

ATWOOD OCEANICS INC

Form 424B5

June 18, 2013

Table of Contents

The information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is not complete and may be changed. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell the securities described herein and are not soliciting an offer to buy such securities in any jurisdiction where such offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, dated June 18, 2013

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)

Registration No. 333-187112

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated March 7, 2013)

\$

Atwood Oceanics, Inc.

6.50% Senior Notes due 2020

We are offering \$ _____ aggregate principal amount of our 6.50% Senior Notes due 2020. The notes offered hereby constitute an additional issuance of our 6.50% Senior Notes due 2020 issued on January 18, 2012 in an aggregate principal amount of \$450,000,000 and form a single series with such notes (the existing notes and, unless the context requires otherwise, together with the notes offered hereby, the notes). The notes offered hereby will be issued under the same indenture, have the same CUSIP number and will trade interchangeably with the existing notes immediately upon settlement.

Interest on the notes will accrue from February 1, 2013 and will be payable semiannually on February 1 and August 1 of each year, with the next payment due on August 1, 2013. The notes will mature on February 1, 2020.

We may redeem all or part of the notes at any time on or after February 1, 2016 at the redemption prices set forth in this prospectus supplement. At any time prior to February 1, 2016, we may redeem all or part of the notes at any time at a make whole redemption price set forth in this prospectus supplement. In addition, before February 1, 2015, we may redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes with an amount of cash not greater than the net cash proceeds of certain equity offerings if certain conditions are met.

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and will rank equal in right of payment with all of our other existing and future senior debt, senior in right of payment to any of our future subordinated debt and effectively subordinated to any of our secured debt, including all debt under our secured credit facility, to the extent of the value of the collateral securing that debt. The notes will not initially be guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries.

Investing in our notes involves risks. Please read Risk Factors beginning on page S-10 of this prospectus supplement, on page 3 of the accompanying base prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference herein. You should read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein carefully before making an investment decision.

	Per Note	Total
Price to Public ⁽¹⁾	%	\$
Underwriting Discounts	%	\$
Proceeds to Atwood Oceanics, Inc., before Expenses ⁽¹⁾	%	\$

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from February 1, 2013.

The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. Currently, there is no public market for the notes. Affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders under our senior secured revolving credit facility and therefore may receive a substantial portion of the net proceeds of this offering. See Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest).

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Delivery of the notes, in book-entry form, will be made on or about _____, 2013 through The Depository Trust Company.

Joint Book-Running Managers

Barclays
DNB Markets

Wells Fargo Securities

Credit Suisse
Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Senior Co-Managers

Credit Agricole CIB
ING

Global Hunter Securities
Raymond James
Prospectus Supplement dated _____, 2013

HSBC
SEB

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS****Prospectus Supplement**

	Page
<u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u>	S-1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	S-10
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	S-16
<u>CAPITALIZATION</u>	S-17
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	S-18
<u>DESCRIPTION OF OTHER INDEBTEDNESS</u>	S-19
<u>DESCRIPTION OF NOTES</u>	S-20
<u>MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	S-69
<u>UNDERWRITING (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)</u>	S-74
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	S-78
<u>EXPERTS</u>	S-78
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	S-79

Prospectus

	Page
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	2
<u>ABOUT ATWOOD OCEANICS, INC.</u>	3
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	3
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	3
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	4
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	5
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	13
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	17
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	17
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	19
<u>EXPERTS</u>	19
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	19

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of the notes we are offering and certain other matters. The second part, the base prospectus, provides more general information about the various securities that we may offer from time to time, some of which information may not apply to the notes we are offering hereby. Generally when we refer to this prospectus, we are referring to both this prospectus supplement and the base prospectus combined. If any of the information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with any of the information in the base prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement. Before you invest in our notes, you should carefully read this prospectus supplement, along with the base prospectus, in addition to the information contained in the documents we refer to under the heading "Where You Can Find Additional Information" in the base prospectus.

We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide any information or to make any representations other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any free writing prospectus we have prepared. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. This prospectus is an offer to sell only the notes offered hereby, and only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. You should assume that the information we have included in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus supplement or base

Table of Contents

prospectus, respectively, and that any information we have incorporated by reference herein is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since these dates. It is important for you to read and consider all information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the additional information under the caption **Where You Can Find Additional Information in the base prospectus.**

We obtained the industry, market and competitive position data used in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein from our own research, internal surveys or studies conducted by third parties, independent industry or general publications and other publicly available information. Independent industry publications and surveys generally state that they have obtained information from sources believed to be reliable, but do not guarantee the accuracy and completeness of such information. While we believe that each of these studies and publications is reliable, neither we nor the underwriters have independently verified such data, and neither we nor the underwriters make any representations as to the accuracy of such information. Similarly, we believe that our internal research is reliable, but it has not been verified by any independent sources.

Table of Contents**PROSPECTUS SUMMARY**

This summary highlights information from this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein to help you understand our business and an investment in the notes offered hereby. You should read carefully this entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein for a more complete understanding of this offering. For more information about important risks that you should consider before making a decision to purchase notes in this offering, you should read the Risk Factors beginning on page S-10 of this prospectus supplement and page 3 of the accompanying base prospectus, as well as the Risk Factors appearing in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2012. Except in the Description of Notes section of this prospectus, and unless the context requires otherwise, references to Atwood Oceanics, Atwood, us, we and our mean Atwood Oceanics, Inc. together with its subsidiaries.

Atwood Oceanics, Inc.**Business Overview**

We are a global offshore drilling contractor engaged in the drilling and completion of exploratory and developmental oil and gas wells. We currently own 13 mobile offshore drilling units located in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, the Mediterranean Sea, offshore West Africa, offshore Southeast Asia and offshore Australia, and are constructing three ultra-deepwater drillships. We were founded in 1968 and are headquartered in Houston, Texas with support offices in Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

During our 44 year history, the majority of our drilling units have operated outside of United States waters, and we have conducted drilling operations in most of the major offshore exploration areas of the world. At least 95% of our contract revenues were derived from foreign operations in each of the prior three fiscal years. However, as a result of our newest ultra-deepwater, semisubmersible drilling rig, the *Atwood Condor*, starting its initial contract in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, we expect the percentage of our contract revenues derived from foreign operations for future fiscal years to decrease.

The following table presents our rig fleet as of May 31, 2013, all of which are wholly-owned by our subsidiaries:

Rig Name	Rig Type	Construction Completed/Last Upgraded (Calendar Year)	Water Depth Rating (feet)
<i>Atwood Condor</i>	Semisubmersible	construction completed 2012	10,000
<i>Atwood Osprey</i>	Semisubmersible	construction completed 2011	8,200
<i>Atwood Eagle</i>	Semisubmersible	upgraded 2002	5,000
<i>Atwood Falcon</i>	Semisubmersible	upgraded 2012	5,000
<i>Atwood Hunter</i>	Semisubmersible	upgraded 2001	5,000
<i>Atwood Orca</i>	Jackup	construction completed 2013	400
<i>Atwood Mako</i>	Jackup	construction completed 2012	400
<i>Atwood Manta</i>	Jackup	construction completed 2012	400
<i>Atwood Beacon</i>	Jackup	construction completed 2003	400
<i>Atwood Aurora</i>	Jackup	construction completed 2009	350
<i>Vicksburg</i>	Jackup	upgraded 1998	300
<i>Atwood Southern Cross</i> ⁽¹⁾	Semisubmersible	upgraded 2006	2,000
<i>Seahawk</i> ⁽¹⁾	Semisubmersible Tender Assist	upgraded 2006	1,800

(1) Currently cold-stacked and not actively marketed.

Table of Contents

In addition to our existing drilling rigs, we are in the process of constructing three additional drilling rigs. The following table presents our rigs under construction as of May 31, 2013:

Rig Name	Rig Type	Shipyard	Expected Delivery Date (quarter end)	Expected Cost (in millions)	Water Depth Rating (feet)
<i>Atwood Advantage</i>	Drillship	Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering Co., Ltd. (DSME)	September 30, 2013	\$ 635	12,000
<i>Atwood Achiever</i>	Drillship	DSME	June 30, 2014	\$ 635	12,000
<i>Atwood Admiral</i>	Drillship	DSME	March 31, 2015	\$ 635	12,000

As of March 31, 2013, the expected remaining costs for the three new drilling rigs under construction were approximately \$1.3 billion.

We retain an option to build an additional ultra-deepwater drillship with DSME that expires June 30, 2013. Although we have not currently made a final determination, we expect that we will exercise this option prior to its expiration. In determining whether to exercise the option, we will consider several factors, including oil and natural gas prices, the magnitude of our contract drilling revenue backlog, current and prospective supply and demand dynamics of the ultra-deepwater drilling market, current ultra-deepwater contract day rates, newbuild drillship construction prices and our ability to access the debt capital markets to finance the construction contract.

Our contract backlog at March 31, 2013 was approximately \$2.4 billion, representing an approximate 50% increase compared to our contract backlog of \$1.6 billion at March 31, 2012. Our revenue, EBITDA and net income for fiscal year 2012 were \$787.4 million, \$390.0 million and \$272.2 million, respectively. Our revenue, EBITDA and net income for the six months ended March 31, 2013 were \$498.3 million, \$248.4 million and \$158.4 million, respectively. We believe EBITDA provides useful information to investors because it is a basis upon which we measure our operations and efficiency. Please see [Summary Consolidated Financial Data](#) for a definition of EBITDA and a reconciliation to net income, the most directly comparable financial measure under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

Recent Developments***Recent Drilling Contracts***

In May 2013, we were awarded a one-year drilling services contract for the *Atwood Aurora* to be performed offshore Cameroon at a dayrate of approximately \$193,000 (inclusive of the 15% Cameroon withholding tax) or \$164,000 (exclusive of the 15% Cameroon withholding tax), depending on the well location. Contract commencement is expected to be in February 2014 in direct continuation of current contractual commitments. In addition, we were awarded a two-year drilling services contract for the *Atwood Eagle* to be performed offshore Australia at a day rate of approximately \$460,000. Contract commencement is expected to occur in June 2014 in direct continuation of present operations. In June 2013, we were awarded a 39-month drilling services contract for the *Atwood Condor* to be performed in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico at a day rate of approximately \$555,000. The contract is expected to begin in late August 2013 and will supersede the remainder of the existing contract for the *Atwood Condor*. In addition, in June 2013, we were awarded a three-year drilling services contract for the *Atwood Achiever* to be performed initially in Morocco at a day rate of approximately \$595,000. The contract will begin upon delivery from the shipyard in South Korea, which is estimated to be in June 2014.

Table of Contents

Stock Repurchase

On May 23, 2013, we entered into a stock purchase agreement with Helmerich & Payne International Drilling Co. (H&P), which was amended on June 13, 2013. Under the agreement, we agreed to repurchase 2,000,000 shares of our common stock from H&P and to make a payment at closing to H&P of \$107.3 million (the share repurchase). The closing of the share repurchase is subject to the continued accuracy of the parties representations and warranties and the absence of legal prohibitions preventing the share repurchase, and is expected to occur on June 27, 2013.

Based on an amendment to H&P s Schedule 13D, H&P has sold an additional 2,000,000 shares of our common stock in a block sale to a financial institution. Following the consummation of the share repurchase and assuming no other sales by H&P, H&P will own 4,000,000 shares of our common stock, or approximately 6.3% of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock of the Company. H&P is a wholly-owned subsidiary 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. Hans Helmerich, who has served on our board of directors since February 1989, serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer, as well as a director, of Helmerich & Payne, Inc.

Principal Executive Offices and Internet Address

Our principal executive offices are located at 15835 Park Ten Place Drive, Houston, Texas 77084, and our telephone number is (281) 749-7800. Our website is located at www.atwd.com. We make available our periodic reports and other information filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission, the SEC, free of charge, through our website, as soon as reasonably practicable after those reports and other information are electronically filed with or furnished to the Commission. The information contained on, or that can be accessed through, our website is not part of, and is not incorporated into, this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus.

Table of Contents

Organizational Structure

The following diagram depicts a condensed version of our organizational structure:

- (1) Atwood Offshore Worldwide Limited is the borrower under our senior secured revolving credit facility.

S-4

Table of Contents

The Offering

The following is a brief summary of some of the terms of this offering. Certain of the terms described below are subject to important limitations and exceptions. The Description of Notes section of this prospectus supplement contains a more detailed description of the terms of the notes.

Issuer	Atwood Oceanics, Inc.
Notes Offered	\$ aggregate principal amount of our 6.50% senior notes due 2020. The notes offered hereby constitute an additional issuance of our 6.50% Senior Notes due 2020 issued on January 18, 2012 in an aggregate principal amount of \$450,000,000 (the existing notes and, unless the context requires otherwise, together with the notes offered hereby, the notes) and form a single series with such notes. The notes offered hereby will be issued under the same indenture, have the same CUSIP number and will trade interchangeably with the existing notes immediately upon settlement.
Issue Price	% plus accrued interest, if any, from February 1, 2013.
Interest	6.50% per year (calculated using a 360-day year).
Interest Payment Dates	Each February 1 and August 1, with the next payment due on August 1, 2013.
Maturity Date	February 1, 2020.
Ranking	<p>The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations. Accordingly, they will rank:</p> <p>equal in right of payment with all of our existing and future senior unsecured indebtedness;</p> <p>effectively subordinate in right of payment to all of our existing and future secured indebtedness, including indebtedness under our senior secured revolving credit facility, to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness;</p> <p>effectively subordinate in right of payment to all of our existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities, including trade payables, of our subsidiaries that do not guarantee the notes (other than indebtedness and other liabilities owed to us); and</p> <p>senior in right of payment to all of our future subordinated indebtedness.</p>

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

As of March 31, 2013, after giving effect to this offering and the application of the net proceeds therefrom (excluding the accrued interest paid by the purchasers) as described under Use of Proceeds, we would have had approximately \$ million of total indebtedness, of which \$ million would have been senior secured indebtedness and none would have been subordinate in right of payment to the notes, and approximately \$ million would have been available for borrowings under our senior secured revolving credit facility.

S-5

Table of Contents

Subsidiary Guarantees

The notes will not initially be guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries. The notes contain covenants which may require certain of our subsidiaries in the future to guarantee the payment obligations under the notes simultaneously with its guarantee of our other indebtedness (except indebtedness under our senior secured revolving credit facility). See

Description of Notes Certain Covenants Limitation on Issuances of Guarantees of Indebtedness.

The subsidiary guarantee of each guarantor subsidiary, if any, will be a senior unsecured obligation of such guarantor subsidiary. Accordingly, each subsidiary guarantee will rank:

equal in right of payment with all existing and future senior unsecured indebtedness of the guarantor subsidiary;

effectively subordinate in right of payment to all existing and future secured indebtedness of the guarantor subsidiary, including its guarantee of indebtedness under our senior secured revolving credit facility, to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness;

effectively subordinate in right of payment to all existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities, including trade payables, of any subsidiaries of such guarantor subsidiary that do not guarantee the notes (other than indebtedness owed to such guarantor subsidiary); and

senior in right of payment to any future subordinated indebtedness of the guarantor subsidiary.

Our subsidiaries, all of whom currently are non-guarantors, generated all of our consolidated operating revenues for fiscal year 2012 and held all of our consolidated assets as of September 30, 2012.

Optional Redemption

At any time prior to February 1, 2015, we may, on any one or more occasions, redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes with the net cash proceeds of certain equity offerings at the redemption price set forth under Description of Notes Optional Redemption, if at least 65% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes originally issued under the indenture (including the notes offered hereby and any additional notes, but excluding notes held by us and our subsidiaries) remains outstanding immediately after such redemption and the redemption occurs within 90 days of the closing date of such equity offering.

At any time prior to February 1, 2016, we may, on any one or more occasions, redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at a make whole redemption price set forth under Description of Notes Optional Redemption.

On and after February 1, 2016, we may, on any one or more occasions, redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at the redemption prices set forth under Description of Notes Optional Redemption.

S-6

Table of Contents

Change of Control

If a change of control occurs as described under Description of Notes Repurchase at the Option of Holders, each holder of notes may require us to repurchase all or a portion of its notes for cash at a price equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of such notes, plus any accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the date of repurchase.

Certain Covenants

The indenture governing the notes contains covenants that, among other things, limit our ability and the ability of our restricted subsidiaries to:

incur, assume or guarantee additional indebtedness or issue certain preferred stock;

pay dividends or make distributions on capital stock or redeem, repurchase or retire our capital stock or subordinated indebtedness;

transfer or sell assets;

make investments;

create certain liens;

enter into agreements that restrict dividends or other payments from our restricted subsidiaries to us;

consolidate or merge with or into, or transfer all or substantially all of the assets of our company to, another person;

engage in transactions with affiliates;

create unrestricted subsidiaries; and

enter into new lines of business.

These covenants are subject to important exceptions and qualifications as described under Description of Notes Certain Covenants.

Additional Amounts

Any payments made by us under or with respect to the notes will be made without withholding or deduction for taxes unless required by law. If we are succeeded by a successor company in a permitted foreign jurisdiction as permitted by the covenant described under Description of Notes Certain Covenants Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets and we are required by law to withhold or deduct for taxes in any relevant taxing jurisdiction with respect to a payment to the holders of notes, we will pay the additional

amounts necessary so that the net amount received by the holders of notes after the withholding will equal the amount that they would have received in the absence of the withholding, subject to certain exceptions. See Description of Notes Additional Amounts.

Optional Redemption for Tax Reasons

If, as a result of certain developments in respect of taxes, we are required to pay additional amounts, we may redeem the notes in whole, but not in part, at any time, at a redemption price of 100% of

S-7

Table of Contents

the principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, and additional amounts, if any, to the date of redemption. See Description of Notes Redemption for Changes in Taxes.

Use of Proceeds

We estimate that the net proceeds (excluding the accrued interest paid by the purchasers) from this offering, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses, will be approximately \$ million. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes, including funding our newbuild program. Pending ultimate use, we may use net proceeds to reduce outstanding borrowings under our senior secured revolving credit facility.

Conflicts of Interest

Affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders under our credit facility and, accordingly, may receive a portion of the proceeds from this offering in the form of the repayment of borrowings under such facility.

Because affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders under our credit facility and may receive more than 5% of the net proceeds of this offering due to such repayment, this offering will be conducted in accordance with Rule 5121 of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., which requires, among other things, that a qualified independent underwriter has participated in the preparation of, and has exercised the usual standards of due diligence with respect to, the registration statement and this prospectus. Barclays Capital Inc. has agreed to act as qualified independent underwriter for the offering. See Use of Proceeds and Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest) Conflicts of Interest.

Market for the Notes

The notes offered hereby will trade interchangeably with the existing notes and will not be listed on any securities exchange or included in any automated quotation system. The underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the notes. The underwriters are not obligated, however, to make a market in the notes, and any such market-making activities may be discontinued by the underwriters in their discretion at any time without notice. See Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest).

Risk Factors

You should consider carefully the information set forth in the section entitled Risk Factors beginning on page S-10 of the prospectus supplement and page 3 of the accompanying base prospectus and all other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus before deciding to invest in the notes.

Table of Contents**SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA**

We have derived the selected consolidated financial information as of and for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2012, 2011 and 2010 from our audited consolidated financial statements. We have derived the selected consolidated financial information as of and for six months ended March 31, 2013 and 2012 from our unaudited consolidated financial statements. You should read the summary historical financial data below in conjunction with our historical financial statements and the accompanying notes, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement. You should also read the sections entitled "Risk Factors" elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Risk Factors" included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2012 and our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2013, each of which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement.

(in thousands, except ratios)	For the Years Ended			For the Six Months	
	2012	September 30, 2011	2010	Ended March 31, 2013	2012
Statement of Operations Data					
Operating revenues	\$ 787,421	\$ 645,076	\$ 650,562	\$ 498,254	\$ 356,293
Contract drilling costs	(347,179)	(223,565)	(252,427)	(219,389)	(157,686)
Depreciation	(70,599)	(43,597)	(37,030)	(56,060)	(30,769)
General and administrative	(49,776)	(44,407)	(40,620)	(30,489)	(25,646)
Other, net	(457)	(4,847)	1,855	(13)	863
Operating income	319,410	328,660	322,340	192,329	141,329
Other (expense) income	(6,106)	(3,813)	(2,361)	(10,810)	94
Income tax provision	(41,133)	(53,173)	(62,983)	(23,169)	(16,489)
Net Income	\$ 272,171	\$ 271,674	\$ 256,996	\$ 158,350	\$ 124,934
Balance Sheet Data (at end of period):					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 77,871	\$ 295,002	\$ 180,523	\$ 117,707	\$ 131,627
Working capital	233,867	301,608	266,534	259,841	196,000
Net property and equipment	2,537,340	1,887,321	1,343,961	2,888,235	2,187,471
Total assets	2,943,762	2,375,391	1,724,440	3,305,746	2,532,929
Total long-term debt	830,000	520,000	230,000	1,040,000	600,000
Shareholders' equity	1,939,422	1,652,787	1,370,134	2,108,829	1,785,334
Other Financial Data:					
EBITDA(1)	\$ 390,009	\$ 372,257	\$ 359,370	\$ 248,389	\$ 172,098

- (1) We define EBITDA as net income before interest expense (income), net, income taxes and depreciation. EBITDA is presented as a supplemental financial measurement in the evaluation of our business. We believe that it provides additional information regarding our ability to meet our future debt service, capital expenditure and working capital requirements. This measure is widely used by investors and rating agencies in the valuation, comparison, rating and investment recommendations of companies. EBITDA is not a measure of financial performance under GAAP. Accordingly, it should not be considered as a substitute for net income, income from operations or cash flow provided by operating activities prepared in accordance with GAAP. EBITDA is reconciled to net income as follows:

(in thousands)	For the Years Ended			For the Six Months	
	2012	September 30, 2011	2010	Ended March 31, 2013	2012
Net income	\$ 272,171	\$ 271,674	\$ 256,996	\$ 158,350	\$ 124,934
Interest expense (income), net	6,106	3,813	2,361	10,810	(94)
Income tax provision	41,133	53,173	62,983	23,169	16,489
Depreciation	70,599	43,597	37,030	56,060	30,769

EBITDA	\$ 390,009	\$ 372,257	\$ 359,370	\$ 248,389	\$ 172,098
--------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

S-9

Table of Contents**RISK FACTORS**

An investment in the notes involves risks. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the risks described in the section titled Risk Factors, as well as those risks and other factors described in the sections titled Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Forward-Looking Statements, in our filings with the SEC referred to under the heading Where You Can Find More Information in the accompanying base prospectus, including our most recent annual report on Form 10-K and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and other reports and documents we file with the SEC that are incorporated by reference herein, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference. If any of these risks were to materialize, our business, results of operations, cash flows and financial condition could be materially adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of the notes could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Related to Our Indebtedness and the Notes

The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and, except in certain limited instances, will not be guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries. As such, the notes will be effectively subordinated to any of our secured debt, including our existing and any future debt under our credit facility, and the debt of our subsidiaries. Furthermore, as a holding company, we depend on cash we obtain from our subsidiaries to meet our debt service obligations.

The notes will constitute our senior unsecured debt and will rank equally in right of payment with all of our existing and any future unsecured senior indebtedness and senior in right of payment to any of our future subordinated indebtedness. The notes will be effectively subordinated to our existing and any future secured indebtedness, to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness, including our senior secured revolving credit facility, which is secured by certain of our offshore drilling rigs and other assets. If we are involved in any dissolution, liquidation or reorganization, holders of our secured debt would be paid before holders of the notes receive any amounts due under the notes to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such debt. In that event, holders of the notes may not be able to recover any or all of the principal or interest due under the notes.

Our operations are conducted through our subsidiaries and, therefore, we depend on the cash flow of our subsidiaries to meet our obligations, including our obligations under the notes. Our subsidiaries, none of whom will guarantee the notes as of the date of issuance of the notes, generated all of our consolidated operating revenues for the six months ended March 31, 2013 and held all of our consolidated assets as of March 31, 2013. Contractual provisions, including those contained in our senior secured revolving credit facility, or laws, as well as our subsidiaries' financial condition and operating requirements, may limit our ability to obtain the cash from our subsidiaries that we require to pay our debt service obligations, including payments on the notes. We intend to loan the net proceeds from the issuance of the notes to our subsidiary Atwood Offshore Worldwide Limited (AOWL) for the purpose of AOWL using the funds to reduce the outstanding borrowings under our senior secured revolving credit facility. In accordance with the provisions of our senior secured revolving credit facility, that intercompany loan must be subordinated in right of payment to the obligations under the credit facility. As a result, if a default or event of default occurs under the credit facility, AOWL will not be permitted to make payments on the intercompany loan, and we may not be able to receive the cash necessary to make payments on the notes. The notes will be effectively subordinated in right of payment to all indebtedness and other liabilities and commitments (including trade payables and lease obligations) of our non-guarantor subsidiaries. Our right to receive assets of any of our non-guarantor subsidiaries upon the subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization (and the consequent right of the holders of the notes to participate in those assets) will be effectively subordinated to the claims of that subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that we are recognized as a creditor of the subsidiary, in which case our claims would still be subordinate in right of payment to any indebtedness of the subsidiary senior to that held by us and any secured indebtedness of the subsidiary to the extent of the value of

Table of Contents

the assets securing such indebtedness. As of March 31, 2013, after giving effect to the issuance of the notes and the application of the net proceeds (excluding the accrued interest paid by the purchasers) as described under Use of Proceeds, our non-guarantor subsidiaries would have had approximately \$ million of indebtedness and \$156.9 million of trade payables and other liabilities outstanding.

We may not be able to generate sufficient cash to service all of our indebtedness, including the notes, and may be forced to take other actions to satisfy our obligations under our indebtedness, which may not be successful.

Our ability to make scheduled payments on or to refinance our debt obligations depends on our financial condition and operating performance, which is subject to prevailing economic and competitive conditions and to certain financial, business and other factors beyond our control. We may not be able to maintain a level of cash flows from operating activities sufficient to permit us to pay the principal, premium, if any, and interest on our indebtedness, including the notes.

If our cash flows and capital resources are insufficient to fund our debt service obligations, we may be forced to reduce or delay investment decisions and capital expenditures, or to sell assets, seek additional capital or restructure or refinance our indebtedness, including the notes. Our ability to restructure or refinance our debt will depend on the condition of the capital markets and our financial condition at such time. Any refinancing of our debt could be at higher interest rates and may require us to comply with more onerous covenants, which could further restrict our business operations. The terms of existing or future debt instruments and the indenture governing the notes may restrict us from adopting some of these alternatives. In addition, any failure to make payments of interest and principal on our outstanding indebtedness on a timely basis would likely result in a reduction of our credit rating, which could harm our ability to incur additional indebtedness. In the absence of such operating results and resources, we could face substantial liquidity problems and might be required to dispose of material assets or operations to meet our debt service and other obligations. The agreement relating to our senior secured revolving credit facility and the indenture governing the notes restrict our ability to dispose of assets and use the proceeds from the disposition. We may not be able to consummate those dispositions or to obtain the proceeds that we could realize from them and these proceeds may not be adequate to meet any debt service obligations then due. These alternative measures may not be successful and may not permit us to meet our scheduled debt service obligations. If we breach our covenants under our existing debt agreements and seek a waiver, we may not be able to obtain a waiver from the required lenders or debt holders. If this occurs, we would be in default under those debt agreements, the lenders or debt holders could exercise their rights and we could be forced into bankruptcy or liquidation. See Description of Notes.

We and our subsidiaries may incur substantial additional indebtedness. This could increase the risks associated with the notes.

As of March 31, 2013, after giving effect to this offering and the application of the net proceeds therefrom (excluding the accrued interest paid by the purchasers) as described under Use of Proceeds, we would have had approximately \$ million of total indebtedness, of which \$ million would have been senior secured indebtedness and none would have been subordinate in right of payment to the notes, and approximately \$ million would have been available for borrowings under our senior secured revolving credit facility.

Subject to the restrictions in the indenture governing the notes and in other instruments governing our other outstanding indebtedness (including our senior secured revolving credit facility), we and our subsidiaries may incur substantial additional indebtedness (including secured indebtedness) in the future. Although the indenture governing the notes and our senior secured revolving credit facility contain restrictions on the incurrence of additional indebtedness, these restrictions are subject to waiver and a number of significant qualifications and exceptions, and indebtedness incurred in compliance with these restrictions could be substantial.

Table of Contents

If we incur any additional indebtedness that ranks equally with the notes, including additional unsecured indebtedness or trade payables, the holders of that indebtedness will be entitled to share ratably with holders of the notes in any proceeds distributed in connection with any insolvency, liquidation, reorganization, dissolution or other winding-up of us. This may have the effect of reducing the amount of proceeds paid to holders of the notes in connection with such a distribution.

Any increase in our level of indebtedness will have several important effects on our future operations, including, without limitation:

we will have additional cash requirements in order to support the payment of interest on our outstanding indebtedness;

increases in our outstanding indebtedness and leverage will increase our vulnerability to adverse changes in general economic and industry conditions, as well as to competitive pressure; and

depending on the levels of our outstanding indebtedness, our ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures, general corporate and other purposes may be limited.

If we are unable to comply with the restrictions and covenants in the agreements governing the notes and our other debt, there could be a default under the terms of these agreements, which could result in an acceleration of payment of funds that we have borrowed and would impact our ability to make principal and interest payments on the notes.

If we are unable to comply with the restrictions and covenants in our credit facility and the indenture governing the notes or in other current or future debt financing agreements, there could be a default under the terms of these agreements. Our ability to comply with these restrictions and covenants, including meeting financial ratios and tests, may be affected by events beyond our control. As a result, we cannot assure you that we will be able to comply with these restrictions and covenants or meet these tests. Any default under the agreements governing our indebtedness, including a default under our credit facility, that is not waived by the required lenders, and the remedies sought by the holders of such indebtedness, could prevent us from paying principal, premium, if any, and interest on the notes and substantially decrease the market value of the notes. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flow and are otherwise unable to obtain funds necessary to meet required payments of principal, premium, if any, and interest on our indebtedness, or if we otherwise fail to comply with the various covenants, including financial and operating covenants in the instruments governing our indebtedness (including covenants in our credit facility and the indenture governing the notes), we could be in default under the terms of the agreements governing such indebtedness, including our credit facility and the indenture governing the notes. In the event of such default:

the holders of such indebtedness could elect to declare all the funds borrowed thereunder to be due and payable, together with accrued and unpaid interest;

the lenders under our credit facility could elect to terminate their commitments thereunder, cease making further loans and institute foreclosure proceedings against our assets; and

we could be forced into bankruptcy or liquidation.

Moreover, our credit facility and the indenture governing the notes each contain cross-default or cross-acceleration provisions that would be triggered by the occurrence of a default or acceleration under other instruments governing our indebtedness. If the payment of our indebtedness is accelerated, there can be no assurance that our assets would be sufficient to repay in full that indebtedness and our other indebtedness that would become due as a result of any acceleration.

If our operating performance declines, we may in the future need to obtain waivers from the required lenders under our credit facility to avoid being in default. If we breach our covenants under our credit facility and seek a waiver, we may not be able to obtain a waiver from the required lenders. If this occurs, we would be in

Table of Contents

default under our credit facility, the lenders could exercise their rights, as described above, and we could be forced into bankruptcy or liquidation.

We may not be able to repurchase the notes with cash upon a Change of Control or in connection with an offer to repurchase the notes as a result of an asset sale as required by the indenture.

Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control (as defined in the indenture governing the notes), we will be required to offer to repurchase all of the notes at a price equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of repurchase. In addition, in connection with certain asset sales, we will be required to offer to repurchase the notes at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of repurchase. See Description of Notes Repurchase at the Option of Holders.

We may not have sufficient funds available to repurchase all of the notes tendered pursuant to any such offer and any other debt that would become payable upon a Change of Control or in connection with such offer. Any of our future debt agreements may also limit our ability to repurchase the notes until all such debt is paid in full. If we fail to repurchase the notes, we would be in default under the indenture, which would likely in turn trigger a default under the instruments governing our existing and any future indebtedness. In addition, the occurrence of a Change of Control may also constitute an event of default under the instruments governing our existing and any future debt. In such an event, we would be required to cure or refinance the applicable indebtedness before making an offer to purchase the notes. Any requirement to offer to repurchase notes may therefore require us to refinance other outstanding debt, which we may be unable to achieve on commercially reasonable terms, if at all.

Certain important corporate events, such as takeovers, recapitalizations, restructurings, mergers or similar transactions, may not constitute a Change of Control under the indenture governing the notes and thus would not permit the holders of the notes to require us to repurchase the notes. In addition, the definition of change of control in the indenture governing the notes includes a phrase relating to the direct or indirect sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of all or substantially all of our and our subsidiaries' properties or assets taken as a whole. Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase substantially all, there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, the ability of a holder of notes to require us to repurchase its notes as a result of a sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of less than all of our and our subsidiaries' assets taken as a whole to another person or group may be uncertain.

Additionally, the exercise by the holders of notes of their right to require us to repurchase the notes upon an asset sale offer could cause a default under our existing and any future debt agreements if we are then prohibited by the terms of the applicable debt agreements from making the asset sale offer under the indenture. In the event an asset sale occurs at a time when we are prohibited from repurchasing notes, we could seek the consent of our other applicable lenders to the repurchase of notes or could attempt to refinance the borrowings that contain such prohibition. If we do not obtain such consent or repay those borrowings, we will remain prohibited from repurchasing notes.

Table of Contents

Any guarantees of the notes by our subsidiaries could be deemed fraudulent conveyances under certain circumstances, and a court may subordinate or void the subsidiary guarantees.

The indenture governing the notes does not require any subsidiary to guarantee the notes unless that subsidiary guarantees any of our other indebtedness (excluding our indebtedness under credit facilities) as described under Description of Notes Future Note Guarantees. The notes will not be guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries as of the issue date of the notes offered hereby. However, various fraudulent conveyance or transfer laws have been enacted for the protection of creditors, and a court may use these laws to subordinate or avoid any subsidiary guarantee that may be delivered in the future. Generally, a subsidiary guarantee may be voided as a fraudulent conveyance or held unenforceable if a U.S. court were to find that at the time one of our subsidiaries entered into a subsidiary guarantee either:

the subsidiary incurred the guarantee with the intent to hinder, delay, or defraud any present or future creditor, or contemplated insolvency with a design to favor one or more creditors to the exclusion of others; or

the subsidiary did not receive fair consideration or reasonably equivalent value for issuing the subsidiary guarantee; and, in either case, at the time it issued the subsidiary guarantee, the subsidiary:

was insolvent or became insolvent as a result of issuing the subsidiary guarantee;

was engaged or about to engage in a business or transaction for which the remaining assets of the subsidiary constituted unreasonably small capital; or

intended to incur, or believed that it would incur, debts beyond its ability to pay those debts as they matured.

A legal challenge of a subsidiary guarantee on fraudulent conveyance grounds may focus, among other things, on the benefits, if any, the subsidiary realized as a result of our issuing the notes or the delivery of the subsidiary guarantee. To the extent the subsidiary guarantee was avoided as a fraudulent conveyance or held unenforceable for any other reason, the holders of the notes would cease to have any claim against that subsidiary guarantor and would be solely creditors of the parent company and of any subsidiary guarantors whose subsidiary guarantees were not avoided or held unenforceable. In that event, the claims of the holders of the notes against the issuer of an invalid subsidiary guarantee would be subject to the prior payment of all liabilities of that subsidiary guarantor.

Many of the covenants contained in the indenture governing the notes terminate if the notes are rated investment grade by either Standard & Poor's Ratings Services or Moody's Investors Service, Inc.

Many of the covenants in the indenture governing the notes terminate if the notes are rated investment grade by either Standard & Poor's Ratings Services or Moody's Investors Service, Inc. These covenants restrict, among other things, our ability to pay dividends, to incur debt and to enter into certain other transactions. There can be no assurance that the notes will ever be rated investment grade, or that if they are rated investment grade, that the notes will maintain such ratings. However, termination of these covenants would, for the term of the notes and even if the notes fail to maintain such ratings, allow us to engage in certain transactions that would not be permitted while these covenants were in force. Please read Description of Notes Certain Covenants Changes in Covenants when Notes Rated Investment Grade.

Table of Contents

You may not be able to resell the notes easily or at a favorable price.

The notes offered hereby will be issued under the same indenture, have the same CUSIP number and will trade interchangeably with the existing notes immediately upon settlement. We are not certain of the liquidity of the market for the notes, the ability of the holders to sell their notes at all or the price at which holders would be able to sell their notes. In addition, the market price for the notes may be adversely affected by changes in prevailing interest rates, changes in our operating results and financial condition, performances or prospects for companies in our industry and changes in our overall market for similar securities.

Covenants in the indenture governing the notes, as well as in our senior secured revolving credit facility, restrict our ability to engage in certain activities.

The indenture governing the notes and our senior secured revolving credit facility restrict our ability to, among other things:

incur, assume or guarantee additional indebtedness or issue redeemable stock;

pay dividends or distributions;

make loans and other types of investments;

incur liens;

restrict dividends, loans or asset transfers from our subsidiaries;

sell or otherwise dispose of assets, including capital stock of subsidiaries;

consolidate or merge with or into, or sell substantially all of our assets to, another person;

acquire assets or businesses;

enter into transactions with affiliates; and

enter into new lines of business.

In addition, our credit facility contains various financial covenants that impose a maximum leverage ratio of 4.0 to 1.0, a debt to capitalization ratio of 0.5 to 1.0, a minimum interest expense coverage ratio of 3.0 to 1.0 and a minimum collateral maintenance of 150% of the aggregate amount outstanding under the credit facility. Our ability to meet these covenants or requirements may be affected by events beyond our control, and there can be no assurance that we will satisfy such covenants and requirements in the future. Such restrictions may limit our ability to successfully execute our business plans, which may have adverse consequences on our operations.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds (excluding the accrued interest paid by the purchasers) from this offering, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses, will be approximately \$ million. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes, including funding our newbuild program. In this connection, we used existing cash balances and borrowings under our senior secured revolving credit facility to fund the payment in April 2013 of approximately \$141 million for the construction and early delivery of the *Atwood Orca*, and we expect to pay approximately \$400 million in September 2013 in connection with the construction of the *Atwood Advantage*. On June 27, 2013, we will be required to pay \$107.3 million to H&P in connection with the share repurchase. Pending ultimate use, we may use net proceeds to reduce outstanding borrowings under our senior secured revolving credit facility.

As of March 31, 2013, the weighted average interest rate with respect to outstanding borrowings under our credit facility, after considering the impact of our interest rate swaps, was 3.0%. The indebtedness under our credit facility matures in May 2016. Borrowings under our credit facility were incurred for general corporate purposes, including funding the construction of our new build program and other capital expenditures.

Affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders under our credit facility, and accordingly, may receive a portion of the proceeds from this offering in the form of the repayment of borrowings under such facility. See Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest) Conflicts of Interest.

S-16

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our cash and cash equivalents and our unaudited capitalization as of March 31, 2013 (i) on an actual historical basis and (ii) on an as adjusted basis to reflect this offering and the application of the net proceeds (excluding the accrued interest paid by the purchasers) from the offering to repay amounts outstanding under our senior secured revolving credit facility as described under Use of Proceeds. The following table does not reflect the expected payment of \$107.3 million to H&P on June 27, 2013 in connection with the share repurchase. The following table is unaudited and should be read together with our financial statements and accompanying notes incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

	As of March 31, 2013	
	Historical	As Adjusted
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 117.7	\$ 117.7
Long-term debt:		
Senior secured revolving credit facility(1)	590.0	
6.50% senior notes due 2020	450.0	
Total long-term debt	\$ 1,040.0	\$
Total shareholders' equity	2,108.8	2,108.8(2)
Total capitalization	\$ 3,148.8	\$

- (1) As of May 31, 2013, outstanding borrowings under our senior secured revolving credit facility were approximately \$680.0 million.
- (2) Giving effect to the expected payment of \$107.3 million to H&P on June 27, 2013 in connection with the share repurchase would result in a reduction of total shareholders' equity to \$2,001.5 million.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The table below sets forth our historical and pro forma ratios of earnings to fixed charges on a consolidated basis for each of the periods indicated:

	Six Months Ended		Historical				Pro Forma(1)	
			Fiscal Years Ended September 30,				Year Ended	Six Months Ended
	March 31, 2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	September 30, 2012	March 31, 2013
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	7.2x	8.1x	25.8x	48.4x	27.0x	61.3x	x	x

- (1) The pro forma calculation assumes that the notes were issued on, and accrued interest from, October 1, 2011 and that the net proceeds were used, on the first day of each fiscal quarter, to reduce amounts outstanding under our senior secured revolving credit facility at the end of such quarter. The calculation also assumes that such net amount outstanding under the credit facility, if any, was outstanding for the full fiscal quarter.

For purposes of this table, earnings consists of income before income taxes plus fixed charges and less capitalized interest. Fixed charges consists of interest expense and capitalized interest.

Table of Contents**DESCRIPTION OF OTHER INDEBTEDNESS****Revolving Credit Facility**

As of March 31, 2013, we had \$590 million of outstanding borrowings under our five-year \$750 million senior secured revolving credit facility. Including the \$450 million aggregate principal amount of our 2020 notes, we had a total debt to capitalization ratio of 33% as of such date. As of May 1, 2013, we had borrowed an additional \$90 million under our credit facility subsequent to March 31, 2013. Our subsidiary, Atwood Offshore Worldwide Limited (AOWL), is the borrower under the credit facility, and we and certain of our other subsidiaries are guarantors under the facility. Borrowings under the credit facility bear interest at the Eurodollar rate plus a margin of 2.5%. Certain borrowings effectively bear interest at a fixed rate due to our interest rate swaps. The average interest rate for borrowings under the credit facility was approximately 3.0% per annum at March 31, 2013, after considering the impact of our interest rate swaps. The credit facility also provides for the issuance, when requested, of standby letters of credit. The credit facility has a commitment fee of 1.0% per annum on the unused portion of the underlying commitment. Subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions precedent and the agreement by the lenders, the credit facility includes an accordion feature which, if exercised, will increase total commitments by up to \$550 million for a total commitment of up to \$1.3 billion.

The credit facility contains various financial covenants that impose a maximum leverage ratio of 4.0 to 1.0, a debt to capitalization ratio of 0.5 to 1.0, a minimum interest expense coverage ratio of 3.0 to 1.0 and a minimum collateral maintenance of 150% of the aggregate amount outstanding under the credit facility. In addition, the credit facility contains limitations on our and certain of our subsidiaries' ability to incur liens; merge, consolidate or sell substantially all assets; pay dividends (including restrictions on AOWL's ability to pay dividends to us); incur additional indebtedness; make advances, investments or loans; and transact with affiliates. The credit facility also contains customary events of default, including but not limited to delinquent payments, bankruptcy filings, material adverse judgments, guarantees or security documents not being in full effect, non-compliance with the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, cross-defaults under other debt agreements, or a change of control. The credit facility is secured primarily by first preferred mortgages on six of our active drilling units (the *Atwood Aurora*, the *Atwood Beacon*, the *Atwood Eagle*, the *Atwood Falcon*, the *Atwood Hunter*, and the *Atwood Osprey*), as well as liens on the equity interests of our subsidiaries that own, directly or indirectly, such drilling units. In addition, if we exercise the accordion feature, the credit facility requires that, depending on the size of the increase, we provide a first preferred mortgage on the *Atwood Condor*, the *Atwood Mako* and the *Atwood Manta*, as well as a lien on the equity interests of our subsidiaries that own, directly or indirectly, such rigs. We were in compliance with all financial covenants under the credit facility at March 31, 2013.

2020 Notes

In January 2012, we issued \$450 million aggregate principal amount of 6.50% Senior Notes due 2020. The notes offered hereby constitute an additional issuance of the existing notes and form a single series with the existing notes. The notes offered hereby will be issued under the same indenture, have the same CUSIP number and will trade interchangeably with the existing notes immediately upon settlement.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF NOTES

You can find the definitions of certain terms used in this description under the subheading *Certain Definitions*. In this description, the terms *the Company*, *us*, *our* or *we* refer only to Atwood Oceanics, Inc. and not to any of its Subsidiaries. The term *notes* refers to the Company's notes being offered hereby.

The Company will issue the notes under an indenture dated as of January 18, 2012 (the *Base Indenture*), as supplemented by a supplemental indenture which established the terms of the notes (together, as such may be amended, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, the *Indenture*) between itself and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee. The terms of the notes include those stated in the Indenture and those made part of the Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the *Trust Indenture Act*).

On January 18, 2012, the Company issued \$450.0 million in aggregate principal amount of notes under the Indenture. The \$ million of notes offered hereby will have identical terms, other than the issue date, and will constitute part of the same series as the initial notes. Unless the context indicates otherwise, references in this description to the *notes* include both the initial notes and the notes offered hereby.

The following description is a summary of the material provisions of the Indenture and the notes. Because this description is only a summary, we urge you to read the Indenture because it, and not this description, defines your rights as holders of the notes. We have filed a copy of the Base Indenture as an exhibit to the registration statement which includes the accompanying base prospectus. The following description supersedes in its entirety the description contained in the accompanying base prospectus under the caption *Description of Debt Securities*.

The registered holder of a note will be treated as the owner of it for all purposes. Only registered holders will have rights under the Indenture.

Brief Description of the Notes and Future Note Guarantees

The Notes

The notes offered hereby, like the initial notes, will be:

general unsecured obligations of the Company;

equal in right of payment with all existing and future unsecured senior Indebtedness of the Company; and

senior in right of payment to any future subordinated Indebtedness of the Company.

However, the notes will be effectively subordinated to any secured Indebtedness of the Company, including all Indebtedness under the Credit Agreement (which is secured by certain offshore drilling rigs and other assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries) to the extent of the value of the assets securing such Indebtedness. In addition, the notes will be structurally subordinated to all Indebtedness and other liabilities of our Subsidiaries that do not guarantee the notes (other than Indebtedness and other liabilities owed to the Company). Initially, none of our Subsidiaries will guarantee the notes. See *Risk Factors*. The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and, except in certain limited instances, will not be guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries. As such, the notes will be effectively subordinated to any of our secured debt, including our existing and any future debt under our credit facility, and the debt of our subsidiaries. Furthermore, as a holding company, we depend on cash we obtain from our subsidiaries to meet our debt service obligations.

Future Note Guarantees

Initially, the initial notes and the notes offered hereby will not be guaranteed by any of our Subsidiaries. Although there currently are no Guarantors, covenants described below may require a Subsidiary in the future to

Table of Contents

guarantee the payment obligations under the notes simultaneously with its guarantee of our other Indebtedness (except Indebtedness under the Credit Agreement). See **Certain Covenants - Limitation on Issuances of Guarantees of Indebtedness**.

Each guarantee of the notes, if any, will be:

a general unsecured obligation of the Guarantor;

equal in right of payment with all existing and future unsecured senior Indebtedness of that Guarantor;

effectively subordinated to any secured Indebtedness of that Guarantor, to the extent of the value of the assets of that Guarantor securing such Indebtedness;

effectively subordinated to all Indebtedness and other liabilities of any subsidiaries of that Guarantor that do not guarantee the notes (other than Indebtedness owed to that Guarantor); and

senior in right of payment to any future subordinated Indebtedness of that Guarantor.

Our operations are conducted through our Subsidiaries and, therefore, the Company depends on the cash flow of its Subsidiaries to meet its obligations, including its obligations under the notes. Our Subsidiaries, all of whom currently are non-guarantors, generated all of our consolidated operating revenues for the six months ended March 31, 2013 and held all of our consolidated assets as of March 31, 2013. The notes will be effectively subordinated in right of payment to all Indebtedness and other liabilities and commitments (including trade payables and lease obligations) of the Company's non-guarantor Subsidiaries. Any right of the Company to receive assets of any of its non-guarantor Subsidiaries upon the Subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization (and the consequent right of the holders of the notes to participate in those assets) will be effectively subordinated to the claims of that Subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that the Company is itself recognized as a creditor of the Subsidiary, in which case the claims of the Company would still be subordinate in right of payment to any Indebtedness of the Subsidiary senior to that held by the Company and any secured Indebtedness of the Subsidiary to the extent of the value of the assets securing such Indebtedness. As of March 31, 2013, after giving effect to the issuance of the notes and the application of the net proceeds as described under **Use of Proceeds**, the Company's non-guarantor Subsidiaries would have had approximately \$ million of Indebtedness and \$156.9 million of trade payables and other liabilities outstanding. See **Risk Factors**. The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and, except in certain limited instances, will not be guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries. As such, the notes will be effectively subordinated to any of our secured debt, including our existing and any future debt under our credit facility, and the debt of our subsidiaries. Furthermore, as a holding company, we depend on cash we obtain from our subsidiaries to meet our debt service obligations.

Currently, all of our Subsidiaries are **Restricted Subsidiaries**. However, under the circumstances described below under the caption **Certain Covenants - Designation of Restricted and Unrestricted Subsidiaries**, we may designate certain of our Subsidiaries as **Unrestricted Subsidiaries**. Our **Unrestricted Subsidiaries** will not be subject to many of the restrictive covenants in the Indenture. Our **Unrestricted Subsidiaries** will not, either as of the Issue Date or in the future, guarantee the notes.

Principal, Maturity and Interest

The Company issued \$450.0 million in aggregate principal amount of initial notes in January 2012, and it will issue notes in an additional \$ million in aggregate principal amount in this offering. The Company may issue additional notes under the Indenture from time to time after this offering. Any issuance of additional notes is subject to all of the covenants in the Indenture, including the covenant described below under the caption **Certain Covenants - Incurrence of Indebtedness and Issuance of Preferred Stock**. The notes and any additional notes subsequently issued under the Indenture will be treated as a single class for all purposes under the Indenture, including waivers, amendments, redemptions and offers to purchase. Unless the context requires otherwise, references to the notes refer to the notes initially issued and any additional notes subsequently issued.

Table of Contents

The Company intends to take the position that the notes offered hereby will be fungible with the initial notes issued on January 18, 2012 for United States federal income tax purposes. See Material United States Federal Tax Considerations. However, any additional notes may not be fungible with the notes offered hereby and the initial notes for United States federal income tax purposes. The Company will issue notes in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess of \$2,000. The notes will mature on February 1, 2020.

Interest on the notes accrues at the rate of 6.50% per annum and is payable semi-annually in arrears on February 1 and August 1, with the next interest payment being due on August 1, 2013. Interest on the notes offered hereby will accrue from February 1, 2013. Interest on overdue principal, interest and Additional Amounts, if any, will accrue at a rate that is 1% higher than the then applicable interest rate on the notes. The Company will make each interest payment to the holders of record on the January 15 and July 15 immediately preceding the applicable interest payment date.

Interest is computed on the basis of a 360-day year comprised of twelve 30-day months.

Payment of Additional Amounts

All payments made by us under or with respect to the notes will be made free and clear of and without withholding or deduction for, or on account of, any present or future tax, duty, assessment, or other governmental charge of whatever nature imposed, levied, collected, withheld or assessed (including any penalties and interest related thereto) (*Taxes*) unless the withholding or deduction of such Taxes is then required by law. In the event that the Company is succeeded by a Successor Company in a Permitted Foreign Jurisdiction as permitted by the covenant described below under Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets and if any deduction or withholding for, or on account of, any Taxes imposed or levied by or on behalf of (1) any jurisdiction in which we (which, for purposes of this discussion, refers to our Successor Company) or any Guarantor, are then incorporated, engaged in business, organized or otherwise resident or treated as resident for tax purposes or any political subdivision thereof or therein or (2) any jurisdiction from or through which payment is made by or on behalf of us (including, without limitation, the jurisdiction of any paying agent) (each of (1) and (2), a *Tax Jurisdiction*), will at any time be required to be made from any payments made under or with respect to the notes, including, without limitation, payments of principal, redemption price, purchase price, interest or premium, we will pay such additional amounts (the *Additional Amounts*) as may be necessary in order that the net amounts received in respect of such payments by each holder or beneficial owner of notes after such withholding, deduction or imposition (including any such withholding, deduction or imposition from such Additional Amounts) will equal the respective amounts that would have been received in respect of such payments in the absence of such withholding or deduction; *provided, however*, that no Additional Amounts will be payable with respect to:

1. any Taxes to the extent such Taxes would not have been imposed but for the holder or the beneficial owner of the notes being a citizen or resident or national of, or incorporated in, the relevant Tax Jurisdiction in which such Taxes are imposed or having any other present or former connection with the relevant Tax Jurisdiction other than the mere acquisition, holding, exercise or enforcement of rights, or receipt of payment in respect of the notes;
2. any Taxes to the extent such Taxes are imposed or withheld as a result of the failure of the holder of the note or beneficial owner of the notes to comply, to the extent such holder is legally entitled, with any reasonable written request, made by us or any Guarantor to that holder or beneficial owner in writing at least 90 days before any such withholding or deduction would be payable, to provide information concerning the nationality, residence or identity of such holder or beneficial owner or to make any valid and timely declaration or similar claim or satisfy any certification information or other reporting requirement, which is required or imposed by a statute, treaty, regulation or administrative practice of the relevant Tax Jurisdiction as a precondition to any exemption from or reduction in all or part of such Taxes;

Table of Contents

3. any Taxes to the extent such Taxes were imposed as a result of the presentation of a note for payment (where presentation is required) more than 30 days after the relevant payment is first made available for payment to the holder (except to the extent that the holder would have been entitled to Additional Amounts had the note been presented on the last day of such 30 day period);
4. any estate, inheritance, gift, sale, personal property or similar Taxes;
5. any Taxes payable other than by deduction or withholding from payments under, or with respect to, the notes; or
6. any combination of items (1) through (5) above.

We also will not pay any Additional Amounts to any holder who is a fiduciary or partnership or other than the sole beneficial owner of the note to the extent that a beneficiary or settlor with respect to such fiduciary, or a member of such partnership or a beneficial owner thereof, would not have been entitled to the payment of such Additional Amounts had such beneficiary, settlor, member or beneficial owner been the holder of the note.

In addition to the foregoing, if the Company is succeeded by a Successor Company in a Permitted Foreign Jurisdiction as permitted by the covenant described below under Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets, we or a Guarantor, as applicable, will also pay and indemnify the holder for any present or future stamp, issue, registration, value added, court or documentary Taxes, or any other excise or property taxes, charges or similar levies (including penalties, interest and any other reasonable expenses related thereto) or Taxes which are levied by any Tax Jurisdiction on the execution, delivery, registration or enforcement of any of the notes, the indenture, any guarantee, or any other document or instrument referred to therein or the receipt of payments with respect thereto.

If we or any Guarantor become obligated to pay Additional Amounts with respect to any payment under or with respect to the notes or any guarantee, we or any Guarantor, as applicable, will deliver to the trustee on a date that is at least 30 days prior to the date of that payment (unless the obligation to pay Additional Amounts arises after the 30th day prior to that payment date, in which case we will notify the trustee promptly after such obligation arises (and in any event within five Business Days thereof)) an officers' certificate stating the fact that Additional Amounts will be payable and the amount estimated to be so payable. The officers' certificate must also set forth any other information reasonably necessary to enable the paying agents to pay Additional Amounts to holders on the relevant payment date. The trustee shall be entitled to rely solely on such officers' certificate as conclusive proof that such payments are necessary. We or any Guarantor, as applicable, will provide the trustee with documentation reasonably satisfactory to the trustee evidencing the payment of Additional Amounts.

We or any Guarantor, as applicable, will make all withholdings and deductions required by law and will remit the full amount deducted or withheld to the relevant Tax authority in accordance with applicable law. Upon request, we or any Guarantor, as applicable, will provide to the trustee an official receipt or, if official receipts are not obtainable, other documentation reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee evidencing the payment of any Taxes so deducted or withheld and will attach to each official receipt or other documentation an officers' certificate stating the amount of such Taxes paid per \$1,000 principal amount of the notes then outstanding. Upon request, copies of those official receipts or other documentation, as the case may be, will be made available by the trustee to the holders of the notes.

Whenever in the Indenture, the notes, or in this Description of Notes there is mentioned, in any context, the payment of amounts based upon the principal amount of the notes or of principal, interest or of any other amount payable under, or with respect to, any of the notes, such mention shall be deemed to include mention of the payment of Additional Amounts to the extent that, in such context, Additional Amounts are, were or would be payable in respect thereof.

The above obligations will survive termination, defeasance or discharge of the Indenture, any transfer by a holder or beneficial owner of its notes and will apply *mutatis mutandis* to any jurisdiction in which any successor

Table of Contents

person to us or any Guarantor is incorporated, engaged in business or resident for tax purposes or any jurisdiction from or through which such person makes any payment on the notes (or any note guarantee) and any department or political subdivision thereof or therein.

Redemption for Changes in Taxes

The Company may redeem the notes, in whole but not in part, at its discretion at any time upon giving not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior notice to the holders of the notes (which notice will be irrevocable and given in accordance with the procedures described in Selection and Notice), at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date fixed by us for redemption (a *Tax Redemption Date*) and all Additional Amounts, if any, then due and which will become due on the Tax Redemption Date as a result of the redemption or otherwise (subject to the rights of holders of the notes on the relevant record date to receive interest due on the relevant interest payment date and Additional Amounts, if any, in respect thereof), if on the next date on which any amount would be payable in respect of the notes, the Company is or would be required to pay Additional Amounts, and the Company cannot avoid any such payment obligation by taking reasonable measures available (including, for the avoidance of doubt, the appointment of a new paying agent), and the requirement arises as a result of:

1. any change in, or amendment to, the laws (or any regulations or rulings promulgated thereunder) of the relevant Tax Jurisdiction (as defined above) affecting taxation, which change or amendment has not been publicly announced before and which becomes effective on or after the date on which the Tax Jurisdiction imposing the relevant withholding or deduction became the applicable Tax Jurisdiction under the indenture; or
2. any change in, or amendment to, the existing official position regarding the application, administration or interpretation of such laws, regulations or rulings (including a holding, judgment or order by a court of competent jurisdiction or a change in published practice), which change, amendment, application or interpretation has not been publicly announced before and becomes effective on or after the date on which the Tax Jurisdiction imposing the relevant withholding or deduction became the applicable Tax Jurisdiction under the Indenture).

In the case of Additional Amounts required to be paid as a result of our conducting business other than in the place of our organization, such amendment or change must be announced and become effective on or after the date in which we begin to conduct business giving rise to the relevant withholding or deduction.

We will not give any such notice of redemption earlier than 60 days prior to the earliest date on which we would be obligated to make such payment or withholding if a payment in respect of the notes were then due, and at the time such notice is given, the obligation to pay Additional Amounts must remain in effect. Prior to the publication or, where relevant, mailing of any notice of redemption of the notes pursuant to the foregoing, we will deliver to the trustee an opinion of independent tax counsel, the choice of such counsel to be subject to the prior written approval of the trustee (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld) to the effect that there has been such change or amendment which would entitle us to redeem the notes hereunder. In addition, before we publish or mail notice of redemption of the notes as described above, we will deliver to the trustee an officers' certificate to the effect that we cannot avoid our obligation to pay Additional Amounts by taking reasonable measures available to us.

The trustee will accept, and will be entitled to rely solely on, such officers' certificate and opinion of counsel as conclusive proof of the existence and satisfaction of the conditions precedent as described in the immediately preceding paragraph, in which event such satisfaction of the conditions precedent will be conclusive and binding on the holders.

For the avoidance of doubt, the implementation of European Council Directive 2003/48/EC on any other directive implementing the conclusions of the ECOFIN Council meeting of 26 and 27 November 2000 on the

Table of Contents

taxation of savings income or any law implementing or complying with or introduced in order to conform to, such directive will not be a change or amendment for such purposes.

Methods of Receiving Payments on the Notes

All payments on the notes will be made at the office or agency of the paying agent and registrar within the City and State of New York unless the Company, at its option, elects to make interest payments by wire transfer for notes held in book-entry form or by check mailed to the noteholders at their address set forth in the register of holders.

Paying Agent and Registrar for the Notes

The trustee has been appointed as paying agent and registrar. The Company may change the paying agent or registrar without prior notice to the holders of the notes, and the Company or any of its Subsidiaries may act as paying agent or registrar.

Transfer and Exchange

A holder may transfer or exchange notes in accordance with the provisions of the Indenture. The registrar and the trustee may require a holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents in connection with a transfer of notes. No service charge will be imposed by the Company, the trustee or the registrar for any registration of transfer or exchange of notes, but holders will be required to pay all taxes due on transfer. The Company will not be required to transfer or exchange any note selected for redemption. Also, the Company will not be required to transfer or exchange any note for a period of 15 days before a selection of notes to be redeemed.

Future Note Guarantees

The initial notes are not, and the notes offered hereby will not be, guaranteed by any of our Subsidiaries as of the date of issuance of the notes offered hereby. Under the circumstances described under **Certain Covenants Limitation on Issuances of Guarantees of Indebtedness**, our payment obligations under the notes may in the future be jointly and severally guaranteed by certain or all of our existing or future Subsidiaries as Guarantors. These Note Guarantees are joint and several obligations of the Guarantors. The obligations of each Guarantor under its Note Guarantee will be limited as necessary to prevent that Note Guarantee from constituting a fraudulent conveyance under applicable law, although this limitation may not be effective to prevent the Note Guarantee from being voidable as a fraudulent conveyance. See **Risk Factors Any guarantees of the notes by our subsidiaries could be deemed fraudulent conveyances under certain circumstances, and a court may subordinate or void the subsidiary guarantees.**

A Guarantor may not sell or otherwise dispose of, in one or more related transactions, all or substantially all of its assets to, or consolidate with or merge with or into (whether or not such Guarantor is the surviving Person) another Person, other than the Company or another Guarantor, unless:

- (1) immediately after giving effect to such transaction, or series of related transactions, no Default or Event of Default exists; and
- (2) either:
 - (a) the Person acquiring the assets in any such sale or disposition or the Person formed by or surviving any such consolidation or merger (if other than the Guarantor) unconditionally assumes, pursuant to a supplemental indenture satisfactory to the trustee, all the obligations of that Guarantor under its Note Guarantee and the Indenture; or
 - (b) the Net Proceeds of such sale or other disposition are applied in accordance with the **Asset Sales** provisions of the Indenture. See **Repurchase at the Option of Holders Asset Sales.**

Table of Contents**Optional Redemption**

The notes are redeemable at the Company's option as described below. In addition, the Company may acquire the notes by means other than a redemption, whether pursuant to a tender offer, open market purchase or otherwise, so long as such acquisition does not violate the terms of the Indenture.

At any time prior to February 1, 2015, the Company may on any one or more occasions redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of notes issued under the Indenture, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice, at a redemption price equal to 106.50% of the principal amount of the notes redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of redemption (subject to the rights of holders of notes on the relevant record date to receive interest on the relevant interest payment date), with the net cash proceeds of one or more Equity Offerings by the Company; *provided that*:

(1) at least 65% of the aggregate principal amount of notes originally issued under the Indenture (including the notes offered hereby and any additional notes, but excluding notes held by the Company and its Subsidiaries) remains outstanding immediately after the occurrence of such redemption; and

(2) the redemption occurs within 90 days of the date of the closing of such Equity Offering.

At any time prior to February 1, 2016, the Company may on any one or more occasions redeem all or a part of the notes, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes redeemed, plus the Applicable Premium as of, and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of redemption, subject to the rights of holders of notes on the relevant record date to receive interest due on the relevant interest payment date. The Company will (a) determine the Treasury Rate at least one Business Day prior to the redemption date and (b) prior to such redemption date file with the trustee an officers' certificate setting forth the Applicable Premium and the Treasury Rate and showing the calculation of each in reasonable detail.

On or after February 1, 2016, the Company may on any one or more occasions redeem all or a part of the notes, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice, at the redemption prices (expressed as percentages of principal amount) set forth below, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the notes redeemed, to the applicable date of redemption, if redeemed during the twelve-month period beginning on February 1 of the years indicated below, subject to the rights of holders of notes on the relevant record date to receive interest on the relevant interest payment date:

Year	Percentage
2016	103.250%
2017	101.625%
2018 and thereafter	100.000%

Unless the Company defaults in the payment of the redemption price, interest will cease to accrue on the notes or portions thereof called for redemption on the applicable redemption date.

Mandatory Redemption

The Company is not required to make mandatory redemption or sinking fund payments with respect to the notes.

Repurchase at the Option of Holders*Change of Control*

If a Change of Control occurs, each holder of notes will have the right to require the Company to repurchase all or any part (equal to \$2,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof) of that holder's notes pursuant

Table of Contents

to an offer (a *Change of Control Offer*) on the terms set forth in the Indenture. In the Change of Control Offer, the Company will offer a payment in cash (the *Change of Control Payment*) equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of notes repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the notes repurchased to the date of repurchase (the *Change of Control Purchase Date*), subject to the rights of holders of notes on the relevant record date to receive interest due on the relevant interest payment date. Within 30 days following any Change of Control, the Company will mail a notice to each holder describing briefly the transactions or events that constitute the Change of Control and offering to repurchase on the Change of Control Purchase Date specified in the notice, which date will be no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days from the date such notice is mailed, notes properly tendered and not withdrawn pursuant to the Change of Control Offer, pursuant to the procedures required by the Indenture and described in such notice. The Company will comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent those requirements, laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the notes as a result of a Change of Control. To the extent that the provisions of any securities laws or regulations conflict with the Change of Control provisions of the Indenture, the Company will comply with the applicable securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached its obligations under the Change of Control provisions of the Indenture by virtue of such compliance.

Promptly following the expiration of the Change of Control Offer on the Change of Control Purchase Date, the Company will, to the extent lawful, accept for payment all notes or portions of notes properly tendered and not withdrawn pursuant to the Change of Control Offer and deliver or cause to be delivered to the trustee the notes properly accepted together with an officers' certificate stating the aggregate principal amount of notes or portions of notes being purchased by the Company. Payment of the Change of Control Payment for a note properly tendered and not withdrawn prior to the expiration of the Change of Control Offer is conditioned upon delivery of such note (together with necessary endorsements) to the paying agent (whether prior to, on or after the Change of Control Purchase Date), which delivery may be in book-entry form in accordance with the procedures of The Depository Trust Company (DTC) for notes issued in global form. The Change of Control Payment for such note will be made promptly following the later of the Business Day following the Change of Control Purchase Date or the time of delivery of such note.

The paying agent will promptly mail to each holder of notes properly tendered and not withdrawn the Change of Control Payment for such notes (or if all notes are then in global form, make such payment through the facilities of DTC), and the trustee will promptly authenticate and mail (or cause to be transferred by book entry) to each holder a new note equal in principal amount to any unpurchased portion of the notes surrendered, if any; provided, however, that each new note will be in a principal amount of \$2,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess of \$2,000. The Company will publicly announce the results of the Change of Control Offer as soon as practicable after the Change of Control Purchase Date.

The provisions described above that require the Company to make a Change of Control Offer following a Change of Control will be applicable whether or not any other provisions of the Indenture are applicable. Except as described above with respect to a Change of Control, the Indenture does not contain provisions that permit the holders of the notes to require that the Company repurchase or redeem the notes in the event of a takeover, recapitalization or similar transaction.

The Company will not be required to make a Change of Control Offer upon a Change of Control if (1) a third party makes the Change of Control Offer in the manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements set forth in the Indenture applicable to a Change of Control Offer made by the Company and purchases all notes properly tendered and not withdrawn under the Change of Control Offer, or (2) notice of redemption has been given pursuant to the Indenture as described above under the caption *Optional Redemption*, unless and until there is a default in payment of the applicable redemption price. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, a Change of Control Offer may be made in advance of a Change of Control, conditioned upon the consummation of such Change of Control, if a definitive agreement is in place for the Change of Control at the time the Change of Control Offer is made.

Table of Contents

The definition of Change of Control includes a phrase relating to the direct or indirect sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole. Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase substantially all, there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, the ability of a holder of notes to require the Company to repurchase its notes as a result of a sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of less than all of the assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole to another Person or group may be uncertain.

In the event that not less than 90% of the aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding notes are properly tendered and not withdrawn under a Change of Control Offer and the Company purchases all of such notes, the Company will have the right, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior notice, given not more than 30 days following the Change of Control Purchase Date, to redeem all of the notes that remain outstanding following such purchase at a redemption price equal to the Change of Control Payment plus, to the extent not included in the Change of Control Payment, accrued and unpaid interest on the notes that remain outstanding, to the date of redemption (subject to the right of holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on the relevant interest payment date).

The Change of Control purchase feature of the notes may, in certain circumstances, make more difficult or discourage a takeover of us and, thus, the removal of incumbent management. The Change of Control purchase feature, however, is not the result of management's knowledge of any specific effort to accumulate shares of our common stock or to obtain control of us by means of a merger, tender offer, solicitation or otherwise, or part of a plan by management to adopt a series of anti-takeover provisions.

Asset Sales

The Company will not, and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to, consummate an Asset Sale unless:

- (1) the Company (or the Restricted Subsidiary, as the case may be) receives consideration at the time of consummation of such Asset Sale at least equal to the Fair Market Value (measured as of the date of the definitive agreement with respect to such Asset Sale) of the assets or Equity Interests issued or sold or otherwise disposed of; and
 - (2) at least 75% of the consideration received in the Asset Sale by the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary is in the form of cash or Cash Equivalents. For purposes of this provision, each of the following will be deemed to be cash:
 - (a) any liabilities, as shown on the Company's most recent consolidated balance sheet, of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary (other than contingent liabilities and liabilities that are by their terms subordinated in right of payment to the notes or any Note Guarantee) that are assumed by the transferee of any such assets pursuant to a customary novation or indemnity agreement that releases the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary from or indemnifies the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary against further liability;
 - (b) any securities, notes or other obligations received by the Company or any such Restricted Subsidiary from such transferee that are, within 180 days after receipt thereof, converted by the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary into cash or Cash Equivalents, to the extent of the cash or Cash Equivalents received in that conversion; and
 - (c) any stock or assets of the kind referred to in clauses (2) or (4) of the next paragraph of this covenant.
- provided* that in the case of any Asset Sale pursuant to a condemnation, seizure, appropriation or similar taking, including by deed in lieu of condemnation, or any actual or constructive total loss or an agreed or compromised total loss, such Asset Sale shall not be required to satisfy the requirements of clauses (1) and (2) above.

Table of Contents

Within 365 days after the receipt of any Net Proceeds from an Asset Sale, the Company (or the applicable Restricted Subsidiary, as the case may be) may apply such Net Proceeds at its option to any combination of the following:

- (1) to permanently repay any Senior Debt, and if the Indebtedness repaid is revolving credit Indebtedness, to correspondingly permanently reduce commitments with respect thereto;
- (2) to acquire all or substantially all of the assets of, or any Capital Stock of, another Person engaged in a Permitted Business, if, in the case of any such acquisition of Capital Stock, such Person is or becomes a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company after giving effect to such acquisition;
- (3) to make a capital expenditure; or

(4) to acquire other assets that are not classified as current assets under GAAP and that are used or useful in a Permitted Business. The requirement of clause (2), (3) or (4) of the preceding paragraph shall be deemed to be satisfied with respect to any Asset Sale if, within 365 days after such Asset Sale, the Company (or the applicable Restricted Subsidiary, as the case may be) shall have entered into a binding commitment with respect to an acquisition, expenditure or investment, in compliance with clause (2), (3) or (4), and that acquisition, expenditure or investment is substantially completed no later than (i) one year and three months after the date of such Asset Sale or (ii) with respect to Net Proceeds from any sale, conveyance or other disposition of a Specified Rig, one year and six months after the date of such Asset Sale.

Pending the final application of any Net Proceeds, the Company (or the applicable Restricted Subsidiary) may apply such Net Proceeds temporarily to reduce the Indebtedness outstanding under a revolving Credit Facility or otherwise invest the Net Proceeds in any manner that is not prohibited by the Indenture.

Any Net Proceeds from Asset Sales that are not applied or invested as provided in the second paragraph of this covenant will constitute *Excess Proceeds*. When the aggregate amount of Excess Proceeds exceeds \$50.0 million, within five days thereof, the Company will make an offer (an *Asset Sale Offer*) to all holders of notes and all holders of other Indebtedness that is *pari passu* with the notes containing provisions similar to those set forth in the Indenture with respect to offers to purchase, prepay or redeem with the proceeds of sales of assets to purchase, prepay or redeem the maximum principal amount of notes and such other *pari passu* Indebtedness (plus all accrued interest on the Indebtedness and the amount of all fees and expenses, including premiums, incurred in connection therewith) that may be purchased, prepaid or redeemed out of the Excess Proceeds. The offer price in any Asset Sale Offer will be equal to 100% of the principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of purchase, prepayment or redemption, subject to the rights of holders of notes on the relevant record date to receive interest due on the relevant interest payment date, and will be payable in cash. If any Excess Proceeds remain after consummation of an Asset Sale Offer, the Company may use those Excess Proceeds for any purpose not otherwise prohibited by the Indenture. If the aggregate principal amount of notes and other *pari passu* Indebtedness tendered in (or required to be prepaid or redeemed in connection with) such Asset Sale Offer exceeds the amount of Excess Proceeds, the Company will select the notes and such other *pari passu* Indebtedness to be purchased on a *pro rata* basis (except that any notes represented by a note in global form will be selected by such method as DTC or its nominee or successor may require or, where the nominee or successor is the trustee, a method that most nearly approximates *pro rata* selection as the trustee deems fair and appropriate), based on the amounts tendered or required to be prepaid or redeemed (with such adjustments as may be deemed appropriate by the Company so that only notes in denominations of \$2,000, or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof, will be purchased). Upon completion of each Asset Sale Offer, the amount of Excess Proceeds will be reset at zero.

The Company will comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent those requirements, laws and regulations are applicable in connection with each repurchase of notes pursuant to an Asset Sale Offer. To the extent that the provisions of any

Table of Contents

securities laws or regulations conflict with the Asset Sale provisions of the Indenture, the Company will comply with the applicable securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached its obligations under the Asset Sale provisions of the Indenture by virtue of such compliance.

The Credit Agreement contains, and future agreements may contain, prohibitions of certain events, including events that would constitute a Change of Control or an Asset Sale. The exercise by the holders of notes of their right to require the Company to repurchase the notes upon a Change of Control or an Asset Sale could cause a default under these other agreements, even if the Change of Control or Asset Sale itself does not, due to the financial effect of such repurchases on the Company or otherwise. In the event a Change of Control or Asset Sale occurs at a time when the Company is prohibited from purchasing notes pursuant to the Credit Agreement or any other debt agreement, the Company could seek the consent of the lenders under those agreements to the purchase of notes or could attempt to refinance the borrowings under those agreements. If the Company does not obtain a consent or repay those borrowings, the Company will remain prohibited from purchasing notes. In that case, the Company's failure to purchase tendered notes would constitute an Event of Default under the Indenture, which could, in turn, constitute a default under the other indebtedness. Finally, the Company's ability to pay cash to the holders of notes upon a repurchase may be limited by the Company's then existing financial resources. See **Risk Factors** We may not be able to repurchase the notes with cash upon a Change of Control or in connection with an offer to repurchase the notes as a result of an asset sale as required by the indenture.

Selection and Notice

If less than all of the notes are to be redeemed at any time, the trustee will select notes for redemption on a *pro rata* basis (or, in the case of notes issued in global form as discussed under **Book-Entry, Delivery and Form**, based on a method as DTC or its nominee or successor may require or, where the nominee or successor is the trustee, a method that most nearly approximates *pro rata* selection as the trustee deems fair and appropriate) unless otherwise required by law or applicable stock exchange or depositary requirements.

No notes of \$2,000 or less can be redeemed in part. Notices of redemption will be mailed by first class mail at least 30 but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of notes to be redeemed at its registered address, except that redemption notices may be mailed more than 60 days prior to a redemption date if the notice is issued in connection with a defeasance of the notes or a satisfaction and discharge of the Indenture. Notice of any redemption, including, without limitation, upon an Equity Offering, may, at the Company's discretion, be subject to one or more conditions precedent, including, but not limited to, completion of a related Equity Offering.

If any note is to be redeemed in part only, the notice of redemption that relates to that note will state the portion of the principal amount of that note that is to be redeemed. A new note in principal amount equal to the unredeemed portion of the original note will be issued in the name of the holder of notes upon cancellation of the original note. Notes called for redemption become due on the date fixed for redemption. On and after the redemption date, interest ceases to accrue on notes or portions of notes called for redemption.

Certain Covenants

Changes in Covenants when Notes Rated Investment Grade

If on any date following the Issue Date:

- (1) the notes are rated either Baa3 or better by Moody's or BBB- or better by S&P (or, if either such entity ceases to rate the notes for reasons outside of the control of the Company, the equivalent investment grade credit rating or better from any other nationally recognized statistical rating organization within the meaning of Section 3(a)(62) of the Exchange Act selected by the Company as a replacement agency); and
- (2) no Default or Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing,

Table of Contents

then, beginning on that day and continuing at all times thereafter regardless of any subsequent changes in the rating of the notes, the provisions of the Indenture described under the following captions in this prospectus supplement will no longer be applicable to the notes:

- (1) Repurchase at the Option of Holders Asset Sales ;
- (2) Certain Covenants Restricted Payments ;
- (3) Certain Covenants Incurrence of Indebtedness and Issuance of Preferred Stock ;
- (4) Certain Covenants Dividend and Other Payment Restrictions Affecting Restricted Subsidiaries ;
- (5) Certain Covenants Designation of Restricted and Unrestricted Subsidiaries ;
- (6) Certain Covenants Transactions with Affiliates ;
- (7) Certain Covenants Business Activities ;
- (8) Certain Covenants Payments for Consent ;
- (9) clause (2) of the covenant described below under the caption Certain Covenants Reports ; and
- (10) clause (4) of the covenant described below under the caption Certain Covenants Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets.
There can be no assurance that the notes will ever achieve or maintain an investment grade rating.

Restricted Payments

The Company will not, and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to, directly or indirectly:

- (1) declare or pay any dividend or make any other payment or distribution on account of the Company s or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries Equity Interests (including, without limitation, any payment in connection with any merger or consolidation involving the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries) or to the direct or indirect holders of the Company s or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries Equity Interests in their capacity as such (other than dividends or distributions payable in Equity Interests (other than Disqualified Stock) of the Company and other than dividends or distributions payable to the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company);
- (2) purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire or retire for value (including, without limitation, in connection with any merger or consolidation involving the Company) any Equity Interests of the Company or any direct or indirect parent of the Company;

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

(3) make any principal payment on or with respect to, or purchase, redeem, defease or otherwise acquire or retire for value any Indebtedness of the Company or any Guarantor that is contractually subordinated in right of payment to the notes or to any Note Guarantee (excluding (a) any intercompany Indebtedness between or among the Company and any of its Restricted Subsidiaries, (b) the purchase, redemption, defeasance, repurchase or other acquisition of Indebtedness of the Company or any Guarantor that is contractually subordinated in right of payment to the notes or to any Note Guarantee purchased, redeemed, defeased or otherwise acquired in anticipation of satisfying a sinking fund obligation, principal installment or final maturity, in each case due within one year after the date of purchase, repurchase, redemption, defeasance or acquisition, and (c) any payment of principal at the Stated Maturity thereof); or

(4) make any Restricted Investment

(all such payments and other actions set forth in these clauses (1) through (4) above being collectively referred to as *Restricted Payments*),

unless, at the time of and immediately after giving effect to such Restricted Payment:

(a) no Default (other than a Reporting Default) or Event of Default has occurred and is continuing or would occur as a consequence of such Restricted Payment;

S-31

Table of Contents

- (b) the Company would, at the time of such Restricted Payment and after giving pro forma effect thereto as if such Restricted Payment had been made at the beginning of the applicable four-quarter period, have been permitted to incur at least \$1.00 of additional Indebtedness pursuant to the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio test set forth in the first paragraph of the covenant described below under the caption Incurrence of Indebtedness and Issuance of Preferred Stock ; and
- (c) such Restricted Payment, together with the aggregate amount of all other Restricted Payments made by the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries since the Issue Date (excluding Restricted Payments permitted by clauses (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (9), (10) and (11) of the next succeeding paragraph), is less than the sum, without duplication, of:
- (1) 50% of the Consolidated Net Income of the Company for the period (taken as one accounting period) beginning on January 1, 2012 and ending on the last day of the Company's most recently ended fiscal quarter for which internal financial statements are available at the time of such Restricted Payment (or, if such Consolidated Net Income for such period is a deficit, less 100% of such deficit); *plus*
 - (2) 100% of the aggregate net cash proceeds and the Fair Market Value of (i) marketable securities (other than marketable securities of the Company or a Subsidiary of the Company), (ii) Equity Interests of a Person (other than the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company) engaged primarily in a Permitted Business and (iii) other assets used or useful in a Permitted Business, in each case, received by the Company since the Issue Date (A) as a contribution to its common equity capital or from the issue or sale of Qualifying Equity Interests or (B) from the issue or sale of convertible or exchangeable Disqualified Stock of the Company or convertible or exchangeable debt securities of the Company, in each case that have been converted into or exchanged for Qualifying Equity Interests of the Company (other than net cash proceeds received from an issuance or sale of Qualifying Equity Interests, convertible or exchangeable Disqualified Stock or debt securities to a Subsidiary of the Company) or (C) upon the exercise of any options, warrants or rights to purchase Qualifying Equity Interests; *plus*
 - (3) with respect to any Restricted Investments made by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries in any Person after the Issue Date:
 - (i) in the case of the disposition or repayment of or return on any Restricted Investment, the amount equal to the lesser of (A) the initial amount of such Restricted Payment and (B) the cash amount (less any expenses incurred in connection with such transaction) and Fair Market Value of assets used or useful in a Permitted Business received by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary; *plus*
 - (ii) if, as a result of or in connection with such Restricted Investment, such Person (other than an Unrestricted Subsidiary) becomes a Restricted Subsidiary or is merged or consolidated with the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary, an amount equal to the amount included as a Restricted Payment pursuant to clause (c) above on account of the Company's or any Restricted Subsidiary's Investment in such Person prior to the time it became a Restricted Subsidiary or the time of such merger or consolidation; *plus*
 - (4) the amount by which Indebtedness of the Company or its Restricted Subsidiaries is reduced on the Company's balance sheet upon the conversion or exchange (other than by a Subsidiary of the Company) subsequent to the Issue Date of any such Indebtedness of the Company or its Restricted Subsidiaries convertible or exchangeable for Equity Interests (other than Disqualified Stock) of the Company (less the amount of any cash, or the Fair Market Value of any other property (other than such Equity Interests), distributed by the Company upon such conversion or exchange), together with the net proceeds, if any, received by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries upon such conversion or exchange (excluding the net cash proceeds from the conversion or exchange financed, directly or indirectly, using funds borrowed from the Company or any Subsidiary); *plus*
 - (5) to the extent that any Unrestricted Subsidiary of the Company designated as such after the Issue Date is redesignated as a Restricted Subsidiary pursuant to the terms of the Indenture or is merged or

Table of Contents

consolidated with or into, or transfers or otherwise disposes of all or substantially all of its properties or assets to or is liquidated into, the Company or Restricted Subsidiary after the Issue Date, the lesser of (i) the Fair Market Value of the Restricted Investment made by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries in such Subsidiary (or the property or assets disposed of, as applicable) as of the date of such redesignation, merger, consolidation, transfer, disposition or liquidation and (ii) such Fair Market Value as of the date on which such Subsidiary was originally designated as an Unrestricted Subsidiary after the Issue Date.

The preceding provisions will not prohibit:

- (1) the payment of any dividend or the consummation of any irrevocable redemption within 60 days after the date of declaration of the dividend or giving of the redemption notice, as the case may be, if at the date of declaration or notice, the dividend or redemption payment would have complied with the provisions of the Indenture;
- (2) the making of any Restricted Payment in exchange for, or out of or with the net cash proceeds of the substantially concurrent sale (other than to a Subsidiary of the Company) of, Equity Interests of the Company (other than Disqualified Stock) or from the substantially concurrent contribution of common equity capital to the Company, with a sale or contribution being deemed substantially concurrent if such Restricted Payment occurs not more than 90 days after such sale or contribution; *provided* that the amount of any such net cash proceeds that are utilized for any such Restricted Payment will not be considered to be net proceeds of Qualifying Equity Interests for purposes of clause (c)(2) of the preceding paragraph and will not be considered to be net cash proceeds from an Equity Offering for purposes of the Optional Redemption provisions of the Indenture;
- (3) the payment of any dividend (or, in the case of any partnership or limited liability company, any similar distribution) by a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company to the holders of its Equity Interests on a *pro rata* basis;
- (4) the repurchase, redemption, defeasance or other acquisition or retirement for value of Indebtedness of the Company or any Guarantor that is contractually subordinated to the notes or to any Note Guarantee with the net cash proceeds from a substantially concurrent incurrence of, or exchange for, Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness, with an incurrence of Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness being deemed substantially concurrent if such repurchase, redemption, defeasance, acquisition or retirement occurs not more than 90 days after such incurrence;
- (5) so long as no Default (other than a Reporting Default) or Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, the repurchase, redemption or other acquisition or retirement for value of any Equity Interests of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company held by any current or former officer, director or employee of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries pursuant to any equity subscription agreement, stock option agreement, shareholders' agreement or similar agreement; *provided* that the aggregate price paid for all such repurchased, redeemed, acquired or retired Equity Interests may not exceed \$5.0 million in any calendar year (with any portion of such \$5.0 million amount that is unused in any calendar year to be carried forward to successive calendar years and added to such amount) *plus*, to the extent not previously applied or included, (i) the net cash proceeds received by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries from sales of Equity Interests (other than Disqualified Stock) to employees or directors of the Company or its Restricted Subsidiaries that occur after the Issue Date (to the extent the cash proceeds from the sale of such Equity Interests have not otherwise been applied to the payment of Restricted Payments by virtue of clause (c)(2) of the first paragraph of this covenant) and (ii) the net cash proceeds of key man life insurance policies received by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries after the Issue Date;
- (6) the purchase, redemption or other acquisition or retirement for value of Equity Interests deemed to occur upon the exercise or conversion of stock options, warrants, rights to acquire Equity Interests or other convertible securities, to the extent such Equity Interests represent a portion of the exercise or conversion price thereof;

Table of Contents

- (7) the purchase, redemption or other acquisition or retirement for value of Equity Interests of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company held by any current or former officers, directors or employees of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries in connection with the exercise or vesting of any equity compensation (including, without limitation, stock options, restricted stock and phantom stock) in order to satisfy any tax withholding obligation with respect to such exercise or vesting;
- (8) the purchase, redemption, defeasance or other acquisition or retirement of any Indebtedness that is contractually subordinated in right of payment to the notes or to any Note Guarantee (i) at a purchase price not greater than 101.0% of the principal amount of such Indebtedness in the event of a Change of Control in accordance with provisions similar to the covenant described under Repurchase at the Option of Holders Change of Control or (ii) at a purchase price not greater than 100.0% of the principal amount of such Indebtedness in the event of an Asset Sale in accordance with provisions similar to the covenant described under Repurchase at the Option of Holders Asset Sales ; provided that, prior to or simultaneously with such purchase, redemption, defeasance or other acquisition or retirement, the Company (or a third party to the extent permitted by the Indenture) has made the Change of Control Offer or Asset Sale Offer, as applicable, with respect to the notes as a result of such Change of Control or Asset Sale, as applicable, and has completed the repurchase or redemption of all notes validly tendered for payment and not withdrawn in connection with such Change of Control Offer or Asset Sale Offer, as applicable;
- (9) so long as no Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, the declaration and payment of regularly scheduled or accrued dividends to holders of any class or series of Disqualified Stock of the Company or any preferred stock of any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company issued on or after the Issue Date in accordance with the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio test described below under the caption Incurrence of Indebtedness and Issuance of Preferred Stock ;
- (10) payments of cash, dividends, distributions, advances or other Restricted Payments by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to allow the payment of cash in lieu of the issuance of fractional shares upon (i) the exercise of options or warrants or (ii) the conversion or exchange of Capital Stock of any such Person; and
- (11) so long as no Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, other Restricted Payments in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$50.0 million since the Issue Date.

For purposes of determining compliance with this Restricted Payments covenant, in the event that a Restricted Payment meets the criteria of more than one of the categories of Restricted Payments described in the preceding clauses (1)-(11) or as a Permitted Investment, the Company will be permitted to divide or classify (or later divide, classify or reclassify in whole or in part in its sole discretion) such Restricted Payment in any manner that complies with this covenant.

The amount of all Restricted Payments (other than cash) will be the Fair Market Value on the date of the Restricted Payment of the asset(s) or securities proposed to be transferred or issued by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary, as the case may be, pursuant to the Restricted Payment. The Fair Market Value of any assets or securities that are required to be valued by this covenant will be determined by, in the case of amounts under \$75.0 million, by an officer of the Company and, in the case of amounts greater than or equal to \$75.0 million, the Board of Directors of the Company whose resolution with respect thereto will be delivered to the trustee.

Incurrence of Indebtedness and Issuance of Preferred Stock

The Company will not, and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to, directly or indirectly, create, incur, issue, assume, guarantee or otherwise become directly or indirectly liable, contingently or otherwise, with respect to (collectively, *incur*) any Indebtedness (including Acquired Debt), and the Company will not issue any Disqualified Stock and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to issue any shares of preferred stock; *provided, however*, that the Company may incur Indebtedness (including Acquired Debt) or issue

Table of Contents

Disqualified Stock if the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio for the Company's most recently ended four full fiscal quarters for which internal financial statements are available immediately preceding the date on which such additional Indebtedness is incurred or such Disqualified Stock is issued, as the case may be, would have been at least 2.0 to 1.0, determined on a pro forma basis (including a pro forma application of the net proceeds therefrom), as if the additional Indebtedness had been incurred or the Disqualified Stock had been issued, as the case may be, at the beginning of such four-quarter period.

The first paragraph of this covenant will not prohibit the incurrence of any of the following items of Indebtedness or the issuance of any Disqualified Stock or any preferred securities described below (collectively, *Permitted Debt*):

- (1) the incurrence by the Company and any of its Restricted Subsidiaries of Indebtedness and letters of credit under Credit Facilities in an aggregate principal amount at any one time outstanding under this clause (1) (with letters of credit being deemed to have a principal amount equal to the maximum potential liability of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries thereunder) not to exceed the greater of (i) \$1,100.0 million and (ii) the sum of \$550.0 million and 25% of the Company's Consolidated Tangible Assets;
- (2) the incurrence by the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries of the Existing Indebtedness;
- (3) the incurrence by the Company and the Guarantors of Indebtedness represented by the notes and the related Note Guarantees to be issued on the Issue Date;
- (4) the incurrence by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries of Indebtedness represented by Capital Lease Obligations, mortgage financings or purchase money obligations, in each case, incurred for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price or cost of design, construction, installation or improvement of property, plant or equipment used in the business of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries, in an aggregate principal amount, including all Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness incurred to renew, refund, refinance, replace, defease or discharge any Indebtedness incurred pursuant to this clause (4), not to exceed the greater of (i) \$75.0 million and (ii) 3% of the Company's Consolidated Tangible Assets at any time outstanding;
- (5) the incurrence by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries of Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness in exchange for, or the net proceeds of which are used to renew, refund, refinance, replace, defease or discharge, in whole or in part, any Indebtedness (other than intercompany Indebtedness) or Disqualified Stock of the Company that was permitted by the Indenture to be incurred under the first paragraph of this covenant or clauses (2), (3), (4), (5), (10) or (13) of this paragraph;
- (6) the incurrence by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries of intercompany Indebtedness between or among the Company and any of its Restricted Subsidiaries; *provided, however*, that:
 - (a) if the Company or any Guarantor is the obligor on such Indebtedness and the payee is not the Company or a Guarantor, such Indebtedness must be unsecured and expressly subordinated to the prior payment in full in cash of all Obligations then due with respect to the notes, in the case of the Company or the applicable Note Guarantee, in the case of a Guarantor; and
 - (b) (i) any subsequent issuance or transfer of Equity Interests that results in any such Indebtedness being held by a Person other than the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company or (ii) any sale or other transfer of any such Indebtedness to a Person that is not either the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company will be deemed, in each case, to constitute an incurrence (as of the date of such issuance, sale or transfer) of such Indebtedness by the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary, as the case may be, that was not permitted by this clause (6);

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

- (7) the issuance by any of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries to the Company or to any of its Restricted Subsidiaries of shares of preferred stock; *provided, however,* that:
- (a) any subsequent issuance or transfer of Equity Interests that results in any such preferred stock being held by a Person other than the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company; and

S-35

Table of Contents

- (b) any sale or other transfer of any such preferred stock to a Person that is not either the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company, will be deemed, in each case, to constitute an issuance of such preferred stock by such Restricted Subsidiary that was not permitted by this clause (7);
- (8) the incurrence by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries of Hedging Obligations in the ordinary course of business and not for speculative purposes;
- (9) the guarantee by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company of Indebtedness of the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company, to the extent that the guaranteed Indebtedness was permitted to be incurred by another provision of this covenant; *provided* that if the Indebtedness being guaranteed is subordinated to or *pari passu* with the notes, then the Guarantee must be subordinated or *pari passu*, as applicable, to the same extent as the Indebtedness guaranteed;
- (10) Permitted Acquisition Indebtedness;
- (11) Indebtedness in respect of workers' compensation claims, public liability insurance, unemployment insurance, property, casualty or liability insurance, self-insurance obligations or completion, performance, bid performance, appeal or surety bonds in the ordinary course of business, including guarantees or obligations with respect to letters of credit supporting such workers' compensation claims, public liability insurance, unemployment insurance, property, casualty or liability insurance, self-insurance obligations or completion, performance, bid performance, appeal or surety bonds;
- (12) the incurrence by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries of Indebtedness arising from the honoring by a bank or other financial institution of a check, draft or similar instrument inadvertently drawn against insufficient funds in the ordinary course;
- (13) reimbursement obligations with respect to letters of credit issued in the ordinary course of business in support of trade obligations; *provided* that, upon the drawing of such letters of credit, such obligations are reimbursed within one year following such drawing or incurrence;
- (14) accounts payable or other obligations of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to trade creditors created or assumed by the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary in the ordinary course of business in connection with the obtaining of goods and services; and
- (15) the incurrence by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries of additional Indebtedness or the issuance by the Company of Disqualified Stock or the issuance by any Restricted Subsidiary of preferred stock in an aggregate principal amount (or accreted value, as applicable) at any time outstanding, including all Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness incurred to renew, refund, refinance, replace, defease or discharge any Indebtedness incurred pursuant to this clause (15) not to exceed the greater of (i) \$150.0 million and (ii) 7% of the Company's Consolidated Tangible Assets determined as of the date of such incurrence or issuance.
- The Company will not incur, and will not permit any Guarantor to incur, any Indebtedness (including Permitted Debt) that is contractually subordinated in right of payment to any other Indebtedness of the Company or such Guarantor unless such Indebtedness is also contractually subordinated in right of payment to the notes and the applicable Note Guarantee on substantially identical terms; *provided, however*, that no Indebtedness will be deemed to be contractually subordinated in right of payment to any other Indebtedness of the Company solely by virtue of being unsecured or by virtue of being secured on a junior priority basis.

For purposes of determining compliance with this Incurrence of Indebtedness and Issuance of Preferred Stock covenant, in the event that an item of Indebtedness or Disqualified Stock or preferred stock meets the criteria of more than one of the categories of Permitted Debt described in clauses (1) through (15) above, or is entitled to be incurred pursuant to the first paragraph of this covenant, the Company will be permitted to

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

divide and classify such item of Indebtedness, Disqualified Stock or preferred stock, as applicable, on the date of its incurrence, or later re-divide and reclassify all or a portion of such item of Indebtedness, Disqualified Stock or

S-36

Table of Contents

preferred stock, as applicable, in any manner that complies with this covenant. Indebtedness under Credit Facilities outstanding on the Issue Date will initially be deemed to have been incurred on such date in reliance on the exception provided by clause (1) of the definition of Permitted Debt. The accrual of interest or preferred stock dividends, the accretion or amortization of original issue discount, the payment of interest on any Indebtedness in the form of additional Indebtedness with the same terms, the reclassification of preferred stock as Indebtedness due to a change in accounting principles, and the payment of dividends on preferred stock or Disqualified Stock in the form of additional shares of the same class of preferred stock or Disqualified Stock will not be deemed to be an incurrence of Indebtedness or an issuance of preferred stock or Disqualified Stock for purposes of this covenant; *provided*, in each such case, that the amount thereof is included in Fixed Charges of the Company as accrued. Further, the reclassification of any lease or other liability of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries as Indebtedness due to a change of accounting principles after the Issue Date will not be deemed an incurrence of Indebtedness for purposes of this covenant.

For purposes of determining compliance with any U.S. dollar-denominated restriction on the incurrence of Indebtedness, the U.S. dollar-equivalent principal amount of Indebtedness denominated in a foreign currency shall be utilized, calculated based on the relevant currency exchange rate in effect on the date such Indebtedness was incurred, in the case of term Indebtedness, or first committed, in the case of revolving credit Indebtedness; *provided* that if such Indebtedness is incurred to refinance other Indebtedness denominated in a foreign currency, and such refinancing would cause the applicable U.S. dollar-dominated restriction to be exceeded if calculated at the relevant currency exchange rate in effect on the date of such refinancing, such U.S. dollar-dominated restriction shall be deemed not to have been exceeded so long as the principal amount of such refinancing Indebtedness does not exceed the principal amount of such Indebtedness being refinanced. Notwithstanding any other provision of this covenant, the maximum amount of Indebtedness that the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary may incur pursuant to this covenant shall not be deemed to be exceeded solely as a result of fluctuations in exchange rates or currency values. The principal amount of any Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness, if incurred in a different currency from the Indebtedness being refinanced, shall be calculated based on the currency exchange rate applicable to the currencies in which such Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness is denominated that is in effect on the date of such refinancing.

Liens

The Company will not and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to, create, incur, assume or otherwise cause or suffer to exist or become effective any Lien of any kind (other than Permitted Liens) securing Indebtedness upon any of its property or assets, now owned or hereafter acquired, unless all payments due under the Indenture and the notes are secured on an equal and ratable basis with the obligations so secured until such time as such obligations are no longer secured by a Lien.

Any Lien on any property or assets of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries created for the benefit of the holders of the notes pursuant to the preceding paragraph shall provide by its terms that such Lien shall be automatically and unconditionally released and discharged at such time as there are no other Liens of any kind (other than Permitted Liens) on such property or assets securing Indebtedness.

Dividend and Other Payment Restrictions Affecting Restricted Subsidiaries

The Company will not, and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to, directly or indirectly, create or permit to exist or become effective any consensual encumbrance or restriction on the ability of any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company to:

- (a) pay dividends or make any other distributions on its Capital Stock to the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries or pay any indebtedness owed to the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries;
- (b) make loans or advances to the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries; or
- (c) sell, lease or transfer any of its properties or assets to the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

However, the preceding restrictions will not apply to encumbrances or restrictions existing under or by reason of:

- (1) agreements (including agreements governing Existing Indebtedness and Credit Facilities) as in effect on the Issue Date and any amendments, restatements, modifications, renewals, supplements, refundings, replacements or refinancings of those agreements; *provided* that the amendments, restatements, modifications, renewals, supplements, refundings, replacements or refinancings are not materially more restrictive, taken as a whole, with respect to such dividend and other payment restrictions than those contained in those agreements on the Issue Date, as determined by the Company in its reasonable and good faith judgment;
- (2) the Indenture, the notes and the Note Guarantees;
- (3) agreements governing other Indebtedness permitted to be incurred under the provisions of the covenant described above under the caption Incurrence of Indebtedness and Issuance of Preferred Stock and any amendments, restatements, modifications, renewals, supplements, refundings, replacements or refinancings of those agreements; *provided* that the restrictions therein are not materially more restrictive, taken as a whole, than those contained in (i) the Indenture, the notes and the Note Guarantees or (ii) agreements governing Indebtedness in effect on the Issue Date, in each case, as determined by the Company in its reasonable and good faith judgment;
- (4) applicable law, rule, regulation or order;
- (5) any agreement or instrument governing Indebtedness or Capital Stock of a Person acquired by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries as in effect at the time of such acquisition (except to the extent such Indebtedness or Capital Stock was incurred in connection with or in contemplation of such acquisition), which encumbrance or restriction is not applicable to any Person, or the properties or assets of any Person, other than the Person, or the property or assets of the Person, so acquired; *provided* that, in the case of Indebtedness, such Indebtedness was permitted by the terms of the Indenture to be incurred;
- (6) customary non-assignment provisions in contracts and licenses entered into in the ordinary course of business;
- (7) purchase money obligations for property acquired in the ordinary course of business and Capital Lease Obligations that impose restrictions on the property purchased or leased of the nature described in clause (c) of the preceding paragraph;
- (8) any agreement for the sale or other disposition of a Restricted Subsidiary that restricts distributions by that Restricted Subsidiary pending its sale or other disposition;
- (9) Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness; *provided* that the restrictions contained in the agreements governing such Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness are not materially more restrictive, taken as a whole, than those contained in the agreements governing the Indebtedness being refinanced, as determined by the Company in its reasonable and good faith judgment;
- (10) Liens permitted to be incurred under the provisions of the covenant described above under the caption Liens that limit the right of the debtor to dispose of the assets subject to such Liens;
- (11) provisions limiting the disposition or distribution of assets or property in joint venture agreements, asset sale agreements, sale and leaseback agreements, stock sale agreements and other similar agreements (including agreements entered into in connection with a

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

Restricted Investment) entered (i) in the ordinary course of business or (ii) into with the approval of the Company's Board of Directors, which limitation is applicable only to the assets that are the subject of such agreements;

- (12) restrictions on cash or other deposits or net worth imposed by customers or required by insurance, surety or bonding companies, in each case under contracts entered into in the ordinary course of business; and
- (13) encumbrances or restrictions with respect to property under a charter, lease or other agreement that has been entered into in the ordinary course for the employment, charter or other hire of such property.

S-38

Table of Contents

Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets

The Company will not: (1) consolidate or merge with or into another Person (whether or not the Company is the surviving corporation), or (2) directly or indirectly sell, assign, transfer, convey or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries taken as a whole, in one or more related transactions, to another Person, unless:

- (1) the resulting or surviving Person or the Person to which such sale, assignment, transfer, conveyance or other disposition has been made (the *Successor Company*) is (a) an entity organized or existing under the laws of the United States, any state of the United States or the District of Columbia (and, if such entity is not a corporation, a co-obligor of the notes is a corporation organized or existing under any such laws) or (b) an entity organized or existing under the laws of a Permitted Foreign Jurisdiction;
- (2) the Successor Company (if other than the Company) assumes all the obligations of the Company under the notes and the Indenture pursuant to agreements reasonably satisfactory to the trustee;
- (3) immediately after such transaction, no Default or Event of Default exists;
- (4) the Successor Company would, on the date of such transaction after giving pro forma effect thereto and any related financing transactions as if the same had occurred at the beginning of the applicable four-quarter period, (i) be permitted to incur at least \$1.00 of additional Indebtedness pursuant to the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio test set forth in the first paragraph of the covenant described above under the caption *Incurrence of Indebtedness and Issuance of Preferred Stock* or (ii) have had a Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio greater than the actual Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio for the Company for such four-quarter period;
- (5) in the case of clause (1)(b) above, in the event that the Successor Company is organized in a jurisdiction that is different from the jurisdiction in which the obligor on the notes was organized immediately before giving effect to the transaction:
 - (a) such Successor Company has delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel satisfactory to the Trustee stating (i) that the obligations of such Successor Company under the Indenture are enforceable under the laws such Permitted Foreign Jurisdiction of its formation subject to customary exceptions and (ii) the holders of notes will not recognize any income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the transaction and except as may result from a change in the source of any interest income, will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amount and at the same times as would have been the case if such transaction had not occurred;
 - (b) such Successor Company has agreed in writing to submit to New York jurisdiction and appoints an agent for the service of process in New York, each under terms reasonably satisfactory to the trustee; and
 - (c) the Company's board of directors or the comparable governing body of the Successor Company determines in good faith that such transaction will not adversely affect the interests of the holders of notes in any material respect and a board resolution to that effect is delivered to the trustee; and
- (6) the Successor Company has delivered to the trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that such consolidation, merger or disposition and such supplemental indenture (if any) comply with the Indenture.

In addition, the Company will not, directly or indirectly, lease all or substantially all of the properties and assets of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries taken as a whole, in one or more related transactions, to any other Person.

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

This Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets covenant will not apply to any sale, assignment, transfer, conveyance, lease or other disposition of assets between or among the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries. Clause (3) of the first paragraph of this covenant will not apply to any merger or consolidation of the Company with or into one of its Restricted Subsidiaries for any purpose other than for the purpose of reorganizing or

S-39

Table of Contents

reincorporating the Company in another jurisdiction. Clause (4) of the first paragraph of this covenant will not apply to any merger or consolidation of the Company (i) with or into one of its Restricted Subsidiaries for any purpose or (ii) with or into an Affiliate solely for the purpose of reorganizing or reincorporating the Company in another jurisdiction.

For purposes of the foregoing, the transfer (by lease, assignment, sale or otherwise, in a single transaction or series of transactions) of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of one or more Restricted Subsidiaries of the Company, the Capital Stock of which constitutes all or substantially all of the properties and assets of the Company, shall be deemed to be the transfer of all or substantially all of the properties and assets of the Company.

Upon any consolidation or merger or any sale, assignment, transfer, conveyance or other disposition of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of the Company in accordance with the first paragraph of this covenant in which the Company is not the surviving entity, the Successor Company shall succeed to, and be substituted for, and may exercise every right and power of, the Company under the Indenture with the same effect as if such Successor Company had been named as the Company in the Indenture, and thereafter, the Company will be relieved of all obligations and covenants under the Indenture and the notes.

Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase substantially all, there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, in certain circumstances there may be a degree of uncertainty as to whether a particular transaction would involve all or substantially all of the properties or assets of a Person.

Transactions with Affiliates

The Company will not, and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to, make any payment to or sell, lease, transfer or otherwise dispose of any of its properties or assets to, or purchase any properties or assets from, or enter into or make or amend any transaction, contract, agreement, understanding, loan, advance or guarantee with, or for the benefit of, any Affiliate of the Company (each, an *Affiliate Transaction*) involving aggregate payments or consideration in excess of \$10.0 million, unless:

- (1) the Affiliate Transaction is on terms that are no less favorable to the Company or the relevant Restricted Subsidiary in any material respect than those that would have been obtained in a comparable transaction by the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary with an unrelated Person or, if in the good faith judgment of the Company's Board of Directors, no comparable transaction is available with which to compare such Affiliate Transaction, such Affiliate Transaction is otherwise fair to the Company or the relevant Restricted Subsidiary from a financial point of view; and
- (2) the Company delivers to the trustee:
 - (a) with respect to any Affiliate Transaction or series of related Affiliate Transactions involving aggregate consideration in excess of \$25.0 million but no greater than \$50.0 million, an officers' certificate certifying that such Affiliate Transaction or series of related Affiliate Transactions complies with this covenant; and
 - (b) with respect to any Affiliate Transaction or series of related Affiliate Transactions involving aggregate consideration in excess of \$50.0 million, a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Company set forth in an officers' certificate certifying that such Affiliate Transaction or series of related Affiliate Transactions complies with this covenant and that such Affiliate Transaction or series of related Affiliate Transactions has been approved by a majority of the disinterested members of the Board of Directors of the Company.

Table of Contents

The following items will not be deemed to be Affiliate Transactions and, therefore, will not be subject to the provisions of the prior paragraph:

- (1) any employment agreement, employee benefit plan, officer or director indemnification agreement or any similar arrangement entered into by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business and payments pursuant thereto;
- (2) transactions between or among the Company and/or its Restricted Subsidiaries;
- (3) transactions with a Person (other than an Unrestricted Subsidiary of the Company) that is an Affiliate of the Company solely because the Company owns, directly or through a Restricted Subsidiary, an Equity Interest in, or controls, such Person;
- (4) payment of customary compensation to, and the provision of customary indemnity and other benefits on behalf of, officers, directors, employees or consultants of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries;
- (5) any issuance of Equity Interests (other than Disqualified Stock) of the Company to, or receipt of capital contributions from, Affiliates of the Company;
- (6) Permitted Investments and Restricted Payments that do not violate the provisions of the Indenture described above under the caption Restricted Payments ;
- (7) loans or advances to employees in the ordinary course of business not to exceed (i) \$1.0 million to any individual employee and (ii) \$2.5 million in the aggregate at any one time outstanding;
- (8) transactions between the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries and any Person that would not otherwise constitute an Affiliate Transaction except for the fact that one director of such other Person is also a director of the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary, as applicable; provided that such director abstains from voting as a director of the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary, as applicable, on any matter involving such other Person;
- (9) any transaction in which the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries, as the case may be, delivers to the trustee a letter from an accounting, appraisal or investment banking firm of national standing stating that such transaction is fair to the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary from a financial point of view or that such transaction meets the requirements of clause (1) of the preceding paragraph; and
- (10) transactions pursuant to agreements or arrangements in effect on the Issue Date, or any amendment, modification, or supplement thereto or replacement thereof, as long as such agreement or arrangement, as so amended, modified, supplemented or replaced is not more disadvantageous to the Company and the Restricted Subsidiaries, in any material respect, than the agreement or arrangement in existence on the Issue Date.

Business Activities

The Company will not, and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to, engage in any business other than Permitted Businesses, except to such extent as would not be material to the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries taken as a whole.

Designation of Restricted and Unrestricted Subsidiaries

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

At the time the notes are originally issued, all of the Subsidiaries of the Company will be Restricted Subsidiaries. The Board of Directors of the Company may designate any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company to be an Unrestricted Subsidiary if that designation would not cause a Default. If a Restricted Subsidiary is designated as an Unrestricted Subsidiary, the aggregate Fair Market Value of all outstanding Investments owned by the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries in the Subsidiary designated as Unrestricted will be deemed to be an Investment made as of the time of the designation and will reduce the amount available for Restricted Payments under the covenant described above under the caption Restricted Payments or under one or more

S-41

Table of Contents

clauses of the definition of Permitted Investments, as determined by the Company. That designation will only be permitted if the Investment would be permitted at that time and if the Restricted Subsidiary otherwise meets the definition of an Unrestricted Subsidiary. The Board of Directors of the Company may redesignate any Unrestricted Subsidiary to be a Restricted Subsidiary if that redesignation would not cause a Default.

Any designation of a Subsidiary of the Company as an Unrestricted Subsidiary will be evidenced to the trustee by filing with the trustee a certified copy of a resolution of the Board of Directors giving effect to such designation and an officers certificate certifying that such designation complied with the preceding conditions and was permitted by the covenant described above under the caption Restricted Payments. If, at any time, any Unrestricted Subsidiary would fail to meet the preceding requirements as an Unrestricted Subsidiary, it will thereafter cease to be an Unrestricted Subsidiary for purposes of the Indenture and any Indebtedness of such Subsidiary will be deemed to be incurred by a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company as of such date and, if such Indebtedness is not permitted to be incurred as of such date under the covenant described under the caption Incurrence of Indebtedness and Issuance of Preferred Stock, the Company will be in default of such covenant. The Board of Directors of the Company may at any time designate any Unrestricted Subsidiary to be a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company; *provided* that such designation will be deemed to be an incurrence of Indebtedness by a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company of any outstanding Indebtedness of such Unrestricted Subsidiary, and such designation will only be permitted if (1) such Indebtedness is permitted under the covenant described under the caption Incurrence of Indebtedness and Issuance of Preferred Stock, calculated on a pro forma basis as if such designation had occurred at the beginning of the applicable reference period; and (2) no Default or Event of Default would be in existence following such designation.

Limitation on Issuances of Guarantees of Indebtedness

The Company will not permit any of its existing or future Restricted Subsidiaries (other than Immaterial Subsidiaries), or any of its existing Restricted Subsidiaries that ceases to constitute an Immaterial Subsidiary, to Guarantee the payment of any other Indebtedness (other than Indebtedness and letters of credit under the Credit Agreement) of the Company unless such Restricted Subsidiary executes a supplemental indenture providing for the Guarantee of the payment of the notes by such Restricted Subsidiary, which Guarantee will be senior to or *pari passu* with such Restricted Subsidiary's Guarantee of such other Indebtedness and delivers such supplemental indenture and an opinion of counsel satisfactory to the trustee within 20 Business Days after the date on which such Restricted Subsidiary guaranteed such other Indebtedness.

The Note Guarantee of a Guarantor will automatically and unconditionally be released:

- (1) in connection with any sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of that Guarantor by way of merger, consolidation or otherwise, to a Person that is not (either before or after giving effect to such transaction) the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company, if the sale or other disposition does not violate the Asset Sale provisions of the Indenture;
- (2) in connection with any sale or other disposition of the Capital Stock of that Guarantor to a Person that is not (either before or after giving effect to such transaction) the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company, if the sale or other disposition does not violate the Asset Sales provisions of the Indenture and the Guarantor ceases to be a Subsidiary of the Company as a result of the sale or other disposition;
- (3) if the Company designates any Restricted Subsidiary that is a Guarantor to be an Unrestricted Subsidiary in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Indenture;
- (4) upon legal defeasance, covenant defeasance or satisfaction and discharge of the Indenture as provided below under the captions Legal Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance and Satisfaction and Discharge ;
- (5) upon the liquidation or dissolution of such Guarantor provided no Default or Event of Default has occurred or is continuing;

Table of Contents

- (6) upon the release or discharge of such Guarantor from the guarantee of Indebtedness that resulted in the obligation of such Guarantor to guarantee the notes (except as a result of payment under any such guarantee); or
- (7) upon such Guarantor consolidating with, merging into or transferring all of its assets to the Company or another Guarantor, and as a result of, or in connection with, such transaction such Guarantor dissolving or otherwise ceasing to exist.
- The form of the Note Guarantee will be attached as an exhibit to the Indenture.

Payments for Consent

The Company will not, and will not permit any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to, directly or indirectly, pay or cause to be paid any consideration to or for the benefit of any holder of notes for or as an inducement to any consent, waiver or amendment of any of the terms or provisions of the Indenture or the notes unless such consideration is offered to be paid and is paid to all holders of the notes that consent, waive or agree to amend in the time frame set forth in the solicitation documents relating to such consent, waiver or amendment.

Reports

Whether or not required by the rules and regulations of the SEC, so long as any notes are outstanding, the Company will furnish to the trustee and, upon its prior request, to any holder of notes (or, to the extent permitted by the SEC, file with the SEC for public availability), within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and regulations, taking into account any extension of time, deemed filing date or safe harbor contemplated or provided for by Rule 12b-25, Rule 13a-11(c) and Rule 15d-11(c) under the Exchange Act or successor provisions:

- (1) all quarterly and annual reports that would be required to be filed with the SEC on Forms 10-Q and 10-K if the Company were required to file such reports, including a Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and, with respect to the annual information only, a report on the annual financial statements by the Company's certified independent accountants; and
- (2) all current reports that would be required to be filed with the SEC on Form 8-K if the Company were required to file such reports. The Company will be deemed to have furnished such reports to the trustee and the holders of notes if it has filed such reports with the SEC using the EDGAR filing system and such reports are publicly available.

All such reports will be prepared in all material respects in accordance with all of the rules and regulations applicable to such reports. The Company will at all times comply with TIA §314(a).

If, at any time, the Company is no longer subject to the periodic reporting requirements of the Exchange Act for any reason, the Company will nevertheless continue filing the reports specified in the preceding paragraphs of this covenant with the SEC within the time periods specified above unless the SEC will not accept such a filing. The Company will not take any action for the purpose of causing the SEC not to accept any such filings. If, notwithstanding the foregoing, the SEC will not accept the Company's filings for any reason, the Company will post the reports referred to in the preceding paragraphs on its website within the time periods that would apply if the Company were required to file those reports with the SEC.

If the Company has designated any of its Subsidiaries as Unrestricted Subsidiaries, and such Unrestricted Subsidiaries' aggregate Specified Consolidated Tangible Assets as of the end of the most recently completed fiscal year exceeds an amount equal to 5% of the Company's Consolidated Tangible Assets, then the quarterly and annual financial information required by the preceding paragraphs will include a reasonably detailed presentation, either on the face of the financial statements or in the footnotes thereto, and in Management's

Table of Contents

Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, of the financial condition and results of operations of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries separate from the financial condition and results of operations of the Unrestricted Subsidiaries of the Company.

Events of Default and Remedies

Each of the following is an *Event of Default* :

- (1) default for 30 days in the payment when due of interest, if any, on the notes;
- (2) default in the payment when due (at maturity, upon redemption or otherwise) of the principal of, or premium, if any, on, the notes;
- (3) failure by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to comply with the provisions described under the caption *Certain Covenants Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets* or to consummate a purchase of notes when required pursuant to the provisions described under the captions *Repurchase at the Option of Holders Change of Control* and *Repurchase at the Option of Holders Asset Sales*
- (4) failure by the Company for 120 days after notice to the Company by the trustee or the holders of 25% in aggregate principal amount of the notes then outstanding voting as a single class to comply with the provisions described under the caption *Reports* ;
- (5) failure by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries for 60 days after notice to the Company by the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the notes then outstanding voting as a single class to comply with any of the other agreements in the Indenture (including the provisions described under the captions *Repurchase at the Option of Holders Change of Control* and *Repurchase at the Option of Holders Asset Sale* to the extent not described in clause (3) above);
- (6) default under any mortgage, indenture or instrument under which there may be issued or by which there may be secured or evidenced any Indebtedness for money borrowed by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries (or the payment of which is guaranteed by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries), whether such Indebtedness or Guarantee now exists, or is created after the Issue Date, if that default:
 - (a) is caused by a failure to pay principal of, premium or interest, if any, on, such Indebtedness prior to the expiration of the grace period provided in such Indebtedness on the date of such default (a *Payment Default*); or
 - (b) results in the acceleration of such Indebtedness prior to its express maturity,
 and, in each case, the principal amount of any such Indebtedness, together with the principal amount of any other such Indebtedness under which there has been a Payment Default or the maturity of which has been so accelerated, aggregates \$50.0 million or more; *provided, however*, that if any such default is cured or waived or any such acceleration rescinded, or such Indebtedness is repaid and the notes have not been accelerated, such Event of Default shall be automatically rescinded, so long as such rescission does not conflict with any judgment or decree;
- (7) failure by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to pay final judgments entered by a court or courts of competent jurisdiction aggregating in excess of \$50.0 million (to the extent not covered by insurance by a reputable and creditworthy insurer as to which the insurer has not disclaimed coverage), which judgments are not paid, discharged or stayed, for a period of 60 days;

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

- (8) except as permitted by the Indenture, any Note Guarantee is held in any judicial proceeding to be unenforceable or invalid or ceases for any reason to be in full force and effect, or any Guarantor, or any Person acting on behalf of any Guarantor, denies or disaffirms its obligations under its Note Guarantee; and

- (9) certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency described in the Indenture with respect to the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries that is a Significant Subsidiary or any group of its Restricted Subsidiaries that, taken together, would constitute a Significant Subsidiary of the Company.

S-44

Table of Contents

In the case of an Event of Default described in clause (9) above, all outstanding notes will become due and payable immediately without further action or notice. If any other Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding notes may declare all the notes to be due and payable immediately.

Subject to certain limitations, holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding notes may direct the trustee in its exercise of any trust or power. The trustee may withhold from holders of the notes notice of any continuing Default or Event of Default if it determines that withholding notice is in their interest, except a Default or Event of Default relating to the payment of principal of, or premium, interest or Additional Amounts, if any, on, the notes.

Subject to the provisions of the Indenture relating to the duties of the trustee, in case an Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers under the Indenture at the request or direction of any holders of notes unless such holders have offered to the trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense. Except to enforce the right to receive payment of principal, premium, if any, interest, if any, or Additional Amounts, if any, when due, no holder of a note may pursue any remedy with respect to the Indenture or the notes unless:

- (1) such holder has previously given the trustee written notice that an Event of Default is continuing;
- (2) holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding notes make a written request to the trustee to pursue the remedy;
- (3) such holder or holders offer and, if requested, provide to the trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to the trustee against any loss, liability or expense;
- (4) the trustee does not comply with such request within 60 days after receipt of the request and the offer of security or indemnity; and
- (5) during such 60-day period, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding notes do not give the trustee a direction inconsistent with such request.

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding notes by written notice to the trustee may, on behalf of the holders of all of the notes, rescind an acceleration or waive any existing Default or Event of Default and its consequences under the Indenture, if the rescission would not conflict with any judgment or decree, except a continuing Default or Event of Default in the payment of principal of, premium on, if any, interest, if any, or Additional Amounts, if any, on, the notes.

The Company is required to deliver to the trustee annually a statement regarding compliance with the Indenture. Upon any officer of the Company becoming aware of any Default or Event of Default, the Company is required to deliver to the trustee a statement specifying such Default or Event of Default.

No Personal Liability of Directors, Officers, Employees and Shareholders

No director, officer, employee, incorporator or shareholder of the Company or any Guarantor, as such, will have any liability for any obligations of the Company or the Guarantors under the notes, the Indenture or any Note Guarantee or for any claim based on, in respect of, or by reason of, such obligations or their creation. Each holder of notes by accepting a note waives and releases all such liability. The waiver and release are part of the consideration for issuance of the notes. The waiver may not be effective to waive liabilities under the federal securities laws.

Table of Contents

Legal Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

The Company may at any time, pursuant to a resolution of its Board of Directors set forth in an officers' certificate, elect to have all of its obligations discharged with respect to the outstanding notes and all obligations of the Guarantors discharged with respect to their Note Guarantees (*Legal Defeasance*) except for:

- (1) the rights of holders of outstanding notes to receive payments in respect of the principal of, and premium, interest or Additional Amounts, if any, on, such notes when such payments are due from the trust referred to below;
- (2) the Company's obligations with respect to the notes concerning issuing temporary notes, registration of notes, mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen notes and the maintenance of an office or agency for payment and money for security payments held in trust;
- (3) the rights, powers, trusts, duties and immunities of the trustee under the Indenture, and the Company's and the Guarantors' obligations in connection therewith; and
- (4) the Legal Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance provisions of the Indenture.

In addition, the Company may, pursuant to a resolution of its Board of Directors set forth in an officers' certificate, elect to have the obligations of the Company and the Guarantors released with respect to certain covenants (including its obligation to make Change of Control Offers and Asset Sale Offers) that are described in the Indenture (*Covenant Defeasance*) and thereafter any omission to comply with those covenants will not constitute a Default or Event of Default with respect to the notes. In the event Covenant Defeasance occurs, all Events of Default described under *Events of Default and Remedies* (except those relating to payments on the notes or bankruptcy, receivership, rehabilitation or insolvency events) will no longer constitute an Event of Default with respect to the notes.

If the Company exercises either its Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance option, each Guarantor will be released and relieved of any obligation under its Note Guarantee.

In order to exercise either Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance:

- (1) the Company must irrevocably deposit with the trustee, in trust, for the benefit of the holders of the notes, cash in U.S. dollars, non-callable government securities, or a combination thereof, in amounts as will be sufficient, in the opinion (except in the case of cash) of a nationally recognized investment bank, appraisal firm or firm of independent public accountants, to pay the principal of, premium, if any, on, and interest, if any, on, the outstanding notes on the stated date for payment thereof or on the applicable redemption date, as the case may be, and the Company must specify whether the notes are being defeased to such stated date for payment or to a particular redemption date;
- (2) in the case of Legal Defeasance, the Company must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel reasonably acceptable to the trustee confirming that (a) the Company has received from, or there has been published by, the Internal Revenue Service a ruling or (b) since the Issue Date, there has been a change in the applicable federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that, and based thereon such opinion of counsel will confirm that, the holders of the outstanding notes will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such Legal Defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such Legal Defeasance had not occurred;
- (3) in the case of Covenant Defeasance, the Company must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel reasonably acceptable to the trustee confirming that the holders of the outstanding notes will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such Covenant Defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as

would have been the case if such Covenant Defeasance had not occurred;

S-46

Table of Contents

- (4) no Default or Event of Default has occurred and is continuing on the date of such deposit (other than a Default or Event of Default resulting from the borrowing of funds to be applied to such deposit (and any similar concurrent deposit relating to other Indebtedness), and the granting of Liens to secure such borrowings);
- (5) such Legal Defeasance or Covenant Defeasance will not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, any material agreement or instrument (other than the Indenture and the agreements governing any other Indebtedness being defeased, discharged or replaced) to which the Company or any of the Guarantors is a party or by which the Company or any of the Guarantors is bound;
- (6) the Company must deliver to the trustee an officers certificate stating that the deposit was not made by the Company with the intent of preferring the holders of notes over the other creditors of the Company with the intent of defeating, hindering, delaying or defrauding any creditors of the Company or others; and
- (7) the Company must deliver to the trustee an officers certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent relating to the Legal Defeasance or the Covenant Defeasance have been complied with.

Amendment, Supplement and Waiver

Except as provided in the next two succeeding paragraphs, the Indenture or the notes or the Note Guarantees may be amended or supplemented with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding notes (including, without limitation, additional notes, if any) voting as a single class (including, without limitation, consents obtained in connection with a tender offer or exchange offer for, or purchase of, the notes), and any existing Default or Event of Default or compliance with any provision of the Indenture or the notes or the Note Guarantees may be waived with the consent of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding notes (including, without limitation, additional notes, if any) voting as a single class (including, without limitation, consents obtained in connection with a purchase of, or tender offer or exchange offer for, notes).

Without the consent of each holder of notes affected, an amendment, supplement or waiver may not (with respect to any notes held by a non-consenting holder):

- (1) reduce the percentage of principal amount of notes whose holders must consent to an amendment, supplement or waiver;
- (2) reduce any premium payable upon redemption of any notes or change the date on which any notes are subject to redemption (other than the notice provisions) or waive any payment with respect to the redemption of the notes; *provided, however*, that, solely for the avoidance of doubt, and without any other implication, any purchase or repurchase of the notes (including pursuant to the provisions relating to the covenants described above under the caption Repurchase at the Option of Holders) shall not be deemed a redemption of the notes;
- (3) reduce the rate of or change the time for payment of interest, including default interest, on any note;
- (4) waive a Default or Event of Default in the payment of principal of, or premium, interest or Additional Amounts, if any, on, the notes (except a rescission of acceleration of the notes by the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding notes and a waiver of the payment default that resulted from such acceleration);
- (5) make any note payable in money other than that stated in the notes;
- (6) make any change in the provisions of the Indenture relating to waivers of past Defaults or the rights of holders of notes to receive payments of principal of, or premium, interest or Additional Amounts, if any, on, the notes (other than waivers permitted by clause

(7) below);

- (7) waive a redemption or repurchase payment with respect to any note (other than a payment required by one of the covenants described above under the caption "Repurchase at the Option of Holders");

S-47

Table of Contents

(8) release any Guarantor from any of its obligations under its Note Guarantee or the Indenture, except in accordance with the terms of the Indenture; or

(9) make any change in the preceding amendment, supplement and waiver provisions.

Notwithstanding the preceding, without the consent of any holder of notes, the Company, the Guarantors and the trustee may amend or supplement the Indenture, the notes or the Note Guarantees:

(1) to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency;

(2) to provide for uncertificated notes in addition to or in place of certificated notes;

(3) to provide for the assumption of the Company's or a Guarantor's obligations to holders of notes and Note Guarantees in the case of a merger or consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of the Company's or such Guarantor's assets, as applicable, in accordance with the covenant described under the caption "Certain Covenants - Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets";

(4) to make any change that would provide any additional rights or benefits to the holders of notes or that does not adversely affect the legal rights under the Indenture of any holder, including, without limitation, to secure the notes or the Note Guarantees pursuant to the requirements of the covenants described above under the caption "Certain Covenants - Liens";

(5) to comply with requirements of the SEC in order to effect or maintain the qualification of the Indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;

(6) to conform the text of the Indenture, the notes or the Note Guarantees to any provision of the description of the notes section of the Company's prospectus dated January 12, 2012 relating to the initial notes, to the extent that such provision in such description of the notes was intended to be a substantially verbatim recitation of a provision of the Indenture, the notes or the Note Guarantees, which intent may be evidenced by an officer's certificate to that effect;

(7) to provide for the issuance of additional notes in accordance with the limitations set forth in the Indenture as of the Issue Date;

(8) to allow any Guarantor to execute a supplemental indenture and/or a Note Guarantee with respect to the notes;

(9) to add any additional Guarantor or to evidence the release of any Guarantor from its Note Guarantee, in each case as provided in the Indenture; or

(10) to evidence or provide for the acceptance of appointment under the Indenture of a successor trustee.

The consent of the holders of the notes is not necessary under the Indenture to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment or waiver. It is sufficient if such consent approves the substance of the proposed amendment or waiver.

Satisfaction and Discharge

The Indenture will be discharged and will cease to be of further effect as to all notes issued thereunder (except as to rights of registration of transfer or exchange of notes, which shall survive until all notes have been canceled, and the rights, protections and immunities of the trustee),

when:

(1) either:

- (a) all notes that have been authenticated, except lost, stolen or destroyed notes that have been replaced or paid and notes for whose payment money has been deposited in trust and thereafter repaid to the Company, have been delivered to the trustee for cancellation;
or

S-48

Table of Contents

- (b) all notes that have not been delivered to the trustee for cancellation have become due and payable by reason of the mailing of a notice of redemption or otherwise or will become due and payable within one year and the Company or any Guarantor has irrevocably deposited or caused to be deposited with the trustee as trust funds in trust solely for the benefit of the holders, cash in U.S. dollars, non-callable government securities, or a combination thereof, in amounts as will be sufficient, without consideration of any reinvestment of interest, to pay and discharge the entire Indebtedness on the notes not delivered to the trustee for cancellation for principal of, premium, if any, on, and interest, if any, on, the notes to the date of maturity or redemption;

- (2) in respect of clause 1(b), no Default or Event of Default has occurred and is continuing on the date of the deposit or will occur as a result of the deposit (other than a Default or Event of Default resulting from the borrowing of funds to be applied to such deposit and any similar deposit relating to other Indebtedness and, in each case, the granting of Liens to secure such borrowings) and the deposit will not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, any other instrument to which the Company or any Guarantor is a party or by which the Company or any Guarantor is bound (other than with respect to the borrowing of funds to be applied concurrently to make the deposit required to effect such satisfaction and discharge and any similar concurrent deposit relating to other Indebtedness, and in each case the granting of Liens to secure such borrowings);

- (3) the Company or any Guarantor has paid or caused to be paid all sums payable by it under the Indenture; and

- (4) the Company has delivered irrevocable instructions to the trustee under the Indenture to apply the deposited money toward the payment of the notes at maturity or on the redemption date, as the case may be.

In addition, the Company must deliver an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel to the trustee stating that all conditions precedent to satisfaction and discharge have been satisfied.

Concerning the Trustee

Wells Fargo Bank, National Association is the trustee under the Indenture. The trustee and its affiliates may perform certain commercial and investment banking services for us from time to time, including with respect to our Credit Agreement, for which they receive customary fees. The Indenture contains limitations on the right of the trustee, if it or any of its affiliates is then our creditor, to obtain payment of claims, or to realize on certain property received for any such claim, as security or otherwise. The trustee and its affiliates are permitted to engage in other transactions with us. If, however, the trustee acquires any conflicting interest, it must eliminate that conflict or resign within 90 days after ascertaining that it has a conflicting interest and after the occurrence of a Default, unless the Default has been cured, waived or otherwise eliminated within the 90-day period.

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding notes will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for exercising any remedy available to the trustee, subject to certain exceptions. The Indenture provides that in case an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, the trustee will be required, in the exercise of its power, to use the degree of care of a prudent man would exercise or use under the circumstances in the conduct of his own affairs. Subject to such provisions, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the Indenture at the request of any holder of notes, unless such holder has offered to the trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to it in its sole discretion against any loss, liability or expense.

Governing Law

The Indenture, the initial notes issued on January 18, 2012, the notes offered hereby and the Subsidiary Guarantees will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

Book-Entry, Delivery and Form

The notes offered hereby will initially be issued in the form of one or more permanent global notes in definitive, fully registered, book-entry form. The global notes will be deposited upon issuance with the trustee as custodian for DTC, and registered in the name of DTC or its nominee, for credit to an account of a direct or indirect participant in DTC as described below.

DTC has advised the Company that DTC is a limited-purpose trust company created to hold securities for its participating organizations (collectively, the *Participants*) and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of transactions in those securities between Participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of its Participants. The Participants include securities brokers and dealers (including the underwriters), banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. Access to DTC's system is also available to other entities such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Participant, either directly or indirectly (collectively, the *Indirect Participants*). Persons who are not Participants may beneficially own securities held by or on behalf of DTC only through the Participants or the Indirect Participants. The ownership interests in, and transfers of ownership interests in, each security held by or on behalf of DTC are recorded on the records of the Participants and Indirect Participants.

DTC has also advised the Company that, pursuant to procedures established by it:

- (1) upon deposit of the global notes, DTC will credit the accounts of the Participants designated by the underwriters with portions of the principal amount of the global notes; and
- (2) ownership of these interests in the global notes will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership of these interests will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC (with respect to the Participants) or by the Participants and the Indirect Participants (with respect to other owners of beneficial interest in the global notes).

Prospective purchasers are advised that the laws of some states require that certain Persons take physical delivery in definitive form of securities that they own. Consequently, the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global note to such Persons will be limited to such extent. In addition, because DTC can act only on behalf of its Participants, who in turn act on behalf of persons who hold interests through such Participants, the ability of a person having an interest in notes represented by a global note to pledge or transfer those interests to persons or entities that do not participate in DTC's system, or otherwise to take actions in respect of such interest, may be affected by the lack of a physical definitive security in respect of such interest.

So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of the global notes, DTC or such nominee will be considered the sole holder under the Indenture of any notes evidenced by the global notes. Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in a global note will not be entitled to have notes represented by that global note registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificated notes and will not be considered the owners or holders thereof under the Indenture or under the notes for any purpose, including with respect to the giving of any direction, instruction or approval to the trustee. Accordingly, each holder owning a beneficial interest in a global note must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if that holder is not a Participant or an Indirect Participant, on the procedures of the Participant through which that holder owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder of notes under the Indenture or the global note. Neither the Company nor the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records of DTC or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records of DTC relating to the notes.

Payments in respect of the principal of, or premium, interest or Additional Amounts, if any, on, a global note registered in the name of DTC or its nominee will be payable to DTC in its capacity as the registered holder under the Indenture. Under the terms of the Indenture, the Company and the trustee will treat the Persons in whose names the notes, including the global notes, are registered as the owners of the notes for the purpose of

Table of Contents

receiving payments and for all other purposes. Consequently, none of the Company, the trustee or any agent of the Company or the trustee has or will have any responsibility or liability for:

(1) any aspect of DTC's records or any Participant's or Indirect Participant's records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interest in the global notes or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any of DTC's records or any Participant's or Indirect Participant's records relating to the beneficial ownership interests in the global notes; or

(2) any other matter relating to the actions and practices of DTC or any of its Participants or Indirect Participants.

Based on DTC's current practice, we expect that upon receipt of any payment in respect of securities such as the notes (including principal and interest), DTC will credit the accounts of the relevant Participants with the payment on the payment date unless DTC has reason to believe that it will not receive payment on such payment date. Each relevant Participant is credited with an amount proportionate to its beneficial ownership of an interest in the principal amount of the relevant security as shown on the records of DTC. Payments by the Participants and the Indirect Participants to the beneficial owners of notes will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices and will be the responsibility of the Participants or the Indirect Participants and will not be the responsibility of DTC, the trustee or the Company. Neither the Company nor the trustee will be liable for any delay by DTC or any of the Participants or the Indirect Participants in identifying the beneficial owners of the notes, and the Company and the trustee may conclusively rely on and will be protected in relying on instructions from DTC or its nominee for all purposes.

Certificated Notes

The Company will issue certificated notes in registered definitive form to each person that DTC identifies as the beneficial owner of the notes represented by the global notes upon surrender by DTC of the global notes if:

(1) DTC notifies the Company that it (a) is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for the global notes or (b) has ceased to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act and, in either case, the Company fails to appoint a successor depository within 90 days of such notice;

(2) the Company, at its option, notifies the trustee in writing that it elects to cause the issuance of the certificated notes; or

(3) there has occurred and is continuing an Event of Default with respect to the notes, and DTC requests the issuance of certificated notes. Neither the Company nor the trustee will be liable for any delay by DTC, its nominee or any Participant or Indirect Participant in identifying the beneficial owners of notes and the Company and the trustee may conclusively rely on, and will be protected in relying on, instructions from DTC or its nominee for all purposes, including with respect to the registration and delivery, and the respective principal amounts, of the notes to be issued.

Same Day Settlement

The notes represented by the global notes are expected to be eligible to trade in DTC's Same-Day Funds Settlement System, and any permitted secondary market trading activity in such notes will, therefore, be required by DTC to be settled in immediately available funds. The Company expects that secondary trading in any certificated notes will also be settled in immediately available funds.

Certain Definitions

Set forth below are certain defined terms used in the Indenture. Reference is made to the Indenture for a full disclosure of all defined terms used therein.

Table of Contents

Acquired Debt means, with respect to any specified Person:

- (1) Indebtedness of any other Person existing at the time such other Person is merged with or into or became a Subsidiary of such specified Person, whether or not such Indebtedness is incurred in connection with, or in contemplation of, such other Person merging with or into, or becoming a Restricted Subsidiary of, such specified Person, but excluding Indebtedness which is extinguished, retired or repaid in connection with such Person merging with or into or becoming a Subsidiary of such specified Person; and
- (2) Indebtedness secured by a Lien encumbering any asset acquired by such specified Person.

Affiliate of any specified Person means any other Person directly or indirectly controlling or controlled by or under direct or indirect common control with such specified Person. For purposes of this definition, control, as used with respect to any Person, means the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of such Person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by agreement or otherwise. For purposes of this definition, the terms controlling, controlled by and under common control with have correlative meanings.

Applicable Premium means, with respect to any note on any redemption date, the greater of:

- (1) 1.0% of the principal amount of the note; and
- (2) the excess of:
 - (a) the present value at such redemption date of (i) the redemption price of the note at February 1, 2016, (such redemption price being set forth in the table appearing above under the caption *Optional Redemption*) plus (ii) all required interest payments due on the note through February 1, 2016, (excluding accrued but unpaid interest to the redemption date), computed using a discount rate equal to the Treasury Rate as of such redemption date plus 50 basis points; over
 - (b) the principal amount of the note.

Asset Sale means:

- (1) the sale, lease, conveyance or other disposition of any assets or rights by the Company or any of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries; *provided* that the sale, lease, conveyance or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries taken as a whole will not be an Asset Sale, but will be governed by the provisions of the Indenture described above under the caption *Repurchase at the Option of Holders Change of Control* and/or the provisions described above under the caption *Certain Covenants Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets* and not by the provisions of the Indenture described above under *Repurchase at the Option of the Holders Asset Sales* ; and
- (2) the issuance of Equity Interests by any of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries or the sale by the Company or any of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries of Equity Interests in any of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries (other than directors' qualifying shares or shares required by applicable law to be held by a Person other than the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary).

Notwithstanding the preceding, none of the following items will be deemed to be an Asset Sale:

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

- (1) any single transaction or series of related transactions that involves assets having a Fair Market Value of less than \$20.0 million;
- (2) the sale, lease, conveyance or other disposition of assets between or among the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries;
- (3) an issuance or sale of Equity Interests by a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company to the Company or to another Restricted Subsidiary of the Company;
- (4) the sale, lease, conveyance or other disposition of products, services or accounts receivable in the ordinary course of business and any sale or other disposition of damaged, worn-out or obsolete equipment or other

S-52

Table of Contents

- assets in the ordinary course of business (including the abandonment or other disposition of intellectual property that is, in the reasonable judgment of the Company, no longer economically practicable to maintain or useful in the conduct of the business of the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries taken as whole);
- (5) licenses and sublicenses by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries of software or intellectual property in the ordinary course of business;
- (6) any surrender or waiver of contract rights or the settlement, release, recovery on or surrender of contract, tort or other claims;
- (7) the granting of Liens not prohibited by the covenant described above under the caption **Liens** and any disposition of assets resulting from the enforcement or foreclosure of any such Permitted Lien;
- (8) the sale or other disposition of cash or Cash Equivalents;
- (9) a Permitted Investment or a Restricted Payment that does not violate the covenant described above under the caption **Certain Covenants Restricted Payments** ;
- (10) any sale or other disposition of Equity Interests in, or other ownership interests in or assets or property, including Indebtedness, or other securities of, an Unrestricted Subsidiary;
- (11) the lease or sublease of any real property in the ordinary course of business; and
- (12) any disposition of accounts receivable in connection with the compromise, settlement or collection thereof in bankruptcy or similar proceedings.
- Asset Sale Offer* has the meaning assigned to that term in the Indenture governing the notes.

Attributable Debt in respect of a sale and leaseback transaction means, at the time of determination, the present value of the obligation of the lessee for net rental payments during the remaining term of the lease included in such sale and leaseback transaction including any period for which such lease has been extended or may, at the option of the lessor, be extended. Such present value shall be calculated using a discount rate equal to the rate of interest implicit in such transaction, determined in accordance with GAAP; *provided, however*, that if such sale and leaseback transaction results in a Capital Lease Obligation, the amount of Indebtedness represented thereby will be determined in accordance with the definition of **Capital Lease Obligation**. As used in the first sentence of this definition, the **net rental payments** under any lease for any period shall mean the sum of rental and other payments required to be paid with respect to such period by the lessee thereunder, excluding any amounts required to be paid by such lessee on account of maintenance and repairs, insurance, taxes, assessments, water rates or similar charges.

Beneficial Owner has the meaning assigned to such term in Rule 13d-3 and Rule 13d-5 under the Exchange Act, except that in calculating the beneficial ownership of any particular **person** (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act), such **person** will be deemed to have beneficial ownership of all securities that such **person** has the right to acquire by conversion or exercise of other securities, whether such right is currently exercisable or is exercisable only after the passage of time. The terms **Beneficially Owns** and **Beneficially Owned** have corresponding meanings.

Board of Directors means:

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

- (1) with respect to a corporation, the board of directors of the corporation or, except in the context of the definitions Change of Control and Continuing Directors, any committee thereof duly authorized to act on behalf of such board;
- (2) with respect to a partnership, the Board of Directors of the general partner of the partnership;
- (3) with respect to a limited liability company, the managing member or members or any controlling committee of managing members thereof; and
- (4) with respect to any other Person, the board or committee of such Person serving a similar function.

S-53

Table of Contents

Business Day means each day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or other day on which banking institutions in Houston, Texas or in New York, New York or another place of payment are authorized or required by law to close.

Capital Lease Obligation means, at the time any determination is to be made, the amount of the liability in respect of a capital lease that would at that time be required to be capitalized on a balance sheet prepared in accordance with GAAP, excluding liabilities resulting from a change in GAAP subsequent to the Issue Date, and the Stated Maturity thereof shall be the date of the last payment of rent or any other amount due under such lease prior to the first date upon which such lease may be prepaid by the lessee without payment of a penalty.

Capital Stock means:

- (1) in the case of a corporation, corporate stock;
- (2) in the case of an association or business entity, any and all shares, interests, participations, rights or other equivalents (however designated) of corporate stock;
- (3) in the case of a partnership or limited liability company, partnership interests (whether general or limited) or membership interests; and
- (4) any other interest or participation that confers on a Person the right to receive a share of the profits and losses of, or distributions of assets of, the issuing Person, but excluding from all of the foregoing any debt securities convertible into Capital Stock, whether or not such debt securities include any right of participation with Capital Stock.

Cash Equivalents means:

- (1) United States dollars;
- (2) securities issued or directly and fully guaranteed or insured by (i) the United States government or any agency or instrumentality of the United States government (*provided* that the full faith and credit of the United States is pledged in support of those securities) or (ii) any foreign country whose sovereign debt has a rating of at least A1 from Moody's and at least A+ from S&P or any agency or instrumentality of such foreign country (*provided* that the full faith and credit of such foreign country is pledged in support of those securities), in each case having maturities of not more than one year from the date of acquisition;
- (3) certificates of deposit, demand deposit and eurodollar time deposits with maturities of one year or less from the date of acquisition, bankers' acceptances with maturities not exceeding one year and overnight bank deposits, in each case, with any lender party to the Credit Agreement or with any domestic commercial bank having capital and surplus in excess of \$500.0 million and a Thomson Bank Watch Rating of B or better;
- (4) marketable general obligations issued by any state of the United States or any political subdivision of any such state or any public instrumentality thereof maturing within one year from the date of acquisition thereof and, at the time of acquisition thereof, having a credit rating of A or better from either S&P or Moody's;
- (5) repurchase obligations with a term of not more than seven days for underlying securities of the types described in clauses (2), (3) and (4) above entered into with any financial institution meeting the qualifications specified in clause (3) above;

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

- (6) commercial paper having one of the two highest ratings obtainable from Moody's or S&P and, in each case, maturing within one year after the date of acquisition;
- (7) money market funds at least 95% of the assets of which constitute Cash Equivalents of the kinds described in clauses (1) through (6) of this definition; and
- (8) in the case of any Subsidiary of the Company organized or having its principal place of business outside the United States, investments denominated in the currency of the jurisdiction in which such Subsidiary is

S-54

Table of Contents

organized or has its principal place of business which are similar to the items specified in clauses (1) through (7) of this definition.
Change of Control means the occurrence of any of the following:

- (1) the direct or indirect sale, lease, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation), in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole to any Person (including any person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act)) other than a Subsidiary of the Company;
- (2) the adoption of a plan relating to the liquidation or dissolution of the Company;
- (3) the consummation of any transaction (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation), the result of which is that any Person (including any person (as defined above) becomes the Beneficial Owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the Voting Stock of the Company, measured by voting power rather than number of shares; or

(4) the first day on which a majority of the members of the Board of Directors of the Company are not Continuing Directors.
 Notwithstanding the foregoing, a transaction will not be deemed to involve a Change of Control if (a) the Company becomes a direct or indirect Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of a Person or directly or indirectly sells, transfers, conveys or otherwise disposes of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, to such Person or a Wholly-Owned Subsidiary thereof and (b)(i) the holders of the Voting Stock of such Person immediately following that transaction are substantially the same as the holders of the Company's Voting Stock immediately prior to that transaction or (ii) both (x) the holders of the Company's Voting Stock immediately prior to that transaction Beneficially Own, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of the Voting Stock of such Person, measured by voting power rather than number of shares, immediately following such transaction and (y) no person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) (other than a holding company satisfying the requirements of this sentence) becomes the Beneficial Owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the Voting Stock of such Person, measured by voting power rather than number of shares, immediately following such transaction.

Consolidated EBITDA means, with respect to any specified Person for any period, the Consolidated Net Income of such Person for such period *plus*, without duplication:

- (1) an amount equal to any extraordinary loss plus any net loss realized by such Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries in connection with an Asset Sale, to the extent such losses were deducted in computing such Consolidated Net Income; *plus*
- (2) provision for taxes based on income or profits of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries for such period, to the extent that such provision for taxes was deducted in computing such Consolidated Net Income; *plus*
- (3) the Fixed Charges of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries for such period, to the extent that such Fixed Charges were deducted in computing such Consolidated Net Income; *plus*
- (4) any foreign currency translation losses (including losses related to currency remeasurements of Indebtedness) of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries for such period, to the extent that such losses were taken into account in computing such Consolidated Net Income; *plus*
- (5) depreciation, amortization (including amortization of intangibles but excluding amortization of prepaid cash expenses that were paid in a prior period) and other non-cash charges and expenses (excluding any such non-cash charge or expense to the extent that it represents an accrual of or reserve for cash charges or expenses in any future period or amortization of a prepaid cash charge or expense that was paid in

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

a prior period) of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries for such period to the extent that such depreciation, amortization and other non-cash charges or expenses were deducted in computing such Consolidated Net Income; *minus*

S-55

Table of Contents

- (6) any foreign currency translation gains (including gains related to currency remeasurements of Indebtedness) of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries for such period, to the extent that such gains were taken into account in computing such Consolidated Net Income; *minus*
- (7) non-cash items increasing such Consolidated Net Income for such period, other than the accrual of revenue in the ordinary course of business (and excluding any such non-cash item to the extent that it represents the reversal of an accrual or reserve for a potential cash charge or expense that reduced Consolidated EBITDA in a prior period), in each case, on a consolidated basis and determined in accordance with GAAP.

Consolidated Net Income means, with respect to any specified Person for any period, the aggregate of the net income (loss) of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries for such period, on a consolidated basis (excluding the net income (loss) of any Unrestricted Subsidiary of such Person), determined in accordance with GAAP and without any reduction in respect of preferred stock dividends; *provided that*:

- (1) all extraordinary gains (or losses) and all gains (or losses) realized in connection with any Asset Sale or the disposition of securities or the early extinguishment of Indebtedness, together with any related provision for taxes on any such gain (or loss), will be excluded;
- (2) the net income (but not loss) of any Person that is not a Restricted Subsidiary or that is accounted for by the equity method of accounting will be included only to the extent of the amount of dividends or similar distributions paid in cash to the specified Person or a Restricted Subsidiary of the Person;
- (3) the net income (but not loss) of any Restricted Subsidiary will be excluded to the extent that the declaration or payment of dividends or similar distributions by that Restricted Subsidiary of that net income is not at the date of determination permitted without any prior governmental approval (that has not been obtained) or, directly or indirectly, by operation of the terms of its charter or any agreement, instrument, judgment, decree, order, statute, rule or governmental regulation applicable to that Restricted Subsidiary or its stockholders;
- (4) the cumulative effect of a change in accounting principles will be excluded; and
- (5) unrealized losses and gains under Hedging Contracts included in the determination of Consolidated Net Income, including, without limitation, those resulting from the application of FASB ASC Topic 815, *Derivatives and Hedging*, will be excluded.

Consolidated Tangible Assets means, with respect to any Person as of any date, the amount which, in accordance with GAAP, would be set forth under the caption *Total Assets* (or any like caption) on a consolidated balance sheet of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries determined in accordance with GAAP, less, to the extent included in a determination of *Total Assets*, and without duplication, all goodwill, patents, tradenames, trademarks, copyrights, franchises, experimental expenses, organization expenses and any other amounts classified as intangible assets in accordance with GAAP.

continuing means, with respect to any Default or Event of Default, that such Default or Event of Default has not been cured or waived.

Continuing Directors means, as of any date of determination, any member of the Board of Directors of the Company who:

- (1) was a member of such Board of Directors on the Issue Date; or
- (2) was nominated for election or elected to such Board of Directors with the approval of a majority of the Continuing Directors who were members of such Board of Directors at the time of such nomination or election.

Table of Contents

Credit Agreement means that certain Credit Agreement, dated as of May 6, 2011, by and among the Company, Atwood Offshore Worldwide Limited, the various lenders thereto and Nordea Bank Finland plc, New York Branch, as administrative agent, including any related notes, Guarantees, collateral documents, instruments and agreements executed in connection therewith, and, in each case, as amended, restated, modified, increased, renewed, refunded, replaced in any manner (whether upon or after termination or otherwise, and whether with the original lenders, investors, agents or otherwise) or refinanced (including by means of any capital markets transaction and involving any refinancing that increases the amount of Indebtedness borrowed or issued thereunder) in whole or in part from time to time.

Credit Facilities means one or more debt facilities (including, without limitation, the Credit Agreement), commercial paper facilities or Debt Issuances, in each case, with banks or other institutional lenders or institutional investors providing for revolving credit loans, term loans, receivables financing (including through the sale of receivables to such lenders or to special purpose entities formed to borrow from such lenders against such receivables), letters of credit or other borrowings or Debt Issuances, in each case, as amended, restated, modified, renewed, refunded, replaced in any manner (whether upon or after termination or otherwise) or refinanced (including by means of including by means of any capital markets transaction and involving any refinancing that increases the amount of Indebtedness borrowed or issued thereunder) in whole or in part from time to time.

Debt Issuance means, with respect to the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries, one or more issuances after the Issue Date of Indebtedness evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or other similar securities or instruments.

Default means any event that is, or with the passage of time or the giving of notice or both would be, an Event of Default.

Disqualified Stock means any Capital Stock that, by its terms (or by the terms of any security into which it is convertible, or for which it is exchangeable, in each case, at the option of the holder of the Capital Stock), or upon the happening of any event, matures or is mandatorily redeemable, pursuant to a sinking fund obligation or otherwise, or redeemable at the option of the holder of the Capital Stock, in whole or in part, on or prior to the date that is 91 days after the date on which the notes mature; *provided* that only the portion of Capital Stock which so matures or is mandatorily redeemable, is so convertible or exchangeable or is so redeemable at the option of the holder thereof prior to such date shall be deemed to be Disqualified Stock; *provided, further*, that any class of Capital Stock of such Person that by its terms authorizes such Person to satisfy its obligations thereunder by delivery of Capital Stock that is not Disqualified Stock shall not be deemed to be Disqualified Stock so long as such Person satisfies its obligations with respect thereto solely by the delivery of Capital Stock that is not Disqualified Stock. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, any Capital Stock that would constitute Disqualified Stock solely because the holders of the Capital Stock have the right to require the Company to repurchase or redeem such Capital Stock upon the occurrence of a change of control or an asset sale will not constitute Disqualified Stock if the terms of such Capital Stock provide that the Company may not repurchase or redeem any such Capital Stock pursuant to such provisions unless such repurchase or redemption complies with the covenant described above under the caption

Certain Covenants Restricted Payments. The amount of Disqualified Stock deemed to be outstanding at any time for purposes of the Indenture will be the maximum amount that the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries may become obligated to pay upon the maturity of, or pursuant to any mandatory redemption provisions of, such Disqualified Stock, exclusive of accrued dividends.

Equity Interests means Capital Stock and all warrants, options or other rights to acquire Capital Stock (but excluding any debt security that is convertible into, or exchangeable for, Capital Stock).

Equity Offering means a public or private sale of Equity Interests of the Company by the Company (other than Disqualified Stock and other than to a Subsidiary of the Company) made for cash on a primary basis by the Company after the Issue Date.

Table of Contents

Exchange Act means the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Existing Indebtedness means all Indebtedness of the Company and its Subsidiaries (other than Indebtedness under the Credit Agreement) in existence on the Issue Date, until such amounts are repaid.

Fair Market Value means the value that would be paid by a willing buyer to an unaffiliated willing seller in a transaction not involving distress or necessity of either party, reasonably determined in good faith by the Board of Directors of the Company in the case of amounts greater than or equal to \$50.0 million and otherwise, by any officer of the Company (unless otherwise provided in the Indenture).

Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio means with respect to any specified Person for any period, the ratio of the Consolidated EBITDA of such Person for such period to the Fixed Charges of such Person for such period. In the event that the specified Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries incurs, assumes, guarantees, repays, repurchases, redeems, defeases or otherwise discharges any Indebtedness (other than ordinary working capital borrowings) or issues, repurchases or redeems preferred stock subsequent to the commencement of the period for which the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio is being calculated and on or prior to the date on which the event for which the calculation of the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio is made (the *Calculation Date*), then the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio will be calculated giving pro forma effect (in accordance with Regulation S-X under the Securities Act) to such incurrence, assumption, guarantee, repayment, repurchase, redemption, defeasance or other discharge of Indebtedness, or such issuance, repurchase or redemption of preferred stock, and the use of the proceeds therefrom, as if the same had occurred at the beginning of the applicable four-quarter reference period.

In addition, for purposes of calculating the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio:

- (1) acquisitions that have been made by the specified Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries, including through mergers or consolidations, or any Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries acquired by the specified Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries, and including in each case all related financing transactions (including repayment of Indebtedness) and including increases in ownership of Restricted Subsidiaries, during the applicable four-quarter reference period or subsequent to such reference period and on or prior to the Calculation Date, or that are to be made on the Calculation Date, will be given pro forma effect (in accordance with Regulation S-X under the Securities Act) as if they had occurred on the first day of the four-quarter reference period and the Consolidated EBITDA for such reference period will be calculated giving pro forma effect to any expense and cost reductions or synergies that have occurred or are reasonably expected to occur within 12 months of the Calculation Date, in the reasonable judgment of the chief financial or accounting officer of the Company (provided those cost savings or operating improvements could then be reflected in pro forma financial statements in accordance with Regulation S-X under the Securities Act);
- (2) the Consolidated EBITDA attributable to discontinued operations, as determined in accordance with GAAP, and operations or businesses (and ownership interests therein) disposed of prior to the Calculation Date, will be excluded;
- (3) the Fixed Charges attributable to discontinued operations, as determined in accordance with GAAP, and operations or businesses (and ownership interests therein) disposed of prior to the Calculation Date, will be excluded, but only to the extent that the obligations giving rise to such Fixed Charges will not be obligations of the specified Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries following the Calculation Date;
- (4) any Person that is a Restricted Subsidiary of the specified Person on the Calculation Date will be deemed to have been a Restricted Subsidiary of the specified Person at all times during such four-quarter period;
- (5) any Person that is not a Restricted Subsidiary of the specified Person on the Calculation Date will be deemed not to have been a Restricted Subsidiary of the specified Person at any time during such four-quarter period; and
- (6) if any Indebtedness to which pro forma effect is being given bears a floating rate of interest, the interest expense on such Indebtedness will be calculated as if the rate in effect on the Calculation Date had been the

Table of Contents

applicable rate for the entire period (taking into account any Hedging Obligation applicable to such Indebtedness if such Hedging Obligation has a remaining term as at the Calculation Date in excess of 12 months).

Fixed Charges means, with respect to any specified Person for any period, the sum, without duplication, of:

- (1) the consolidated interest expense of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries for such period, whether paid or accrued, including, without limitation, amortization of debt issuance costs and original issue discount, non-cash interest payments, the interest component of any deferred payment obligations, the interest component of all payments associated with Capital Lease Obligations, imputed interest with respect to Attributable Debt, commissions, discounts and other fees and charges incurred in respect of letter of credit or bankers' acceptance financings, and net of the effect of all payments made or received pursuant to Hedging Obligations in respect of interest rates; *plus*
- (2) the consolidated interest expense of such Person and its Restricted Subsidiaries that was capitalized during such period; *plus*
- (3) any interest expense on Indebtedness of another Person that is guaranteed by such Person or one of its Restricted Subsidiaries or secured by a Lien on assets of such Person or one of its Restricted Subsidiaries, whether or not such Guarantee or Lien is called upon; *plus*
- (4) all dividends, whether paid or accrued and whether or not in cash, on any series of preferred stock of such Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries, other than dividends on Equity Interests payable solely in Equity Interests of the Company (other than Disqualified Stock) or to the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company, in each case, determined on a consolidated basis in accordance with GAAP.

GAAP means generally accepted accounting principles set forth in the opinions and pronouncements of the Accounting Principles Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and statements and pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board or in such other statements by such other entity as have been approved by a significant segment of the accounting profession, which are in effect from time to time.

Guarantee means a guarantee other than by endorsement of negotiable instruments for collection in the ordinary course of business, direct or indirect, in any manner including, without limitation, by way of a pledge of assets or through letters of credit or reimbursement agreements in respect thereof, of all or any part of any Indebtedness (whether arising by virtue of partnership arrangements, or by agreements to keep-well, to purchase assets, goods, securities or services, to take or pay or to maintain financial statement conditions or otherwise).

Guarantor means any Subsidiary of the Company that executes a Note Guarantee in accordance with the provisions of the Indenture, and its respective successors and assigns, in each case, until the Note Guarantee of such Person has been released in accordance with the provisions of the Indenture.

Hedging Obligations means, with respect to any specified Person, the obligations of such Person under:

- (1) interest rate swap agreements (whether from fixed to floating or from floating to fixed), interest rate cap agreements and interest rate collar agreements entered into with one or more financial institutions and designed to protect the Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries entering into the agreement against fluctuations in interest rates, or to otherwise reduce the cost of borrowing of such Person or any of such Restricted Subsidiaries, with respect to Indebtedness incurred;
- (2) foreign exchange contracts and currency protection agreements entered into with one or more financial institutions and designed to protect the Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries entering into the agreement against fluctuations in currency exchange rates;
- (3) any commodity futures contract, commodity swap, commodity option, commodity forward sale or other similar agreement or arrangement designed to protect against fluctuations in the price of commodities used by that Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries at the time; and

Table of Contents

- (4) other agreements or arrangements designed to protect such Person or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries against fluctuations in interest rates, commodity prices or currency exchange rates.

Immaterial Subsidiary means, as of any date, any Restricted Subsidiary whose total assets, as of that date, are less than \$100,000 and whose total revenues for the most recent 12-month period do not exceed \$100,000; *provided* that a Restricted Subsidiary will not be considered to be an Immaterial Subsidiary if it, directly or indirectly, guarantees or otherwise provides direct credit support for any Indebtedness of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries.

Indebtedness means, with respect to any specified Person, any indebtedness of such Person (excluding accrued expenses and trade payables), whether or not contingent:

- (1) in respect of borrowed money;
- (2) evidenced by bonds, notes, debentures or similar instruments or letters of credit (or reimbursement agreements in respect thereof);
- (3) in respect of banker's acceptances;
- (4) representing Capital Lease Obligations or Attributable Debt in respect of sale and leaseback transactions;
- (5) representing the balance deferred and unpaid of the purchase price of any property or services due more than six months after such property is acquired or such services are completed; or

(6) representing any Hedging Obligations, if and to the extent any of the preceding items (other than letters of credit, Attributable Debt and Hedging Obligations) would appear as a liability upon a balance sheet of the specified Person prepared in accordance with GAAP. In addition, the term *Indebtedness* includes all Indebtedness of others secured by a Lien on any asset of the specified Person (whether or not such Indebtedness is assumed by the specified Person) and, to the extent not otherwise included, the Guarantee by the specified Person of any Indebtedness of any other Person. Indebtedness shall be calculated without giving effect to the effects of FASB ASC Topic 815 and related interpretations to the extent such effects would otherwise increase or decrease an amount of Indebtedness for any purpose under the Indenture as a result of accounting for any embedded derivatives created by the terms of such Indebtedness. Furthermore, notwithstanding the foregoing, the following shall not constitute or be deemed *Indebtedness* :

- (i) any indebtedness which has been defeased in accordance with GAAP or defeased pursuant to the deposit of cash or Cash Equivalents (in an amount sufficient to satisfy all such indebtedness obligations at maturity or redemption, as applicable, and all payments of interest and premium, if any) in a trust or account created or pledged for the sole benefit of the holders of such indebtedness, and subject to no other Liens, and the other applicable terms of the instrument governing such indebtedness;
- (ii) any obligations arising from agreements of a Person providing for indemnification, guarantees, adjustment of purchase price, holdbacks, contingent payment obligations based on a final financial statement or performance of acquired or disposed of assets or similar obligations (other than guarantees of Indebtedness), in each case, incurred or assumed by such Person in connection with the acquisition or disposition of assets (including through mergers, consolidations or otherwise); and
- (iii) taxes, assessments or other similar governmental charges or claims.

The amount of any Indebtedness outstanding as of any date will be:

- (1) the accreted value of the Indebtedness, in the case of any Indebtedness issued with original issue discount;
- (2) the principal amount of the Indebtedness, in the case of any other Indebtedness;

S-60

Table of Contents

(3) in respect of Indebtedness of another Person secured by a Lien on the assets of the specified Person, the lesser of:

(a) the Fair Market Value of such assets at the date of determination; and

(b) the amount of the Indebtedness of the other Person; and

(4) in the case of Hedging Obligations, the termination value of the agreement or arrangement giving rise to such Hedging Obligations that would be payable by the specified Person at such date.

Investments means, with respect to any Person, all direct or indirect investments by such Person in other Persons (including Affiliates) in the forms of loans (including Guarantees), advances or capital contributions (excluding (1) commission, travel and similar advances to officers and employees made in the ordinary course of business and (2) advances to customers in the ordinary course of business that are recorded as accounts receivable on the balance sheet of such Person), purchases or other acquisitions for consideration of Indebtedness, Equity Interests or other securities, together with all items that are or would be classified as investments on a balance sheet prepared in accordance with GAAP. If the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company sells or otherwise disposes of any Equity Interests of any direct or indirect Restricted Subsidiary of the Company such that, after giving effect to any such sale or disposition, such Person is no longer a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company, the Company will be deemed to have made an Investment on the date of any such sale or disposition equal to the Fair Market Value of the Company's Investments in such Subsidiary that were not sold or disposed of in an amount determined as provided in the final paragraph of the covenant described above under the caption Certain Covenants Restricted Payments. The acquisition by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company of a Person that holds an Investment in a third Person will be deemed to be an Investment by the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary in such third Person in an amount equal to the Fair Market Value of the Investments held by the acquired Person in such third Person on the date of such acquisition in an amount determined as provided in the final paragraph of the covenant described above under the caption Certain Covenants Restricted Payments. Except as otherwise provided in the Indenture, the amount of an Investment will be determined at the time the Investment is made and without giving effect to subsequent changes in value or write-ups, write-downs or write-offs with respect to such Investment.

Issue Date means January 18, 2012.

Joint Venture means any Person that is not a direct or indirect Subsidiary of the Company in which the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries makes any Investment.

Lien means, with respect to any asset, any mortgage, lien, pledge, charge, security interest or encumbrance of any kind in respect of such asset, whether or not filed, recorded or otherwise perfected under applicable law, including any conditional sale or other title retention agreement, any lease in the nature thereof, any option or other agreement to sell or give a security interest in and any filing of or agreement to give any financing statement under the Uniform Commercial Code (or equivalent statutes) of any jurisdiction, other than a precautionary financing statement in respect of a lease not intended as a security agreement.

Moody's means Moody's Investors Service, Inc., or any successor to the ratings business thereof.

Net Proceeds means the aggregate cash proceeds and Cash Equivalents received by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries in respect of any Asset Sale (including, without limitation, any cash or Cash Equivalents received upon the sale or other disposition of any non-cash consideration received in any Asset Sale), net of (1) the direct costs relating to such Asset Sale, including, without limitation, legal, accounting and investment banking fees, and sales commissions, severance costs and any relocation expenses incurred as a result of such Asset Sale, (2) taxes paid or payable as a result of the Asset Sale, in each case, after taking into account any available tax credits or deductions and any tax sharing arrangements, (3) amounts required to be applied to the repayment of Indebtedness secured by a Lien on the properties or assets that were the subject of such Asset Sale, or which must by its terms, or in order to obtain a necessary consent to such Asset Sale or by applicable

Table of Contents

law, be repaid out of the proceeds from such Asset Sale and (4) any amounts to be set aside in any reserve established in accordance with GAAP or any amount placed in escrow, in either case for adjustment in respect of the sale price of such properties or assets, for indemnification obligations of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries in connection with such Asset Sale or for other liabilities associated with such Asset Sale and retained by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries until such time as such reserve is reversed or such escrow arrangement is terminated, in which case Net Proceeds shall include only the amount of the reserve so reversed or the amount returned to the Company or its Restricted Subsidiaries from such escrow arrangement, as the case may be.

Non-Recourse Debt means Indebtedness:

- (1) as to which neither the Company nor any of its Restricted Subsidiaries (a) provides credit support of any kind (including any undertaking, agreement or instrument that would constitute Indebtedness) or (b) is directly or indirectly liable as a guarantor or otherwise, except pursuant to a Lien of the type permitted by item (14) in the definition of Permitted Liens ;
- (2) no default with respect to which (including any rights that the holders of the Indebtedness may have to take enforcement action against an Unrestricted Subsidiary) would permit upon notice, lapse of time or both any holder of any other Indebtedness (other than the notes) of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to declare a default on such other Indebtedness or cause the payment of the Indebtedness to be accelerated or payable prior to its Stated Maturity; and
- (3) the explicit terms of which provide there is no recourse against any of the assets of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries (other than the Equity Interests of an Unrestricted Subsidiary).

For purposes of determining compliance with the covenant described under Certain Covenants Incurrence of Indebtedness and Issuance of Preferred Stock above, in the event that any Non-Recourse Debt of any of the Company's Unrestricted Subsidiaries ceases to be Non-Recourse Debt of such Unrestricted Subsidiary, such event will be deemed to constitute an incurrence of Indebtedness by a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company.

Note Guarantee means the Guarantee by each Guarantor of the Company's payment obligations under the Indenture and the notes, executed pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture.

Obligations means any principal, premium, if any, interest, penalties, fees, indemnifications, reimbursements, damages and other liabilities payable under the documentation governing any Indebtedness.

Permitted Acquisition Indebtedness means Indebtedness or Disqualified Stock of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries to the extent such Indebtedness or Disqualified Stock was Indebtedness or Disqualified Stock of any other Person existing at the time (a) such Person became a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company, (b) such Person was merged or consolidated with or into the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries, or (c) assets of such Person were acquired by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries and such Indebtedness was assumed in connection therewith (excluding any such Indebtedness that is repaid contemporaneously with such event), *provided* that on the date such Person became a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company or the date such Person was merged or consolidated with or into the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries, or on the date of such asset acquisition, as applicable, either

- (1) immediately after giving effect to such transaction on a pro forma basis as if the same had occurred at the beginning of the applicable four-quarter period, the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary, as applicable, would be permitted to incur at least \$1.00 of additional Indebtedness pursuant to the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio test set forth in the first paragraph of the covenant described above under the caption Certain Covenants Incurrence of Indebtedness and Issuance of Preferred Stock, or
- (2) immediately after giving effect to such transaction on a pro forma basis as if the same had occurred at the beginning of the applicable four-quarter period, the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio of the Company would be equal to or greater than the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio of the Company immediately prior to such transaction.

Table of Contents

Permitted Business means any business that is the same as, or reasonably related, ancillary or complementary to, any of the businesses in which the Company and its Restricted Subsidiaries are engaged on the Issue Date, and reasonable extensions thereof.

Permitted Foreign Jurisdiction means each of Australia, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Cyprus, Ireland, Gibraltar, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Permitted Investments means:

- (1) any Investment in the Company or in a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company;
- (2) any Investment in Cash Equivalents;
- (3) any Investment by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company in a Person, if as a result of such Investment:
 - (a) such Person becomes a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company; or
 - (b) such Person is merged, consolidated or amalgamated with or into, or transfers or conveys substantially all of its assets to, or is liquidated into, the Company or a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company;
- (4) any Investment made as a result of the receipt of non-cash consideration from (a) an Asset Sale that was made pursuant to and in compliance with the covenant described above under the caption "Repurchase at the Option of Holders Asset Sales" or (b) a disposition of assets that does not constitute an Asset Sale;
- (5) any Investment in any Person solely in exchange for the issuance of Equity Interests (other than Disqualified Stock) of the Company;
- (6) any Investments received (a) in compromise or resolution of, upon satisfaction of judgments with respect to, (i) obligations of trade creditors or customers that were incurred in the ordinary course of business of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries, including pursuant to any plan of reorganization or similar arrangement upon the bankruptcy or insolvency of any trade creditor or customer, or (ii) litigation, arbitration or other disputes; or (b) as a result of a foreclosure by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries with respect to any secured Investment in default;
- (7) Investments represented by Hedging Obligations;
- (8) loans or advances to employees made in the ordinary course of business of the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed (a) \$1.0 million to any individual employee and (b) \$2.5 million in the aggregate at any one time outstanding;
- (9) repurchases of the notes;

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

- (10) any guarantee of Indebtedness permitted to be incurred by the covenant entitled Certain Covenants Incurrence of Indebtedness and Issuance of Preferred Stock other than a guarantee of Indebtedness of an Affiliate of the Company that is not a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company;
- (11) any Investment existing on, or made pursuant to binding commitments existing on, the Issue Date and any Investment consisting of an extension, modification or renewal of any Investment existing on, or made pursuant to a binding commitment existing on, the Issue Date; *provided* that the amount of any such Investment may be increased (a) as required by the terms of such Investment as in existence on the Issue Date or (b) as otherwise permitted under the Indenture;
- (12) Investments acquired after the Issue Date as a result of the acquisition by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company of another Person, including by way of a merger, amalgamation or consolidation with or into the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries in a transaction that is not prohibited by the covenant described above under the caption Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets after the Issue Date, to the extent that such Investments were not made in contemplation of such acquisition, merger, amalgamation or consolidation and were in existence on the date of such acquisition, merger, amalgamation or consolidation;

S-63

Table of Contents

- (13) guarantees by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries of operating leases (other than Capital Lease Obligations) or of other obligations that do not constitute Indebtedness, in each case entered into by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company in the ordinary course of business;
- (14) Investments in any Person to the extent such Investments consist of prepaid expenses, negotiable instruments held for collection and lease, utility and workers' compensation, performance and other similar deposits made in the ordinary course of business by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries;
- (15) Permitted Joint Venture Investments made by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries, in an aggregate amount (measured on the date each such Investment was made and without giving effect to subsequent changes in value), when taken together will all other Investments made pursuant to this clause (15) and then outstanding, that does not exceed the greater of (a) \$50.0 million and (b) 2% of the Company's Consolidated Tangible Assets; and
- (16) other Investments in any Person having an aggregate Fair Market Value (measured on the date each such Investment was made and without giving effect to subsequent changes in value), when taken together with all other Investments made pursuant to this clause (16) that are at the time outstanding not to exceed the greater of (a) \$50.0 million and (b) 2% of the Company's Consolidated Tangible Assets.

In determining whether an Investment is a Permitted Investment, the Company may allocate all or any portion of any Investment and later reallocate all or any portion of any Investment to one or more of the above clauses (1) through (16) and any of the provisions of the covenant described under "Certain Covenants - Restricted Payments."

Permitted Joint Venture Investments means, with respect to an Investment by any specified Person, an Investment by such specified Person in any other Person engaged in a Permitted Business (a) over which the specified Person is responsible (either directly or through a services agreement) for day-to-day operations or otherwise has direct or indirect operational and managerial control of such other Person, or veto power over significant management decisions affecting such other Person and (b) of which at least 20% of the Equity Interests of such other Person is at the time owned directly or indirectly by the specified Person.

Permitted Liens means:

- (1) Liens on assets of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries securing Indebtedness and other Obligations under Credit Facilities that was permitted by the terms of the Indenture to be incurred pursuant to clause (1) of the definition of Permitted Debt and/or securing Hedging Obligations related thereto and/or securing Obligations with regard to Treasury Management Arrangements;
- (2) Liens in favor of the Company or the Guarantors;
- (3) Liens on property of a Person existing at the time such Person becomes a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company or is merged with or into or consolidated with the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company; *provided* that such Liens were in existence prior to the contemplation of such Person becoming a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company or such merger or consolidation and do not extend to any assets (other than improvements thereon, accessions thereto and proceeds thereof) other than those of the Person that becomes a Restricted Subsidiary of the Company or is merged with or into or consolidated with the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company;
- (4) Liens on property (including Capital Stock) existing at the time of acquisition of the property by the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company; *provided* that such Liens were in existence prior to such acquisition and not incurred in contemplation of, such acquisition;
- (5)

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

Liens to secure the performance of tenders, bids, statutory obligations, insurance, surety or appeal bonds, government contracts, leases, workers compensation obligations, performance bonds or other obligations of a like nature incurred in the ordinary course of business (including Liens to secure letters of credit issued to assure payment of such obligations);

S-64

Table of Contents

- (6) Liens to secure Indebtedness (including Capital Lease Obligations) permitted by clause (4) of the second paragraph of the covenant entitled Certain Covenants Incurrence of Indebtedness and Issuance of Preferred Stock covering only the assets acquired, designed, constructed, installed or improved with, or financed by, such Indebtedness (and improvements thereon, accessions thereto and proceeds thereof);
- (7) Liens existing on the Issue Date;
- (8) Liens for taxes, assessments or governmental charges or claims that are not yet delinquent or that are being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings promptly instituted and diligently concluded; *provided* that any reserve or other appropriate provision as is required in conformity with GAAP has been made therefor;
- (9) carriers, warehousemen, landlords and mechanics, materialmen, repairmen or like Liens, in each case, incurred in the ordinary course of business;
- (10) survey exceptions, easements or reservations of, or rights of others for, licenses, rights-of-way, sewers, electric lines, telegraph and telephone lines and other similar purposes, or zoning or other restrictions as to the use of real property that were not incurred in connection with Indebtedness and that do not in the aggregate materially adversely affect the value of said properties or materially impair their use in the operation of the business of such Person;
- (11) Liens created for the benefit of (or to secure) the notes (or the Note Guarantees);
- (12) Liens to secure any Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness permitted to be incurred under the Indenture; *provided, however*, that:
 - (a) the new Lien is limited to all or part of the same property and assets that secured or, under the written agreements pursuant to which the original Lien arose, could secure the original Lien (plus improvements and accessions to, such property or proceeds or distributions thereof); and
 - (b) the Indebtedness secured by the new Lien is not increased to any amount greater than the sum of (x) the outstanding principal amount, or, if greater, committed amount, of the Indebtedness renewed, refunded, refinanced, replaced, defeased or discharged with such Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness and (y) an amount necessary to pay any fees and expenses, including premiums, related to such renewal, refunding, refinancing, replacement, defeasance or discharge;
- (13) Liens on insurance policies and proceeds thereof, or other deposits, to secure insurance premium financings;
- (14) Liens on and pledges of the Equity Interests of any Unrestricted Subsidiary or any Joint Venture owned by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company to the extent securing Non-Recourse Debt or other Indebtedness of such Unrestricted Subsidiary or Joint Venture;
- (15) bankers' Liens, rights of setoff, Liens arising out of judgments or awards not constituting an Event of Default and notices of *lis pendens* and associated rights related to litigation being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings and for which adequate reserves have been made;

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

- (16) Liens on cash, Cash Equivalents or other property arising in connection with the defeasance, discharge or redemption of Indebtedness;
- (17) Liens on specific items of inventory or other goods (and the proceeds thereof) of any Person securing such Person's obligations in respect of bankers' acceptances issued or created in the ordinary course of business for the account of such Person to facilitate the purchase, shipment or storage of such inventory or other goods;
- (18) grants of software and other technology licenses in the ordinary course of business;
- (19) Liens arising out of conditional sale, title retention, consignment or similar arrangements for the sale of goods entered into in the ordinary course of business;
- (20) Liens to secure Hedging Obligations of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries entered into in the ordinary course of business and not for speculative purposes;

S-65

Table of Contents

- (21) Liens on property or assets under construction (and related rights) in favor of a contractor or developer or arising from progress or partial payments by a third party relating to such property or assets;
- (22) Liens arising under the Indenture in favor of the trustee for its own benefit and similar Liens in favor of other trustees, agents and representatives arising under instruments governing Indebtedness permitted to be incurred under the Indenture, *provided* that such Liens are solely for the benefit of the trustees, agents or representatives in their capacities as such and not for the benefit of the holders of such Indebtedness; and

- (23) other Liens incurred by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company with respect to obligations that do not exceed the greater of (a) \$75.0 million and (b) 4% of the Company's Consolidated Tangible Assets at any one time outstanding.

Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness means any Indebtedness of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries issued in exchange for, or the net proceeds of which are used to renew, refund, refinance, replace, defease or discharge, in whole or in part, other Indebtedness of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries (other than intercompany Indebtedness) or any Disqualified Stock of the Company (the *Refinanced Indebtedness*); *provided* that:

- (1) the principal amount (or accreted value, if applicable, or in the case of Disqualified Stock, the amount thereof determined in accordance with the definition thereof) of such Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness does not exceed the principal amount (or accreted value, if applicable, or in the case of Disqualified Stock, the amount thereof determined in accordance with the definition thereof) of the Refinanced Indebtedness (plus all accrued (including, for the purposes of defeasance, future accrued) interest on, or accrued dividends on, the Refinanced Indebtedness and the amount of all fees and expenses, including premiums, incurred in connection therewith);
- (2) such Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness (a) has a final maturity date that is later than the final maturity date of the Refinanced Indebtedness, and has a Weighted Average Life to Maturity at the time such Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness is incurred equal to or greater than the Weighted Average Life to Maturity of the Refinanced Indebtedness or (b) has a final maturity date that is more than 90 days after the final maturity date of the notes;
- (3) if the Refinanced Indebtedness is contractually subordinated in right of payment to the notes, such Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness is contractually subordinated in right of payment to the notes on terms at least as favorable to the holders of notes as those contained in the documentation governing the Refinanced Indebtedness; and
- (4) if the Company or a Guarantor is the issuer of or otherwise an obligor on the Refinanced Indebtedness, such Permitted Refinancing Indebtedness is not incurred (other than by way of a Guarantee) by any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company that is not a Guarantor.

Person means any individual, corporation, partnership, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization, limited liability company or government or other entity.

Qualifying Equity Interests means Equity Interests of the Company other than Disqualified Stock.

Reporting Default means a Default described in clause (4) under Events of Default and Remedies.

Restricted Investment means an Investment other than a Permitted Investment.

Restricted Subsidiary of a Person means any Subsidiary of such Person that is not an Unrestricted Subsidiary.

S&P means Standard & Poor's Ratings Group, or any successor to the ratings business thereof.

SEC means the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Table of Contents

Senior Debt means:

- (1) all Indebtedness of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries outstanding under Credit Facilities and all Hedging Obligations with respect thereto;
- (2) any other Indebtedness of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries permitted to be incurred under the terms of the Indenture, unless the instrument under which such Indebtedness is incurred expressly provides that it is subordinated in right of payment to the notes or any Subsidiary Guarantee; and
- (3) all Obligations with respect to the items listed in the preceding clauses (1) and (2).

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the preceding sentence, Senior Debt will not include: (a) any intercompany Indebtedness of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries to the Company or any of its Affiliates; (b) any Indebtedness that is incurred in violation of the Indenture; or (c) any trade payables or taxes owed or owing by the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary.

Significant Subsidiary means any Restricted Subsidiary that would be a significant subsidiary as defined in Article 1, Rule 1-02 of Regulation S-X, promulgated pursuant to the Securities Act, as such Regulation is in effect on the Issue Date.

Specified Consolidated Tangible Assets means, with respect to any Person as of any date, the amount which, in accordance with GAAP, would be set forth under the caption Total Assets (or any like caption) on a consolidated balance sheet of such Person and its Subsidiaries determined in accordance with GAAP, less, to the extent included in a determination of Total Assets, and without duplication, all goodwill, patents, tradenames, trademarks, copyrights, franchises, experimental expenses, organization expenses and any other amounts classified as intangible assets in accordance with GAAP.

Specified Rig means any of the Seahawk and Richmond semisubmersible rigs, and the Atwood Southern Cross semisubmersible tender assist rig.

Stated Maturity means, with respect to any installment of interest or principal on any series of Indebtedness, the date on which the payment of interest or principal was scheduled to be paid in the documentation governing such Indebtedness as of the date of incurrence thereof, and will not include any contingent obligations to repay, redeem or repurchase any such interest or principal prior to the date originally scheduled for the payment thereof.

Subsidiary means, with respect to any specified Person:

- (1) any corporation, association or other business entity (other than a partnership or limited liability company) of which more than 50% of the total voting power of shares of Capital Stock entitled (without regard to the occurrence of any contingency and after giving effect to any voting agreement or stockholders agreement that effectively transfers voting power) to vote in the election of directors, managers or trustees of the corporation, association or other business entity is at the time owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by that Person or one or more of the other Subsidiaries of that Person (or a combination thereof); and
- (2) any partnership (whether general or limited) or limited liability company of which (a) the sole general partner or member of which is such Person or a Subsidiary of such Person, or (b) if there is more than a single general partner or member, either (x) the only managing general partners or managing members of which are such Person or one or more Subsidiaries of such Person (or any combination thereof) or (y) more than 50% of the capital accounts, distribution rights, total equity and voting interests or general and limited partnership interests, as applicable, are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by such Person or one or more of the other Subsidiaries of that Person or a combination thereof, whether in the form of membership, general, special or limited partnership interests or otherwise.

Treasury Management Arrangement means any agreement or other arrangement governing the provision of treasury or cash management services, including deposit accounts, overdraft, credit or debit card, funds

Table of Contents

transfer, automated clearinghouse, zero balance accounts, returned check concentration, controlled disbursement, lockbox, account reconciliation and reporting and trade finance services and other cash management services.

Treasury Rate means, as of any redemption date, the yield to maturity as of such redemption date of United States Treasury securities with a constant maturity (as compiled and published in the most recent Federal Reserve Statistical Release H.15 (519) that has become publicly available at least two Business Days prior to the redemption date (or, if such Statistical Release is no longer published, any publicly available source of similar market data)) most nearly equal to the period from the redemption date to February 1, 2016; *provided, however*, that if such period is not equal to the constant maturity of a United States Treasury security for which a weekly average yield is given, the Company shall obtain the Treasury Rate by linear interpolation (calculated to the nearest one-twelfth of a year) from the weekly average yields of United States Treasury securities for which such yields are given, except that if the period from the redemption date to February 1, 2016, is less than one year, the weekly average yield on actually traded United States Treasury securities adjusted to a constant maturity of one year will be used.

Unrestricted Subsidiary means any Subsidiary of the Company that is designated by the Board of Directors of the Company as an Unrestricted Subsidiary pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Directors, but only to the extent that such Subsidiary:

- (1) has no Indebtedness other than Non-Recourse Debt;
- (2) except as permitted by the covenant described above under the caption *Certain Covenants Transactions with Affiliates*, is not party to any agreement, contract, arrangement or understanding with the Company or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Company unless the terms of any such agreement, contract, arrangement or understanding are no less favorable to the Company or such Restricted Subsidiary than those that might be obtained at the time from Persons who are not Affiliates of the Company;
- (3) is a Person with respect to which neither the Company nor any of its Restricted Subsidiaries has any direct or indirect obligation (a) to subscribe for additional Equity Interests or (b) to maintain or preserve such Person's financial condition or to cause such Person to achieve any specified levels of operating results; and
- (4) has not guaranteed or otherwise directly or indirectly provided credit support for any Indebtedness of the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries.

All Subsidiaries of an Unrestricted Subsidiary shall also be Unrestricted Subsidiaries.

Voting Stock of any specified Person as of any date means the Capital Stock of such Person that is at the time entitled to vote in the election of the Board of Directors of such Person.

Weighted Average Life to Maturity means, when applied to any Indebtedness at any date, the number of years obtained by dividing:

- (1) the sum of the products obtained by multiplying (a) the amount of each then remaining installment, sinking fund, serial maturity or other required payments of principal, including payment at final maturity, in respect of the Indebtedness, by (b) the number of years (calculated to the nearest one-twelfth) that will elapse between such date and the making of such payment; *by*
- (2) the then outstanding principal amount of such Indebtedness.

Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of a Person means a Subsidiary, all of the Equity Interests of which (other than directors' qualifying shares) are owned by such Person or another Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of such Person.

Table of Contents

MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

Scope of Discussion

The following discussion summarizes the material United States federal income tax consequences relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of the notes. This discussion does not address any aspect of non-income taxation or state, local or foreign taxation.

This discussion is limited to holders of the notes who (i) purchase their notes at the price set forth on the front cover of this prospectus supplement and (ii) hold the notes as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code) (generally, property held for investment). For purposes of this discussion, a U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of notes who is:

an individual who is a U.S. citizen or resident alien;

a corporation or other entity created or organized under U.S. law (federal or state, including the District of Columbia) and treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes;

an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income tax; or

a trust if (1) a U.S. court can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more U.S. persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) the trust has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury Regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

For purposes of this discussion, a non-U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of notes who is not a U.S. holder or a partnership (including an entity treated as a partnership) for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

This discussion does not address all of the U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to holders in light of their particular circumstances or to holders who may be subject to special treatment under U.S. federal income tax laws, such as insurance companies, regulated investment companies, tax-exempt organizations, dealers in securities or currencies, persons subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Code, U.S. holders whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar, persons who hold the notes as part of a hedge, conversion transaction, straddle, wash sale, or other risk reduction transaction, financial institutions (including banks), certain expatriates and former long-term residents of the United States. This discussion does not address the effect on any person of any benefits under an applicable income tax treaty with the United States.

If a partnership (including an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) is a beneficial owner of notes, the tax treatment of a partner in that partnership generally will depend upon the status of the partner, the activities of the partnership and certain determinations made at the partner level. Partners of partnerships that are beneficial owners of notes should consult their tax advisors.

THIS SUMMARY IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL ANALYSIS OF THE TAX CONSEQUENCES RELATING TO THE PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP OR DISPOSITION OF THE NOTES. WE URGE YOU TO CONSULT A TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE PARTICULAR FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND FOREIGN TAX CONSEQUENCES RELATING TO THE PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP OR DISPOSITION OF THE NOTES IN LIGHT OF YOUR OWN SITUATION.

Opinion of Counsel

Subject to the assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth below, this discussion constitutes the opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P. (Counsel) insofar as it describes legal conclusions with respect to matters of U.S. federal income tax law. In providing this opinion, Counsel has examined and is relying upon the truth and

Table of Contents

accuracy at all relevant times of this prospectus, representations made by us (assuming that any representations that are made to the best knowledge of or with any similar qualification are correct without such qualification) and certain other records and documents relating to the transactions described in this prospectus. Counsel has not, however, undertaken any independent investigation of any factual matter set forth in any of the foregoing.

This opinion is based upon Counsel's interpretation of the Code, Treasury Regulations promulgated under the Code, court decisions, published positions of the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) and other applicable authorities, all as in effect on the date of this prospectus and all of which are subject to change or differing interpretations, possibly with retroactive effect. This opinion is rendered as of the date of this prospectus, and Counsel assumes no obligation to advise us or any holder of notes of any change in fact, circumstances or law which may alter, affect or modify this opinion. This opinion is not binding on the IRS or a court, and no ruling has been or will be obtained from the IRS regarding any of the U.S. federal income tax consequences described below. As a result, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not assert, or that a court will not sustain, a position contrary to the conclusions set forth below.

Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders*Interest on the Notes*

Interest on the notes (other than pre-issuance accrued interest that is treated as described under Pre-Issuance Accrued Interest below) generally will be taxable to a U.S. holder as ordinary income at the time that such interest is received or accrued, in accordance with such U.S. holder's method of tax accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Pre-Issuance Accrued Interest

A portion of a U.S. holder's purchase price for the notes will be attributable to the amount of interest accrued prior to the date the notes are issued (such amount is referred to here as pre-issuance accrued interest). Applicable Treasury Regulations provide that the notes may be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as having been sold to such holder for an amount that excludes any pre-issuance accrued interest. If the notes are so treated, then a portion of the first stated interest payment equal to any excluded pre-issuance accrued interest will be treated as a return of such pre-issuance accrued interest and will not be taxable as interest on the notes. You should consult your own tax advisor regarding this treatment.

Amortizable Bond Premium

If you purchase a note for an amount in excess of its principal amount (excluding any amount properly allocable to pre-issuance accrued interest that is treated as described under Pre-Issuance Accrued Interest above), you will be considered to have purchased the note with amortizable bond premium in an amount equal to such excess. You may elect (with respect to the note and all your other obligations with amortizable bond premium) to amortize such premium using a constant yield method over the remaining term of the note (or over a shorter period that accounts for an earlier call date, if applicable). You may generally use the amortizable bond premium allocable to an accrual period to offset interest required to be included in your gross income with respect to the note in that accrual period. If you elect to amortize any premium on the notes, you must reduce your tax basis in the notes by the amount of the premium amortized in any year. An election to amortize bond premium applies to all taxable debt obligations then owned and thereafter acquired by you and may be revoked only with the consent of the IRS. If you do not elect to amortize bond premium, that premium will decrease the gain or increase the loss you would otherwise recognize on the disposition of the note.

Sale, Redemption or other Taxable Disposition of the Notes

A U.S. holder generally will recognize capital gain or loss upon the sale, redemption or other taxable disposition of a note equal to the difference between (i) the sum of the cash plus the fair market value of all other

Table of Contents

property received on such disposition (less any amount attributable to accrued and unpaid interest (other than pre-issuance accrued interest treated as described under *Pre-Issuance Accrued Interest* above), which will be taxable as ordinary interest income to the extent the U.S. holder has not previously included such amounts in gross income in the manner described under *Interest on the Notes*) and (ii) the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the note. A U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the notes generally will equal the amount the holder paid for the notes, decreased by the amount of any pre-issuance accrued interest previously received that is treated as described under *Pre-Issuance Accrued Interest* above and any amortizable bond premium previously amortized. Any such capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder's holding period for the notes exceeds one year at the time of such disposition. Long-term capital gains recognized by certain non-corporate U.S. holders, including individuals, will generally be subject to a reduced rate of U.S. federal income tax. A U.S. holder's ability to deduct capital losses may be limited.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Interest on the notes paid within the United States or through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries is subject to information reporting and may be subject to backup withholding (currently at a 28% rate) unless the U.S. holder (i) is a corporation or other exempt recipient or (ii) provides a taxpayer identification number and satisfies certain certification requirements. Information reporting requirements and backup withholding may also apply to the cash proceeds of a sale of the notes.

In addition to being subject to backup withholding, if a U.S. holder of the notes does not provide us (or our paying agent) with such holder's correct taxpayer identification number or other required information, such holder may be subject to penalties imposed by the IRS. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or a credit against the U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided that such holder furnishes certain required information to the IRS.

Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences that will apply to a non-U.S. holder of the notes.

Pre-Issuance Accrued Interest

A portion of a non-U.S. holder's purchase price for the notes may be attributable to pre-issuance accrued interest. In such event, such portion would be treated as described in *Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders* *Pre-Issuance Accrued Interest* above.

Interest on the Notes

Any payments of interest received by a non-U.S. holder on the notes generally will be exempt from U.S. federal income and withholding tax under the *portfolio interest* exemption if the non-U.S. holder properly certifies as to its foreign status, as described below, and:

the non-U.S. holder does not own, actually or constructively, 10 percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote;

the non-U.S. holder is not a controlled foreign corporation that is related to us actually or constructively through stock ownership; and

such interest is not effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business by the non-U.S. holder.

The portfolio interest exemption applies only to non-U.S. holders who appropriately certify as to their foreign status. A non-U.S. holder generally can meet this certification requirement by providing a properly

Table of Contents

executed IRS Form W-8BEN or appropriate substitute form to the withholding agent. If the non-U.S. holder holds the notes through a financial institution or other agent acting on its behalf, the non-U.S. holder may be required to provide appropriate certifications to its agent.

If a non-U.S. holder cannot satisfy the requirements of the portfolio interest exemption described above, payments of interest received by the non-U.S. holder on the notes generally will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a 30% rate, unless such holder provides the withholding agent with a properly executed (i) IRS Form W-8BEN (or suitable substitute form) claiming an exemption from or reduction in withholding under an applicable tax treaty or (ii) IRS Form W-8ECI (or suitable substitute form) stating that interest paid on the note is not subject to withholding tax because it is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business (and, if an applicable tax treaty so requires, is attributable to such holder's permanent establishment in the United States). Any interest that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business (and, if an applicable tax treaty so requires, is attributable to such holder's permanent establishment in the United States) generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis and at rates generally applicable to U.S. persons. Foreign corporations receiving payments of such interest may also be subject to a U.S. branch profits tax.

Sale, Redemption or other Taxable Disposition of the Notes

A non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax on gain realized on the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of a note unless:

the non-U.S. holder is an individual present in the United States for 183 days or more in the year of such sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition and certain other conditions are met;

the gain is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if a treaty applies, the income is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the United States); or

the non-U.S. holder does not establish an exemption from backup withholding, as discussed in Backup Withholding and Information Reporting, below.

A non-U.S. holder may be required to establish an exemption from U.S. federal income and withholding tax with respect to amounts attributable to accrued and unpaid interest on the notes. See Interest on the Notes, above.

A non-U.S. holder described in the first bullet point above will generally be subject to U.S. federal income tax at a 30% rate (or a lower applicable treaty rate) on the gain derived from the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition, which may be offset by certain U.S. source capital losses. A non-U.S. holder described in the second bullet point above generally will be taxed in the same manner as if such non-U.S. holder were a U.S. holder, and if such non-U.S. holder is a foreign corporation, it may also be required to pay an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate (or a lower applicable treaty rate).

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Payments of interest on a note and any amounts withheld from such payments generally will be reported to the IRS and to non-U.S. holders on IRS Form 1042-S. Generally, neither information reporting on IRS Form 1099 nor backup withholding will apply to principal or interest payments or to amounts received on the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of a note if a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN or appropriate substitute form is provided to the withholding agent or the non-U.S. holder otherwise establishes an exemption. Any amount withheld under the backup withholding rules may be credited against the U.S. federal income tax liability of a non-U.S. holder, and any excess may be refundable to such non-U.S. holder if the proper information is timely provided to the IRS.

Table of Contents

Medicare Tax and Foreign Accounts

Unearned Income Medicare Contribution Tax

An additional 3.8% Medicare tax will be imposed on certain net investment income of individuals (other than nonresident aliens) with a modified adjusted gross income of over \$200,000 (\$250,000 in the case of joint filers) and on the undistributed net investment income of certain estates and trusts. For these purposes, net investment income generally includes interest, dividends, annuities, royalties, rents, net gain attributable to the disposition of property not held in a trade or business (including net gain from the taxable disposition of a note) and certain other income, as reduced by any deductions properly allocable to such income or gain. A U.S. holder that is an individual, estate or trust is urged to consult a tax advisor regarding the applicability of the Medicare tax to income and gains in respect of an investment in the notes.

FATCA

The Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act, which contains provisions originally proposed in the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), was enacted on March 18, 2010, and generally imposes a 30% U.S. withholding tax on withholdable payments, which include certain U.S. source payments, including interest and gross proceeds from a disposition of property (such as the notes) of a type which can produce U.S. source interest, if paid to certain foreign entities on or after certain specified dates. However, recently promulgated Treasury Regulations provide that debt securities issued prior to January 1, 2014 will not be subject to these rules. As a result, FATCA withholding tax will not apply to interest paid on or gross proceeds from a disposition of the notes unless the notes are materially modified on or after January 1, 2014. Holders of the notes are encouraged to consult with their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this legislation on an investment in the notes.

Certain Additional Tax Considerations

In certain circumstances, we may be succeeded as issuer of the notes by a successor entity organized in a foreign jurisdiction, as permitted by the covenant described under Description of Notes Certain Covenants Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets. In such event, the tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the notes, including the source of income with respect to the notes for purposes of computing the foreign tax credit allowable to U.S. holders under U.S. federal income tax laws, would be different from those described above. Prospective holders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the notes in the event that our obligations with respect to the notes are assumed by such successor entity organized in such foreign jurisdiction.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)**

Under the terms and subject to the conditions contained in an underwriting agreement dated June , 2013, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters, for whom Barclays Capital Inc., Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, DNB Markets, Inc. and Goldman, Sachs & Co. are acting as representatives, the following respective principal amount of notes.

Underwriter	Principal Amount of Notes
Barclays Capital Inc.	\$
Wells Fargo Securities, LLC	
Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC	
DNB Markets, Inc.	
Goldman, Sachs & Co.	
Credit Agricole Securities (USA) Inc.	
Global Hunter Securities, LLC	
HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.	
ING Financial Markets LLC	
Raymond James & Associates, Inc.	
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB (publ)	
Total	\$550,000,000

The underwriting agreement provides that the underwriters are obligated to purchase all of the notes if any are purchased. The underwriting agreement also provides that if an underwriter defaults, the purchase commitments of non-defaulting underwriters may be increased or the offering may be terminated.

The underwriters have advised us that they propose initially to offer the notes to the public at the public offering price on the cover page of this prospectus. After the initial public offering, the public offering price may be changed.

Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB (publ) is not a U.S. registered broker-dealer, therefore, it will effect orders in the offering outside of the U.S. or within the U.S. to the extent permitted by Rule 15a-6 under the Exchange Act (and applicable SEC interpretive guidance issued in connection therewith).

The following table shows the discounts and commissions we will pay to the underwriters in connection with the offering of the notes:

	Paid by Atwood
Per Note	\$
Total	

The expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting discount, are estimated to be approximately \$1.4 million and are payable by us.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or, if such indemnification is not available, to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect of these liabilities.

Table of Contents

No Sales of Similar Securities

We have agreed that we will not offer, sell, issue, contract to sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of, directly or indirectly, or file with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act relating to, any U.S. dollar-denominated debt securities issued or guaranteed by us and having a maturity of more than one year from the date of issue, or publicly disclose an intention to make any such offer, sale, pledge, disposition or filing, without the prior written consent of Barclays Capital Inc., for a period of 45 days after the date of this prospectus.

Stabilization and Market Making

The underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the notes as permitted by applicable law. They are not obligated, however, to make a market in the notes and any market-making may be discontinued at any time at their sole discretion. Accordingly, no assurance can be given as to the development or liquidity of any market for the notes. If an active public trading market for the notes does not develop, the market price and liquidity of the notes may be adversely affected.

The underwriters may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act:

Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which creates a short position for the underwriters.

Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

Covering transactions involve purchases of the notes in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions.

Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a broker/dealer when the notes originally sold by such broker/dealer are purchased in a stabilizing or covering transaction to cover short positions.

These stabilizing transactions, covering transactions and penalty bids may cause the price of the notes to be higher than it would otherwise be in the absence of these transactions. These transactions, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time. We make no representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the notes. In addition, we make no representation that the underwriters will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

Conflicts of Interest

Because Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB (publ) and affiliates of each of Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, Credit Agricole Securities (USA) Inc. and DNB Markets, Inc. are lenders under our credit facility and will each receive more than 5% of the net proceeds of this offering due to such repayment, such underwriters are deemed to have a conflict of interest within the meaning of Rule 5121 of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Inc. (FINRA). Accordingly, this offering will be conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of FINRA Rule 5121, which requires that a qualified independent underwriter, as defined by the FINRA rules, has participated in the preparation of, and has exercised the usual standards of due diligence with respect to, the registration statement and this prospectus supplement. Barclays Capital Inc. agreed to act as qualified independent underwriter for this offering and to undertake the legal responsibilities and liabilities of an underwriter under the Securities Act, specifically including those inherent in Section 11 of the Securities Act. Barclays Capital Inc. will not receive any additional fees for serving as qualified independent underwriter in connection with this offering. We have agreed to indemnify Barclays Capital Inc. against liabilities incurred in connection with acting as a qualified independent underwriter, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Pursuant to Rule 5121, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC,

Table of Contents

Credit Agricole Securities (USA) Inc., DNB Markets, Inc. and Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB (publ) will not confirm sales to any account over which they exercise discretionary authority without the specific written approval of the account holder. See [Use of Proceeds](#) for additional information.

Other Relationships

Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates perform various financial advisory, investment banking and commercial banking services from time to time for us and our affiliates, for which they have received or may receive customary fees and expense reimbursements. In particular, an affiliate of Wells Fargo Securities, LLC will act as the trustee under the indenture governing the notes.

In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and certain of their affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of the issuer or its affiliates. If the underwriters or their affiliates have a lending relationship with us, they routinely hedge their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. The underwriters and their affiliates may hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities or the securities of our affiliates, including potentially the notes offered hereby. Any such short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the notes offered hereby. The underwriters and certain of their affiliates may also communicate independent investment recommendations, market color or trading ideas and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a **Relevant Member State**) an offer to the public of any notes may not be made in that Relevant Member State except that an offer to the public in that Relevant Member State of any notes may be made at any time under the following exemptions under the Prospectus Directive, if they have been implemented in that Relevant Member State:

- (a) to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- (b) by the underwriters to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provisions of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), subject to obtaining the prior consent of Barclays Capital Inc.; or
- (c) in any other circumstances which do not require the publication by us of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of notes shall require us or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression **an offer of securities to the public** in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the notes, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State, the expression **Prospectus Directive** means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State, and the expression **2010 PD Amending Directive** means Directive 2010/73/EU.

Table of Contents

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom

Each of the underwriters severally represents and agrees that:

(a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated any invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the United Kingdom Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, or FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of any notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to us; and

(b) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

S-77

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of notes offered under this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Baker Botts L.L.P., Houston, Texas. Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for the underwriters by Latham & Watkins LLP, Houston, Texas.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2012 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

S-78

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Statements included in this prospectus regarding future financial performance, capital sources and results of operations and other statements, other than statements of historical fact, that address activities, events or developments that we expect, believe or anticipate will or may occur in the future are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such statements are those concerning strategic plans, expectations and objectives for future operations and performance. When used in this report, the words believes, expects, anticipates, plans, intends, estimates, projects, could, should, may, or similar words are intended to be among the statements that identify forward-looking statements.

Such statements are subject to numerous risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are beyond our ability to control, including, but not limited to:

prices of oil and natural gas and industry expectations about future prices;

market conditions, expansion and other development trends in the drilling industry and the global economy in general;

the operational risks involved in drilling for oil and gas;

the highly competitive and volatile nature of our business;

the impact of governmental or industry regulation, both in the United States and internationally;

the risks of and disruptions to international operations, including political instability and the impact of terrorist acts, acts of piracy, embargoes, war or other military operations;

our ability to enter into, and the terms of, future drilling contracts, including contracts for our new build units and for rigs whose contracts are expiring;

our ability to obtain and retain qualified personnel to operate our vessels;

timely access to spare parts, equipment and personnel to maintain and service our fleet;

the termination or renegotiation of contracts by customers or payment or other delays by our customers;

customer requirements for drilling capacity and customer drilling plans;

the adequacy of sources of liquidity for us and for our customers;

changes in tax laws, treaties and regulations;

the risks involved in the construction, upgrade, and repair of our drilling units;

unplanned downtime and repairs on our rigs; and

such other risks discussed in Risk Factors.

Forward-looking statements are made based upon management's current plans, expectations, estimates, assumptions and beliefs concerning future events impacting us and therefore involve a number of risks and uncertainties. We caution that forward-looking statements are not guarantees and that actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Undue reliance should not be placed on these forward-looking statements, which are applicable only on the date hereof. We undertake no obligation to revise or update these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that arise after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

S-79

Table of Contents

Prospectus

Atwood Oceanics, Inc.

Debt Securities

Preferred Stock

Common Stock

Warrants

We may issue and sell from time to time securities described in this prospectus. This prospectus contains summaries of the general terms of the securities. At the time of each offering, we will provide the specific terms of the offering and the securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest. Our shares of common stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ATW.

Investing in our securities involves risks. Please carefully review the information under the heading Risk Factors on page 3. In addition, risks associated with any investment in our securities may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement and certain of our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as described in Risk Factors.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined whether this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is March 7, 2013.

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	2
<u>About Atwood Oceanics, Inc.</u>	3
<u>Risk Factors</u>	3
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	3
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	4
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	4
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	5
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	13
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	17
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	17
<u>Legal Matters</u>	19
<u>Experts</u>	19
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	19

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using a "shelf" registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may offer any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering and the securities being offered. The prospectus supplement may also add to, update or change the information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with additional or different information. This prospectus may only be used where it is legal to sell the offered securities. You should assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus and that the information incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date the respective information was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

Table of Contents

ABOUT ATWOOD OCEANICS, INC.

We are a global offshore drilling contractor engaged in the drilling and completion of exploratory and developmental offshore oil and natural gas wells. We were founded in 1968 and are headquartered in Houston, Texas with support offices in Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

Our executive offices are located at 15835 Park Ten Place Drive, Houston, Texas 77084, and our telephone number is (281) 749-7800.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described in our filings with the SEC referred to under the heading *Where You Can Find More Information*, including our most recent annual report on Form 10-K and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and other reports and documents we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus that are incorporated by reference herein, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference.

If any of these risks were to occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows could be adversely affected. You could lose all or part of your investment. When we offer and sell any securities pursuant to a prospectus supplement, we may include additional risk factors relevant to that offering in the prospectus supplement.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Statements included in this prospectus, including the information we incorporate by reference, regarding future financial performance, capital sources and results of operations and other statements, other than statements of historical fact, that address activities, events or developments that we expect, believe or anticipate will or may occur in the future are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 (the *Securities Act*) and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the *Exchange Act*). Such statements are those concerning strategic plans, expectations and objectives for future operations and performance. When used in this prospectus, the words *believes*, *expects*, *anticipates*, *plans*, *intends*, *estimates*, *projects*, *could*, *should*, *may*, or similar expressions are intended to be statements that identify forward-looking statements.

Such statements are subject to numerous risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are beyond our ability to control, including, but not limited to, the risks and uncertainties described under *Risk Factors* above and in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and the following:

prices of oil and natural gas and industry expectations about future prices;

market conditions, expansion and other development trends in the drilling industry and the global economy in general;

the operational risks involved in drilling for oil and gas;

the highly competitive and volatile nature of our business;

the impact of governmental or industry regulation, both in the United States and internationally;

the risks of and disruptions to international operations, including political instability and the impact of terrorist acts, acts of piracy, embargoes, war or other military operations;

our ability to obtain and retain qualified personnel to operate our vessels;

Table of Contents

our ability to enter into, and the terms of, future drilling contracts, including contracts for our newbuild units and for rigs whose contracts are expiring;

timely access to spare parts, equipment and personnel to maintain and service our fleet;

customer requirements for drilling capacity and customer drilling plans;

the adequacy of sources of liquidity for us and for our customers;

changes in tax laws, treaties and regulations;

the risks involved in the construction, upgrade, and repair of our drilling units;

unplanned downtime and repairs on our rigs; and

the termination or renegotiation of contracts by customers or payment or other delays by our customers.

Forward-looking statements are made based upon management's current plans, expectations, estimates, assumptions and beliefs concerning future events impacting us and therefore involve a number of risks and uncertainties. We caution that forward-looking statements are not guarantees and that actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Undue reliance should not be placed on these forward-looking statements, which are applicable only on the date hereof. We undertake no obligation to revise or update these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that arise after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we inform you otherwise in an applicable prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of securities offered by us under this prospectus for general corporate purposes. These purposes may include:

capital expenditures;

acquisitions;

working capital; and

repayment, refinancing or redemption of indebtedness or other securities.

Pending any specific application, we may initially invest funds in short-term marketable securities or apply them to the reduction of short-term indebtedness.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

The table below sets forth our ratios of earnings to fixed charges on a consolidated basis for each of the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended December 31,	Years Ended September 30,				
	2012	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	4.7x	5.3x	25.8x	48.4x	27.0x	61.3x

For purposes of this table, earnings consists of income before income taxes plus fixed charges and less capitalized interest. Fixed charges consists of interest expense and capitalized interest. We had no preferred stock outstanding for any period presented, and accordingly, the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends is the same as the ratio of earnings to fixed charges.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The debt securities covered by this prospectus will be our general unsecured obligations. We will issue senior debt securities under an indenture, dated as of January 18, 2012, between us and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee. We refer to this indenture as the senior indenture. We will issue subordinated debt securities under an indenture to be entered into between us and a trustee we will name in the prospectus supplement relating to subordinated debt securities. We refer to this indenture as the subordinated indenture. We refer to the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture collectively as the indentures. The indentures will be substantially identical, except for provisions relating to subordination.

We have summarized material provisions of the indentures and the debt securities below. This summary is not complete. We have filed the senior indenture and the form of subordinated indenture with the SEC as exhibits to the registration statement, and you should read the indentures for provisions that may be important to you. Please read [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

In this summary description of the debt securities, unless we state otherwise or the context clearly indicates otherwise, all references to we, us or our refer to Atwood Oceanics, Inc. only and not to any of its subsidiaries.

General

Neither indenture limits the amount of debt securities that may be issued under that indenture, and neither limits the amount of other unsecured debt or securities that we may issue. We may issue debt securities under the indentures from time to time in one or more series, each in an amount authorized prior to issuance. Our 6.50% Senior Notes due 2020 are currently outstanding under the senior indenture, and no securities are outstanding under the subordinated indenture.

The senior debt securities will constitute our senior unsecured indebtedness and will rank equally in right of payment with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt and senior in right of payment to all of our subordinated indebtedness. The senior debt securities will be effectively subordinated to, and thus have a junior position to, our secured indebtedness with respect to the assets securing that indebtedness. The subordinated debt securities will rank junior to all of our senior indebtedness and may rank equally with or senior to other subordinated indebtedness we may issue from time to time.

We currently conduct our operations through both U.S. and foreign subsidiaries, and our operating income and cash flow are generated by our subsidiaries. As a result, cash we obtain from our subsidiaries is the principal source of funds necessary to meet our debt service obligations. Contractual provisions or laws, as well as our subsidiaries' financial condition and operating requirements, may limit our ability to obtain cash from our subsidiaries that we require to pay our debt service obligations, including payments on the debt securities. In addition, holders of the debt securities will have a junior position to the claims of creditors, including trade creditors and tort claimants, of our subsidiaries on their assets and earnings.

Neither indenture contains any covenants or other provisions designed to protect holders of the debt securities in the event we participate in a highly leveraged transaction or upon a change of control. The indentures also do not contain provisions that give holders of the debt securities the right to require us to repurchase their securities in the event of a decline in our credit rating for any reason, including as a result of a takeover, recapitalization or similar restructuring or otherwise.

Table of Contents

Terms

The prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities being offered will include specific terms relating to the offering. These terms will include some or all of the following:

whether the debt securities will be senior or subordinated debt securities;

the price at which we will issue the debt securities;

the title of the debt securities;

the total principal amount of the debt securities;

whether we will issue the debt securities in individual certificates to each holder or in the form of temporary or permanent global securities held by a depository on behalf of holders;

the date or dates on which the principal of and any premium on the debt securities will be payable;

any interest rate, the date from which interest will accrue, interest payment dates and record dates for interest payments;

whether and under what circumstances we will pay any additional amounts with respect to the debt securities;

the place or places where payments on the debt securities will be payable;

any provisions for optional redemption or early repayment;

any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to redeem, purchase or repay the debt securities;

the denominations in which we will issue the debt securities if other than \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000;

whether payments on the debt securities will be payable in foreign currency or currency unit or another form and whether payments will be payable by reference to any index or formula;

the portion of the principal amount of debt securities that will be payable if the maturity is accelerated, if other than the entire principal amount;

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

any additional means of defeasance of the debt securities, any additional conditions or limitations to defeasance of the debt securities or any changes to those conditions or limitations;

any changes or additions to the events of default or covenants described in this prospectus;

any restrictions or other provisions relating to the transfer or exchange of debt securities;

any terms for the conversion or exchange of the debt securities for other securities;

with respect to the subordinated indenture, any changes to the subordination provisions for the subordinated debt securities; and

any other terms of the debt securities not inconsistent with the applicable indenture.

We may sell the debt securities at a discount, which may be substantial, below their stated principal amount. These debt securities may bear no interest or interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below market rates. If we sell these debt securities, we will describe in the prospectus supplement any material United States federal income tax consequences and other special considerations.

If we sell any of the debt securities for any foreign currency or currency unit or if payments on the debt securities are payable in any foreign currency or currency unit, we will describe in the prospectus supplement the restrictions, elections, tax consequences, specific terms and other information relating to those debt securities and the foreign currency or currency unit.

Table of Contents

Subordination

Under the subordinated indenture, payment of the principal of and any premium and interest on the subordinated debt securities will generally be subordinated and junior in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all Senior Debt (as defined below). Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, we may not make any payment of principal of or any premium or interest on the subordinated debt securities if:

we fail to pay the principal, interest, premium or any other amounts on any Senior Debt when due; or

we default in performing any other covenant (a covenant default) on any Senior Debt that we have designated if the covenant default allows the holders of that Senior Debt to accelerate the maturity of the Senior Debt they hold.

Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, a covenant default will prevent us from paying the subordinated debt securities only for up to 179 days after holders of the designated Senior Debt give the trustee for the subordinated debt securities notice of the covenant default.

The subordination does not affect our obligation, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay, when due, the principal of and any premium and interest on the subordinated debt securities. In addition, the subordination does not prevent the occurrence of any default under the subordinated indenture.

The subordinated indenture does not limit the amount of Senior Debt that we may incur. As a result of the subordination of the subordinated debt securities, if we become insolvent, holders of subordinated debt securities may receive less on a proportionate basis than other creditors.

Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, Senior Debt will mean all of our indebtedness, including guarantees, unless the indebtedness states that it is not senior to the subordinated debt securities or our other junior debt. Senior Debt with respect to a series of subordinated debt securities could include other series of debt securities issued under the subordinated indenture.

Consolidation, Merger and Sales of Assets

The indentures generally permit a consolidation or merger involving us. They also permit us to sell, lease, convey, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets. We have agreed, however, that we will not consolidate with or merge into any entity or sell, lease, convey, assign, transfer or dispose of all or substantially all of our assets to any entity unless:

- (1) either

we are the continuing entity, or

the resulting entity is organized under the laws of the United States, any state thereof, the District of Columbia, Australia, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, any of the Channel Islands, any member of the European Union (as constituted on the date of the indenture) or any other member of the European Union that becomes a member after that date, the Netherlands Antilles or any state, province or political subdivision of the foregoing, and assumes by a supplemental indenture the due and punctual payments on the debt securities and the performance of our covenants and obligations under the indentures,

- (2) immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no default or event of default under the indentures has occurred and is continuing or would result from the transaction,

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

- (3) in the case of the second bullet point under clause (1) above, in the event that the resulting entity is organized in a jurisdiction (other than the United States, any state thereof or the District of

Table of Contents

Columbia) that is different from the jurisdiction in which the obligor on the debt securities was organized immediately before giving effect to the transaction:

such resulting entity delivers to the trustee an opinion of counsel stating that the obligations of the resulting entity under the applicable indenture are enforceable under the laws of the new jurisdiction of its formation subject to customary exceptions and

the resulting entity agrees in writing to submit to New York jurisdiction and appoints an agent for the service of process in New York, each under terms satisfactory to the trustee.

This covenant will not apply to any merger of another entity into us. Upon any transaction of the type described in and effected in accordance with this section, the resulting entity will succeed to and be substituted for us and may exercise all of our rights and powers under the applicable indenture and the debt securities with the same effect as if the resulting entity had been named as us in the indenture. In the case of any asset transfer or disposition other than a lease, when the resulting entity assumes all of our obligations and covenants under the applicable indenture and the debt securities, we will be relieved of all such obligations.

Events of Default

Unless we inform you otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following are events of default with respect to a series of debt securities:

our failure to pay interest on any debt security of that series for 30 days when due;

our failure to pay principal of or any premium on any debt security of that series when due;

our failure to deposit any sinking fund payment for 30 days when due;

our failure to comply with any covenant or agreement in that series of debt securities or the applicable indenture (other than an agreement or covenant that has been included in the indenture solely for the benefit of other series of debt securities) for 90 days after written notice by the trustee or by the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities issued under that indenture that are affected by that failure;

specified events involving bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of us; and

any other event of default provided for that series of debt securities.

A default under one series of debt securities will not necessarily be a default under any other series. If a default or event of default for any series of debt securities occurs, is continuing and is known to the trustee, the trustee will notify the holders of applicable debt securities within 90 days after it occurs. The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of the debt securities of any default or event of default, except in any payment on the debt securities, if the trustee in good faith determines that withholding notice is in the interests of the holders of those debt securities.

If an event of default for any series of debt securities occurs and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series affected by the default (or, in some cases, 25% in principal amount of all debt securities issued under the applicable indenture that are affected, voting as one class) may declare the principal of and all accrued and unpaid interest on those debt securities to be due and payable immediately. If an event of default relating to certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of our company occurs, the principal of and accrued and unpaid interest on all the debt securities issued under the applicable indenture will become immediately due and payable without any action on the part of the trustee or any holder. At any time after a declaration of acceleration has been

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

made, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series affected by the default (or, in some cases, of all debt securities issued under the applicable indenture that are affected, voting as one class) may in some cases rescind this accelerated payment requirement and its consequences.

Table of Contents

A holder of a debt security of any series issued under an indenture may pursue any remedy under that indenture only if:

the holder gives the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to that series;

the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series make a written request to the trustee to pursue the remedy;

the holders offer to the trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to the trustee against any loss, liability or expense;

the trustee does not comply with the request within 60 days after receipt of the request and offer of security or indemnity; and

during that 60-day period, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of that series do not give the trustee a direction inconsistent with the request.

This provision does not, however, affect the right of a holder of a debt security to sue for enforcement of any overdue payment.

In most cases, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders unless those holders have offered to the trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to it. Subject to this provision for security or indemnification, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series (or of all debt securities issued under the applicable indenture that are affected, voting as one class) generally may direct the time, method and place of:

conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee; or

exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee relating to or arising as a result of an event of default.

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, the trustee will be required to use the degree of care and skill of a prudent person in the conduct of his own affairs.

The indentures require us to furnish to the trustee annually a statement as to our performance of certain of our obligations under the indentures and as to any default in performance.

Modification and Waiver

We and the trustee may supplement or amend each indenture with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series issued under that indenture that are affected by the amendment or supplement (voting as one class).

Without the consent of the holder of each debt security affected, however, no modification may:

reduce the amount of debt securities whose holders must consent to an amendment, supplement or waiver;

reduce the rate of or change the time for payment of interest on the debt security;

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

reduce the principal of the debt security or change its stated maturity;

reduce any premium payable on the redemption of the debt security or change the time at which the debt security may or must be redeemed;

change any obligation to pay additional amounts on the debt security;

make payments on the debt security payable in currency other than as originally stated in the debt security;

impair the holder's right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to the debt security;

Table of Contents

make any change in the percentage of principal amount of debt securities necessary to waive compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or to make any change in the provision related to modification;

with respect to the subordinated indenture, modify the provisions relating to the subordination of any subordinated debt security in a manner adverse to the holder of that security;

waive a continuing default or event of default regarding any payment on the debt securities; or

if applicable, make any change that materially and adversely affects the right to convert any debt security.

We and the trustee may supplement or amend each indenture or waive any provision of that indenture without the consent of any holders of debt securities issued under that indenture in certain circumstances, including:

to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency;

to provide for the assumption of our obligations under the indenture by a successor upon any merger, consolidation or asset transfer permitted under the indenture;

to provide for uncertificated debt securities in addition to or in place of certificated debt securities or to provide for bearer debt securities;

to provide any security for, or to add any guarantees of or obligors on, any series of debt securities;

to comply with any requirement to effect or maintain the qualification of that indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939;

to add covenants that would benefit the holders of any debt securities or to surrender any rights we have under the indenture;

to add events of default with respect to any series of debt securities;

to make any change that does not adversely affect any outstanding debt securities of any series issued under that indenture in any material respect; and

to establish the form or terms of any debt securities and to accept the appointment of a successor trustee, each as permitted under the indenture.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series (or, in some cases, of all debt securities issued under the applicable indenture that are affected, voting as one class) may waive any existing or past default or event of default with respect to those debt securities. Those holders may not, however, waive any default or event of default in any payment on any debt security or compliance with a provision that cannot be amended or supplemented without the consent of each holder affected.

Defeasance and Discharge

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

Defeasance. When we use the term defeasance, we mean discharge from some or all of our obligations under an indenture. If we deposit with the trustee under an indenture any combination of money or government securities sufficient to make payments on the debt securities of a series issued under that indenture on the dates those payments are due, then, at our option, either of the following will occur:

we will be discharged from our obligations with respect to the debt securities of that series (*legal defeasance*); or

we will no longer have any obligation to comply with specified restrictive covenants with respect to the debt securities of that series, the covenant described under *Consolidation, Merger and Sales of Assets* and other specified covenants under the applicable indenture, and the related events of default will no longer apply (*covenant defeasance*).

Table of Contents

If a series of debt securities is defeased, the holders of the debt securities of that series will not be entitled to the benefits of the applicable indenture, except for obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities, replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities or maintain paying agencies and hold money for payment in trust. In the case of covenant defeasance, our obligation to pay principal, premium and interest on the debt securities will also survive.

Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, we will be required to deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel that the deposit and related defeasance would not cause the holders of the debt securities to recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes and that the holders would be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit and related defeasance had not occurred. If we elect legal defeasance, that opinion of counsel must be based upon a ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or a change in law to that effect.

Under current U.S. federal income tax law, legal defeasance would likely be treated as a taxable exchange of debt securities to be defeased for interests in the defeasance trust. As a consequence, a United States holder would recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the holder's cost or other tax basis for the debt securities and the value of the holder's interest in the defeasance trust, and thereafter would be required to include in income a share of the income, gain or loss of the defeasance trust. Under current U.S. federal income tax law, covenant defeasance would not be treated as a taxable exchange of such debt securities.

Satisfaction and Discharge. In addition, an indenture will cease to be of further effect with respect to the debt securities of a series issued under that indenture, subject to exceptions relating to compensation and indemnity of the trustee under that indenture and repayment to us of excess money or government securities, when:

either

all outstanding debt securities of that series have been delivered to the trustee for cancellation; or

all outstanding debt securities of that series not delivered to the trustee for cancellation either:

have become due and payable,

will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year, or

are to be called for redemption within one year; and

we have deposited with the trustee any combination of money or government securities in trust sufficient to pay the entire indebtedness on the debt securities of that series when due; and

we have paid all other sums payable by us with respect to the debt securities of that series.

Governing Law

New York law will govern the indentures and the debt securities.

The Trustees

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

Wells Fargo Bank, National Association is the trustee under the senior indenture. Wells Fargo Bank, National Association and its affiliates may perform certain commercial banking services for us from time to time for which they receive customary fees. We will name the trustee under the subordinated indenture in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Each indenture contains limitations on the right of the trustee, if it or any of its affiliates is then our creditor, to obtain payment of claims or to realize on certain property received for any such claim, as security or otherwise. The trustee and its affiliates are permitted to engage in other transactions with us. If, however, the trustee acquires any conflicting interest, it must eliminate that conflict or resign within 90 days after ascertaining that it has a conflicting interest and after the occurrence of a default under the applicable indenture, unless the default has been cured, waived or otherwise eliminated within the 90-day period.

Table of Contents

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we inform you otherwise in a prospectus supplement, we will make payments on the debt securities in U.S. dollars at the office of the trustee and any paying agent. At our option, however, payments may be made by wire transfer for global debt securities or by check mailed to the address of the person entitled to the payment as it appears in the security register. Unless we inform you otherwise in a prospectus supplement, we will make interest payments to the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the record date for the interest payment.

Unless we inform you otherwise in a prospectus supplement, the trustee under the applicable indenture will be designated as the paying agent for payments on debt securities issued under that indenture. We may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts.

If the principal of or any premium or interest on debt securities of a series is payable on a day that is not a business day, the payment will be made on the following business day. For these purposes, unless we inform you otherwise in a prospectus supplement, a business day is any day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which banking institutions in any of New York, New York, Houston, Texas or a place of payment on the debt securities of that series is authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to remain closed.

Subject to the requirements of any applicable abandoned property laws, the trustee and paying agent will pay to us upon written request any money held by them for payments on the debt securities that remains unclaimed for two years after the date upon which that payment has become due. After payment to us, holders entitled to the money must look to us for payment. In that case, all liability of the trustee or paying agent with respect to that money will cease.

Form, Exchange, Registration and Transfer

We will issue the debt securities in registered form, without interest coupons. Debt securities of any series will be exchangeable for other debt securities of the same series, the same total principal amount and the same terms but in different authorized denominations in accordance with the applicable indenture. Holders may present debt securities for registration of transfer at the office of the security registrar or any transfer agent designated by us. The security registrar or transfer agent will effect the transfer or exchange if its requirements and the requirements of the applicable indenture are met. We will not charge a service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange of the debt securities. We may, however, require payment of any transfer tax or similar governmental charge payable for that registration.

We will appoint the trustee as security registrar for the debt securities. If a prospectus supplement refers to any transfer agents we initially designate, we may at any time rescind that designation or approve a change in the location through which any transfer agent acts. We are required to maintain an office or agency for transfers and exchanges in each place of payment. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents for any series of debt securities.

In the case of any redemption of debt securities of a series or any repurchase of debt securities of a series required under the terms of the series, we will not be required to register the transfer or exchange of:

any debt security of that series during a period beginning 15 business days prior to the mailing of the relevant notice of redemption or repurchase and ending on the close of business on the day of mailing of such notice; or

any debt security of that series that has been called for redemption in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt security being redeemed in part.

Table of Contents

Book-Entry Debt Securities

We may issue the debt securities of a series in the form of one or more global debt securities that would be deposited with a depositary or its nominee identified in the prospectus supplement. We may issue global debt securities in either temporary or permanent form. We will describe in the prospectus supplement the terms of any depositary arrangement and the rights and limitations of owners of beneficial interests in any global debt security.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Our authorized capital stock consists of 90 million shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, and one million shares of preferred stock, no par value. The following describes our common stock, preferred stock, amended and restated certificate of formation and bylaws. This description is a summary only. We encourage you to read the complete text of our certificate of formation and bylaws, which we have filed or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. References to shareholders in this section refer to holders of our common stock, unless the context otherwise requires.

Common Stock

Our shareholders are entitled to one vote per share with respect to each matter submitted to a vote of our shareholders, subject to voting rights of shares of our preferred stock, if any.

Our shareholders have cumulative voting rights in the election of directors if the shareholder gives notice in writing to our secretary on or before the day preceding the election at which the shareholder intends to cumulate votes. In such case, the shareholder has the right to cumulate votes and give one candidate a number of votes equal to the number of directors to be elected, multiplied by the number of votes to which the shareholder is entitled, or to distribute votes on the same principle among as many candidates for directors as the shareholder thinks fit.

Our common stock carries no preemptive or other subscription rights to purchase shares of our stock and is not convertible, redeemable or assessable or entitled to the benefits of any sinking fund. Our shareholders are entitled to dividends in the amounts and at the times declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends.

If we are liquidated, dissolved or wound up, our shareholders will share pro rata in our assets after satisfaction of all of our liabilities and the prior rights of any outstanding class of preferred stock.

Preferred Stock

Our board of directors has the authority, without shareholder approval, to issue shares of preferred stock from time to time in one or more series and to fix the number of shares and terms of each series. The board may determine the designation and other terms of each series, including, among others:

dividend rights;

conversion rights;

rights and terms of redemption, including sinking fund provisions;

redemption price or prices;

liquidation preferences;

conversion privileges; and

voting rights.

Table of Contents

The prospectus supplement relating to any series of preferred stock we offer will include specific terms relating to the offering and the name of any transfer agent for that series. We will file the form of the preferred stock with the SEC before we issue any of it, and you should read it for provisions that may be important to you. The prospectus supplement will include some or all of the following terms:

the title of the preferred stock;

the maximum number of shares of the series;

the dividend rate or the method of calculating the dividend, the date from which dividends will accrue and whether dividends will be cumulative;

any terms for the conversion or exchange of the preferred stock for other securities of us or any other entity;

any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to redeem or purchase the preferred stock;

any redemption provisions;

any liquidation preference;

any voting rights; and

any other preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights or any qualifications, limitations or restrictions on the rights of the shares.

The issuance of preferred stock, while providing flexibility in connection with possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could reduce the relative voting power of holders of common stock. It also could affect the likelihood that holders of common stock will receive dividend payments and payments upon liquidation.

Anti-Takeover Provisions of Our Certificate of Formation and Bylaws

Our certificate of formation and bylaws contain provisions that could delay or make more difficult the acquisition of control of our company through a hostile tender offer, open market purchases, proxy contest, merger or other takeover attempt that a shareholder might consider to be in his or her best interest, including those attempts that might result in a premium over the market price of our common stock.

Authorized but Unissued Stock

We have 90 million authorized shares of common stock and one million authorized shares of preferred stock. One of the consequences of our authorized but unissued common stock and undesignated preferred stock may be to enable the board of directors to make more difficult or to discourage an attempt to obtain control of our company. If, in the exercise of its fiduciary obligations, our board of directors determined that a takeover proposal was not in our best interest, the board could authorize the issuance of some or all of those shares without shareholder approval. The shares could be issued in one or more transactions that might prevent or make the completion of a proposed change of control transaction more difficult or costly by:

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

diluting the voting or other rights of the proposed acquiror or insurgent shareholder group;

creating a substantial voting block in institutional or other hands that might undertake to support the position of the incumbent board;
or

effecting an acquisition using shares as consideration that might complicate or preclude the takeover.

In this regard, our certificate of formation grants our board of directors broad power to establish the rights and preferences of any authorized and unissued series of preferred stock. Our board could establish one or more series of preferred stock that entitle holders to, among other things:

vote separately as a class on any proposed merger or consolidation;

cast a proportionately larger vote together with the common stock on any transaction or for all purposes;

Table of Contents

elect directors having terms of office or voting rights greater than those of other directors;

convert preferred stock into a greater number of shares of the common stock or other securities;

demand redemption at a specified price under prescribed circumstances related to a change of control of us; or

exercise other rights designed to impede a takeover.

In addition, the number of authorized shares of preferred stock or common stock may be increased by the approval of our board of directors and the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares entitled to vote on such action.

Shareholder Action by Written Consent; Special Meetings of Shareholders

Our bylaws provides that action that is required or permitted to be taken by our shareholders at any annual or special meeting may be taken by unanimous written consent of shareholders in lieu of a meeting and that special meetings of shareholders may be called only by the board of directors, the chairman of the board, the president or the holders of not less than 10% of all the shares of our capital stock entitled to vote at the meeting.

Amendment of the Bylaws

Under Texas law and pursuant to our certificate of formation and bylaws, the power to adopt, amend or repeal bylaws is conferred upon both our shareholders and our board of directors.

Election and Removal of Directors

Directors may be removed, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of the holders of a two-thirds majority of the voting power of our outstanding voting stock entitled to vote in the election of directors. A vacancy on our board of directors may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors, even though such directors may represent less than a quorum of the board of directors. A director elected to fill a vacancy is elected for the unexpired term of this predecessor in office and until his successor is elected and qualified. The number of directors on the board generally will be fixed exclusively by, and may be increased or decreased exclusively by, the board of directors. Our bylaws provide that the number of directors will not be more than nine or less than six.

Shareholder Proposals and Directors Nominations

Our bylaws set forth the procedures for presenting a shareholder proposal, other than the nomination of directors, at an annual meeting of the shareholders. For shareholder proposals to be properly brought before an annual meeting, (i) the shareholder bringing such proposal must be a shareholder of record at the time of giving notice of such proposal and be entitled to vote at the annual meeting and (ii) the proposal must comply with the advance notice procedures set forth in the bylaws. To be timely, such shareholder's notice generally must be delivered to the our secretary at our principal executive offices not earlier than the close of business on the 120th day and not later than the close of business on the 90th day prior to the anniversary of the previous annual meeting.

Our bylaws also set forth the procedures for shareholder nominations in director elections. For shareholder nominations to be properly brought before an annual meeting or a special meeting at which directors are to be elected, the shareholder making such nomination must be a shareholder of record at the time of giving notice of such nomination and be entitled to vote at the meeting and the proposal must comply with the advance notice procedures set forth in the bylaws. To be timely with respect to an annual meeting, such shareholder's notice must be delivered to, or mailed and received at, our principal executive offices not earlier than the close of business on the 120th day and not later than the close of business on the 90th day prior to the first anniversary of

Table of Contents

the annual meeting date of the immediately preceding annual meeting. To be timely with respect to a special meeting, such shareholder's notice must be delivered to, or mailed and received at, our principal executive offices not earlier than the close of business on the 120th day and not later than the close of business on the 90th day prior to the scheduled special meeting date; provided, however, that if less than 100 days prior notice or public disclosure of the scheduled meeting date is given or made, notice by such shareholder, to be timely, must be so delivered or received not later than the close of business on the 10th day following the earlier of the day on which the notice of such meeting was mailed to shareholders of the Corporation or the day on which such public disclosure was made.

These provisions may limit the ability of shareholders to bring business before a shareholders' meeting, including the nomination of directors and the consideration of any transaction that could result in a change of control and a premium to our shareholders.

Limitation of Liability of Directors

Our directors will not be liable to us or our shareholders for monetary damages for an act or omission in the director's capacity as director, except for liability for:

a breach of the director's duty of loyalty to us or our shareholders;

an act or omission not in good faith or involving intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit, whether or not the benefit resulted from an action taken within the scope of the director's office; or

an act or omission for which the liability of a director is expressly provided for by Texas law.

If Texas law is amended to authorize the further elimination or limitation of directors' liability, then the liability of our directors will automatically be limited to the fullest extent provided by law. Our bylaws also contain provisions to indemnify directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law. In addition, we have entered into indemnification agreements with our directors and officers.

These provisions and agreements may have the practical effect in certain cases of eliminating the ability of shareholders to collect monetary damages from directors and officers.

Texas Anti-Takeover Law

We are subject to Section 21.606 of the Texas Business Organizations Code (TBOC). That section prohibits Texas corporations from engaging in a wide range of specified transactions with any affiliated shareholder during the three-year period immediately following the affiliated shareholder's acquisition of shares in the absence of certain board of director or shareholder approvals. An affiliated shareholder of a corporation is any person, other than the corporation and any of its wholly owned subsidiaries, that is or was within the preceding three-year period the beneficial owner of 20% or more of the outstanding shares of stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors. Section 21.606 may make it more difficult for a person who would be an affiliated shareholder to effect various business combinations with a corporation for a three-year period.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Continental Stock Transfer and Trust Company.

Market Information

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ATW.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants to purchase any combination of debt securities, common stock, preferred stock or other securities of our company or any other entity. We may issue warrants independently or together with other securities. Warrants sold with other securities may be attached to or separate from the other securities. We will issue warrants under one or more warrant agreements between us and a warrant agent that we will name in the prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement relating to any warrants we are offering will include specific terms relating to the offering. We will file the form of any warrant agreement with the SEC, and you should read the warrant agreement for provisions that may be important to you. The prospectus supplement will include some or all of the following terms:

the title of the warrants;

the aggregate number of warrants offered;

the designation, number and terms of the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock or other securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants, and procedures by which those numbers may be adjusted;

the exercise price of the warrants;

the dates or periods during which the warrants are exercisable;

the designation and terms of any securities with which the warrants are issued;

if the warrants are issued as a unit with another security, the date, if any, on and after which the warrants and the other security will be separately transferable;

if the exercise price is not payable in U.S. dollars, the foreign currency, currency unit or composite currency in which the exercise price is denominated;

any minimum or maximum amount of warrants that may be exercised at any one time; and

any terms, procedures and limitations relating to the transferability, exchange or exercise of the warrants.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities on a delayed or continuous basis in and outside the United States through underwriters or dealers as designated from time to time, directly to purchasers, through agents or through a combination of these methods.

Sale Through Underwriters or Dealers

If we use underwriters in the sale of securities, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices

Edgar Filing: ATWOOD OCEANICS INC - Form 424B5

determined at the time of sale. Underwriters may offer securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the offered securities if they purchase any of them. The underwriters may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

Table of Contents

During and after an offering through underwriters, the underwriters may purchase and sell the securities in the open market. These transactions may include over-allotment and stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover syndicate short positions created in connection with the offering. The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid, which means that selling concessions allowed to syndicate members or other broker-dealers for the offered securities sold for their account may be reclaimed by the syndicate if the offered securities are repurchased by the syndicate in stabilizing or covering transactions. These activities may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the offered securities, which may be higher than the price that might otherwise prevail in the open market. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue these activities at any time.

If we use dealers in the sale of securities, we will sell the securities to them as principals. They may then resell those securities to the public at varying prices determined by the dealers at the time of resale. The dealers participating in any sale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those securities. We will include in the prospectus supplement the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction.

Direct Sales and Sales Through Agents

We may sell the securities directly. In that event, no underwriters or agents would be involved. We may also sell the securities through agents we designate from time to time. In the prospectus supplement, we will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities, and we will describe any commissions payable by us to the agent. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

We may sell the securities directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those securities. We will describe the terms of any such sales in the prospectus supplement.

Delayed Delivery Contracts

If we so indicate in the prospectus supplement, we may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from certain types of institutions to purchase securities from us at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

Remarketing

We may offer and sell any of the securities in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment by their terms or otherwise, by one or more remarketing firms acting as principals for their own accounts or as our agents. We will identify any remarketing firm, the terms of any remarketing agreement and the compensation to be paid to the remarketing firm in the prospectus supplement. Remarketing firms may be deemed underwriters under the Securities Act.

Derivative Transactions

We may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, in connection with those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third parties may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from us in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open

Table of Contents

borrowings of stock. The third parties in these sale transactions will be underwriters and will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement or in a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

General Information

We may have agreements with the agents, dealers and underwriters to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments that the agents, dealers or underwriters may be required to make. Agents, dealers and underwriters may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of their businesses.

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for us by Baker Botts L.L.P., Houston, Texas. Any underwriters will be advised about other issues relating to any offering by their own legal counsel.

EXPERTS

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this Prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2012 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You can read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. You can obtain information about the operation of the SEC's public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains a Web site that contains information we file electronically with the SEC, which you can access over the Internet at <http://www.sec.gov>. You can obtain information about us at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we have filed with the SEC relating to the securities we may offer. As permitted by SEC rules, this prospectus does not contain all of the information we have included in the registration statement and the accompanying exhibits and schedules we file with the SEC. You may refer to the registration statement, the exhibits and the schedules for more information about us and our securities. The registration statement, exhibits and schedules are available at the SEC's public reference room or through its Web site.

We are incorporating by reference information we file with the SEC, which means that we are disclosing important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information we incorporate by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC automatically will update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until the termination of the offering:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2012 filed with the SEC on November 19, 2012;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended December 31, 2012 filed with the SEC on February 1, 2013;

Table of Contents

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 6, 2012, December 18, 2012, February 14, 2013 and March 7, 2013; and

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on July 2, 1997, as that description may be updated from time to time.

You may request a copy of these filings, other than an exhibit to these filings unless we have specifically incorporated that exhibit by reference into the filing, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Atwood Oceanics, Inc.

15835 Park Ten Place Drive

Houston, Texas 77084

Attention: Investor Relations Department

Telephone: (281) 749-7800

Table of Contents

\$

Atwood Oceanics, Inc.
6.50% Senior Notes due 2020

Prospectus Supplement

, 2013

Joint Book-Running Managers

Barclays

Wells Fargo Securities

Credit Suisse

DNB Markets

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Senior Co-Managers

Credit Agricole CIB

Global Hunter Securities

HSBC

ING

Raymond James

SEB