The exercise price of stock options is equal to the closing market price of our common stock on the NYSE on the date of grant. We do not grant options with a grant date prior to the date of Compensation Committee approval of the grant.

Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units

Performance-based restricted stock units granted to named executive officers under the 2007 Plan vest on the third anniversary of the date of grant with respect to a number of shares of our common stock determined by comparing our total shareholder return (TSR) over a three-year performance period relative to the TSR of our metrics peer group composed of Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc., Ensco plc, Noble Corporation, Rowan Companies, Inc., Seadrill Ltd. and Transocean Ltd. The Compensation Committee selected the metrics peer group due to the relative scope, complexity and profile of the Company's operations. Performance-based restricted stock units are subject to acceleration upon a change-in-control. At the end of a three-year performance period, each company in the metrics peer group is ranked from high to low based on the TSR achieved. The award payment schedule for each named executive officer is determined based on the Company's TSR rank as follows:

TSR Rank	Percentage Earned
1	200%
2	150%
3	100%
4	75%
5	50%
6	0%
7	0%

The Compensation Committee believes the performance component aligns with our compensation philosophy of rewarding performance relative to our competitors and rewarding enhancement of shareholder value.

Fiscal Year 2012 Long-Term Incentive Award Grants

In December 2011, the Compensation Committee recommended long-term incentive award grants for fiscal year 2012 to our named executive officers as follows:

Executive Officer	Target Aggregate		
	Grant Date Fair Value	Restricted Stock Awards	Stock Options Awards
Robert J. Saltiel	\$ 2,500,000	30,048	73,964
Mark L. Mey	\$ 900,000	10,817	26,628
Glen P. Kelley	\$ 620,000	7,452	18,344
Arthur M. Polhamus	\$ 450,000	5,409	13,312
Barry M. Smith	\$ 450,000	5,409	13,312

The number of restricted stock awards granted was obtained by dividing an amount equal to 50% of the target aggregate grant date fair value by the grant date fair value of a restricted stock award. The number of stock

options granted was obtained by dividing an amount equal to 50% of the target aggregate grant date fair value by the grant date fair value of a stock option. The grant date fair value of restricted stock awards and stock options granted for fiscal year 2012 was determined in accordance with ASC Topic 718. For additional information, see Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements in our 2012 Form 10-K.

The Compensation Committee separately approved special awards of performance-based restricted stock units with target aggregate grant date fair values for each named executive officer based on a multiple of such officer's 2012 salary, as follows:

Executive Officer	Calendar Year 2012 Salary	Salary Multiple	Target Grant Date Fair Value	Performance-
				Based Restricted Stock Units (1)
Robert J. Saltiel	\$ 703,000	2x	\$ 1,406,000	35,327
Mark L. Mey	\$ 416,000	2x	\$ 832,000	20,905
Glen P. Kelley	\$ 322,400	2x	\$ 644,800	16,202
Arthur M. Polhamus	\$ 280,800	1.75x	\$ 491,400	12,347
Barry M. Smith	\$ 262,500	1.75x	\$ 459,375	11,543

- (1) The performance period for performance-based restricted stock units granted for fiscal year 2012 begins January 1, 2012 and ends December 31, 2014. The award payment schedule for each named executive officer will be determined based on the Company's TSR rank as set forth in Long-Term Incentive Awards Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units above.

The number of performance-based restricted stock units awarded was obtained by dividing the target grant date fair value for such awards by the grant date fair value of a performance-based restricted stock unit. The grant date fair value of performance-based restricted stock units was determined in accordance with ASC Topic 718. For additional information, see Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements in our 2012 Form 10-K.

Fiscal Year 2013 Long-Term Incentive Award Grants

In December 2012, the Compensation Committee recommended granting long-term incentive awards for fiscal year 2013 to our named executive officers as follows:

Executive Officer	Target Aggregate	Restricted Stock Awards	Performance-Based
	Grant Date Fair Value		Restricted Stock Units (1)
Robert J. Saltiel	\$ 3,515,000	37,402	37,779
Mark L. Mey	\$ 1,665,000	17,717	17,896
Glen P. Kelley (2)	\$ 0	0	0
Arthur M. Polhamus	\$ 705,000	7,502	7,577
Barry M. Smith	\$ 660,000	7,023	7,094

- (1) The performance period for performance-based restricted stock units granted for fiscal year 2013 begins January 1, 2013 and ends December 31, 2015. The award payment schedule for each named executive officer will be determined based on the Company's TSR rank as set forth in Long-Term Incentive Awards Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units above.
- (2) Mr. Kelley resigned from his role as Senior Vice President, Marketing and Business Development effective January 1, 2013, and pursuant to the terms of the agreement which governs his transition, is not eligible to participate in any awards under the Company's long-term incentive plans. See Agreement with Mr. Kelley, below.

The number of restricted stock awards granted was obtained by dividing an amount equal to 50% of the target aggregate grant date fair value by the grant date fair value of a restricted stock award. The grant date fair

value of restricted stock awards granted for fiscal year 2013 was determined in accordance with ASC Topic 718. The grant date fair value of restricted stock awards is based on the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant. Under SEC rules, the grant date fair values exclude the impact of estimated forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions.

The number of performance-based restricted stock units awarded was obtained by dividing an amount equal to 50% of the target aggregate grant date fair value by the grant date fair value of a performance-based restricted stock unit. The grant date fair value of performance-based restricted stock units was determined in accordance with ASC Topic 718 using a Monte Carlo simulation.

Change of Control Arrangements

We believe that the competitive marketplace for executive level talent and our desire to minimize turnover and retain our executive officers, including our named executive officers, requires us to provide certain severance benefits. We also believe the provision of these benefits serves the interests of our shareholders by encouraging certain valued employees to remain employed with the Company in the event of a change of control. The Company has entered into Change of Control Agreements with each named executive officer, including Mr. Saltiel, in replacement of any prior employment or other severance agreement entered into between the Company and the executive. The agreements standardize change of control benefits for our executive officers and provide benefits that are competitive to those provided by our compensation peer group. Each agreement contains double-trigger requirements for payments relating to termination of employment other than for cause following a change of control. For more information regarding change of control arrangements, see Executive Compensation Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control.

The Compensation Committee believes the provision of such change of control benefits is competitive and appropriate in light of our compensation peer group. In reaching such determination, the Compensation Committee considered L&A's change of control analysis, surveys, and reviewed the amounts payable by the compensation peer group to similarly situated executives in the event of a termination of employment in connection with a change of control.

Benefits relating to termination of employment in a post change of control employment period payable to Mr. Saltiel and the other named executive officers were considered as part of their overall compensation packages.

Agreement with Mr. Kelley

On October 1, 2012, the Company and Mr. Kelley entered into an agreement to govern the transition term during which Mr. Kelley will remain at the Company as a non-executive employee (the Agreement). Pursuant to the Agreement, Mr. Kelley will assist the Company with such matters as the Company may reasonably request, including assisting with the transition to his successor and serving as a liaison with clients. Prior to his resignation as Senior Vice President, Marketing and Business Development, Mr. Kelley's salary and benefits remained unchanged through January 1, 2013. During the transition term commencing January 1, 2013, Mr. Kelley will receive a salary of \$100,000 and will continue to be eligible to participate in the Atwood Oceanics Retirement Plan. During such term, Mr. Kelley will not be eligible to (i) participate in any awards under the Company's long-term incentive plans, (ii) receive an annual bonus, or (iii) continue participation in Atwood's other benefit plans.

Any unvested stock options or performance-based units held by Mr. Kelley will continue to vest during the transition term according to the terms of such awards. On December 31, 2013, any unvested stock options or performance-based units previously granted to Mr. Kelley will be forfeited. Any unvested shares of restricted stock held by Mr. Kelley will continue to vest during the transition term pursuant to the terms of such awards, provided that 2/3 of the shares included in the restricted stock award granted to Mr. Kelley in December 2010

will vest on January 1, 2013 and be issued on July 2, 2013 and, subject to his continued employment through December 9, 2013, the remaining $\frac{1}{3}$ of such shares will vest on such date. Any other unvested shares of restricted stock held by Mr. Kelley will be treated in accordance with the terms of the applicable incentive agreements and plans, such that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the shares included in the restricted stock award granted to Mr. Kelley in December 2011 will vest on December 31, 2013. In exchange for entering into non-disclosure and non-compete provisions included in the Agreement and executing a waiver and release form, on January 31, 2014, Mr. Kelley will receive a lump sum cash payment of \$150,000.

Perquisites and Benefits

Named executive officers are eligible to participate in the Company's benefit plans on the same terms as other employees. The Company's 401(k) plan (the Retirement Plan) is a qualified defined contribution plan which allows employees, including named executive officers, to save for retirement through a tax-advantaged combination of employee and Company contributions. Employee contributions are matched by the Company up to 200% of the first 5% of compensation contributed by the employee. Named executive officers are also eligible for participation, along with certain senior management personnel, in the non-qualified Benefit Equalization Plan, a program that allows for tax-deferred employee contributions and Company matching contributions, at the same rate as in the Retirement Plan, on the employee's compensation in excess of certain limits imposed on the Retirement Plan by the Internal Revenue Code. The benefits provided through elective participation in the Benefit Equalization Plan are secured through a Rabbi Trust and all vested amounts must be withdrawn in a participant's elective period not to exceed five years commencing six months following termination of employment. Company contributions under the Retirement Plan are subject to a six-month waiting period and vesting in the employee's Company matching contribution account under both the Retirement Plan and the Benefit Equalization Plan does not occur until the completion of three years of service.

The Company also provides named executive officers with perquisites and other personal benefits that the Company and the Compensation Committee believe are reasonable and consistent with its overall compensation program. Named executive officers are covered under the Company's Salary Continuation Plan, formerly named the Executive Life Insurance Plan, which provides for salary continuation to the executive's beneficiary upon the executive's death. Payments equal to 2.5 times annual salary are payable in 30 installments or, in the event of death due to accidental causes, payments equal to five times annual salary are payable in 60 installments. In addition, the Company provides each of our named executive officers the benefit of membership to a designated luncheon and exercise facility and reimbursements of up to \$2,000 for a yearly, comprehensive physical examination. Certain named executive officers are also provided supplemental life insurance benefits. The increased life insurance benefits offered to our named executive officers respond to competitive considerations and to the importance of each officer to our long term success.

STOCK OWNERSHIP POLICY

In furtherance of the Board of Directors' goal of promoting sound corporate governance practices, in December 2011, the Board of Directors adopted a stock ownership policy to further ensure the alignment of the financial interests of the Company's directors and senior employees with those of its shareholders. We believe that it is important that directors and senior employees maintain a certain level of ownership of shares of our common stock, and this policy is designed to help achieve this objective and further highlight and promote our commitment to sound corporate governance. Executive officers and directors subject to this policy are required to achieve a minimum ownership requirement by four years from the later of (a) December 31, 2011 or (b) being elected a director, being named an executive officer or otherwise being designated as a covered employee. Upon achieving his or her respective minimum ownership requirement, each director or covered employee must continue to maintain the minimum ownership requirement at all times during a given calendar year and for so long as the director or covered employee remains subject to this policy.

Each director and covered employee must maintain the number of qualifying shares of common stock, as defined in the policy, with a fair market price equal to a multiple of the director's base annual retainer or the

covered employee's annual base salary. For directors, the minimum ownership requirement is four times the base annual retainer. For Mr. Saltiel, the minimum ownership requirement was set at five times his annual base salary; for Messrs. Mey and Kelley, the minimum ownership requirement was set at three times their respective annual base salary and for Messrs. Polhamus and Smith, the minimum ownership requirement was set at two times their respective annual base salary. By the first day of December of each year, directors and covered employees will be required to certify to the Compensation Committee their holdings of common stock and level of compliance with their minimum ownership requirement.

The failure by a director or covered employee to meet or to demonstrate sustained progress toward the achievement of the applicable minimum ownership requirement will result in the imposition of a restriction on sales of common stock and may result in a reduction in the value of future long term incentive grants or exclusion from future grants until compliance is achieved.

ASSESSMENT OF RISK AND RECOVERY OF COMPENSATION

Our Audit Committee and Board of Directors employ a risk management process conducted periodically to ensure that potential risks that might arise from any of our executive compensation practices and policies do not result in potential adverse impact on the Company, financially or otherwise. The Compensation Committee has reviewed the policies and guidelines underlying our executive compensation determinations and concluded that the following factors promote the creation of long-term value and thereby discourage behavior that leads to excessive or unnecessary risk:

individual cash incentives are made within the boundaries of approved fixed maximum awards as applicable to each named executive officer;

the short-term performance metrics considered in annual bonus determinations are supplemented with diverse performance measures;

the members of the Compensation Committee who approve final bonus recommendations are independent; and

named executive officers receive the majority of their total direct compensation in the form of long-term incentives with multi-year vesting to align the interests of the named executive officers with long term value creation for our shareholders.

In addition, in the event that any executive officer is in violation of our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics or Code of Ethics for the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Financial Officers or applicable law or regulations or there is a downward adjustment or restatement of corporate financial or non-financial performance results, the Compensation Committee may seek recovery of compensation paid to the executive officers involved, whether in whole or in part, or take other remedial action as appropriate, to recover repayment of any bonuses or long-term incentive awards.

TAX CONSIDERATIONS

Section 162(m) of the Code limits the deductibility of compensation paid to each of our named executive officers to \$1 million annually for federal income tax purposes unless the compensation is performance-based as described in Section 162(m) and the related regulations. In designing compensation plans and making compensation decisions, the Compensation Committee considers the potential deductibility of the proposed compensation. However, the Compensation Committee may elect to approve compensation that exceeds the limit in order to ensure competitive levels of compensation for our executive officers and if it believes that such compensation is in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders. As a result, certain compensation paid to our named executive officers may not be deductible by the Company for tax purposes.

COMPENSATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed with Company management the Compensation Discussion and Analysis included in this proxy statement. Based on that review and discussion, the Compensation Committee has recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

Compensation and Human Resources Committee:

Deborah A. Beck, Chair

George S. Dotson

Jack E. Golden

James R. Montague

Phil D. Wedemeyer

January 7, 2013

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

Name and Principal Position	Fiscal Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (1) (\$)	Stock Awards (2)(3) (\$)	Option Awards (4) (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compen- sation (5)	Change in Pension Values and Non-qualified Deferred Compen- sation Earnings (6)	All Other Compen- sation (7)	Total (\$)
Robert J. Saltiel (8) President and Chief Executive Officer	2012	709,254	642,000	2,673,000	1,250,000	623,500	0	165,334	6,063,088
	2011	682,000	346,500	1,137,500	1,137,500	346,500	15,506	135,270	3,800,776
	2010	514,600	851,569	3,000,000	0	233,400	2,200	35,800	4,637,600
Mark L. Mey (9) Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer	2012	419,692	287,100	1,292,000	450,000	274,500	34,696	102,819	2,860,807
	2011	400,000	173,000	75,000	75,000	173,000	0	34,384	930,384
	2010	56,400	60,000	321,400	0	0		3,100	440,900
Glen P. Kelley (10) Senior Vice President, Marketing and Business Development	2012	325,282	181,000	963,000	310,000	209,000	25	56,330	2,044,637
	2011	335,725	134,000	275,750	275,750	134,000	19,319	61,631	1,236,175
	2010	295,300	141,888	266,000	266,000	78,712	11,600	46,200	1,105,706
Arthur M. Polhamus (11) Vice President, Operations	2012	278,100	142,500	722,000	225,000	137,500	13,998	65,233	1,584,331
	2011	180,000	167,000	200,000	0	55,500	0	9,113	611,613
Barry M. Smith Vice President, Technical Operations	2012	257,640	151,500	690,000	225,000	128,500	44,955	44,498	1,542,093
	2011	254,176	85,500	201,000	201,000	74,500	0	44,509	860,685
	2010	231,437	120,763	185,300	186,400	54,500	13,384	53,930	845,714

- (1) The amounts disclosed in this column reflect the non-formulaic portion of cash bonus awards earned for performance in the designated fiscal year but which are paid in December of the following fiscal year. See Compensation Discussion and Analysis Components of Our Executive Compensation Program Annual Incentive Bonuses. For 2010, Mr. Saltiel's bonus amount also includes a signing bonus of \$500,000 received upon the commencement of his employment. For 2011, Mr. Polhamus's bonus amount also includes a signing bonus of \$100,000 received upon the commencement of his employment.
- (2) The amounts disclosed in this column include the grant date fair value of the restricted stock awards granted to each named executive officer. Under SEC rules, the amounts shown exclude the impact of estimated forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions. The grant date fair value of the awards is calculated using the closing price of our common stock on the date of grant. For additional information, see Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements in our 2012 Form 10-K.
- (3) The amounts disclosed in this column also include the grant date fair value of performance-based restricted stock units based on the achievement of target level performance conditions of the awards. The grant date fair value of the awards is calculated using the closing price of our common stock on the date of grant. For additional information, see Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements in our 2012 Form 10-K. Assuming the highest level of performance conditions were achieved, the grant date fair value of performance-based restricted stock units granted in fiscal year 2012 would have been as follows: \$2,846,000 for Mr. Saltiel; \$1,684,000 for Mr. Mey; \$1,306,000 for Mr. Kelley; \$994,000 for Mr. Polhamus; and \$930,000 for Mr. Smith.
- (4) The amounts disclosed in this column represent the aggregate grant date fair value of non-qualified stock options granted to each named executive officer in fiscal year 2012. Under SEC rules, the amounts shown exclude the impact of estimated forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions. The grant date fair value of the awards is calculated using the closing price of our common stock on the date of grant. For additional information, see Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements in our 2012 Form 10-K.

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- (5) The amounts disclosed in this column reflect the formulaic portion of cash bonus awards earned for performance in the designated fiscal year but which are paid in December of the following fiscal year. See Compensation Discussion and Analysis Components of Our Executive Compensation Program Annual Incentive Bonuses.

- (6) Amounts for fiscal year 2011 listed as zero reflect negative earnings in the amount of \$12,213 for Mr. Mey, \$11,921 for Mr. Smith and \$57 for Mr. Polhamus. Amounts for fiscal year 2012 listed as zero reflect negative earnings in the amount of \$11,995 for Mr. Saltiel.
- (7) All other compensation for 2012 includes the following amounts:

Name	Company Contributions To Retirement Plan (A)	Company Contributions To Benefit Equalization Plan (B)	Payment For Discontinuance of Executive Benefit (C)	Other Compensation (D)	Total
Robert J. Saltiel	\$ 25,000	\$ 115,225	\$ 18,363	\$ 6,746	\$ 165,334
Mark L. Mey	\$ 10,892	\$ 62,677	\$ 16,140	\$ 10,110	\$ 102,819
Glen P. Kelley	\$ 29,944	\$ 0	\$ 16,189	\$ 9,567	\$ 56,330
Arthur M. Polhamus	\$ 16,380	\$ 23,680	\$ 15,316	\$ 9,857	\$ 65,233
Barry M. Smith	\$ 27,739	\$ 0	\$ 15,717	\$ 1,043	\$ 44,498

- (A) Amounts reflect matching contributions made for fiscal year 2012 on behalf of each named executive officer to the Company's 401(k) plan, which is qualified under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and provides for employee contributions matched by the Company at 200% of the first 5% of salary contributed by the employee (the Retirement Plan).
- (B) Amounts reflect matching contributions made for fiscal year 2012 on behalf of each named executive officer to the Company's Benefit Equalization Plan, which is a non-qualified plan that permits tax-deferred contributions in excess of amounts permitted under the Retirement Plan and matching contributions of up to 200% of the first 5% of salary and bonus contributed by the employee.
- (C) Amounts reflect a one-time payment in fiscal year 2012 of \$12,000 grossed up for taxes as consideration for the discontinuance of reimbursement of executive medical, dental and vision expenses.
- (D) Amounts include: (i) reimbursements of up to \$6,000 during fiscal 2012 for qualifying executive medical, dental and vision expenses; (ii) payments on behalf of or reimbursements made to named executive officers during fiscal year 2012 for memberships to dining, golf or country clubs; (iii) payments on behalf of or reimbursements made to named executive officers during fiscal year 2012 of up to \$2,000 for a yearly, comprehensive physical examination; and (iv) premiums paid for supplemental accidental death and dismemberment insurance for certain named executive officers.
- (8) Mr. Saltiel was first elected an officer in fiscal year 2010. Under the terms of the employment agreement entered into at the time, upon commencement of employment in December 2009, Mr. Saltiel was granted (i) 55,741 shares of restricted stock under the 2007 Plan with a grant date fair value of \$2,000,000, subject to three year cliff vesting; and (ii) 27,871 shares of restricted stock under the 2007 Plan with a grant date fair value of \$1,000,000, subject to four year cliff vesting as well as performance measures as agreed to by Mr. Saltiel and the Compensation Committee in December 2010. The reported grant date fair values assume that all shares will vest. The performance terms of Mr. Saltiel's award provide that (i) 50% of the shares will vest on a graded basis upon achievement of certain levels of cumulative stock price performance against the performance of a defined peer group of other offshore drilling contractors and (ii) 50% of the shares will vest upon achievement of safety performance as measured by cumulative total recorded incident rate measured against the comparable metric reported by the International Association of Drilling Contractors.
- (9) Mr. Mey was first elected an officer in fiscal year 2010. In connection with his appointment, in August 2010, Mr. Mey was granted 12,500 shares of restricted stock under the 2007 Plan with a grant date fair value of \$321,400, subject to four year cliff vesting as well as performance measures as agreed to by Mr. Mey and the Compensation Committee in December 2010. The performance terms of Mr. Mey's award provide that shares will vest on a graded basis upon achievement of certain levels of cumulative share price performance against the comparable performance of a defined peer group of other offshore drilling contractors. The reported grant date fair value assumes that all shares will vest.
- (10) Mr. Kelley resigned from his role as Senior Vice President, Marketing and Business Development effective January 1, 2013.
- (11) Mr. Polhamus was first elected an officer of the Company in February 2011.

GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS DURING FISCAL YEAR 2012

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards (1)			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards (2)			All other stock awards number of shares (#) (3)	All other option awards: number of securities underlying options (#) (4)	Exercise or base price of option awards (\$/Sh)	Grant Date Value Of Stock And Option Awards (\$) (5)
		Threshold	Target	Maximum	Threshold	Target	Maximum				
Robert J. Saltiel	12/9/2011	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(#)	(#)	(#)				
	12/9/2011	175,750	351,500	703,000				30,048	73,964	\$ 41.60	\$ 2,500,000
	12/29/2011				0	35,327	70,654				\$ 1,423,000
Mark L. Mey	12/9/2011	78,000	156,000	312,000							
	12/9/2011							10,817	26,628	\$ 41.60	\$ 900,000
	12/29/2011				0	20,905	41,810				\$ 842,000
Glen P. Kelley	12/9/2011	52,390	104,780	241,800							
	12/9/2011							7,452	18,344	\$ 41.60	\$ 620,000
	12/29/2011				0	16,202	32,404				\$ 653,000
Arthur M. Polhamus	12/9/2011	38,610	77,220	154,440							
	12/9/2011							5,409	13,312	\$ 41.60	