

Ocean Rig UDW Inc.
Form 424B5
June 02, 2015
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-202829

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

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JUNE 2, 2015

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated May 7, 2015)

Common Shares

Ocean Rig UDW Inc.

We are offering for sale _____ of our common shares pursuant to this prospectus supplement. Our common shares are listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol ORIG. On June 1, 2015, the last sale price of our common shares as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$7.65 per share.

As part of this offering, George Economou, our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, has indicated his intention to purchase, at the public offering price, a number of common shares that maintains his direct ownership in us, representing approximately five percent of our common shares.

Each share of our common stock includes one right that, under certain circumstances, entitles the holder to purchase from us a unit consisting of one-thousandth of a share of our preferred stock at a purchase price of \$100.00 per unit, subject to specified adjustments.

Investing in our common shares involves risks. See the section entitled Risk Factors beginning on page S-8 of this prospectus supplement, in the accompanying base prospectus and in our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2014, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Commission, on March 9, 2015.

	PER SHARE	TOTAL
Public Offering Price	\$	\$
Placement Fees	\$	\$
Proceeds to Company (Before Expenses)	\$	\$

Clarksons Platou Securities, Inc., Clarksons Platou Securities AS, Pareto Securities Inc., Pareto Securities AS and Seaport Global Securities LLC are acting as placement agents for us in connection with the common shares offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. The placement agents will use their best commercially practicable efforts to arrange for the sale of the common shares to certain institutional investors. The placement agents have no commitment to buy any of the shares.

Neither the 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.

Certain investor funds will be deposited into a non-interest bearing escrow account and held until released by us and Clarksons Platou Securities, Inc. on the date the shares are to be delivered to investors.

Delivery of the common shares is expected to be made on or about _____, 2015. The delivery of shares to each investor is not conditioned upon the purchase of shares by any other investors. If one or more investors fails to fund the purchase price of their subscribed-for shares as required by the applicable subscription agreement, we intend to proceed with delivery on _____, 2015 of the aggregate number of shares for which the purchase price has been received.

Joint Lead Managers, Joint Bookrunners and Placement Agents

Clarksons Platou Securities

Pareto Securities

Seaport Global Securities

The date of this prospectus supplement is _____, 2015.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT	Page
<u>IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT</u>	S-i
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	S-ii
<u>ENFORCEABILITY OF CIVIL LIABILITIES</u>	S-iii
<u>PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL AND OTHER INFORMATION</u>	S-iii
<u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u>	S-1
<u>THE OFFERING</u>	S-7
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	S-8
<u>PRICE RANGE OF COMMON SHARES</u>	S-13
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	S-14
<u>CAPITALIZATION</u>	S-15
<u>TAXATION</u>	S-16
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	S-17
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	S-20
<u>EXPERTS</u>	S-20
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>	S-20

BASE PROSPECTUS

<u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	7
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	35
<u>SHARE HISTORY AND MARKETS</u>	36
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	37
<u>CAPITALIZATION</u>	38
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	39
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	40
<u>SELLING SHAREHOLDERS</u>	42
<u>ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL LIABILITIES</u>	43
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	44
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	51
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	59
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS</u>	60
<u>DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS</u>	61
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	62
<u>EXPENSES</u>	63
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	63

EXPERTS

63

WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

63

Table of Contents

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering and the securities offered hereby and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. The second part, the base prospectus, gives more general information and disclosure about the securities we and any selling securityholders may offer from time to time, some of which does not apply to this offering of common shares. Generally, when we refer only to the prospectus, we are referring to both parts combined, and when we refer to the accompanying prospectus, we are referring to the base prospectus.

If the description of this offering varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and the documents incorporated into each by reference include important information about us, the common shares being offered and other information you should know before investing. You should read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus together with additional information described under the heading, *Where You Can Find Additional Information* in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus before investing in our common shares.

We have authorized only the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us or to which we have referred you. We have not, and the placement agents have not, authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. We and the placement agents take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any information that others may give you. We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, our common shares only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The information contained in or incorporated by reference in this document is accurate only as of the date such information was issued, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement or any sale of our common shares.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Matters discussed in this prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein may constitute forward-looking statements. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides safe harbor protections for forward-looking statements in order to encourage companies to provide prospective information about their business. Forward-looking statements include statements concerning plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events or performance, and underlying assumptions and other statements, which are other than statements of historical facts or present facts or conditions.

We desire to take advantage of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and are including this cautionary statement in connection with this safe harbor legislation. This prospectus supplement and any other written or oral statements made by us or on our behalf may include forward-looking statements, which reflect our current views with respect to future events and financial performance. When used in this prospectus supplement, the words anticipate, believe, expect, intend, estimate, forecast, project, plan, potential, similar expressions identify forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking statements in this prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein are based upon various assumptions, many of which are based, in turn, upon further assumptions, including without limitation, management's examination of historical operating trends, data contained in our records and other data available from third parties. Although we believe that these assumptions were reasonable when made, because these assumptions are inherently subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies which are difficult or impossible to predict and are beyond our control, we cannot assure you that we will achieve or accomplish these expectations, beliefs or projections.

In addition to important factors and matters discussed elsewhere in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus, and the documents incorporated into each by reference, important factors that, in our view, could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements include factors related to:

the offshore drilling market, including supply and demand, utilization rates, dayrates, customer drilling programs, commodity prices, effects of new rigs and drillships on the market and effects of declines in commodity prices and downturns in the global economy on the market outlook for our various geographical operating sectors and classes of rigs and drillships

hazards inherent in the offshore drilling industry and marine operations causing personal injury or loss of life, severe damage to or destruction of property and equipment, pollution or environmental damage, claims by third parties or customers and suspension of operations;

customer contracts, including contract backlog, contract commencements, contract terminations, contract option exercises, contract revenues, contract awards and drilling rig and drillship mobilizations, performance provisions, newbuildings, upgrades, shipyard and other capital projects, including completion, delivery and commencement of operations dates, expected downtime and lost revenue;

political and other uncertainties, including political unrest, risks of terrorist acts, war and civil disturbances, piracy, significant governmental influence over many aspects of local economies, seizure, nationalization or expropriation of property or equipment;

repudiation, nullification, termination, modification or renegotiation of contracts;

limitations on insurance coverage, such as war risk coverage, in certain areas;

foreign and U.S. monetary policy and foreign currency fluctuations and devaluations;

the inability to repatriate income or capital;

complications associated with repairing and replacing equipment in remote locations;

import-export quotas, wage and price controls or imposition of trade barriers;

regulatory or financial requirements to comply with foreign bureaucratic actions, including potential limitations on drilling activity;

Table of Contents

changing taxation policies and other forms of government regulation and economic conditions that are beyond our control;

the level of expected capital expenditures and the timing and cost of completion of capital projects;

our ability to successfully employ both our existing and newbuilding drilling units, procure or have access to financing, ability to comply with loan covenants, liquidity and adequacy of cash flow for our obligations;

continued borrowing availability under our debt agreements and compliance with the covenants contained therein;

our substantial leverage, including our ability to generate sufficient cash flow to service our existing debt and the incurrence of substantial indebtedness in the future;

factors affecting our results of operations and cash flow from operations, including revenues and expenses, uses of excess cash, including debt retirement, dividends, timing and proceeds of asset sales, tax matters, changes in tax laws, treaties and regulations, tax assessments and liabilities for tax issues, legal and regulatory matters, including results and effects of legal proceedings, customs and environmental matters, insurance matters, debt levels, including impacts of the financial and credit crisis;

the effects of accounting changes and adoption of accounting policies;

recruitment and retention of personnel; and

other important factors described in this prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein, including our Annual Report on Form 20-F.

You should read this prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein completely and with the understanding that actual future results may be materially different from expectations. All forward-looking statements made in this prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein are qualified by these cautionary statements.

We caution readers of this prospectus supplement not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of their dates. Except as required by law, we expressly disclaim any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect changes in assumptions, the occurrence of unanticipated events, changes in future operating results over time or otherwise.

ENFORCEABILITY OF CIVIL LIABILITIES

We are incorporated under the laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and our principal executive offices are located outside the United States in Nicosia, Cyprus. All of our directors, officers and the experts named in this

prospectus supplement reside outside the United States. In addition, a substantial portion of our assets and the assets of our directors, officers and experts are located outside of the United States. As a result, it may be difficult or impossible for U.S. investors to serve process within the United States upon us or any of these persons. You may also have difficulty enforcing, both in and outside the United States, judgments you may obtain in U.S. courts against us or these persons in any action, including actions based upon the civil liability provisions of U.S. federal or state securities laws.

Furthermore, there is substantial doubt that courts in the countries in which we or our subsidiaries are incorporated or where our assets or the assets of our subsidiaries, directors or officers and such experts are located (i) would enforce judgments of U.S. courts obtained in actions against us or our subsidiaries, directors or officers and such experts based upon the civil liability provisions of applicable U.S. federal and state securities laws or (ii) would enforce, in original actions, liabilities against us or our subsidiaries, directors or officers and such experts based on those laws.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL AND OTHER INFORMATION

Unless otherwise indicated, the financial information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement with respect to historical consolidated financial information of Ocean Rig UDW Inc. and its subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 is derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Ocean Rig UDW Inc. and its subsidiaries incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

The Company's historical consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP, and have been audited by Ernst & Young (Hellas) Certified Auditors Accountants S.A., an independent registered public accounting firm, for the fiscal years ended 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Also included in this prospectus supplement is certain financial information of Ocean Rig UDW Inc. as of the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014. Such financial information is derived from unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements of Ocean Rig UDW Inc. and its subsidiaries.

All references to Dollars, \$, U.S.\$ or U.S. Dollars are to the lawful currency of the United States. We prepare our financial statements in Dollars.

S-iv

Table of Contents**PROSPECTUS SUMMARY**

This summary highlights information and consolidated financial data that appears elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or is incorporated by reference herein and is qualified in its entirety by such information. This summary may not contain all of the information that may be important to you. As an investor or prospective investor, you should review carefully the entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus, including the risk factors and the more detailed information and consolidated financial statements that are included or incorporated by reference herein and therein.

Unless otherwise indicated, references in this prospectus supplement to the terms we, us, our, the Company or Ocean Rig or other similar terms mean Ocean Rig UDW Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries. References in this prospectus supplement to DryShips refer to DryShips Inc. (NASDAQ: DRYS), a Marshall Islands corporation and our parent company. Unless otherwise indicated, all amounts in this prospectus supplement are expressed in U.S. dollars, and the financial information has been prepared in accordance with GAAP. All references in this prospectus supplement to \$, U.S.\$ and Dollars refer to United States dollars. References in this prospectus supplement to real or R\$ are to the official currency of Brazil, the real.

Our Company

We are an international offshore drilling contractor providing oilfield services for offshore oil and gas exploration, development and production drilling and specializing in the ultra-deepwater and harsh-environment segment of the offshore drilling industry. We seek to utilize our high-specification drilling units to the maximum extent of their technical capability and we believe that we have earned a reputation for operating performance excellence, customer service and safety.

We, through our wholly-owned subsidiaries, currently own and operate two modern, fifth generation harsh environment ultra-deepwater semisubmersible offshore drilling rigs, the *Leiv Eiriksson* and the *Eirik Raude*, four sixth generation advanced capability ultra-deepwater drillships, the *Ocean Rig Corcovado*, the *Ocean Rig Olympia*, the *Ocean Rig Poseidon* and the *Ocean Rig Mykonos*, delivered in January 2011, March 2011, July 2011 and September 2011, respectively, and four seventh generation drillships, the *Ocean Rig Mylos*, the *Ocean Rig Skyros*, the *Ocean Rig Athena*, and the *Ocean Rig Apollo* delivered in August 2013, December 2013, March 2014 and March 2015, respectively, by Samsung Heavy Industries Co. Ltd., or Samsung. We have additional newbuilding contracts with Samsung for the construction of three seventh generation drillships, including the *Ocean Rig Santorini*, which is scheduled to be delivered in June 2016 and will be a sister drillship to our operating drillships, and the *Ocean Rig Crete* and the *Ocean Rig Amorgos*, the two new integrated design drillships scheduled for delivery in January 2018 and January 2019, respectively. The *Ocean Rig Corcovado*, the *Ocean Rig Olympia*, the *Ocean Rig Poseidon* and the *Ocean Rig Mykonos* are sister drillships constructed by Samsung to the same high-quality vessel design and specifications and are capable of drilling in water depths of up to 10,000 feet. The design of our seventh generation drillships reflects additional enhancements that, with the purchase of additional equipment, will enable these drillships to drill in water depths of up to 12,000 feet. The *Ocean Rig Mylos*, the *Ocean Rig Skyros*, the *Ocean Rig Athena*, the *Ocean Rig Apollo* and the newbuilding drillship *Ocean Rig Santorini*, which is equipped with two blow out preventers, or BOPs, are sister drillships constructed by Samsung to the same high-quality drillship design and specifications, while the newbuilding drillships *Ocean Rig Crete* and *Ocean Rig Amorgos* are a new integrated design and are equipped with two BOPs. We believe that owning and operating sister drillships helps us maintain our cost efficient operations on a global basis through the shared inventory and use of spare parts and the ability of our offshore maritime crews to work seamlessly across all of our drillships.

We currently have a team overseeing the construction of our three newbuilding drillships at Samsung to help ensure that those drillships are built on time, to our exact drillship specifications and on budget, as was the case for our operating drillships. The estimated remaining total construction payments for our three newbuilding drillships, the *Ocean Rig Santorini*, the *Ocean Rig Crete* and the *Ocean Rig Amorgos*, excluding financing costs, amounted to approximately \$1.8 billion in the aggregate as of March 31, 2015. To date, the construction of these three newbuilding drillships is on budget.

We employ our drilling units primarily on a dayrate basis for periods of between two months and three years to drill wells for our customers, typically major oil companies, integrated oil and gas companies, state-owned national oil companies and independent oil and gas companies.

Table of Contents

We believe that our operating drillships, the *Ocean Rig Corcovado*, the *Ocean Rig Olympia*, the *Ocean Rig Poseidon*, the *Ocean Rig Mykonos*, the *Ocean Rig Mylos*, the *Ocean Rig Skyros*, the *Ocean Rig Athena* and the *Ocean Rig Apollo*, as well as our three seventh generation drillships under construction, are among the most technologically advanced drillships in the world. The S10000E design, used for our operating drillships, was originally introduced in 1998 and has been widely accepted by customers. Including our operating drillships, a total of 56 drillships have been ordered using this base design, of which 35 have been delivered, as of February 2015, including the *Ocean Rig Corcovado*, the *Ocean Rig Olympia*, the *Ocean Rig Poseidon* and the *Ocean Rig Mykonos*. Among other technological enhancements, our drillships are equipped with dual activity drilling technology, which involves two drilling systems using a single derrick that permits two drilling-related operations to take place simultaneously. We estimate this technology saves between 15% and 40% in drilling time, depending on the well parameters. Each of our operating drillships is capable of drilling 40,000 feet at water depths of 10,000 feet and our seventh generation drillships will have the capacity to drill 40,000 feet at water depths of 12,000 feet with the purchase of additional equipment.

Our Fleet

Set forth below is summary information concerning our offshore drilling units and those under construction as of May 4, 2015.

Drilling Unit	Year Built or Scheduled Delivery/ Generation	Water Depth to Wellhead (ft)	Drilling Depth to the Oil Field (ft)	Customer	Expected Contract Term (1)		Average Maximum Dayrate	Drilling Location
Operating								
Drilling Rigs								
<i>Leiv Eiriksson</i>	2001/5th	10,000	30,000	Rig Management Norway AS	Q2 2013	Q1 2016 (2)	\$ 545,000	Norwegian Continental Shelf
<i>Eirik Raude</i>	2002/5th	10,000	30,000	Premier Oil Exploration and Production Ltd.	Q1 2015	Q4 2015 (3)	\$ 561,350	Falkland Islands
Operating Drillships								
<i>Ocean Rig Corcovado</i>	2011/6th	10,000	40,000	Petroleo Brasileiro S.A.	Q2 2012	Q2 2015	\$ 437,033(4)	Brazil
				Petroleo Brasileiro S.A.	Q2 2015	Q2 2018 (5)	\$ 523,306	Brazil
<i>Ocean Rig Olympia</i>	2011/6th	10,000	40,000	Total E&P Angola	Q3 2012	Q3 2015 (6)	\$ 585,437	Angola
				ENI Angola S.p.A.	Q3 2015	Q4 2015 (7)	\$ 355,000	Angola
				Vitol	Q4 2015	Q4 2015 (8)	\$ 295,000	Ivory Coast
				CDI Ltd.	Q1 2016	Q2 2016 (7)	\$ 355,000	Angola

Edgar Filing: Ocean Rig UDW Inc. - Form 424B5

ENI Angola S.p.A									
<i>Ocean Rig Poseidon</i>	2011/6th	10,000	40,000	ENI Angola S.p.A.	Q2 2013	Q2 2017 (7)	\$ 524,962(9)	Angola	
<i>Ocean Rig Mykonos</i>	2011/6th	10,000	40,000	Petroleo Brasileiro S.A.	Q1 2015	Q1 2018 (5)	\$ 514,090	Brazil	
<i>Ocean Rig Mylos</i>	2013/7th	12,000	40,000	Repsol Sinopec Brasil S.A.	Q3 2013	Q3 2016 (10)	\$ 637,270	Brazil	
<i>Ocean Rig Skyros</i>	2013/7th	12,000	40,000	Total E&P Angola	Q4 2015	Q3 2021	\$ 592,834	Angola	
<i>Ocean Rig Athena</i>	2014/7th	12,000	40,000	ConocoPhillips Angola 36 & 37 Ltd	Q1 2014	Q2 2017	\$ 662,523(11)	Angola	
<i>Ocean Rig Apollo</i>	2015/7th	12,000	40,000	Total E&P Congo	Q1 2015	Q2 2018	\$ 595,984(12)	West Africa	
Newbuilding Drillships									
<i>Ocean Rig Santorini</i>	Q2 2016/7th	12,000	40,000						
<i>Ocean Rig Crete</i>	Q1 2018/7th	12,000	40,000						
<i>Ocean Rig Amorgos</i>	Q1 2019/7th	12,000	40,000						

Table of Contents

- (1) Not including the exercise of any applicable options to extend the term of the contract.
- (2) Rig Management Norway AS is the coordinator for the consortium under the contract. The contract has a minimum duration of 1,070 days and includes three options of up to six wells each that must be exercised prior to the expiration of the firm contract period in the first quarter of 2016.
- (3) The contract has a minimum duration of 260 days and includes one option of up to two wells, which must be exercised before the expiration of the firm and option contract period.
- (4) Approximately 20% of the maximum dayrates are service fees paid to us in Brazilian Real (R\$). The maximum dayrate disclosed in this table is based on the May 4, 2015 exchange rate of R\$3.04:\$1.00.
- (5) We have been awarded extensions of the drilling contracts for the *Ocean Rig Corcovado* and the *Ocean Rig Mykonos* by Petroleo Brasileiro S.A., or Petrobras, for drilling offshore Brazil. The term of each extension is for 1,095 days, excluding reimbursement by Petrobras for contract-related equipment upgrades. The new contracts for the *Ocean Rig Mykonos* and the *Ocean Rig Corcovado* commenced in March 2015 and May 2015, respectively.
- (6) Total E&P Angola redelivered the *Ocean Rig Olympia* on completion of its well on March 9, 2015 and ahead of the contractual redelivery date of August 2015. We are presently in discussions with Total E&P Angola and intend to legally defend our rights should we fail to reach an amicable solution.
- (7) On January 8, 2015, and as further amended on April 1, 2015 and April 30, 2015, we entered into an Omnibus Agreement with ENI Angola S.p.A, or ENI, pursuant to which ENI has exercised its option to extend the contract for the drillship *Ocean Rig Poseidon* for an additional year until the second quarter of 2017. As part of the contract extension for the *Ocean Rig Poseidon*, we have agreed to adjust the existing dayrate of the *Ocean Rig Poseidon* contract in exchange for ENI agreeing to enter into a contract, or the ENI Contract, for the employment of the *Ocean Rig Olympia* starting in the third quarter of 2015 for an aggregate period of approximately eight months. In May 2015, all closing conditions, including approvals by national authorities, were satisfied and we entered into the ENI Contract with a minimum duration of 244 days for the *Ocean Rig Olympia* for drilling offshore Angola.
- (8) The contract has an estimated duration of 45 days at an operating dayrate of \$295,000.
- (9) The maximum dayrate of \$524,962 is the adjusted average maximum dayrate for the remaining contract period. ENI has the option to extend the term of the contract by two additional periods of four months and one year, respectively.
- (10) On November 4, 2013, the *Ocean Rig Mylos* commenced drilling operations with Repsol Sinopec Brasil S.A., or Repsol, at an average maximum dayrate of approximately \$637,270 over the initial term of the contract. Under the contract, Repsol has options to extend the contract for up to two years beyond the initial three-year contract period.
- (11) On June 7, 2014, the *Ocean Rig Athena* commenced drilling operations with ConocoPhillips Angola 36 & 37 Ltd, or ConocoPhillips, at an average maximum dayrate of \$662,523, which is the average maximum dayrate applicable during the initial three-year term of the contract. Under the contract, the initial maximum dayrate is subject to a fixed annual escalation of approximately 6% during the contract period. Under the contract, ConocoPhillips has the option to extend the initial contract period by up to two years.
- (12) The maximum dayrate of approximately \$595,984 is the average maximum dayrate applicable during the initial three-year term of the contract. Under the contract, the initial maximum dayrate of \$580,000 has been subject to a fixed escalation of 2% during the contract period. Under the contract, the counterparty has the option to extend the initial contract period by up to two years.

Newbuilding Drillships

We have entered into contracts for the construction of three seventh generation drillships, all of which are equipped with two BOPs, the *Ocean Rig Santorini*, which is scheduled to be delivered in June 2016 and will be a sister drillship to our operating drillships, and the *Ocean Rig Crete* and the *Ocean Rig Amorgos*, the two new integrated design drillships scheduled for delivery in January 2018 and January 2019, respectively. We had made total payments of \$312.0 million to Samsung, as of March 31, 2015, for the construction of these drillships. The estimated total project cost for these drillships is approximately \$2.1 billion.

Employment of Our Fleet

Employment of Our Drilling Rigs

The *Leiv Eiriksson* commenced a drilling contract in April 2013 with a consortium coordinated by Rig Management Norway, or Rig Management, for the drilling of 15 wells on the Norwegian Continental Shelf at a maximum dayrate of \$545,000. We received approximately \$83.0 million under the contract to cover mobilization and fuel costs as well as the cost of equipment upgrades to operate in the Norwegian Continental Shelf. The contract has a minimum duration of 1,070 days and includes three options of up to six wells each that must be exercised prior to the expiration of the firm contract period in the first quarter of 2016.

S-3

Table of Contents

The *Eirik Raude* commenced a six-well drilling contract for drilling offshore Falkland Islands in March 2015 with Premier Oil Exploration and Production Ltd, or Premier, with a duration of approximately 260 days at a maximum dayrate of \$561,350 under the initial term of the contract, plus a mobilization fee of \$18.0 million. Under the contract, Premier has one remaining option to extend the term of the contract by two additional wells.

Employment of Our Drillships

In May 2015, Petrobras exercised its option to extend the contract for the drillship *Ocean Rig Corcovado*. The contract has a duration of 1,095 days at an average dayrate of \$523,306, plus reimbursement by Petrobras for contract-related equipment upgrades of \$30.0 million.

The *Ocean Rig Olympia* commenced a three-year drilling contract with Total E&P Angola in July 2012 for drilling operations offshore West Africa at a maximum dayrate of \$585,437, plus mobilization and demobilization fees of \$9.0 million and \$3.5 million, respectively, plus the cost of fuel. Total E&P Angola redelivered the *Ocean Rig Olympia* on completion of its well on March 9, 2015 and ahead of the contractual redelivery date of August 2015. We are presently in discussions with Total EP Angola and intend to legally defend our rights should we fail to reach an amicable solution. The *Ocean Rig Olympia* will be employed under the ENI Contract for drilling operations offshore Angola in August 2015 with an estimated backlog of approximately \$86.6 million, plus a lump-sum mobilization fee of \$4.5 million. In addition, the *Ocean Rig Olympia* entered into a contract with Vitol CDI Ltd. for drilling offshore Ivory Coast, with an expected duration of approximately 45 days and estimated backlog of \$13.3 million. The contract will commence in November 2015.

The *Ocean Rig Poseidon* commenced a three-year drilling contract with ENI in May 2013 for drilling operations offshore Angola at a maximum dayrate of \$690,300, which was the average maximum dayrate applicable during the initial three-year term of the contract. During the term of the contract, the initial maximum dayrate of \$670,000 increased annually at a rate of 3%, beginning twelve months after the commencement date. The contract also included a mobilization rate of \$656,600 per day, plus reimbursement for the cost of fuel, and a demobilization fee of \$5.0 million. In January 2015, ENI exercised its option to extend the contract for the drillship *Ocean Rig Poseidon* for an additional year until the second quarter of 2017, with an adjusted dayrate in connection with the ENI Contract. The adjusted average maximum dayrate for the remaining contract period will be \$524,962.

In March 2015, Petrobras exercised its option to extend the contract for the drillship *Ocean Rig Mykonos*. The contract has a duration of 1,095 days at an average dayrate of \$514,090, plus reimbursement by Petrobras for contract-related equipment upgrades of \$30.0 million.

The *Ocean Rig Mylos* commenced a three-year drilling contract with Repsol for drilling operations offshore Brazil in August 2013 at a maximum dayrate of \$637,270, which is the average maximum dayrate applicable during the initial three-year term of the contract, plus a mobilization fee of \$40.0 million. Under the contract, Repsol has options to extend the contract for one year beyond the initial three-year contract period.

In October 2015, the *Ocean Rig Skyros* will commence its six-year contract with Total for drilling operations offshore Angola. Under the contract, we are entitled to a maximum dayrate of approximately \$592,834, which is the average maximum dayrate applicable during the initial six-year term of the contract, plus mobilization fees of \$20.0 million. Under the contract, the initial maximum dayrate is subject to a fixed annual escalation of 2% during the contract period.

The *Ocean Rig Athena* commenced a three-year drilling contract with ConocoPhillips for drilling operations offshore Angola in March 2014 at a maximum dayrate of \$662,523, which is the average maximum dayrate applicable during

the initial three-year term of the contract, plus a lump-sum mobilization fee of \$35.2 million, exclusive of fuel costs. Under the contract, the initial maximum dayrate is subject to a fixed annual escalation of approximately 2% during the contract period. In addition, ConocoPhillips has the option to extend the duration of the contract for two years.

S-4

Table of Contents

The *Ocean Rig Apollo* commenced a three-year contract with Total E&P Congo for drilling operations offshore West Africa in March 2015 with an estimated backlog of approximately \$692.6 million, including mobilization. In addition, Total has the option to extend the term of the contract for four periods of six months each, with the first option exercisable not less than one year before the completion date.

The total contracted backlog under our drilling contracts for our drilling units, including our drilling rigs, as of May 4, 2015, was \$4.7 billion. We calculate our contract backlog by multiplying the contractual dayrate under all of our employment contracts for which we have firm commitments as of May 4, 2015, by the minimum expected number of days committed under such contracts (excluding any options to extend), assuming full utilization. There can be no assurance that the counterparties to such contracts will fulfill their obligations under the contracts. See the section of the accompanying base prospectus entitled *Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Company* Our future contracted revenue for our fleet of drilling units may not be ultimately realized.

Unless otherwise stated, all references to maximum dayrates included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus are exclusive of any applicable annual contract revenue adjustments, which generally result in the escalation of the dayrates payable under the drilling contracts.

Management of Our Fleet

Since October 2013, our wholly owned subsidiary, Ocean Rig Management Inc., has provided supervisory management services including onshore management, to our operating drilling rigs and drillships and our seventh generation drillships under construction pursuant to separate management agreements entered/to be entered with each of the drilling unit owning subsidiaries. Under the terms of these management agreements, Ocean Rig Management Inc, through its affiliates in Stavanger, Norway, Aberdeen, United Kingdom and Houston, Texas, is responsible for, among other things, (i) assisting in construction contract technical negotiations, (ii) securing contracts for the future employment of the drilling units, and (iii) providing commercial, technical and operational management for the drillships.

In addition, we have engaged Cardiff Drilling Inc., a company controlled by our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. George Economou, to provide us with consulting and other services with respect to the arrangement of employment for, and relating to, the purchase and sale of our drilling units.

Recent Developments

On May 26, 2015, our board of directors approved certain amendments under the \$120 million Exchangeable Promissory Note with DryShips (the *Loan*). On the same date, the board of directors of DryShips, which is the borrower under the *Loan*, also approved these amendments.

The principal terms of these amendments include the exchange of \$40 million principal amount for 4,444,444 shares of our common stock owned by DryShips. Furthermore, the parties agreed that DryShips will secure the remaining \$80 million principal amount by pledging to us 20,555,556 shares of our common stock owned by DryShips. In addition, the parties agreed that, going forward, the interest rate will be lowered to a fixed rate of 8% per annum up to maturity and the conversion price of the already embedded conversion option will be reduced from \$13.50 per share to \$11.50 per share.

The above amendments are subject to definitive documentation, which we expect to be completed in June 2015.

Edgar Filing: Ocean Rig UDW Inc. - Form 424B5

On May 6, 2015, our board of directors declared the fifth consecutive quarterly cash dividend with respect to the quarter ended March 31, 2015, of \$0.19 per common share, to our shareholders of record as of May 22, 2015. The dividend is payable on or about June 2, 2015. Because the dividend record date occurred prior to the date the common shares in this offering will be issued, the common shares issued in this offering will not be entitled to receive the dividend.

S-5

Table of Contents

On April 27, 2015, we reached an agreement to postpone the delivery of the *Ocean Rig Crete* and the *Ocean Rig Amorgos* to the first quarter of 2018 and 2019, respectively. As part of the agreement, certain portions of the pre-delivery payments were also deferred and the total project costs for the construction of each drillship have increased by \$15 million.

Corporate Information and Structure

Ocean Rig UDW Inc. was incorporated under the laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands on December 10, 2007, under the name Primelead Shareholders Inc. and operates under Marshall Islands law. Primelead Shareholders Inc. was formed for the purpose of acquiring the shares of our predecessor, Ocean Rig ASA, which was incorporated in September 1996 under the laws of Norway. We acquired control of Ocean Rig ASA on May 14, 2008. Prior to the private placement of our common shares in December 2010, we were a wholly-owned subsidiary of DryShips. Our common shares have traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market since October 6, 2011, under the symbol ORIG. Our market capitalization was approximately \$872.0 million as of March 31, 2015. As of May 22, 2015, DryShips owned approximately 59.2% of our outstanding common shares. Each of our drilling units is owned by a separate wholly-owned subsidiary.

We maintain our principal executive offices at 10 Skopa Street, Tribune House, 2nd Floor, Office 202, CY 1075, Nicosia, Cyprus and our telephone number at that address is 011 357 22767517. Our website address is www.ocean-rig.com. Information contained on our website does not constitute part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus.

Table of Contents

THE OFFERING

Issuer	Ocean Rig UDW Inc., a Republic of the Marshall Islands corporation.
Common Shares Presently Outstanding	132,317,178 common shares
Common Shares to be Offered by Ocean Rig UDW Inc.	common shares ⁽¹⁾
Common Shares to be Outstanding Immediately After this Offering	common shares
Investment by our Chief Executive Officer:	As part of this offering, George Economou, our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, has indicated his intention to purchase, at the public offering price, a number of common shares that maintains his direct ownership in us, representing approximately five percent of our common shares.
Rights Plan:	Each share of our common stock includes one right that, under certain circumstances, entitles the holder to purchase from us a unit consisting of one-thousandth of a share of our preferred stock at a purchase price of \$100.00 per unit, subject to specified adjustments. See the section of the accompanying base prospectus entitled "Description of Capital Stock - Preferred Share Purchase Rights."
Use of Proceeds:	We estimate that the net proceeds from this offering, after deducting placement agents' fees and estimated expenses payable by us, will be approximately \$ million. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for working capital and general corporate purposes, including the acquisition of drilling rigs. See "Use of Proceeds."
Listing:	Our common shares are listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol ORIG.

Risk Factors:

Investing in our common shares involves risks. You should carefully consider the risks discussed under the caption "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-8 of this prospectus supplement, beginning on page 7 of the accompanying base prospectus, in our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, filed with the Commission on March 9, 2015 and incorporated by reference, and under the caption "Risk Factors" or any similar caption in the documents that we subsequently file with the Commission that are incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus, and in any free writing prospectus that you may be provided in connection with the offering of common shares pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus.

- (1) The delivery of common shares to each investor is not conditioned upon the purchase of common shares by any other investors.

S-7

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common shares involves significant risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors set forth below, beginning on page 7 of the accompanying base prospectus, in our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, filed with the Commission on March 9, 2015 and incorporated herein by reference, and under the caption Risk Factors, or any similar caption in the documents that we subsequently file with the Commission that are incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus, and in any free writing prospectus that you may be provided in connection with the offering of common shares pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. The occurrence of any of the events or risks described herein or therein may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. In that case, you may lose all or part of your investment in the common shares.

Risks Relating to Our Common Shares

We cannot assure you that an active and liquid public market for our common shares will continue.

Our common shares commenced regular way trading on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on October 6, 2011 and commenced trading on the Norwegian OTC Market maintained by the Norwegian Security Dealers Association in December 2010. We cannot assure you that an active and liquid public market for our common shares will continue.

Since 2008, the U.S. stock market has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations. In addition, the offshore drilling industry has been highly unpredictable and volatile. If the volatility in the market or the offshore drilling industry continues or worsens, it could have an adverse effect on the market price of our common stock and may impact a potential sale price if holders of our common stock decide to sell their shares.

The market price of our common stock may be influenced by many factors, many of which are beyond our control, including those described in this section and the following:

actual or anticipated variations in our operating results;

changes in our cash flow, EBITDA or earnings estimates;

changes in the price of oil;

publication of research reports about us or the industry in which we operate;

increases in market interest rates that may lead purchasers of common shares to demand a higher expected yield which, would mean our share price would fall;

changes in applicable laws or regulations, court rulings and enforcement and legal actions;

changes in market valuations of similar companies;

announcements by us or our competitors of significant contracts, acquisitions or capital commitments;

adverse market reaction to any increased indebtedness we incur in the future;

additions or departures of key personnel;

actions by institutional shareholders;

speculation in the press or investment community;

terrorist attacks;

economic and regulatory trends; and

general market conditions.

In addition, if the trading price of our common shares falls below \$5.00, under stock exchange rules, our shareholders will not be able to use such shares as collateral for borrowing in margin accounts. This inability to use our common shares as collateral may depress demand as certain institutional investors are restricted from investing in shares priced below \$5.00 and

Table of Contents

lead to sales of such shares creating downward pressure on and increased volatility in the market price of our common shares. In addition, in order to maintain the listing of our common shares on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, our stock price will need to comply with the NASDAQ Global Select Market's minimum share price requirements.

As a result of these and other factors, investors in our common stock may not be able to resell their shares at or above the price they paid for such shares or at all. These broad market and industry factors may materially reduce the market price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance.

We may issue additional common shares or other equity securities without your approval, which would dilute your ownership interests and may depress the market price of our common shares.

We may issue additional common shares or other equity securities of equal or senior rank in the future in connection with, among other things, future vessel acquisitions, repayment of outstanding indebtedness, or our equity incentive plan, without shareholder approval, in a number of circumstances.

Our issuance of additional common shares or other equity securities of equal or senior rank would have the following effects:

our existing shareholders' proportionate ownership interest in us may decrease;

the amount of cash available for dividends payable on our common shares may decrease;

the relative voting strength of each previously outstanding common share may be diminished; and

the market price of our common shares may decline.

Future sales of our securities or our incurrence of additional indebtedness could have an adverse effect on our share price.

In order to finance our future capital needs, including the currently contracted and future growth of our fleet, we may have to incur substantial additional indebtedness, issue additional equity securities, or both. If we sell equity securities in the future, the prices at which we sell them will vary, and these variations may be significant and our existing shareholders may experience significant dilution if we sell these securities to other than existing shareholders pro rata at prices significantly below the price at which such existing shareholders invested. Additionally, future common share issuances, directly or indirectly through convertible or exchangeable securities, options or warrants, will generally dilute the ownership interests of our existing common stockholders, including their relative voting rights, and could require substantially more cash to maintain the then existing level, if any, of our dividend payments to our common stockholders, as to which no assurance can be given. Preferred shares, if issued, will generally have a preference on dividend payments, which could prohibit or otherwise reduce our ability to pay dividends to our common stockholders. Our debt will be senior in all respects to our common shares, will generally include financial and operating covenants with which we must comply and will include acceleration provisions upon defaults thereunder, including our failure to make any debt service payments, including possibly under other debt agreements. Because our decision to issue equity securities or incur debt in the future will depend on a variety of factors, including market conditions and other matters that are beyond our control, we cannot predict or estimate the

timing, amount or form of our capital raising activities in the future. Such activities could, however, cause the price of our common shares to decline significantly.

As of May 22, 2015, DryShips owned 78,301,755, or approximately 59.2%, of our outstanding common shares, our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. George Economou, was deemed to beneficially own 5,993,289, or approximately 4.5% of our outstanding common shares and our Executive Vice President, Mr. Anthony Kandylidis, was deemed to beneficially own 1,684,512, or 1.3%, of our outstanding common shares. The common shares owned by DryShips have been registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and DryShips has not entered into a lock-up agreement in connection with this offering. The common shares beneficially owned by Mr. Economou are restricted securities within the meaning of Rule 144 under the Securities Act and may not be transferred unless they have been registered under the Securities Act or an exemption from registration is available. Upon satisfaction of certain conditions, Rule 144 permits the sale of certain amounts of restricted securities six months following the date of acquisition of the restricted securities from us, although Mr. Economou has entered into a lock-up agreement in connection with this offering. If the common shares owned by DryShips or beneficially owned by Mr. Economou are sold, it could reduce the market value of our common shares.

Table of Contents

DryShips, our parent company, controls the outcome of matters on which our shareholders are entitled to vote.

As of May 22, 2015, DryShips owned approximately 59.2%, of our outstanding common shares. DryShips will control the outcome of matters on which our shareholders are entitled to vote, including the election of directors and other significant corporate actions. DryShips' interests may be different from your interests and the commercial goals of DryShips as a shareholder, and our goals, may not always be aligned. The substantial equity interests owned by DryShips may make it more difficult for us to maintain our business independence from other companies owned by DryShips and DryShips' affiliates.

Anti-takeover provisions contained in our organizational documents could make it difficult for our shareholders to replace or remove our current board of directors or have the effect of discouraging, delaying or preventing a merger or acquisition, which could adversely affect the market price of our securities.

Several provisions of our second amended and restated articles of incorporation and second amended and restated bylaws could make it difficult for our shareholders to change the composition of our board of directors in any one year, preventing them from changing the composition of management. In addition, the same provisions may discourage, delay or prevent a merger or acquisition that shareholders may consider favorable.

These provisions include:

authorizing our board of directors to issue blank check preferred shares without shareholder approval;

providing for a classified board of directors with staggered, three-year terms;

prohibiting cumulative voting in the election of directors;

authorizing the removal of directors only for cause and only upon the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding common shares entitled to vote generally in the election of directors;

limiting the persons who may call special meetings of shareholders; and

establishing advance notice requirements for nominations for election to our board of directors or for proposing matters that can be acted on by shareholders at shareholder meetings.

In addition, we entered into an Amended and Restated Stockholder Rights Agreement that makes it more difficult for a third party to acquire us without the support of our board of directors. Under the Amended and Restated Stockholder Rights Agreement, our board of directors declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right, or a right, to purchase one one-thousandth of a share of our Series A Participating Preferred Shares for each of our outstanding common shares. Each right entitles the registered holder, upon the occurrence of certain events, to purchase from us one one-thousandth of a share of Series A Participating Preferred Shares. The rights may have anti-takeover effects. The rights will cause substantial dilution to any person or group that attempts to acquire us without the approval of our board of directors. As a result, the overall effect of the rights may be to render more difficult or discourage any

attempt to acquire us. Because our board of directors will be able to approve a redemption of the rights or a permitted offer, the rights should not interfere with a merger or other business combination approved by our board of directors.

Although the BCA does not contain specific provisions regarding business combinations between corporations organized under the laws of the Republic of Marshall Islands and interested shareholders, our second amended and restated articles of incorporation include provisions that prohibit us from engaging in a business combination with an interested shareholder for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested shareholder, unless:

prior to the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested shareholder, our board of directors approved either the business combination or the transaction which resulted in the shareholder becoming an interested shareholder;

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the shareholder becoming an interested shareholder, the interested shareholder owned at least 85% of our voting stock outstanding at the time the transaction commenced;

S-10

Table of Contents

at or subsequent to the date of the transaction that resulted in the shareholder becoming an interested shareholder, the business combination is approved by the board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of shareholders by the affirmative vote of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested shareholder; or

the shareholder became an interested shareholder prior to the consummation of our initial public offering under the Securities Act.

For purposes of these provisions, a business combination includes mergers, consolidations, exchanges, asset sales, leases and other transactions resulting in a financial benefit to the interested shareholder and an interested shareholder is any person or entity that beneficially owns 15% or more of our outstanding voting stock and any person or entity affiliated with or controlling or controlled by that person or entity, other than DryShips, provided, however, that the term interested shareholder does not include any person whose ownership of shares in excess of the 15% limitation is the result of action taken solely by us; provided that such person shall be an interested shareholder if thereafter such person acquires additional shares of our voting shares, except as a result of further action by us not caused, directly or indirectly, by such person. Further, the term business combination, when used in reference to us and any interested shareholder does not include any transactions for which definitive agreements were entered into prior to May 3, 2011, the date the second amended and restated articles of incorporation were filed with the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

We are incorporated in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which does not have a well-developed body of corporate law or bankruptcy law, and as a result, shareholders may have fewer rights and protections under Marshall Islands law than under a typical jurisdiction in the United States.

Our corporate affairs are governed by our second amended and restated articles of incorporation and second amended and restated bylaws and by the Marshall Islands Business Corporations Act, or the BCA. The provisions of the BCA resemble provisions of the corporation laws of a number of states in the United States. However, there have been few judicial cases in the Republic of the Marshall Islands interpreting the BCA. The rights and fiduciary responsibilities of directors under the law of the Republic of the Marshall Islands are not as clearly established as the rights and fiduciary responsibilities of directors under statutes or judicial precedent in existence in certain United States jurisdictions. Shareholders' rights may differ as well. While the BCA does specifically incorporate the non-statutory law, or judicial case law, of the State of Delaware and other states with substantially similar legislative provisions, shareholders may have more difficulty in protecting their interests in the face of actions by management, directors or controlling shareholders than would shareholders of a corporation incorporated in a United States jurisdiction.

It may not be possible for investors to enforce U.S. judgments against us.

We and almost all of our subsidiaries are incorporated in jurisdictions outside the United States and a substantial portion of our assets and those of our subsidiaries are located outside the United States. In addition, all of our directors and officers reside outside the United States and a substantial portion of the assets of our directors and officers are located outside the United States. As a result, it may be difficult or impossible for U.S. investors to serve process within the United States upon us, our subsidiaries or our directors and officers or to enforce a judgment against us for civil liabilities in U.S. courts. In addition, you should not assume that courts in the countries in which we or our subsidiaries are incorporated or where our assets or the assets of our subsidiaries and directors and officers are located (i) would enforce judgments of U.S. courts obtained in actions against us or our subsidiaries and directors and officers based upon the civil liability provisions of applicable U.S. federal and state securities laws or (ii) would enforce, in original actions, liabilities against us or our subsidiaries and directors and officers based on those laws.

United States tax authorities may treat us as a passive foreign investment company for United States federal income tax purposes, which may have adverse tax consequences to U.S. shareholders.

A foreign corporation will be treated as a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes if either (1) at least 75% of its gross income for any taxable year consists of certain types of passive income or (2) at least 50% of the average value of the corporation's assets produce or are held for the production of those types of passive income. For purposes of these tests, passive income includes dividends, interest, and gains from the sale or

Table of Contents

exchange of investment property and rents and royalties other than rents and royalties which are received from unrelated parties in connection with the active conduct of a trade or business. For purposes of these tests, income derived from the performance of services does not constitute passive income. U.S. shareholders of a PFIC are subject to a disadvantageous U.S. federal income tax regime with respect to the income derived by the PFIC, the distributions they receive from the PFIC and the gain, if any, they derive from the sale or other disposition of their shares in the PFIC.

We do not believe that we are currently a PFIC, although certain of our wholly-owned subsidiaries may have been classified as PFICs at any time through the conclusion of the 2008 taxable year. Based on our current operations and future projections, we do not believe that we or any of our subsidiaries have been, are or will be a PFIC with respect to any taxable year beginning with the 2009 taxable year.

However, no assurance can be given that the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, or a court of law will accept our position, and there is a risk that the IRS or a court of law could determine that we or one of our subsidiaries is a PFIC. Moreover, no assurance can be given that we or one of our subsidiaries would not constitute a PFIC for any future taxable year if there were to be changes in the nature and extent of its operations.

If the IRS were to find that we are or have been a PFIC for any taxable year, our U.S. shareholders will face adverse U.S. tax consequences. Under the PFIC rules, unless those shareholders make an election available under the Code (which election could itself have adverse consequences for such shareholders), such shareholders would be liable to pay U.S. federal income tax at the then prevailing income tax rates on ordinary income plus interest upon excess distributions and upon any gain from the disposition of the common shares, as if the excess distribution or gain had been recognized ratably over the shareholder's holding period of the common shares. In the event that our shareholders face adverse U.S. tax consequences as a result of investing in our common shares, this could adversely affect our ability to raise additional capital through the equity markets.

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON SHARES**

The primary trading market for our common shares is the NASDAQ Global Select Market, on which our shares are listed under the symbol ORIG. On September 19, 2011, our common shares began trading and on October 6, 2011, commenced regular way trading on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. The secondary trading market for our common shares is the Norwegian OTC Market, on which our common shares have been trading since the pricing of the private offering of our common shares on December 15, 2010.

The table below sets forth the high and low closing prices of our common shares for each of the periods indicated, as reported by the NASDAQ Global Select Market and the Norwegian OTC Market. The quoted prices from the Norwegian OTC Market reflect intermittent transactions that were privately negotiated. Accordingly, the quoted prices are not necessarily indicative of the share prices that would have been obtained had there been a more active market for our common shares. The trading prices for our common shares on the Norwegian OTC Market are quoted in Norwegian kroner.

On June 1, 2015, the closing price of our common shares as reported by the NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$7.65 per share.

For the Year Ended	Low (NASDAQ)	High (NASDAQ)		Low (1) (OTC)		High (1) (OTC)
December 31, 2010	\$	\$	NOK	99.00(2)	NOK	103.00(2)
December 31, 2011	11.96(3)	16.50(3)		72.00		125.00
December 31, 2012	11.75	18.17		73.00		102.00
December 31, 2013	13.76	20.83		89.03		124.00
December 31, 2014	8.50	19.87		124.00		124.00
For the Quarter Ended						
March 31, 2013	\$ 13.76	\$ 17.71	NOK	82.00	NOK	82.00
June 30, 2013	15.14	18.73		89.03		100.00
September 30, 2013	16.96	18.85		100.50		112.00
December 31, 2013	17.53	20.83		105.00		124.00
March 31, 2014	16.51	19.36		(4)		(4)
June 30, 2014	16.34	19.87		124.00		124.00
September 30, 2014	16.12	19.11		(4)		(4)
December 31, 2014	8.50	15.56		(4)		(4)
March 31, 2015	5.99	9.42		(4)		(4)
For the Month Ended						
December 2014	\$ 8.50	\$ 11.69	NOK	(4)	NOK	(4)
January 2015	7.46	9.42		(4)		(4)
February 2015	7.60	9.29		(4)		(4)
March 2015	5.99	7.95		(4)		(4)
April 2015	6.63	7.80		(4)		(4)
May 2015	7.38	9.22		(4)		(4)
June 2015 (through June 1, 2015)	7.57	7.88		(4)		(4)

Edgar Filing: Ocean Rig UDW Inc. - Form 424B5

- (1) As reported in Norwegian Kroner. As of June 2, 2015, the U.S. Dollar/Norwegian Kroner exchange rate was \$1.00/NOK 7.86.
- (2) For the period from December 15, 2010, the date on which our common shares began trading on the Norwegian OTC Market, until the end of the period.
- (3) For the period from October 6, 2011, the date on which our common shares began regular way trading on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, until the end of the period.
- (4) There were no trades during this period.

S-13

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds from this offering after deducting placement agents' fees and estimated expenses payable by us will be approximately \$ million.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for working capital and general corporate purposes, including the acquisition of drilling rigs.

S-14

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our cash position and consolidated capitalization as of March 31, 2015:

on an actual basis;

on an as adjusted basis to give effect to aggregate scheduled loan repayments of \$8.0 million under our secured credit facilities which we made subsequent to March 31, 2015; and

on an as further adjusted basis to give effect to this offering of our common shares and the application of the net proceeds thereof as described in the section of this prospectus supplement entitled "Use of Proceeds."

	As of March 31, 2015		
	(in thousands of U.S. dollars)		
	Actual	As Adjusted (1)(2)	As Further Adjusted
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 509,343	\$ 501,343	\$
Restricted cash	11,254	11,254	11,254
Total Cash	520,597	512,597	
Long-term debt, net of financing fees			
6.50% Drill Rigs Senior Secured Notes	800,000	800,000	800,000
7.25% Ocean Rig Senior Unsecured Notes	500,000	500,000	500,000
\$1.3 billion Senior Secured Term Loan B Facility	1,293,500	1,290,250	1,290,250
\$1.9 billion Term Loan B Facility	1,871,500	1,866,750	1,866,750
\$462 million Senior Secured Credit Facility	462,000	462,000	462,000
Deferred Financing Costs	(103,827)	(103,827)	(103,827)
Total debt, including current portion	4,823,173	4,815,173	4,815,173
Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value, 500,000,000 shares authorized, nil shares issued and outstanding			
Common stock, \$0.01 par value, 1,000,000,000 shares authorized, 132,317,178 issued and outstanding actual and as adjusted, issued and outstanding as further adjusted	1,323	1,323	
Additional paid-in capital	3,497,325	3,497,325	
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(23,639)	(23,639)	(23,639)
Accumulated deficit	(290,062)	(290,062)	(290,062)
Total Ocean Rig UDW Inc. stockholders equity	3,184,947	3,184,947	
Total capitalization	\$ 8,008,120	\$ 8,000,120	\$

- (1) There have been no significant changes to our capitalization since March 31, 2015, as so adjusted.
- (2) Does not give effect to the dividend declared on May 6, 2015 and payable on or about June 2, 2015, to shareholders of record as of May 22, 2015, amounting to \$25.1 million.

S-15

Table of Contents

TAXATION

Please see the section entitled "Taxation" in our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, filed with the Commission on March 9, 2015.

S-16

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We are offering the shares of our common stock through placement agents. Subject to the terms and conditions contained in the placement agency agreement dated _____, 2015, the placement agents, for whom Clarksons Platou Securities, Inc., Pareto Securities Inc. and Seaport Global Securities LLC are acting as joint lead managers, have severally agreed to use their best commercially practicable efforts to arrange for the sale of shares of our common stock to certain institutional investors. Clarksons Platou Securities, Inc., Clarksons Platou Securities AS, Pareto Securities Inc., Pareto Securities AS and Seaport Global Securities LLC are acting as placement agents.

Clarksons Platou Securities AS is not a U.S. registered broker-dealer and, therefore, intends to participate in the offering outside of the United States and, to the extent that the offering by Clarksons Platou Securities AS is within the United States, Clarksons Platou Securities AS will offer to and place shares of common stock with investors through Clarksons Platou Securities, Inc., an affiliated U.S. broker-dealer. The activities of Clarksons Platou Securities AS in the United States will be effected only to the extent permitted by Rule 15a-6 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act.

Pareto Securities AS is not a broker-dealer registered with the SEC and therefore may not make sales of any shares in the United States or to U.S. persons except in compliance with applicable U.S. laws and regulations. To the extent that Pareto Securities AS intends to effect sales of the shares in the United States, it will do so only through its U.S. registered broker-dealer, Pareto Securities Inc. or one or more U.S. registered broker-dealers or otherwise as permitted by applicable U.S. law.

The placement agents are not purchasing or selling any shares by this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus, nor are they required to arrange for the purchase or sale of any specific number or dollar amount of the shares. The placement agency agreement provides that the obligations of the placement agents and the investors are subject to certain conditions precedent, including the absence of any material adverse change in our business and the receipt of certain customary legal opinions and certificates.

As part of this offering, George Economou, our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, has indicated his intention to purchase, at the public offering price, a number of common shares that maintains his direct ownership in us, representing approximately five percent of our common shares.

Certain investor funds will be deposited into an escrow account and held until released by us and Clarksons Platou Securities, Inc. on the date the shares of common stock are to be delivered to the investors. All funds received will be held in a non-interest bearing escrow account.

This prospectus supplement will be distributed to the investors who agree to purchase our common stock, informing the investors of the closing date as to such shares. Investors will be informed of the date and manner in which they must transmit the purchase price for their shares. We currently anticipate that closing of the sale of those shares of our common stock for which payment has been received will take place on or about _____, 2015.

On the scheduled closing date, the following will occur:

We will receive funds in the amount of the aggregate purchase price for the shares we deliver, less the placement agents' fees and any expenses payable by us at the closing of this offering; and

The joint lead managers will receive the placement agents' fees in accordance with the terms of the placement agency agreement.

We will pay the placement agents a commission equal to 3.0875% of the gross proceeds of the sale of shares of our common stock in the offering. In addition, we may pay the placement agents an additional commission equal to 0.5% of the gross proceeds of the sale of shares of our common stock in the offering. The payment of such additional commission is to be determined in our sole discretion. We will not pay the placement agents a commission or fee on any shares of our common stock purchased in the offering by George Economou, our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. We will also reimburse the placement agents for certain fees and expenses incurred by them in connection with this offering. In no event will the total amount of compensation paid to the placement agents and other securities brokers and dealers upon completion of this offering exceed 8.0% of the gross proceeds of this offering. The estimated offering expenses payable by us, including the placement agents' fees of \$, are approximately \$, which includes legal, accounting and printing costs, reimbursement of other expenses of the placement agents and various other fees associated with registering and listing our

Table of Contents

common stock. Because there is no minimum offering amount required as a condition to closing this offering, the actual total offering fees, if any, are not presently determinable and may be substantially less than the amount set forth in the preceding sentence. After deducting certain fees due to the placement agents and our estimated offering expenses, we expect the net proceeds from this offering to be approximately \$ million.

We and our directors and executive officers have agreed that, without the prior written consent of the joint lead managers on behalf of the placement agents, we and our directors and executive officers will not, during the period ending 60 days after the date of this prospectus, or the Restricted Period:

offer, pledge, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant to purchase, lend, or otherwise transfer or dispose of, directly or indirectly, any shares of our common stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock;

enter into any swap or other arrangement that transfers to another, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of our common stock;

publicly disclose an intention to engage in any offer, sale, pledge or other transaction described in the first two bullet points above; or

file any registration statement with the Commission relating to the offering of any shares of our common stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock;

whether any such transaction described in the first two bullet points above is to be settled by delivery of common stock or such other securities, in cash or otherwise. In addition, each such person agrees that, without the prior written consent of the joint lead managers on behalf of the placement agents, it will not, during the Restricted Period, make any demand for, or exercise any right with respect to, the registration of any shares of common stock or any security convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock.

The restrictions described in the immediately preceding paragraph do not apply to:

the sale of shares of our common stock in this offering;

the issuance by us of shares of common stock upon the exercise of an option or a warrant or the conversion of a security outstanding on the date of this prospectus supplement of which the placement agents have been advised in writing;

transactions by any person other than us relating to shares of common stock or other securities acquired in open market transactions after the completion of the offering of the shares;

transfers or distributions of shares of common stock or any security convertible into common stock (i) as a bona fide gift or gifts, (ii) to any trust for the direct or indirect benefit of the transferor or the immediate family of the transferor, (iii) to limited partners or stockholders of the transferor or distributor or (iv) to any investment fund or other entity controlled or managed by the transferor;

the establishment of a trading plan pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act for the transfer of shares of common stock, provided that such plan does not provide for the transfer of common stock during the Restricted Period and no public announcement or filing under the Exchange Act regarding the establishment of such plan shall be required or shall be voluntarily made; or

awards under our equity incentive plan dated March 21, 2012, as amended.

The Restricted Period described in the immediately preceding paragraph will be extended if:

during the last 17 days of the Restricted Period we issue an earnings release or material news or a material event relating to us occurs, or

prior to the expiration of the Restricted Period, we announce that we will release earnings results during the 16 day period beginning on the last day of the Restricted Period;

in which case the restrictions described in the immediately preceding paragraph will continue to apply until the expiration of the 18 day period beginning on the issuance of the earnings release or the occurrence of the material news or material event.

Table of Contents

From time to time, the placement agents and their respective affiliates have provided and may continue to provide investment banking and other services to us.

We have agreed to indemnify the placement agents against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act and liabilities arising from breaches of representations and warranties contained in the placement agency agreement.

If you purchase shares of common stock offered in this prospectus supplement and accompanying base prospectus, you may be required to pay stamp taxes and other charges under the laws and practices of the country of purchase, in addition to the offering price on the cover page of this prospectus supplement.

Delivery of the shares in this offering is expected on or about _____, 2015. The delivery of shares to each investor is not conditioned upon the purchase of shares by any other investors. If one or more investors fails to fund the purchase price of their subscribed shares, as required by the applicable subscription agreement, we intend to proceed with delivery on _____, 2015 of the aggregate number of shares for which the purchase price has been received.

Our shares of common stock are listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol ORIG.

Under Marshall Islands law, our shareholders are not required to approve the issuance of the common stock. An application for listing of the shares of common stock offered hereby will be filed promptly with the NASDAQ. We expect that the NASDAQ will approve the listing of such common stock shares, subject to official notice of issuance to be provided by American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC. American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC will provide such notice upon issuance of such common stock shares. Though we expect the NASDAQ to approve the listing of such common stock shares, there can be no assurance that such approval will be obtained and, as a technical matter, such listing will not be effective until the NASDAQ receives official notice of issuance from American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with this offering relating to United States and Marshall Islands law are being passed upon for us by Seward & Kissel LLP, New York, New York. The placement agents are being represented by Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Ocean Rig UDW Inc., appearing in Ocean Rig UDW Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2014, (including schedule appearing therein) and the effectiveness of Ocean Rig UDW Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, have been audited by Ernst & Young (Hellas) Certified Auditors Accountants S.A., independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing. The address of Ernst & Young (Hellas) Certified Auditors Accountants S.A. is 8B Chimarras Str., Maroussi, 15125, Athens, Greece and is registered as a corporate body with the public register for company auditors-accountants kept with the Body of Certified-Auditors-Accountants, or SOEL, Greece with registration number 107.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As required by the Securities Act, we filed a registration statement, which was declared effective on May 7, 2015, in respect of the common shares offered by this prospectus supplement and its accompanying base prospectus with the Commission. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus are a part of that registration statement, which includes additional information.

Government Filings

We file annual and special reports with the Commission. You may read and copy any document we file and obtain copies at prescribed rates from the Commission's Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling 1-800-SEC-0330. The Commission also maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy statements and other information regarding registrants that file electronically with the Commission. Our filings with the Commission are available to the public on the Commission's website and through the NASDAQ Global Select Market, 1 Liberty Plaza, New York, New York 10006, on which our common shares are traded. The information contained in or accessible from the Commission's website is not part of this prospectus supplement.

Information Incorporated by Reference

The Commission allows us to incorporate by reference information that we file with it. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those filed documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus, and information that we file later with the Commission prior to the termination of this offering will also be considered to be part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus and will automatically update and supersede previously filed information, including information contained in this document.

We hereby incorporate by reference the documents listed below and certain future filings made with the Commission under Section 13(a), 13(c) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act:

Our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2014, filed with the Commission on March 9, 2015, which contains our audited consolidated financial statements for the most recent fiscal year for which those statements have been filed.

S-20

Table of Contents

Our Report of Foreign Private Issuer on Form 6-K, furnished to the Commission on May 13, 2015, containing our Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements and related information and data as of and for the three-month period ended March 31, 2015.

We are also incorporating by reference all subsequent annual reports on Form 20-F that we file with the Commission and certain reports on Form 6-K that we furnish to the Commission after the date of this prospectus supplement (if they state that they are incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement forms a part) until we file a post-effective amendment indicating that the offering of the securities made by this prospectus supplement has been terminated. In all cases, you should rely on the later information over different information included in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and any accompanying base prospectus supplement. We have not, and the placement agents have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the placement agents are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement and any accompanying prospectus supplement as well as the information we previously filed with the Commission and incorporated by reference, is accurate as of the dates on the front cover of those documents only. Our business, financial condition and results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

You may obtain a copy of above mentioned filing or any subsequent filing we incorporated by reference to this prospectus supplement by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Ocean Rig UDW Inc.

10 Skopa Street, Tribune House

2nd Floor, Office 202, CY 1075

Nicosia, Cyprus

011 357 22767517

Information Provided by the Company

We will furnish holders of our common shares with annual reports containing audited financial statements and a report by our independent registered public accounting firm. The audited financial statements will be prepared in accordance with GAAP. As a foreign private issuer, we are exempt from the rules under the Exchange Act prescribing the furnishing and content of proxy statements to shareholders. While we furnish proxy statements to shareholders in accordance with the rules of the NASDAQ Global Select Market, those proxy statements do not conform to Schedule 14A of the proxy rules promulgated under the Exchange Act. In addition, as a foreign private issuer, our officers and directors are exempt from the rules under the Exchange Act relating to short swing profit reporting and liability.

Table of Contents

Prospectus

OCEAN RIG UDW INC.
Common Shares, Preferred Share Purchase Rights,
Preferred Shares,
Debt Securities, Guarantees, Warrants, Purchase Contracts,
Rights and Units

Through this prospectus, we may periodically offer:

- (1) our common shares (including preferred share purchase rights),
- (2) our preferred shares,
- (3) our debt securities, which may be guaranteed by one or more of our subsidiaries,
- (4) our warrants,
- (5) our purchase contracts
- (6) our rights, and
- (7) our units;

The aggregate offering price of all securities issued and sold by us under this prospectus may not exceed \$2,000,000,000. In addition, the selling shareholders, who will be named in a prospectus supplement, or their donees, pledgees, transferees or other successors in interest may sell in one or more offerings pursuant to this registration statement up to an aggregate of 86,051,001 of our common shares. The prices and terms of the securities that we or any selling shareholders or their donees, pledgees, transferees or other successors in interest will offer will be determined at the time of their offering and will be described in a supplement to this prospectus. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of securities by any selling shareholders or their donees, pledgees, transferees or other successors in interest.

Our common shares are currently listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol ORIG.

An investment in these securities involves a high degree of risk. See the section entitled Risk Factors beginning on page 7 of this prospectus, and other risk factors contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein.

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

The date of this prospectus is May 7, 2015.

Table of ContentsTable of Contents

<u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	7
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	35
<u>SHARE HISTORY AND MARKETS</u>	36
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	37
<u>CAPITALIZATION</u>	38
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	39
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	40
<u>SELLING SHAREHOLDERS</u>	42
<u>ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL LIABILITIES</u>	43
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	44
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	51
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	59
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS</u>	60
<u>DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS</u>	61
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	62
<u>EXPENSES</u>	63
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	63
<u>EXPERTS</u>	63
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>	63

Unless otherwise indicated, all references to dollars and \$ in this prospectus are to U.S. Dollars, and the financial statements incorporated by reference herein are presented in U.S. dollars and have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States, or U.S. GAAP. We have a fiscal year end of December 31. As used throughout this prospectus, the term selling shareholder refers to any selling shareholders who are named in a prospectus supplement and their donees, pledgees, transferees and other successors in interest.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Commission, using a shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may sell our common shares (including related preferred share purchase rights), preferred shares, debt securities (and related guarantees), warrants, purchase contracts rights and units or any selling shareholder may sell our common shares that are described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we or any selling shareholder may offer. Each time we or a selling shareholder offer securities, we will provide you with a prospectus supplement that will describe the specific amounts, prices and terms of the offered securities. We may file a prospectus supplement in the future that may also add, update or change the information contained in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the prospectus supplement. Before purchasing any securities, you should read carefully both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, together with the additional information described below.

This prospectus and any prospectus supplement are part of a registration statement we filed with the Commission and do not contain all the information in the registration statement. Forms of the indentures and other documents establishing the terms of the offered securities are filed as exhibits to the registration statement. Statements in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement about these documents are summaries and each statement is qualified in all respects by reference to the document to which it refers. You should refer to the actual documents for a more complete

description of the relevant matters. For further information about us or the securities offered hereby, you should refer to the registration statement, which you can obtain from the Commission as described below under the section entitled Where You Can Find Additional Information.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement. We, any selling shareholder, and any underwriters have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus and the applicable supplement to this prospectus is accurate as of the date on its respective cover, and that any information incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, unless we indicate otherwise. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

Other than in the United States, no action has been taken by us or any underwriters that would permit a public offering of the securities offered by this prospectus in any jurisdiction where action for that purpose is required. The securities offered by this prospectus may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, nor may this prospectus or any other offering material or advertisements in connection with the offer and sale of any such securities be distributed or published in any jurisdiction, except under circumstances that will result in compliance with the applicable rules and regulations of that jurisdiction. Persons into whose possession this prospectus comes are advised to inform themselves about and to observe any restrictions relating to the offering and the distribution of this prospectus. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities offered by this prospectus in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or a solicitation is unlawful.

Table of Contents**PROSPECTUS SUMMARY**

This summary provides an overview of our company and our business. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information you should consider before purchasing our securities. You should carefully read all of the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, including the sections titled *Risk Factors* and our financial statements and related notes contained herein and therein, before making an investment decision. As used throughout this prospectus, the terms *Company*, *Ocean Rig UDW*, *we*, *our* and *us* refer to Ocean Rig UDW Inc. and its subsidiaries except where the context otherwise requires. *DryShips* refers to DryShips Inc. (NASDAQ: DRYS), a Marshall Islands corporation and our parent company. Unless otherwise indicated, all references to *dollars* and *\$* in this prospectus are to U.S. Dollars and the financial statements incorporated by reference herein are presented in U.S. dollars and have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States, or U.S. GAAP. References to *real* or *R\$* are to the official currency of Brazil, the real.

Our Company

We are an international offshore drilling contractor providing oilfield services for offshore oil and gas exploration, development and production drilling and specializing in the ultra-deepwater and harsh-environment segment of the offshore drilling industry. We seek to utilize our high-specification drilling units to the maximum extent of their technical capability and we believe that we have earned a reputation for operating performance excellence, customer service and safety.

We, through our wholly-owned subsidiaries, currently own and operate two modern, fifth generation ultra-deepwater semisubmersible offshore drilling rigs, the *Leiv Eiriksson* and the *Eirik Raude*, four sixth generation advanced capability ultra-deepwater drillships, the *Ocean Rig Corcovado*, the *Ocean Rig Olympia*, the *Ocean Rig Poseidon* and the *Ocean Rig Mykonos*, delivered in January 2011, March 2011, July 2011 and September 2011, respectively, and four seventh generation drillships, the *Ocean Rig Mylos*, the *Ocean Rig Skyros*, the *Ocean Rig Athena*, and the *Ocean Rig Apollo* delivered in August 2013, December 2013, March 2014 and March 2015, respectively, by Samsung Heavy Industries Co. Ltd., or Samsung. The *Ocean Rig Corcovado*, the *Ocean Rig Olympia*, the *Ocean Rig Poseidon* and the *Ocean Rig Mykonos* are *sister-ships* constructed by Samsung to the same high-quality vessel design and specifications and are capable of drilling in water depths of 10,000 feet. The design of our seventh generation drillships reflects additional enhancements that, with the purchase of additional equipment, will enable the drillships to drill in water depths of 12,000 feet. The *Ocean Rig Mylos*, the *Ocean Rig Skyros*, the *Ocean Rig Athena*, the *Ocean Rig Apollo* and the newbuilding drillship *Ocean Rig Santorini*, which is equipped with two blow out preventers, or BOPs are *sister ships* constructed by Samsung to the same high-quality drillship design and specifications, while the remaining two seventh generation newbuilding drillships are new integrated design and are equipped with two BOPs. We believe that owning and operating *sister-ships* helps us maintain our cost efficient operations on a global basis through the shared inventory and use of spare parts and the ability of our offshore maritime crews to work seamlessly across all of our drillships.

We have additional newbuilding contracts with Samsung for the construction of three seventh generation drillships, the *Ocean Rig Santorini* scheduled to be delivered in June 2016, will be *sister ship* to our operating drillships, and the other two are new integrated design drillships scheduled for delivery in February 2017 and June 2017, respectively. The design of our seventh generation drillships reflects additional enhancements that, with the purchase of additional equipment, will enable the drillships to drill in water depths of 12,000 feet. We currently have a team overseeing the construction of the newbuilding drillships at Samsung to help ensure that those drillships are built on time, to our exact drillship specifications and on budget, as was the case for our operating drillships. The estimated remaining total construction payments for these drillships, excluding financing costs, amounted to approximately \$1.8 billion in the

aggregate as of December 31, 2014. To date, the construction of these three newbuilding drillships is on budget and no time delays on delivery are expected.

We employ our drilling units primarily on a dayrate basis for periods of between two months and three years to drill wells for our customers, typically major oil companies, integrated oil and gas companies, state-owned national oil companies and independent oil and gas companies.

Table of Contents

We believe that our operating drillships, the Ocean Rig Corcovado, the Ocean Rig Olympia, the Ocean Rig Poseidon the Ocean Rig Mykonos, the Ocean Rig Mylos, the Ocean Rig Skyros, the Ocean Rig Athena and the Ocean Rig Apollo as well as our three seventh generation drillships under construction, are among the most technologically advanced drillships in the world. The S10000E design, used for our operating drillships, was originally introduced in 1998 and has been widely accepted by customers. Including our operating drillships, a total of 56 drillships have been ordered using this base design, of which 35 have been delivered, as of February 2013, including the Ocean Rig Corcovado, the Ocean Rig Olympia, the Ocean Rig Poseidon and the Ocean Rig Mykonos. Among other technological enhancements, our drillships are equipped with dual activity drilling technology, which involves two drilling systems using a single derrick that permits two drilling-related operations to take place simultaneously. We estimate this technology saves between 15% and 40% in drilling time, depending on the well parameters. Each of our operating drillships is capable of drilling 40,000 feet at water depths of 10,000 feet and our seventh generation drillships will have the capacity to drill 40,000 feet at water depths of 12,000 feet.

Our Fleet

Set forth below is summary information concerning our offshore drilling units as of March 5, 2015.

Drilling Unit	Year Built or Scheduled	Water Depth to the Wellhead	Drilling Depth to the Oil Field	Customer	Expected		Average Maximum Dayrate	Drilling Location
	Delivery/ Generation				Contract Term(1)	Contract Term(1)		
<i>Leiv Eiriksson</i>	2001/5th	10,000	30,000	Rig Management	Q2 2013	Q1 2016	\$ 545,000	Norwegian Continental Shelf
				Norway AS(2)				
<i>Eirik Raude</i>	2002/5th	10,000	30,000	Premier Oil Exploration and Production Ltd.(3)	Q1 2015	Q4 2015	\$ 561,350	Falkland Islands
Operating Drillships								
<i>Ocean Rig Corcovado</i>	2011/6th	10,000	40,000	Petroleo Brasileiro S.A.	Q2 2012	Q2 2015	\$ 439,402(4)	Brazil
				Petroleo Brasileiro S.A.	Q2 2015	Q2 2018	\$ 523,306(5)	Brazil
<i>Ocean Rig Olympia</i>	2011/6th	10,000	40,000	Total E&P Angola	Q3 2012	Q3 2015(6)	\$ 585,437	Angola
				ENI Angola S.p.A.(7)	Q4 2015-Q4 2015		\$ 355,000	Angola
<i>Ocean Rig Poseidon</i>	2011/6th	10,000	40,000	ENI Angola S.p.A.	Q2 2013	Q2 2016	\$ 690,300(8)	Angola
				ENI Angola S.p.A.(10)	Q2 2016-Q2 2017		\$ 539,150	Angola
<i>Ocean Rig Mykonos</i>	2011/6th	10,000	40,000	Petroleo Brasileiro S.A.	Q1 2012	Q1 2015	\$ 433,044(4)	Brazil
				Petroleo Brasileiro S.A.	Q1 2015	Q1 2018	\$ 514,090(5)	Brazil
<i>Ocean Rig Mylos</i>	2013/7th	12,000	40,000	Repsol Sinopec Brasil S.A.	Q3 2013	Q3 2016	\$ 637,270(9)	Brazil

Edgar Filing: Ocean Rig UDW Inc. - Form 424B5

<i>Ocean Rig Skyros</i>	2013/7th	12,000	40,000	ENI Angola S.p.A.(7)	Q2 2015-Q3 2015	\$ 355,000	Nigeria, Angola
				Total E&P Angola	Q4 2015-Q4 2021	\$ 592,834	Angola
<i>Ocean Rig Athena</i>	2014/7th	12,000	40,000	ConocoPhillips Angola	Q1 2014 Q2 2017	\$ 662,523(10)	Angola
				36 & 37 Ltd			
<i>Ocean Rig Apollo</i>	Q1 2015/7th	12,000	40,000	Total E&P Congo	Q1 2015-Q2 2018	\$ 594,646(11)	West Africa
Newbuilding Drillships							
<i>Ocean Rig Santorini</i>	Q2 2016/7th	12,000	40,000				
<i>Ocean Rig TBN#1</i>	Q1 2017/7th	12,000	40,000				
<i>Ocean Rig TBN#2</i>	Q2 2017/7th	12,000	40,000				

- (1) Not including the exercise of any applicable options to extend the term of the contract.
- (2) Rig Management Norway is the coordinator for the consortium under the contract. The contract has a minimum duration of 1,070 days and includes three options of up to six wells each that must be exercised prior to the expiration of the firm contract period in the first quarter of 2016.
- (3) The contract has a minimum duration of 260 days and includes two options of up to eight wells each, the first of which must be exercised prior to the commencement of the contract and the other one must be exercised before the expiration of the firm and option contract period.
- (4) Approximately 20% of the maximum dayrates are service fees paid to us in Brazilian Real (R\$). The maximum dayrate disclosed in this table is based on the February 24, 2015 exchange rate of R\$2.87:\$1.00.
- (5) We have been awarded extensions of the drilling contracts for the Ocean Rig Corcovado and the Ocean Rig Mykonos by Petrobras for drilling offshore Brazil. The term of each extension is for 1,095 excluding reimbursement by Petrobras for contract related equipment upgrades. The new contract for the Ocean Rig Mykonos commenced in March 2015, while for the Ocean Rig Corcovado the new contract will commence in direct continuation from the end of the current agreement with Petrobras, in the second quarter of 2015.

Table of Contents

- (6) Total E&P Angola has redelivered the Ocean Rig Olympia on completion of its well on March 9, 2015 and ahead of the contractual redelivery date of August 2015. We are presently in discussions with Total EP Angola and intend to legally defend our rights should we fail to reach an amicable solution.
- (7) On January 8, 2015, we, entered into an Omnibus Agreement with ENI Angola S.p.A pursuant to which pursuant to which ENI has exercised its option to extend the contract for the drillship Ocean Rig Poseidon for a further one year until the second quarter of 2017. As part of the contract extension for the Ocean Rig Poseidon, Ocean Rig has agreed to adjust the existing dayrate of the Ocean Rig Poseidon contract in exchange for ENI agreeing to enter into two contracts, or the EIN contracts, for the employment of one or more of Ocean Rig's available drillships in West Africa starting in the second quarter of 2015 for an aggregate period of approximately 8 months. The Agreement outlined above remains subject to customary closing conditions including the approval by national authorities which we expect will be obtained during the second quarter of 2015.
- (8) The maximum dayrate of \$690,300 is the average maximum dayrate applicable during the initial three-year term of the contract. Under the contract, the initial maximum dayrate of \$670,000 will increase annually at a rate of 3%, beginning twelve months after the commencement date, during the term of the contract. ENI has the option to extend the term of the contract by two optional periods of one-year each.
- (9) On November 4, 2013 the Ocean Rig Mylos commenced drilling operations with Repsol at an average maximum dayrate of approximately \$637,270 over the initial term of the contract. Under the contract, Repsol has options to extend the contract for up to two years beyond the initial three-year contract period.
- (10) On June 7, 2014, the Ocean Rig Athena commenced drilling operations with ConocoPhillips at an average maximum dayrate of \$662,523 which is the average maximum dayrate applicable during the initial three-year term of the contract. Under the contract, the initial maximum dayrate is subject to a fixed annual escalation of approximately 6% during the contract period. Under the contract, ConocoPhillips has the option to extend the initial contract period by up to two years.
- (11) The maximum dayrate of approximately \$594,646 is the average maximum dayrate applicable during the initial three-year term of the contract. Under the contract, the initial maximum dayrate of \$580,000 is subject to a fixed escalation of 2% during the contract period. Under the contract, the counterparty has the option to extend the initial contract period by up to two years.

Newbuilding Drillships

We have entered into contracts for the construction of three seventh generation drillships, two of which are new integrated design drillships and all are equipped with two blow-out preventers, scheduled for delivery in June 2016, February 2017 and June 2017, respectively, in connection with which we had made total payments of \$280.2 million to Samsung, as of December 31, 2014. The estimated total project cost for these drillships is approximately \$2.1 billion.

Employment of Our Fleet***Employment of Our Drilling Rigs***

The *Leiv Eiriksson* commenced a drilling contract in April 2013 with a consortium coordinated by Rig Management Norway, or Rig Management, for the drilling of 15 wells on the Norwegian Continental Shelf at a maximum dayrate of \$545,000. We received approximately \$83.0 million under the contract to cover mobilization and fuel costs as well as the cost of equipment upgrades to operate in the Norwegian Continental Shelf. The contract has a minimum duration of 1,070 days and includes three options of up to six wells each that must be exercised prior to the expiration of the firm contract period in the first quarter of 2016.

The *Eirik Raude* is currently undergoing the acceptance testing and it is expected to commence a six well drilling contract for drilling offshore Falkland Islands with Premier Oil Exploration and Production Ltd, or Premier, with a

duration of approximately 260 days at a maximum dayrate of \$561,350 under the initial term of the contract, plus a mobilization fee of \$18.0 million. Under the contract, Premier has two options to extend the term of the contract by eight additional wells each.

Table of Contents***Employment of Our Drillships***

The *Ocean Rig Corcovado* is currently employed under a three-year drilling contract, plus a mobilization period with Petrobras Brazil for drilling operations offshore Brazil at a maximum dayrate of \$ 439,402 (including service fees of \$ 67,722 per day, based on the contracted rate in Real per day and the February 24, 2015 exchange rate of R\$2.87:USD \$1.00), plus a mobilization fee of \$30.0 million. The contract has been extended for 1,095 at an average dayrate of \$523,306, plus reimbursement by Petrobras for contract related equipment upgrades of \$30.0 million.

The *Ocean Rig Olympia* commenced a three-year drilling contract with Total E&P Angola in July 2012 for drilling operations offshore West Africa at a maximum dayrate of \$ 585,437, plus mobilization and demobilization fees of \$9.0 million and \$3.5 million, respectively, plus the cost of fuel. Total E&P Angola has redelivered the *Ocean Rig Olympia* on completion of its well on March 9, 2015 and ahead of the contractual redelivery date of August 2015. We are presently in discussions with Total EP Angola and intend to legally defend our rights should we fail to reach an amicable solution. The *Ocean Rig Olympia* will be employed under the ENI contracts for drilling operations offshore Angola in November 2015 with an estimated backlog of approximately \$21.7 million .

The *Ocean Rig Poseidon* commenced a three-year drilling contract with ENI Angola S.p.A., or ENI, in May 2013 for drilling operations offshore Angola at a maximum dayrate of \$690,300, which is the average maximum dayrate applicable during the initial three-year term of the contract. During the term of the contract, the initial maximum dayrate of \$670,000 will increase annually at a rate of 3%, beginning twelve months after the commencement date. The contract also includes a mobilization rate of \$656,600 per day, plus reimbursement for the cost of fuel, and a demobilization fee of \$5.0 million. In January 2015, ENI had exercised its option to extend the contract for the drillship *Ocean Rig Poseidon* for a further one year until the second quarter of 2017 with an adjusted dayrate in exchange of the ENI contracts. The new average maximum dayrate, under the extension, will be \$539,750.

The *Ocean Rig Mykonos* commenced a three-year drilling contract, plus a mobilization period, with Petrobras Brazil, on September 30, 2011, for drilling operations offshore Brazil at a maximum dayrate of \$ 433,044 (including service fees of \$ 65,404 per day, based on the contracted rate in Real and the February 24, 2015 exchange rate of R\$2.87: \$1.00), plus a mobilization fee of \$30.0 million. The contract has been extended for 1,095 at an average dayrate of \$514,090, plus reimbursement by Petrobras for contract related equipment upgrades of \$30.0 million.

The *Ocean Rig Mylos* commenced a three-year drilling contract with Repsol for drilling operations offshore Brazil in August 2013 at a maximum dayrate of \$ 637,270, which is the average maximum dayrate applicable during the initial three-year term of the contract, plus a mobilization fee of \$40.0 million. Under the contract, Repsol has options to extend the contract for one year beyond the initial three-year contract period.

The *Ocean Rig Skyros*, which is currently idle, will be employed under the ENI contracts for drilling operations offshore Nigeria and Angola in April 2015 with an estimated backlog of approximately \$68.6 million. In November 2015, the *Ocean Rig Skyros* will commence its six year contract with Total for drilling operations offshore Angola. Under the contract, we are entitled to a maximum dayrate of approximately \$592,834, which is the average maximum dayrate applicable during the initial six-year term of the contract, plus mobilization fees of \$20 million. Under the contract, the initial maximum dayrate is subject to a fixed annual escalation of 2% during the contract period.

The *Ocean Rig Athena* commenced a three-year drilling contract with ConocoPhillips for drilling operations offshore Angola in March 2014 at a maximum dayrate of \$ 662,523, which is the average maximum dayrate applicable during the initial three-year term of the contract, plus a lump-sum mobilization fee of \$35.2 million, exclusive of fuel costs. Under the contract, the initial maximum dayrate is subject to a fixed annual escalation of approximately 2% during the contract period. In addition, ConocoPhillips has the option to extend the duration of the contract for two years.

The *Ocean Rig Apollo* commenced a three-year contract with Total E&P Congo for drilling operations offshore West Africa in March 2015 with an estimated backlog of approximately \$692.6 million, including mobilization. In addition, Total has the option to extend the term of the contract for four periods of six months each, with the first option exercisable not less than one year before completion date.

Table of Contents

The total contracted backlog under our drilling contracts for our drilling units, including our drilling rigs, as of February 24, 2015, was \$5.2 billion. We calculate our contract backlog by multiplying the contractual dayrate under all of our employment contracts for which we have firm commitments as of February 24, 2015, by the minimum expected number of days committed under such contracts (excluding any options to extend), assuming full utilization. There can be no assurance that the counterparties to such contracts will fulfill their obligations under the contracts. See the section contained herein entitled **Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Company** Our future contracted revenue for our fleet of drilling units may not be ultimately realized.

Unless otherwise stated, all references to maximum dayrates included in this prospectus are exclusive of any applicable annual contract revenue adjustments, which generally result in the escalation of the dayrates payable under the drilling contracts.

Management of Our Fleet

Up to October 2013, our wholly owned subsidiary, Ocean Rig AS, provided supervisory management services including onshore management, to our operating drilling rigs and drillships pursuant to separate management agreements entered into with each of the drilling unit-owning subsidiaries. Ocean Rig AS also provided supervisory management services for our seventh generation drillships under construction.

As from October 2013, the above services are provided by our wholly owned subsidiary, Ocean Rig Management Inc., pursuant to separate management agreements entered/to be entered with each of the drilling unit owning subsidiaries. Under the terms of these management agreements, Ocean Rig Management Inc, through its affiliates in Stavanger, Norway, Aberdeen, United Kingdom and Houston, Texas, is responsible for, among other things, (i) assisting in construction contract technical negotiations, (ii) securing contracts for the future employment of the drilling units, and (iii) providing commercial, technical and operational management for the drillships.

In addition, we have engaged Cardiff Drilling Inc, a company controlled by our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. George Economou, to provide us with consulting and other services with respect to the arrangement of employment for, and relating to the purchase and sale of our drilling units.

The Offshore Drilling Industry

In recent years, the international drilling market has seen an increasing trend towards deep and ultra-deepwater oil and gas exploration. As shallow water resources mature, deep and ultra-deepwater regions are expected to play an increasing role in offshore oil and gas exploration and production. According to industry sources, the industry-wide global ultra-deepwater market has seen rapid development over the last six years, with dayrates increasing from approximately \$180,000 in 2004 to above \$600,000 in 2008, and as of February 2015 the market level is approximately \$530,000. The ultra-deepwater market rig utilization rate has been stable, above 80% since 2000 and above 97% since 2006. The operating units capable of drilling in ultra-deepwater depths of greater than 7,500 feet consist mainly of fifth, sixth and seventh generation units, and also include certain older upgraded units. The in-service fleet as of February 2015 totaled 165 units, and is expected to grow to 228 units upon the scheduled delivery of the current newbuild orderbook by the end of 2020. Historically, an increase in supply has caused a decline in utilization and dayrates until drilling units are absorbed into the market. Accordingly, dayrates have been very cyclical. We believe that the largest undiscovered offshore reserves are mostly located in ultra-deepwater fields and primarily located in the golden triangle between West Africa, Brazil and the Gulf of Mexico, as well as in East Africa, Australia and Southeast Asia. The location of these large offshore reserves has resulted in more than 90% of the floating drilling unit, or floater, orderbook being represented by ultra-deepwater units. Furthermore, due to increased focus on technically challenging operations and the inherent risk of developing offshore fields in ultra-deepwater,

particularly in light of the *Deepwater Horizon* accident in the Gulf of Mexico, in which we were not involved, oil companies have already begun to show a preference for modern units more capable of drilling in these challenging environments.

Table of Contents

Corporate Structure

Ocean Rig UDW Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, was formed on December 10, 2007 under the name Primelead Shareholders Inc. Primelead Shareholders Inc. was formed in December 2007 for the purpose of acquiring the shares of our predecessor, Ocean Rig ASA, which was incorporated in September 1996 under the laws of Norway. We acquired control of Ocean Rig ASA on May 14, 2008. Prior to the private offering of our common shares in December 2010, we were a wholly-owned subsidiary of DryShips. Our shares commenced trading on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol **ORIG** on October 6, 2011. As of March 2, 2015, DryShips, our parent company, owned approximately 59.2% of our outstanding common shares. Each of our drilling units is owned by a separate wholly-owned vessel-owning subsidiary.

We maintain our principal executive offices at 10 Skopa Street, Tribune House, 2nd Floor, Office 202, CY 1075, Nicosia, Cyprus and our telephone number at that address is +357 22767517. Our website address is www.ocean-rig.com. Information contained on our website does not constitute part of this prospectus.

Risk Factors

We face a number of risks associated with our business and industry and must overcome a variety of challenges to utilize our strengths and implement our business strategy. These risks include, among others, changes in the offshore drilling market, including supply and demand, utilization rates, dayrates, customer drilling programs, and commodity prices; increased costs of compliance with regulations affecting the offshore drilling industry; a downturn in the global economy; hazards inherent in the drilling industry and marine operations resulting in liability for personal injury or loss of life, damage to or destruction of property and equipment, pollution or environmental damage; inability to comply with loan covenants; inability to finance shipyard and other capital projects; and inability to successfully employ our drilling units.

This is not a comprehensive list of risks to which we are subject, and you should carefully consider all the information in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement before investing in the securities offered by this prospectus. In particular, we urge you to carefully consider the risk factors set forth in the section of this prospectus entitled **Risk Factors** beginning on page 7.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks set forth below and in any documents incorporated by reference. In addition, you should also consider carefully the risks set forth under the heading "Risk Factors" in any prospectus supplement before investing in the securities offered by this prospectus. You should also carefully consider the risks described in any future incorporated by reference herein, before making an investment in our securities. Please see the section of this prospectus entitled "Where You Can Find Additional Information" Information Incorporated by Reference. The occurrence of one or more of these risks could materially and adversely impact our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Risks Relating to Our Industry

Our business depends on the level of activity in the offshore oil and gas industry, which is significantly affected by, among other things, volatile oil and gas prices and may be materially and adversely affected by a decline in the offshore oil and gas industry.

The offshore contract drilling industry is cyclical and volatile. Our business depends on the level of activity in oil and gas exploration, development and production in offshore areas worldwide. The availability of quality drilling prospects, exploration success, relative production costs, the stage of reservoir development and political and regulatory environments affect customers' drilling programs. Oil and gas prices and market expectations of potential changes in these prices also significantly affect this level of activity and demand for drilling units.

Oil and gas prices are extremely volatile and are affected by numerous factors beyond our control, including the following:

worldwide production and demand for oil and gas and any geographical dislocations in supply and demand;

the cost of exploring for, developing, producing and delivering oil and gas;

expectations regarding future energy prices;

advances in exploration, development and production technology;

the ability of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC, to set and maintain levels and pricing;

the level of production in non-OPEC countries;

government regulations;

local and international political, economic and weather conditions;

domestic and foreign tax policies;

development and exploitation of alternative fuels;

the policies of various governments regarding exploration and development of their oil and gas reserves; and

the worldwide military and political environment, including uncertainty or instability resulting from an escalation or additional outbreak of armed hostilities, insurrection or other crises in the Middle East or other geographic areas or further acts of terrorism in the United States, or elsewhere.

Table of Contents

Declines in oil and gas prices for an extended period of time, or market expectations of potential decreases in these prices, could negatively affect our business in the offshore drilling sector. Crude oil inventories remain at high levels compared to historical levels, which may place downward pressure on the price of crude oil and demand for offshore drilling units. Sustained periods of low oil prices typically result in reduced exploration and drilling because oil and gas companies' capital expenditure budgets are subject to cash flow from such activities and are therefore sensitive to changes in energy prices. These changes in commodity prices can have a dramatic effect on rig demand, and periods of low demand can cause excess drilling rig supply and intensify the competition in the industry which often results in drilling units, particularly lower specification drilling units, being idle for long periods of time. We cannot predict the future level of demand for our services or future conditions of the oil and gas industry. Any decrease in exploration, development or production expenditures by oil and gas companies could reduce our revenues and materially harm our business and results of operations.

In addition to oil and gas prices, the offshore drilling industry is influenced by additional factors, including:

the availability of competing offshore drilling vessels and the level of newbuilding activity for drilling vessels;

the level of costs for associated offshore oilfield and construction services;

oil and gas transportation costs;

the discovery of new oil and gas reserves;

the cost of non-conventional hydrocarbons, such as the exploitation of oil sands; and

regulatory restrictions on offshore drilling.

Any of these factors could reduce demand for our services and adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Continuation of the recent worldwide economic downturn could have a material adverse effect on our revenue, profitability and financial position.

Although there are signs that the economic recession has abated in many countries, there is still considerable instability in the world economy, due in part to uncertainty related to continuing discussions in the United States regarding the federal debt ceiling and in the economies of Eurozone countries, such as Greece, Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Italy, where a new economic downturn has introduced further volatility in the global markets. Further decrease in global economic activity would likely reduce worldwide demand for energy and result in an extended period of lower crude oil and natural gas prices. In addition, continued hostilities and insurrections in the Middle East and North Africa and the occurrence or threat of terrorist attacks against the United States or other countries could adversely affect the economies of the United States and of other countries. Any prolonged reduction in crude oil and natural gas prices would depress the levels of exploration, development and production activity. Moreover, even during periods of high commodity prices, customers may cancel or curtail their drilling programs, or reduce their

levels of capital expenditures for exploration and production for a variety of reasons, including their lack of success in exploration efforts. These factors could cause our revenues and margins to decline, decrease daily rates and utilization of our drilling units and limit our future growth prospects. Any significant decrease in daily rates or utilization of our drilling units could materially reduce our revenues and profitability. In addition, any instability in the financial and insurance markets, as experienced in the recent financial and credit crisis, could make it more difficult for us to access capital and to obtain insurance coverage that we consider adequate or is otherwise required by our drilling contracts.

Table of Contents

The current state of global financial markets and current economic conditions may adversely impact our ability to obtain additional financing on acceptable terms, which may hinder or prevent us from expanding our business.

Global financial markets and economic conditions have been, and continue to be, volatile. Recently, the debt and equity capital markets have been severely distressed. These issues, along with significant write-offs in the financial services sector, the re-pricing of credit risk and the current weak economic conditions, have made, and will likely continue to make, it difficult to obtain additional financing. The current state of global financial markets and current economic conditions might adversely impact our ability to issue additional equity at prices which will not be dilutive to our existing shareholders or preclude us from issuing equity at all.

Also, as a result of concerns about the stability of financial markets generally and the solvency of counterparties specifically, the cost of obtaining money from the credit markets has increased as many lenders have increased interest rates, enacted tighter lending standards, refused to refinance existing debt at all or on terms similar to current debt and reduced, and in some cases ceased, to provide funding to borrowers. Due to these factors, we cannot be certain that additional financing will be available if needed and to the extent required, on acceptable terms or at all. If additional financing is not available when needed, or is available only on unfavorable terms, we may be unable to meet our obligations as they come due or we may be unable to enhance our existing business, complete additional drilling unit acquisitions or otherwise take advantage of business opportunities as they arise.

The offshore drilling industry is highly competitive with intense price competition and, as a result, we may be unable to compete successfully with other providers of contract drilling services that have greater resources than we have.

The offshore contract drilling industry is highly competitive with several industry participants, none of which has a dominant market share, and is characterized by high capital and maintenance requirements. Drilling contracts are traditionally awarded on a competitive bid basis. Price competition is often the primary factor in determining which qualified contractor is awarded the drilling contract, although drilling unit availability, location and suitability, the quality and technical capability of service and equipment, reputation and industry standing are key factors which are considered. Mergers among oil and natural gas exploration and production companies have reduced, and may from time to time further reduce, the number of available customers, which would increase the ability of potential customers to achieve pricing terms favorable to them.

Many of our competitors are significantly larger than we are and have more diverse drilling assets and significantly greater financial and other resources than we have. In addition, because of our relatively small fleet, we may be unable to take advantage of economies of scale to the same extent as some of our larger competitors. Given the high capital requirements that are inherent in the offshore drilling industry, we may also be unable to invest in new technologies or expand in the future as may be necessary for us to succeed in this industry, while our larger competitors with superior financial resources, and in many cases less leverage than we have, may be able to respond more rapidly to changing market demands and compete more efficiently on price for drillship and drilling rig employment. We may not be able to maintain our competitive position, and we believe that competition for contracts will continue to be intense in the future. Our inability to compete successfully may reduce our revenues and profitability.

An over-supply of drilling units may lead to a reduction in dayrates and therefore may materially impact our profitability.

During the recent period of high utilization and high dayrates, industry participants have increased the supply of drilling units by ordering the construction of new drilling units. Historically, this has resulted in an over-supply of drilling units and has caused a subsequent decline in utilization and dayrates when the drilling units enter the market,

sometimes for extended periods of time until the units have been absorbed into the active fleet. According to industry sources, the worldwide fleet of ultra-deepwater drilling units as of February 2015 consisted of 165 units, comprised of 66 semi-submersible rigs and 99 drillships. An additional 13 semi-submersible rigs and 50 drillships were under construction or on order as of February 2015, which would bring the total fleet to 228 drilling units by the end of 2020. A relatively large number of the drilling units currently under construction have been contracted for future work, which may intensify price competition as scheduled delivery dates occur. The entry into service of these new, upgraded or reactivated drilling units will increase supply and has already led to a reduction in dayrates as drilling units are absorbed into the active fleet. In addition, the new construction of high-specification drilling units, as well as changes in our competitors' drilling unit fleets, could require us to make material additional capital investments to keep our fleet competitive. Lower utilization and dayrates could adversely affect our revenues and profitability. Prolonged periods of low utilization and dayrates could also result in the recognition of impairment charges on our drilling units if future cash flow estimates, based upon information available to management at the time, indicate that the carrying value of these drilling units may not be recoverable.

Table of Contents

Low crude oil prices worldwide may result in a decrease in our operating income and may have a material adverse effect on our business and operations.

Crude oil prices have decreased significantly during 2014 and have reached the lowest prices since 2009. A decrease in the price of crude oil, which can be influenced by general economic conditions, industry inventory levels, production quotas or other actions imposed by the OPEC, weather-related damage and disruptions, competing fuel prices, and geopolitical risks, can adversely affect our business and operations. An investment in our company carries significant exposure to fluctuations in global crude oil prices. During extended periods of historically low prices for crude oil, our earnings and cash flows may be negatively affected.

Consolidation of suppliers may increase the cost of obtaining supplies, which may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

We rely on certain third parties to provide supplies and services necessary for our operations, including, but not limited to, drilling equipment suppliers and catering and machinery suppliers. Recent mergers have reduced the number of available suppliers, resulting in fewer alternatives for sourcing key supplies. Such consolidation, combined with a high volume of drilling units under construction, may result in a shortage of supplies and services, thereby increasing the cost of supplies and/or potentially inhibiting the ability of suppliers to deliver on time, or at all. These cost increases, delays or unavailability could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and result in drilling unit downtime and delays in the repair and maintenance of our drilling units.

Our international operations involve additional risks, which could adversely affect our business.

We operate in various regions throughout the world. Our drilling rigs, the *Leiv Eiriksson*, is currently drilling in the Norwegian Continental Shelf, while the *Eirik Raude* is currently undergoing the acceptance testing and it is expected to commence operations for drilling offshore Falkland Islands. Our drillships, the *Ocean Rig Corcovado*, the *Ocean Rig Mylos* and the *Ocean Rig Mykonos*, are operating offshore Brazil and our drillships, the *Ocean Rig Poseidon* and the *Ocean Rig Athena*, are operating offshore Angola. The *Ocean Rig Skyros* and the *Ocean Rig Olympia* are expected to commence drilling operations to offshore Angola, during 2015 while the *Ocean Rig Apollo* is expected to commence drilling operations to offshore West Africa, during 2015.

In the past, the *Eirik Raude* has operated in the Gulf of Mexico and offshore Canada, Norway, the United Kingdom, Ghana, West Africa and the Ivory Coast, while the *Leiv Eiriksson* has operated offshore Greenland, West Africa, Turkey, Ireland, west of the Shetland Islands, the Falkland Islands, Norway and in the North Sea, and the *Ocean Rig Corcovado* and the *Ocean Rig Olympia* have operated offshore Greenland and West Africa, respectively. As a result of our international operations, we may be exposed to political and other uncertainties, including risks of:

terrorist and environmental activist acts, armed hostilities, war and civil disturbances;

acts of piracy, which have historically affected ocean-going vessels trading in regions of the world such as the South China Sea and in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Somalia and which have generally increased significantly in frequency since 2008, particularly in the Gulf of Aden and off the west coast of Africa;

significant governmental influence over many aspects of local economies;

seizure, nationalization or expropriation of property or equipment;

repudiation, nullification, modification or renegotiation of contracts;

limitations on insurance coverage, such as war risk coverage, in certain areas;

political unrest;

foreign and U.S. monetary policy, government debt downgrades and potential defaults and foreign currency fluctuations and devaluations;

the inability to repatriate income or capital;

complications associated with repairing and replacing equipment in remote locations;

import-export quotas, wage and price controls, imposition of trade barriers;

regulatory or financial requirements to comply with foreign bureaucratic actions;

changing taxation policies, including confiscatory taxation;

other forms of government regulation and economic conditions that are beyond our control; and

governmental corruption.

Table of Contents

In addition, international contract drilling operations are subject to various laws and regulations in countries in which we operate, including laws and regulations relating to:

the equipping and operation of drilling units;

repatriation of foreign earnings;

oil and gas exploration and development;

taxation of offshore earnings and earnings of expatriate personnel; and

use and compensation of local employees and suppliers by foreign contractors.

Some foreign governments favor or effectively require (i) the awarding of drilling contracts to local contractors or to drilling rigs owned by their own citizens, (ii) the use of a local agent or (iii) foreign contractors to employ citizens of, or purchase supplies from, a particular jurisdiction. These practices may adversely affect our ability to compete in those regions. It is difficult to predict what governmental regulations may be enacted in the future that could adversely affect the international drilling industry. The actions of foreign governments, including initiatives by OPEC, may adversely affect our ability to compete. Failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations, including those relating to sanctions and export restrictions, may subject us to criminal sanctions or civil remedies, including fines, denial of export privileges, injunctions or seizures of assets.

Our business and operations involve numerous operating hazards.

Our operations are subject to hazards inherent in the drilling industry, such as blowouts, reservoir damage, loss of production, loss of well control, lost or stuck drill strings, equipment defects, punch throughs, craterings, fires, explosions and pollution, including spills similar to the events on April 20, 2010 related to the *Deepwater Horizon*, in which we were not involved. Contract drilling and well servicing require the use of heavy equipment and exposure to hazardous conditions, which may subject us to liability claims by employees, customers and third parties. These hazards can cause personal injury or loss of life, severe damage to or destruction of property and equipment, pollution or environmental damage, claims by third parties or customers and suspension of operations. Our offshore fleet is also subject to hazards inherent in marine operations, either while on-site or during mobilization, such as capsizing, sinking, grounding, collision, damage from severe weather and marine life infestations. Operations may also be suspended because of machinery breakdowns, abnormal drilling conditions, personnel shortages or failure of subcontractors to perform or supply goods or services.

Damage to the environment could also result from our operations, particularly through spillage of fuel, lubricants or other chemicals and substances used in drilling operations, leaks and blowouts or extensive uncontrolled fires. We may also be subject to property, environmental and other damage claims by oil and gas companies. Our insurance policies and contractual indemnity rights with our customers may not adequately cover losses, and we do not have insurance coverage or rights to indemnity for all the risks to which we are exposed. Consistent with standard industry practice, our customers generally assume, and indemnify us against, well control and subsurface risks under dayrate drilling contracts, including pollution damage in connection with reservoir fluids stemming from operations under the

contract, damage to the well or reservoir, loss of subsurface oil and gas and the cost of bringing the well under control. We generally indemnify our customers against pollution from substances in our control that originate from the drilling unit (e.g., diesel used onboard the unit or other fluids stored onboard the unit and above the water surface). However, our drilling contracts are individually negotiated, and the degree of indemnification we receive from the customer against the liabilities discussed above can vary from contract to contract, based on market conditions and customer requirements existing when the contract was negotiated. Notwithstanding a contractual indemnity from a customer, there can be no assurance that our customers will be financially able to indemnify us or will otherwise honor their contractual indemnity obligations. We maintain insurance coverage for property damage, occupational injury and illness, and general and marine third-party liabilities. However, pollution and environmental risks generally are not totally insurable. Furthermore, we have no insurance coverage for named storms in the Gulf of Mexico and while trading within war risks excluded areas.

Table of Contents

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico may result in more stringent laws and regulations governing deepwater drilling, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results or financial condition.

On April 20, 2010, there was an explosion and a related fire on the Deepwater Horizon, an ultra-deepwater semi-submersible drilling unit that is not connected to us, while it was servicing the Macondo well in the Gulf of Mexico. This catastrophic event resulted in the death of 11 workers and the total loss of that drilling unit, as well as the release of large amounts of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, severely impacting the environment and the region's key industries. This event is being investigated by several federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Justice, and by the U.S. Congress, and is also the subject of numerous lawsuits. On January 11, 2011, the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling released its final report, with recommendations for new regulations.

We do not currently operate our drilling units in these regions, but we may do so in the future. In any event, changes to leasing and drilling activity requirements as a result of the Deepwater Horizon incident could have a substantial impact on the offshore oil and gas industry worldwide. All drilling activity in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico must be in compliance with enhanced safety requirements contained in the Notice to Lessees 2015-N01. Effective October 22, 2012 all drilling in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico must also comply with the Final Drilling Safety Rule as adopted on August 15, 2012, which enhances safety measures for energy development on the outer continental shelf. All drilling must also comply with the Workplace Safety Rule on Safety and Environmental Management Systems. Also, on February 24, 2014, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, or BOEM, proposed a rule increasing the limits of liability of damages for offshore facilities under OPA based on inflation. We continue to evaluate these requirements to ensure that our rigs and equipment are in full compliance, where applicable. Additional requirements could be forthcoming based on further recommendations by regulatory agencies investigating the Macondo well incident.

We are not able to predict the extent of future leasing plans or the likelihood, nature or extent of additional rulemaking. Nor are we able to predict when the BOEM will enter into leases with our customers or when the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, or BSEE, will issue drilling permits to our customers. We are not able to predict the future impact of these events on our operations. The current and future regulatory environment in the Gulf of Mexico could impact the demand for drilling units in the Gulf of Mexico in terms of overall number of rigs in operations and the technical specification required for offshore rigs to operate in the Gulf of Mexico. It is possible that short-term potential migration of rigs from the Gulf of Mexico could adversely impact dayrates levels and fleet utilization in other regions. In addition, insurance costs across the industry have increased as a result of the Macondo well incident and certain insurance coverage has become more costly, less available, and not available at all from certain insurance companies.

Our insurance coverage may not adequately protect us from certain operational risks inherent in the drilling industry.

Our insurance is intended to cover normal risks in our current operations, including insurance against property damage, occupational injury and illness, loss of hire, certain war risks and third-party liability, including pollution liability. For example, the amount of risk we are subject to might increase regarding occupational injuries because on January 12, 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Longshore and Harbor Worker's Compensation Act, whose provisions are incorporated into the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act could cover occupational injuries.

Insurance coverage may not, under certain circumstances, be available, and if available, may not provide sufficient funds to protect us from all losses and liabilities that could result from our operations. We have also obtained loss of hire insurance which becomes effective after 45 days of downtime with coverage that extends for approximately one

year. This loss of hire insurance is recoverable only if there is physical damage to the rig or equipment which is caused by a peril against which we are insured. The principal risks which may not be insurable are various environmental liabilities and liabilities resulting from reservoir damage caused by our gross negligence. Moreover, our insurance provides for premium adjustments based on claims and is subject to deductibles and aggregate recovery limits. In the case of pollution liabilities, our deductible is \$10,000 per event and \$250,000 for protection and indemnity claims brought before any U.S. jurisdiction. Our aggregate recovery limit is \$500.0 million for all claims arising out of any event covered by our protection and indemnity insurance. Our deductible is \$1.5 million per hull and machinery insurance claim. In addition, insurance policies covering physical damage claims due to a named windstorm in the Gulf of Mexico generally impose strict recovery limits. Our insurance coverage may not protect fully against losses resulting from a required cessation of drilling unit operations for environmental or other reasons. Insurance may not be available to us at all or on terms acceptable to us, we may not maintain insurance or, if we are so insured, our policy may not be adequate to cover our loss or liability in all cases. The occurrence of a casualty, loss or liability against, which we may not be fully insured against, could significantly reduce our revenues, make it financially impossible for us to obtain a replacement drilling unit or to repair a damaged drilling unit, cause us to pay fines or damages which are generally not insurable and that may have priority over the payment obligations under our indebtedness or otherwise impair our ability to meet our obligations under our indebtedness and to operate profitably.

Table of Contents

If we enter into drilling contracts or engage in certain other activities with countries or government-controlled entities or customers associated with countries that are subject to restrictions imposed by the U.S. government, or engage in certain other activities, including entering into drilling contracts with individuals or entities in such countries that are not controlled by their governments or engaging in operations associated with such countries or entities pursuant to contracts with third parties unrelated to those countries or entities, our ability to conduct our business and access U.S. capital markets and our reputation and the market for our securities could be adversely affected.

Although none of our drilling units have operated in countries subject to sanctions and embargoes imposed by the U.S. government and other authorities or countries identified by the U.S. government or other authorities as state sponsors of terrorism, including Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria, in the future our drilling units may operate in these countries from time to time on our customers' instructions. The U.S. sanctions and embargo laws and regulations vary in their application, as they do not all apply to the same covered persons or proscribe the same activities, and such sanctions and embargo laws and regulations may be amended or strengthened over time. In 2010, the U.S. enacted the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act, or CISADA, which amended the Iran Sanctions Act. Among other things, CISADA introduced limits on the ability of companies and persons to do business or trade with Iran when such activities relate to the investment, supply or export of refined petroleum or petroleum products. In 2012, President Obama signed Executive Order 13608 which prohibits foreign persons from violating or attempting to violate, or causing a violation of any sanctions in effect against Iran or facilitating any deceptive transactions for or on behalf of any person subject to U.S. sanctions. Any persons found to be in violation of Executive Order 13608 will be deemed a foreign sanctions evader and will be banned from all contacts with the United States, including conducting business in U.S. dollars. Also in 2012, President Obama signed into law the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, or the Iran Threat Reduction Act, which created new sanctions and strengthened existing sanctions. Among other things, the Iran Threat Reduction Act intensifies existing sanctions regarding the provision of goods, services, infrastructure or technology to Iran's petroleum or petrochemical sector. The Iran Threat Reduction Act also includes a provision requiring the President of the United States to impose five or more sanctions from Section 6(a) of the Iran Sanctions Act, as amended, on a person the President determines is a controlling beneficial owner of, or otherwise owns, operates, or controls or insures a vessel that was used to transport crude oil from Iran to another country and (1) if the person is a controlling beneficial owner of the vessel, the person had actual knowledge the vessel was so used or (2) if the person otherwise owns, operates, or controls, or insures the vessel, the person knew or should have known the vessel was so used. Such a person could be subject to a variety of sanctions, including exclusion from U.S. capital markets, exclusion from financial transactions subject to U.S. jurisdiction, and exclusion of that person's vessels from U.S. ports for up to two years.

Although we believe that we are in compliance with all applicable sanctions and embargo laws and regulations, and intend to maintain such compliance, there can be no assurance that we will be in compliance in the future, particularly as the scope of certain laws may be unclear and may be subject to changing interpretations. Any such violation could result in fines, penalties or other sanctions that could severely impact our ability to access U.S. capital markets and conduct our business, and could result in some investors deciding, or being required, to divest their interest, or not to invest, in us. In addition, certain institutional investors may have investment policies or restrictions that prevent them from holding securities of companies that have contracts with countries identified by the U.S. government as state sponsors of terrorism. The determination by these investors not to invest in, or to divest from, our common stock may adversely affect the price at which our common stock trades. Moreover, our customers may violate applicable sanctions and embargo laws and regulations as a result of actions that do not involve us or our drilling units, and those violations could in turn negatively affect our reputation. In addition, our reputation and the market for our securities may be adversely affected if we engage in certain other activities, such as entering into drilling contracts with individuals or entities in countries subject to U.S. sanctions and embargo laws that are not controlled by the governments of those countries, or engaging in operations associated with those countries pursuant to contracts with

third parties that are unrelated to those countries or entities controlled by their governments. Investor perception of the value of our common stock may be adversely affected by the consequences of war, the effects of terrorism, civil unrest and governmental actions in these and surrounding countries.

On November 24, 2013, the P5+1 (the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Russia and China) entered into an interim agreement with Iran entitled the Joint Plan of Action, or JPOA. Under the JPOA it was agreed that, in exchange for Iran taking certain voluntary measures to ensure that its nuclear program is used only for peaceful purposes, the U.S. and EU would voluntarily suspend certain sanctions for a period of six months.

Table of Contents

On January 20, 2014, the U.S. and E.U. indicated that they would begin implementing the temporary relief measures provided for under the JPOA. These measures include, among other things, the suspension of certain sanctions on the Iranian petrochemicals, precious metals, and automotive industries from January 20, 2014 until July 20, 2014. The U.S. initially extended the JPOA until November 24, 2014, and has since extended it until June 30, 2015. These regulations and U.S. sanctions may be amended over time, and the U.S. retains the authority to revoke the aforementioned relief if Iran fails to meet its commitments under the JPOA.

Although it is our intention to comply with the provisions of the JPOA, there can be no assurance that we will be in compliance in the future as such regulations and U.S. Sanctions may be amended over time, and the U.S. retains the authority to revoke the aforementioned relief if Iran fails to meet its commitments under the JPOA.

The instability of the euro or the inability of Eurozone countries to refinance their debts could have a material adverse effect on our ability to fund our future capital expenditures or refinance our debt.

As a result of the credit crisis in Europe, in particular in Greece, Italy, Ireland, Portugal and Spain, the European Commission created the European Financial Stability Facility, or the EFSF, and the European Financial Stability Mechanism, or the EFSM, to provide funding to Eurozone countries in financial difficulties that seek such support. In March 2011, the European Council agreed on the need for Eurozone countries to establish a permanent stability mechanism, the European Stability Mechanism, or the ESM, which was activated by mutual agreement in 2013, and assumed the role of the EFSF and the EFSM in providing external financial assistance to Eurozone countries.

Despite these measures, concerns persist regarding the debt burden of certain Eurozone countries and their ability to meet future financial obligations and the overall stability of the euro. An extended period of adverse development in the outlook for European countries could make it difficult for current or potential lenders in the Eurozone to provide new loan facilities we may need to fund our future capital expenditures.

Governmental laws and regulations, including environmental laws and regulations, may add to our costs or limit our drilling activity.

Our business is affected by laws and regulations relating to the energy industry and the environment in the geographic areas where we operate. The offshore drilling industry is dependent on demand for services from the oil and gas exploration and production industry, and, accordingly, we are directly affected by the adoption of laws and regulations that, for economic, environmental or other policy reasons, curtail exploration and development drilling for oil and gas. We may be required to make significant capital expenditures to comply with governmental laws and regulations. It is also possible that these laws and regulations may, in the future, add significantly to our operating costs or significantly limit drilling activity. Our ability to compete in international contract drilling markets may be limited by foreign governmental regulations that favor or require the awarding of contracts to local contractors or by regulations requiring foreign contractors to employ citizens of, or purchase supplies from, a particular jurisdiction. Governments in some countries are increasingly active in regulating and controlling the ownership of concessions, the exploration for oil and gas, and other aspects of the oil and gas industries. Offshore drilling in certain areas has been curtailed and, in certain cases, prohibited because of concerns over protection of the environment. Operations in less developed countries can be subject to legal systems that are not as mature or predictable as those in more developed countries, which can lead to greater uncertainty in legal matters and proceedings.

To the extent new laws are enacted or other governmental actions are taken that prohibit or restrict offshore drilling or impose additional environmental protection requirements that result in increased costs to the oil and gas industry, in general, or the offshore drilling industry, in particular, our business or prospects could be materially adversely affected. The operation of our drilling units will require certain governmental approvals, the number and prerequisites

of which cannot be determined until we identify the jurisdictions in which we will operate on securing contracts for the drilling units. Depending on the jurisdiction, these governmental approvals may involve public hearings and conditions that result in costly undertakings on our part. We may not obtain such approvals or such approvals may not be obtained in a timely manner. If we fail to timely secure the necessary approvals or permits, our customers may have the right to terminate or seek to renegotiate their drilling contracts to our detriment. The amendment or modification of existing laws and regulations or the adoption of new laws and regulations curtailing or further regulating exploratory or development drilling and production of oil and gas could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results or financial condition. Future earnings may be negatively affected by compliance with any such new legislation or regulations.

Table of Contents

We are subject to complex laws and regulations, including environmental laws and regulations that can adversely affect the cost, manner or feasibility of doing business.

Our operations are subject to numerous laws and regulations in the form of international conventions and treaties, national, state and local laws and national and international regulations in force in the jurisdictions in which our vessels operate or are registered, which can significantly affect the ownership and operation of our drilling units. These regulations include, but are not limited to, the International Maritime Organization, or IMO, International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships of 1973, as from time to time amended and generally referred to as MARPOL, including designation of Emission Control Areas, or ECAs, thereunder, the IMO International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage of 1969, as from time to time amended and generally referred to as CLC, the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, or Bunker Convention, the IMO International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea of 1974, as from time to time amended and generally referred to as SOLAS, the International Safety Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention, or ISM Code, the IMO International Convention on Load Lines of 1966, as from time to time amended, the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments in February 2004, or the BWM Convention, the U.S. Oil Pollution Act of 1990, or OPA, requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard, or USCG, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, or CERCLA, the U.S. Clean Water Act, the U.S. Clean Air Act, the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the U.S. Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, or the MTSA, European Union regulations, and Brazil's National Environmental Policy Law (6938/81), Environmental Crimes Law (9605/98) and Law (9966/2000) relating to pollution in Brazilian waters.

Compliance with such laws, regulations and standards, where applicable, may require installation of costly equipment or operational changes and may affect the resale value or useful lives of our vessels. Moreover, the manner in which these laws are enforced and interpreted is constantly evolving. We may also incur additional costs in order to comply with other existing and future regulatory obligations, including, but not limited to, costs relating to air emissions, including greenhouse gases, the management of ballast waters, maintenance and inspection, development and implementation of emergency procedures and insurance coverage or other financial assurance of our ability to address pollution incidents. These costs could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, cash flows and financial condition. A failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations may result in administrative and civil penalties, criminal sanctions or the suspension or termination of our operations. Environmental laws often impose strict liability for remediation of spills and releases of oil and hazardous substances, which could subject us to liability without regard to whether we were negligent or at fault. Under OPA, for example, owners, operators and bareboat charterers are jointly and severally strictly liable for the discharge of oil in U.S. waters, including the 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone around the United States. An oil spill could result in significant liability, including fines, penalties and criminal liability and remediation costs for natural resource damages under other international and U.S. federal, state and local laws, as well as third-party damages. We are required to satisfy insurance and financial responsibility requirements for potential oil (including marine fuel) spills and other pollution incidents and our insurance may not be sufficient to cover all such risks. As a result, claims against us could result in a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, cash flows and financial condition.

Although our drilling units are separately owned by our subsidiaries, under certain circumstances a parent company and all of the ship-owning affiliates in a group under common control engaged in a joint venture could be held liable for damages or debts owed by one of the affiliates, including liabilities for oil spills under OPA or other environmental laws. Therefore, it is possible that we could be subject to liability upon a judgment against us or any one of our subsidiaries.

Our drilling units could cause the release of oil or hazardous substances, especially as our drilling units age. Any releases may be large in quantity, above our permitted limits or occur in protected or sensitive areas where public interest groups or governmental authorities have special interests. Any releases of oil or hazardous substances could result in fines and other costs to us, such as costs to upgrade our drilling rigs, clean up the releases, and comply with more stringent requirements in our discharge permits. Moreover, these releases may result in our customers or governmental authorities suspending or terminating our operations in the affected area, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operation and financial condition.

If we are able to obtain from our customers some degree of contractual indemnification against pollution and environmental damages in our contracts, such indemnification may not be enforceable in all instances or the customer may not be financially able to comply with its indemnity obligations in all cases. In addition, we may not be able to obtain such indemnification agreements in the future.

Our insurance coverage may not be available in the future or we may not obtain certain insurance coverage. If it is available and we have the coverage, it may not be adequate to cover our liabilities. Any of these scenarios could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition.

Table of Contents***Regulation of greenhouse gases and climate change could have a negative impact on our business.***

Currently, emissions of greenhouse gases from ships involved in international transport are not subject to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which entered into force in 2005 and pursuant to which adopting countries have been required to implement national programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As of January 1, 2013, all ships (including drilling rigs and drillships) must comply with mandatory requirements adopted by the MEPC in July 2011 relating to greenhouse gas emissions. Currently operating ships are now required to develop and implement the Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plans, or SEEMPs, and the new ships to be designed in compliance with minimum energy efficiency levels per capacity mile as defined by the Energy Efficiency Design Index, or EEDI. These requirements could cause us to incur additional compliance costs. The IMO is also considering the implementation of market-based mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ships. The European Parliament and Council of Ministers are expected to endorse regulations that would require the monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from marine vessels in 2015. In the United States, the EPA has issued a finding that greenhouse gases endanger public health and safety and has adopted regulations to limit greenhouse gas emissions from certain mobile sources and large stationary sources. The EPA enforces both the CAA and the international standards found in Annex VI of MARPOL concerning marine diesel engines, their emissions, and the sulphur content in marine fuel. Any passage of climate control legislation or other regulatory initiatives by the IMO, European Union, the U.S. or other countries where we operate, or any treaty adopted at the international level to succeed the Kyoto Protocol, that restrict emissions of greenhouse gases could require us to make significant financial expenditures, including capital expenditures to upgrade our vessels, which we cannot predict with certainty at this time.

Because our business depends on the level of activity in the offshore oil and gas industry, existing or future laws, regulations, treaties or international agreements related to greenhouse gases and climate change, including incentives to conserve energy or use alternative energy sources, could have a negative impact on our business if such laws, regulations, treaties or international agreements reduce the worldwide demand for oil and gas. In addition, such laws, regulations, treaties or international agreements could result in increased compliance costs or additional operating restrictions, which may have a negative impact on our business.

Failure to comply with the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act could result in fines, criminal penalties, drilling contract terminations and an adverse effect on our business.

We currently operate, and historically have operated, our drilling units outside of the United States in a number of countries throughout the world, including some with developing economies. Also, the existence of state or government-owned shipbuilding enterprises puts us in contact with persons who may be considered foreign officials under the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977, or the FCPA. We are committed to doing business in accordance with applicable anti-corruption laws and have adopted a code of business conduct and ethics which is consistent and in full compliance with the FCPA. We are subject, however, to the risk that we, our affiliated entities or our or their respective officers, directors, employees and agents may take actions determined to be in violation of such anti-corruption laws, including the FCPA. Any such violation could result in substantial fines, sanctions, civil and/or criminal penalties, curtailment of operations in certain jurisdictions, and might adversely affect our business, results of operations or financial condition. In addition, actual or alleged violations could damage our reputation and ability to do business. Furthermore, detecting, investigating, and resolving actual or alleged violations is expensive and can consume significant time and attention of our senior management.

Acts of terrorism and political and social unrest could affect the markets for drilling services, which may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Acts of terrorism and political and social unrest, brought about by world political events or otherwise, have caused instability in the world's financial and insurance markets in the past and may occur in the future. Such acts could be directed against companies such as ours. In addition, acts of terrorism and social unrest could lead to increased volatility in prices for crude oil and natural gas and could affect the markets for drilling services and result in lower dayrates. Insurance premiums could increase and coverage may be unavailable in the future. U.S. government regulations may effectively preclude us from actively engaging in business activities in certain countries. These regulations could be amended to cover countries where we currently operate or where we may wish to operate in the future. Increased insurance costs or increased cost of compliance with applicable regulations may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Table of Contents

Military action, other armed conflicts, or terrorist attacks have caused significant increases in political and economic instability in geographic regions where we operate and where our newbuilding drillships are being constructed.

Military tension involving North and South Korea, the Middle East, Africa and other attacks, threats of attacks, terrorism and unrest, have caused instability or uncertainty in the world's financial and commercial markets and have significantly increased political and economic instability in some of the geographic areas where we operate and where we have contracted with Samsung, to build our three newbuilding drillships. Acts of terrorism and armed conflicts or threats of armed conflicts in these locations could limit or disrupt our operations, including disruptions resulting from the cancellation of contracts or the loss of personnel or assets. In addition, any possible reprisals as a consequence of ongoing military action in the Middle East, such as acts of terrorism in the United States or elsewhere, could materially and adversely affect us in ways we cannot predict at this time.

Acts of piracy have recently increased in frequency, which could adversely affect our business.

Acts of piracy have historically affected ocean-going vessels trading in regions of the world such as the South China Sea, the Indian Ocean, off the coast of West Africa and in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Somalia. Although the frequency of sea piracy worldwide decreased during 2012 to its lowest level since 2009, sea piracy incidents continue to occur, particularly in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Somalia and increasingly in the Gulf of Guinea. If these piracy attacks result in regions in which our drilling units are deployed being characterized as war risk zones by insurers, or Joint War Committee war and strikes listed areas, premiums payable for such coverage could increase significantly and such insurance coverage may be more difficult to obtain. In addition, crew costs, including due to employing onboard security guards, could increase in such circumstances. We may not be adequately insured to cover losses from these incidents, which could have a material adverse effect on us. In addition, any detention hijacking as a result of an act of piracy against our drilling units, or an increase in cost, or unavailability, of insurance for our vessels, could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The U.S. government recently imposed legislation concerning the deteriorating situation in Somalia, including acts of piracy offshore Somalia. On April 13, 2010, the President of the United States issued an Executive Order, which we refer to as the Order, prohibiting, among other things, the payment of monies to or for the benefit of individuals and entities on the list of Specially Designated Nationals, or SDNs, published by U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control. Certain individuals associated with piracy offshore Somalia are currently designated persons under the SDN list. The Order is applicable only to payments by U.S. persons and not by foreign entities, such as Ocean Rig UDW Inc. Notwithstanding this fact, it is possible that the Order, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, may affect foreign private issuers to the extent that such foreign private issuers provide monies, such as ransom payments to secure the release of crews and ships in the event of detention hijackings, to any SDN for which they seek reimbursement from a U.S. insurance carrier. While additional regulations relating to the Order may be promulgated by the U.S. government in the future, we cannot predict what effect these regulations may have on our operations.

Hurricanes may impact our ability to operate our drilling units in the Gulf of Mexico or other U.S. coastal waters, which could reduce our revenues and profitability.

Hurricanes Ivan, Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike caused damage to a number of drilling units unaffiliated with us in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. Drilling units that moved off their locations during the hurricanes damaged platforms, pipelines, wellheads and other drilling units. BOEM and the BSEE, the U.S. organizations that issue a significant number of relevant guidelines for the drilling units' activities, had guidelines for tie-downs on drilling units and permanent equipment and facilities attached to outer continental shelf production platforms, and moored drilling unit fitness

during hurricane season. These guidelines effectively impose requirements on the offshore oil and natural gas industry in an attempt to increase the likelihood of survival of offshore drilling units during a hurricane. The guidelines also provide for enhanced information and data requirements from oil and natural gas companies that operate properties in the Gulf of Mexico region of the Outer Continental Shelf. BOEM and BSEE may issue similar guidelines for future hurricane seasons and may take other steps that could increase the cost of operations or reduce the area of operations for our ultra-deepwater drilling units, thereby reducing their marketability. Implementation of new guidelines or regulations that may apply to ultra-deepwater drilling units may subject us to increased costs and limit the operational capabilities of our drilling units. Our drilling units do not currently operate in the Gulf of Mexico or other U.S. coastal waters but may do so in the future.

Table of Contents

Any failure to comply with the complex laws and regulations governing international trade could adversely affect our operations.

The shipment of goods, services and technology across international borders subjects us to extensive trade laws and regulations. Import activities are governed by unique customs laws and regulations in each of the countries of operation. Moreover, many countries, including the United States, control the export and re-export of certain goods, services and technology and impose related export recordkeeping and reporting obligations. Governments also may impose economic sanctions against certain countries, persons and other entities that may restrict or prohibit transactions involving such countries, persons and entities.

The laws and regulations concerning import activity, export recordkeeping and reporting, export control and economic sanctions are complex and constantly changing. These laws and regulations may be enacted, amended, enforced or interpreted in a manner materially impacting our operations. Shipments can be delayed and denied export or entry for a variety of reasons, some of which are outside our control and some of which may result from failure to comply with existing legal and regulatory regimes. Shipping delays or denials could cause unscheduled operational downtime. Any failure to comply with applicable legal and regulatory trading obligations also could result in criminal and civil penalties and sanctions, such as fines, imprisonment, debarment from government contracts, seizure of shipments and loss of import and export privileges.

New technologies may cause our current drilling methods to become obsolete, resulting in an adverse effect on our business.

The offshore contract drilling industry is subject to the introduction of new drilling techniques and services using new technologies, some of which may be subject to patent protection. As competitors and others use or develop new technologies, we may be placed at a competitive disadvantage and competitive pressures may force us to implement new technologies at substantial cost. In addition, competitors may have greater financial, technical and personnel resources that allow them to benefit from technological advantages and implement new technologies before we can. We may not be able to implement technologies on a timely basis or at a cost that is acceptable to us.

Risks Relating to Our Company

We have substantial indebtedness, and may incur substantial additional indebtedness, which could adversely affect our financial health.

As of December 31, 2014, on a consolidated basis, we had \$4.5 billion in aggregate principal amount of indebtedness outstanding. In March 2014 we issued \$500.0 million aggregate principal amount of 7.25% senior unsecured notes due 2019, or the 7.25% Senior Unsecured Notes, offered in a private placement. In July 2014, our wholly owned subsidiary, Drillships Ocean Ventures Inc., entered into a \$1.3 billion Senior Secured Term Loan B with maturity in July 2021. In February 2014, we refinanced our then existing short-term Tranche B-2 Term Loans with a fungible add-on to its existing long-term Tranche B-1 Term Loans and as a result of this refinancing, the total \$1.9 billion of Tranche B-1 Term Loans will mature no earlier than the third quarter of 2020.

Our substantial indebtedness could have significant adverse consequences for an investment in us and on our business and future prospects, including the following:

Edgar Filing: Ocean Rig UDW Inc. - Form 424B5

we may not be able to satisfy our financial obligations under our indebtedness and our contractual and commercial commitments, which may result in possible defaults on and acceleration of such indebtedness;

we may not be able to obtain financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, debt service requirements or other purposes;

we may not be able to use operating cash flow in other areas of our business because we must dedicate a substantial portion of these funds to service the debt;

Table of Contents

we could become more vulnerable to general adverse economic and industry conditions, including increases in interest rates, particularly given our substantial indebtedness, some of which bears interest at variable rates;

our ability to refinance indebtedness may be limited or the associated costs may increase;

less leveraged competitors could have a competitive advantage because they have lower debt service requirements and, as a result, we may not be better positioned to withstand economic downturns;

we may be less able to take advantage of significant business opportunities and to react to changes in market or industry conditions than our competitors and our management's discretion in operating our business may be limited; and

we may be unable to raise the funds necessary to repurchase the 6.50% senior secured notes due 2017, or our Senior Secured Notes, issued by Drill Rigs Holdings Inc., our wholly-owned subsidiary, or Drill Rigs Holdings, in September 2012 tendered to Drill Rigs Holdings if there is a change of control or event of loss or in connection with an asset sale offer, which would constitute a default under the indenture governing the Senior Secured Notes.

Each of these factors may have a material and adverse effect on our financial condition and viability. Our ability to service our debt will depend upon, among other things, our future financial and operating performance, which will be affected by prevailing economic conditions and financial, business, regulatory and other factors, some of which are beyond our control. If our operating income is not sufficient to service our current or future indebtedness, we will be forced to take actions such as reducing or delaying our business activities, acquisitions, investments or capital expenditures, selling assets, restructuring or refinancing our debt or seeking additional equity capital. Any or all of these actions may be insufficient to allow us to service our debt obligations. Further, we may not be able to effect any of these remedies on satisfactory terms, or at all.

We may incur additional debt, which could exacerbate the risks associated with our substantial leverage.

Even with our existing level of debt, we and our subsidiaries may incur additional indebtedness in the future. In July 2014, we entered into a \$1.3 billion term loan B facility to repay in full the then outstanding balances of the \$1.35 billion senior secured facility. On February 13, 2015 we signed definitive loan documentation for an up to a \$475.0 million syndicated secured term loan to partially finance the construction costs of the *Ocean Rig Apollo* . and we may incur additional indebtedness in order to fund the estimated remaining contractual obligations for the construction of the remaining three unfinanced seventh generation drillships, excluding financing costs, of \$1.8 billion as of the day of this prospectus. Although the terms of our existing debt agreements, and any future debt agreements we enter into, will limit our ability to incur additional debt, these terms may not prohibit us from incurring substantial amounts of additional debt for specific purposes or under certain circumstances. If new debt is added to our and our subsidiaries current debt levels, the related risks that we and they now face could intensify and could further exacerbate the risks associated with our substantial leverage.

The agreements and instruments governing our indebtedness contain restrictions and limitations that could significantly impact our ability to operate our business.

Our secured credit facilities, the bond agreement governing our unsecured senior notes and the indenture governing the Senior Secured Notes impose, and future financial obligations may impose, certain operating and financial restrictions on us. These restrictions may prohibit or otherwise limit our ability to, among other things:

enter into other financing arrangements;

incur or guarantee additional indebtedness;

create or permit liens on our assets;

Table of Contents

consummate a merger, consolidation or sale of our drilling units or the shares of our subsidiaries;

make investments;

change the general nature of our business;

pay dividends, redeem capital stock or subordinated indebtedness or make other restricted payments;

incur dividend or other payment restrictions affecting our restricted subsidiaries under the indenture governing our Senior Secured Notes;

change the management and/or ownership of our drilling units;

enter into transactions with affiliates;

transfer or sell assets;

amend, modify or change our organizational documents;

make capital expenditures; and

compete effectively to the extent our competitors are subject to less onerous restrictions.

In addition, certain of our existing secured credit facilities require us to maintain specified financial ratios and satisfy various financial covenants, including covenants related to the market value of our drilling units, capital expenditures and maintenance of a minimum amount of total available cash. Any future credit agreement or amendment or debt instrument we enter into may contain similar or more restrictive covenants. Events beyond our control, including changes in the economic and business conditions in the deepwater offshore drilling market in which we operate, may affect our ability to comply with these ratios and covenants. Our ability to maintain compliance will also depend substantially on the value of our assets, our dayrates, our ability to obtain drilling contracts, our success at keeping our costs low and our ability to successfully implement our overall business strategy. We cannot guarantee that we would be able to obtain our lenders' waiver or consent with respect to any noncompliance with the specified financial ratios and financial covenants under our various credit facilities or future financial obligations or that we would be able to refinance any such indebtedness in the event of default.

These restrictions, ratios and financial covenants in our debt agreements could limit our ability to fund our operations or capital needs, make acquisitions or pursue available business opportunities, which in turn may adversely affect our financial condition. A violation of any of these provisions could result in a default under our existing and future debt agreements which could allow all amounts outstanding thereunder to be declared immediately due and payable. This

would likely in turn trigger cross-acceleration and cross-default rights under the terms of our indebtedness outstanding at such time. If the amounts outstanding under our indebtedness were to be accelerated or were the subject of foreclosure actions, we cannot assure you that our assets would be sufficient to repay in full the money owed to the lenders or to our other debt holders.

We may not be able to generate sufficient cash flow to meet our debt service and other obligations due to events beyond our control.

Our ability to make scheduled payments on our outstanding indebtedness will depend on our ability to generate cash from operations in the future. Our future financial and operating performance will be affected by a range of economic, financial, competitive, regulatory, business and other factors that we cannot control, such as general economic and financial conditions in the offshore drilling industry or the economy generally. In particular, our ability to generate steady cash flow will depend on our ability to secure drilling contracts at acceptable rates. Assuming no exercise of any options to extend the terms of our existing drilling contracts, our operating drilling units are contracted from the second quarter of 2015 to the third quarter of 2021. In addition, we have been awarded extensions of the drilling contracts for the *Ocean Rig Corcovado* and the *Ocean Rig Mykonos* by Petrobras for drilling offshore Brazil. The term of each extension is for 1,095 days. We have also signed definite documentation for a six year contract for the *Ocean Rog Skyros* for drilling offshore Angola and we have entered into a six wells or a minimum of a 260 days contract for the *Eirik Raude* for drilling offshore Falkland Islands. We cannot guarantee that that we will be able to secure employment for the *Ocean Rig Santorini*, our seventh generation drillship scheduled for delivery in June 2016 and the two new integrated design drillships scheduled for delivery in February 2017 and June 2017.

Table of Contents

Furthermore, our financial and operating performance, and our ability to service our indebtedness, is also dependent on our subsidiaries' ability to make distributions to us, whether in the form of dividends, loans or otherwise. The timing and amount of such distributions will depend on our earnings, financial condition, cash requirements and availability, fleet renewal and expansion, restrictions in our various debt agreements, the provisions of Marshall Islands law affecting the payment of dividends and other factors.

If our operating cash flows are insufficient to service our debt and to fund our other liquidity needs, we may be forced to take actions such as reducing or delaying capital expenditures, selling assets, restructuring or refinancing our indebtedness, seeking additional capital, or any combination of the foregoing. We cannot assure you that any of these actions could be effected on satisfactory terms, if at all, or that they would yield sufficient funds to make required payments on our outstanding indebtedness and to fund our other liquidity needs. Also, the terms of existing or future debt agreements may restrict us from pursuing any of these actions. Furthermore, reducing or delaying capital expenditures or selling assets could impair future cash flows and our ability to service our debt in the future.

If for any reason we are unable to meet our debt service and repayment obligations, we would be in default under the terms of the agreements governing such indebtedness, which would allow creditors at that time to declare all such indebtedness then outstanding to be due and payable. This would likely in turn trigger cross-acceleration or cross-default rights among our other debt agreements. Under these circumstances, lenders could compel us to apply all of our available cash to repay borrowings or they could prevent us from making payments on the notes. If the amounts outstanding under our existing and future debt agreements were to be accelerated, or were the subject of foreclosure actions, we cannot assure you that our assets would be sufficient to repay in full the money owed to the lenders or to our other debt holders.

We will need to procure significant additional financing, which may be difficult to obtain on acceptable terms or at all, in order to complete the construction of our seventh generation drillships.

We have entered into contracts with Samsung for the construction of three seventh generation drillships two of which are new integrated design drillships and all are equipped with two blow-out preventers that are scheduled to be delivered to us in June 2016, February 2017 and June 2017, respectively. The estimated total project cost for our three seventh generation drillships, excluding financing costs, is approximately \$2.1 billion, of which an aggregate of approximately \$1.8 billion was outstanding as of December 31, 2014. We expect to finance the remaining delivery payments of these seventh generation drillships with cash on hand, operating cash flow, equity financing and additional bank debt. We may also incur additional costs and liability to the shipyards, which may pursue claims against us under our newbuilding construction contracts and retain and sell our seventh generation drillships to third parties.

We may be unable to secure ongoing drilling contracts, including for the Ocean Rig Santorini, our seventh generation drillship to be delivered in December 2015, due to strong competition, and the contracts that we enter into may not provide sufficient cash flow to meet our debt service obligations with respect to our indebtedness.

Assuming no exercise of any options to extend the terms of our existing drilling contracts, our operating drilling units are contracted from the second quarter of 2015 to the third quarter of 2021. In addition, we have been awarded extensions of the drilling contracts for the Ocean Rig Corcovado and the Ocean Rig Mykonos by Petrobras for drilling offshore Brazil. The term of each extension is for 1,095 days. We have also signed definite documentation for a six year contract for the Ocean Rog Skyros for drilling offshore Angola and we have entered into a six wells or a minimum of a 260 days contract for the *Eirik Raude* for drilling offshore Falkland Islands.

Our ability to renew our existing drilling contracts or obtain new drilling contracts for our drilling units, including our seventh generation drillship for which we have not yet secured employment, will depend on prevailing market conditions. We cannot guarantee we will be able to enter into new drilling contracts upon the expiration or termination of the contracts we have in place or at all or that there will not be a gap in employment between our current drilling contracts and subsequent contracts. In particular, if the price of crude oil is low, or it is expected that the price of crude oil will decrease in the future, at a time when we are seeking to arrange employment contracts for our drilling units, we may not be able to obtain employment contracts at attractive rates or at all.

Table of Contents

If the rates we receive for the reemployment of our drilling units upon the expiration or termination of our existing drilling contracts are lower than the rates under our existing contracts, we will recognize less revenue from the operations of our drilling units. In addition, delays under existing drilling contracts could cause us to lose future contracts if a drilling unit is not available to start work at the agreed date. Our ability to meet our cash flow obligations will depend on our ability to consistently secure drilling contracts for our drilling units at sufficiently high dayrates. We cannot predict the future level of demand for our services or future conditions in the oil and gas industry. If the oil and gas companies do not continue to increase exploration, development and production expenditures, we may have difficulty securing drilling contracts, including for the seventh generation drillships under construction, or we may be forced to enter into drilling contracts at unattractive dayrates. Either of these events could impair our ability to generate sufficient cash flow to make principal and interest payments under our indebtedness and meet our capital expenditure and other obligations.

Construction of drillships is subject to risks, including delays and cost overruns, which could have an adverse impact on our available cash resources and results of operations.

We have entered into contracts with Samsung, for the construction of three seventh generation drillships two of which are new integrated design drillships and all are equipped with two blow-out preventers that are scheduled to be delivered to us in June 2016, February 2017 and June 2017, respectively. From time to time in the future, we may undertake additional new construction projects and conversion projects. In addition, we may make significant upgrade, refurbishment, conversion and repair expenditures for our fleet from time to time, particularly as our drilling units become older. Some of these expenditures are unplanned. These projects together with our existing construction projects and other efforts of this type are subject to risks of cost overruns or delays inherent in any large construction project as a result of numerous factors, including the following:

shipyard unavailability;

shortages of equipment, materials or skilled labor for completion of repairs or upgrades to our equipment;

unscheduled delays in the delivery of ordered materials and equipment or shipyard construction;

financial or operating difficulties experienced by equipment vendors or the shipyard;

unanticipated actual or purported change orders;

local customs strikes or related work slowdowns that could delay importation of equipment or materials;

engineering problems, including those relating to the commissioning of newly designed equipment;

design or engineering changes;

latent damages or deterioration to the hull, equipment and machinery in excess of engineering estimates and assumptions;

work stoppages;

client acceptance delays;

weather interference, storm damage or other events of force majeure;

disputes with shipyards and suppliers;

shipyard failures and difficulties;

failure or delay of third-party equipment vendors or service providers;

unanticipated cost increases; and

difficulty in obtaining necessary permits or approvals or in meeting permit or approval conditions.

Table of Contents

These factors may contribute to cost variations and delays in the delivery of our ultra-deepwater newbuilding drillships. Delays in the delivery of these newbuilding drillships or the inability to complete construction in accordance with their design specifications may, in some circumstances, result in a delay in drilling contract commencement, resulting in a loss of revenue to us, and may also cause customers to renegotiate, terminate or shorten the term of a drilling contract for the drillship pursuant to applicable late delivery clauses. In the event of termination of one of these contracts, we may not be able to secure a replacement contract on as favorable terms or at all. Additionally, capital expenditures for drilling unit upgrades, refurbishment and construction projects could materially exceed our planned capital expenditures. Moreover, our drilling units that may undergo upgrade, refurbishment and repair may not earn a dayrate during the periods they are out of service. In addition, in the event of a shipyard failure or other difficulty, we may be unable to enforce certain provisions under our newbuilding contracts such as our refund guarantee, to recover amounts paid as installments under such contracts. The occurrence of any of these events may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition or cash flows.

As our current operating fleet is comprised of two ultra-deepwater drilling rigs and seven drillships, we rely heavily on a small number of customers and the loss of a significant customer could have a material adverse impact on our financial results.

As of December 31, 2014, we had seven customers for our current operating fleet of two ultra-deepwater drilling rigs and seven drillships. We are subject to the usual risks associated with having a limited number of customers for our services. Our two largest customers represented 30% and 18% of our revenues during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, respectively, and our seven customers represented, 100% of our revenues during the year ended December 31 2014. If our customers terminate, suspend or seek to renegotiate the drilling contracts for drilling units, as they are entitled to do under various circumstances, or cease doing business, our results of operations and cash flows could be adversely affected. Although we expect that a limited number of customers will continue to generate a substantial portion of our revenues, we will have to expand our pool of customers as we take delivery of our three newbuilding drillships and further grow our business.

Currently, our revenues depend on two ultra-deepwater drilling rigs and eight drillships, which are designed to operate in harsh environments. The damage or loss of any of our drilling units could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our revenues are dependent on the *Leiv Eiriksson*, which is currently drilling in the Norwegian Continental Shelf and the *Eirik Raude* which is currently undergoing the acceptance testing and it is expected to commence operations for drilling offshore Falkland Islands, our drillships, the *Ocean Rig Corcovado*, the *Ocean Rig Mylos* and the *Ocean Rig Mykonos*, which are operating offshore Brazil and our drillships, the *Ocean Rig Poseidon* and the *Ocean Rig Athena*, which are operating offshore Angola, while the *Ocean Rig Apollo* is currently mobilizing to West Africa to commence a three-year contract. During 2015, the *Ocean Rig Skyros* and the *Ocean Rig Olympia* are expected to commence drilling operations to offshore Angola.

Our drilling units may be exposed to risks inherent in deepwater drilling and operating in harsh environments that may cause damage or loss. The drilling of oil and gas wells, particularly exploratory wells where little is known of the subsurface formations involves risks, such as extreme pressure and temperature, blowouts, reservoir damage, loss of production, loss of well control, lost or stuck drill strings, equipment defects, punch throughs, craterings, fires, explosions, pollution and natural disasters such as hurricanes and tropical storms.

In addition, offshore drilling operations are subject to perils peculiar to marine operations, either while on-site or during mobilization, including capsizing, sinking, grounding, collision, marine life infestations, and loss or damage from severe weather. The replacement or repair of a drilling rig or drillship could take a significant amount of time,

and we may not have any right to compensation for lost revenues during that time. As long as we have only eight drilling units in operation, loss of or serious damage to one of the drilling units could materially reduce our revenues for the time that drilling unit is out of operation. In view of the sophisticated design of the drilling units, we may be unable to obtain a replacement unit that could perform under the conditions that our drilling units are expected to operate, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

Our future contracted revenue for our fleet of drilling units may not be ultimately realized.

As of February 24, 2015, the future contracted revenue for our fleet of operating drilling units, or our contract backlog, was approximately \$5.2 billion under firm commitments. We may not be able to perform under our drilling contracts due to events beyond our control, and our customers may seek to cancel or renegotiate our drilling contracts for various reasons, including adverse conditions, resulting in lower daily rates. Our inability, or the inability of our customers, to perform under the respective contractual obligations may have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

We are subject to certain risks with respect to our counterparties, including under our drilling contracts, and failure of these counterparties to meet their obligations could cause us to suffer losses or otherwise adversely affect our business.

We enter into drilling services contracts with our customers, newbuilding contracts with shipyards, interest rate swap agreements and forward exchange contracts, and have employed and may employ our drilling rigs and newbuild drillships on fixed-term and well contracts. Our drilling contracts, newbuilding contracts, and hedging agreements subject us to counterparty risks. The ability of each of our counterparties to perform its obligations under a contract with us will depend on a number of factors that are beyond our control and may include, among other things, general economic conditions, the condition of the offshore contract drilling industry, the overall financial condition of the counterparty, the dayrates received for specific types of drilling rigs and drillships and various expenses. In addition, in depressed market conditions, our customers may no longer need a drilling unit that is currently under contract or may be able to obtain a comparable drilling unit at a lower dayrate. As a result, customers may seek to renegotiate the terms of their existing drilling contracts or avoid their obligations under those contracts. Should a counterparty fail to honor its obligations under an agreement with us, we could sustain significant losses, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Most of our offshore drilling contracts may be terminated early due to certain events.

Under most of our current drilling contracts, our customers have the right to terminate the drilling contract upon the payment of an early termination or cancellation fee. However, such payments may not fully compensate us for the loss of the contract.

In addition, our drilling contracts permit our customers to terminate the contracts early without the payment of any termination fees under certain circumstances, including as a result of major non-performance, longer periods of downtime or impaired performance caused by equipment or operational issues, or sustained periods of downtime due to piracy or force majeure events beyond our control.

In addition, during periods of challenging market conditions, our customers may no longer need a drilling unit that is currently under contract or may be able to obtain a comparable drilling unit at a lower dayrate. As a result, we may be subject to an increased risk of our clients seeking to renegotiate the terms of their existing contracts or repudiate their contracts, including through claims of non-performance. Our customers' ability to perform their obligations under their drilling contracts with us may also be negatively impacted by the prevailing uncertainty surrounding the development of the world economy and the credit markets. If our customers cancel some of our contracts, and we are unable to secure new contracts on a timely basis and on substantially similar terms, or if contracts are suspended for an extended period of time or if a number of our contracts are renegotiated, it could adversely affect our consolidated statement of financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

If our drilling units fail to maintain their class certification or fail any annual survey or special survey, that drilling unit would be unable to operate, thereby reducing our revenues and profitability and violating certain covenants under certain of our debt agreements.

Every drilling unit must be classed by a classification society. The classification society certifies that the drilling unit is in-class, signifying that such drilling unit has been built and maintained in accordance with the rules of the classification society and complies with applicable rules and regulations of the drilling unit's country of registry and the international conventions of which that country is a member. In addition, where surveys are required by international conventions and corresponding laws and ordinances of a flag state, the classification society will undertake them on application or by official order, acting on behalf of the authorities concerned. Both our drilling rigs are certified as being in class by Det Norske Veritas. Each of our operating drillships is certified as being in class by American Bureau of Shipping. The *Leiv Eiriksson* was credited with completing its last Special Periodical Survey in April 2011 and the *Eirik Raude* completed the same in December 2012. Our four sixth-generation operating drillships are due for their first Special Periodical Surveys in 2016. Our four operating seventh generation drillships are due for their first Special Periodical Surveys in 2018, 2019 and 2020. If any drilling unit does not maintain its class and/or fails any annual survey or special survey, the drilling unit will be unable to carry on operations and will be unemployable and uninsurable, which could cause us to be in violation of certain covenants in certain of our debt agreements. Any such inability to carry on operations or be employed, or any such violation of covenants, could have a material adverse impact on our financial condition and results of operations.

Table of Contents

Our drilling units, including our seventh generation drillships following their delivery to us, may suffer damage and we may face unexpected yard costs, which could adversely affect our cash flow and financial condition.

If our drilling units, including our seventh generation drillships following their delivery to us, suffer damage, they may need to be repaired at a yard. The costs of yard repairs are unpredictable and can be substantial. The loss of earnings while our drilling units are being repaired and repositioned, as well as the actual cost of these repairs, would decrease our earnings. We may not have insurance that is sufficient to cover all or any of these costs or losses and may have to pay dry docking costs not covered by our insurance.

We may not be able to maintain or replace our drilling units as they age.

The capital associated with the repair and maintenance of our fleet increases with age. We may not be able to maintain our existing drilling units to compete effectively in the market, and our financial resources may not be sufficient to enable us to make expenditures necessary for these purposes or to acquire or build replacement drilling units.

We may have difficulty managing our planned growth properly.

We intend to continue to grow our fleet. Our future growth will primarily depend on our ability to:

locate and acquire suitable drillships;

identify and consummate acquisitions or joint ventures;

enhance our customer base;

locate and retain suitable personnel for our fleet;

manage our expansion; and

obtain required financing on acceptable terms.

Growing any business by acquisition presents numerous risks, such as undisclosed liabilities and obligations, the possibility that indemnification agreements will be unenforceable or insufficient to cover potential losses and difficulties associated with imposing common standards, controls, procedures and policies, obtaining additional qualified personnel, managing relationships with customers and integrating newly acquired assets and operations into existing infrastructure. We may experience operational challenges as we begin operating our new drillships which may result in low earnings efficiency and/or reduced dayrates compared to maximum dayrates. We may be unable to successfully execute our growth plans or we may incur significant expenses and losses in connection with our future growth which would have an adverse impact on our financial condition and results of operations.

The market value of our current drilling units, and any drilling units we may acquire in the future, including our seventh generation drillships upon their delivery to us, may decrease, which could cause us to incur losses if we

decide to sell them following a decline in their values or accounting charges that may affect our ability to comply with certain covenants in our secured credit facilities.

If the offshore contract drilling industry suffers adverse developments in the future, the fair market value of our drilling units may decline. The fair market value of the drilling units we currently own or may acquire in the future may increase or decrease depending on a number of factors, including:

prevailing level of drilling services contract dayrates;

general economic and market conditions affecting the offshore contract drilling industry, including competition from other offshore contract drilling companies;

types, sizes and ages of drilling units;

supply and demand for drilling units;

costs of newbuildings;

governmental or other regulations; and

technological advances.

Table of Contents

In the future, if the market values of our drilling units deteriorate significantly, we may be required to record an impairment charge in our financial statements, which could adversely affect our results of operations. If we sell any drilling unit when drilling unit prices have fallen and before we have recorded an impairment adjustment to our financial statements, the sale may be at less than the drilling unit's carrying amount on our financial statements, resulting in a loss. Additionally, any such deterioration in the market values of our drilling units could trigger a breach of certain financial covenants under our secured credit facilities and our lenders may accelerate loan repayments. Such a charge, loss or repayment could materially and adversely affect our business prospects, financial condition, liquidity, and results of operations.

Because we generate most of our revenues in U.S. Dollars, but incur a significant portion of our employee salary and administrative and other expenses in other currencies, exchange rate fluctuations could have an adverse impact on our results of operations.

Our principal currency for our operations and financing is the U.S. Dollar. A substantial portion of the operating dayrates for the drilling units, our principal source of revenues, are quoted and received in U.S. Dollars; however, a portion of our revenue under our contracts with Petroleo Brasileiro S.A., or Petrobras Brazil, for the *Ocean Rig Corcovado* and the *Ocean Rig Mykonos* is, and with Repsol Sinopec Brasil S.A., or Repsol, for the *Ocean Rig Mylos* is receivable in Brazilian Real. The principal currency for operating expenses is also the U.S. Dollar; however, a significant portion of employee salaries and administration expenses, as well as parts of the consumables and repair and maintenance expenses for the drilling rigs, may be paid in Norwegian Kroner (NOK), Great British Pounds (GBP), Canadian dollars (CAD), Euros (EUR) or other currencies depending in part on the location of our drilling operations. For the year ended December 31, 2014, approximately 51% of our expenses were incurred in currencies other than the U.S. Dollars. This exposure to foreign currency could lead to fluctuations in net income and net revenue due to changes in the value of the U.S. Dollar relative to the other currencies. Revenues paid in foreign currencies against which the U.S. Dollar rises in value can decrease, resulting in lower U.S. Dollar denominated revenues. Expenses incurred in foreign currencies against which the U.S. Dollar falls in value can increase, resulting in higher U.S. Dollar denominated expenses. We have employed derivative instruments in order to economically hedge our currency exposure; however, we may not be successful in hedging our future currency exposure and our U.S. Dollar denominated results of operations could be materially and adversely affected upon exchange rate fluctuations determined by events outside of our control.

We are dependent upon key management personnel.

Our operations depend to a significant extent upon the abilities and efforts of our key management personnel. The loss of our key management personnel's service to us could adversely affect our efforts to obtain employment for our drillships and discussions with our lenders and, therefore, could adversely affect our business prospects, financial condition and results of operations. We do not currently, nor do we intend to, maintain key man life insurance on any of our personnel.

Failure to attract or retain key personnel, labor disruptions or an increase in labor costs could adversely affect our operations.

We require highly skilled personnel to operate and provide technical services and support for our business in the offshore drilling sector worldwide. As of December 31, 2014, we employed 2,320 employees, the majority of whom are full-time crew employed on our drilling units. Under certain of our employment contracts, we are required to have a minimum number of local crew members on our drillships. We will need to recruit additional qualified personnel as we take delivery on our newbuilding drillships. Competition for the labor required for drilling operations has intensified as the number of rigs activated, added to worldwide fleets or under construction has increased, leading to

shortages of qualified personnel in the industry and creating upward pressure on wages and higher turnover. If turnover increases, we could see a reduction in the experience level of our personnel, which could lead to higher downtime, more operating incidents and personal injury and other claims, which in turn could decrease revenues and increase costs. In response to these labor market conditions, we are increasing efforts in our recruitment, training, development and retention programs as required to meet our anticipated personnel needs. If these labor trends continue, we may experience further increases in costs or limits on our offshore drilling operations.

Table of Contents

Currently, our employees in Brazil and Norway are covered by collective bargaining agreements. In the future, some of our employees or contracted labor may be covered by collective bargaining agreements in certain jurisdictions such as Nigeria and the United Kingdom. As part of the legal obligations in some of these agreements, we may be required to contribute certain amounts to retirement funds and pension plans and have restricted ability to dismiss employees. In addition, many of these represented individuals could be working under agreements that are subject to salary negotiation. These negotiations could result in higher personnel costs, other increased costs or increased operating restrictions that could adversely affect our financial performance. Labor disruptions could hinder our operations from being carried out normally and if not resolved in a timely cost-effective manner, could have a material impact our business. If we choose to cease operations in one of those countries or if market conditions reduce the demand for our drilling services in such a country, we would incur costs, which may be material, associated with workforce reductions.

Our operating and maintenance costs with respect to our offshore drilling units will not necessarily fluctuate in proportion to changes in operating revenues, which may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Operating revenues may fluctuate as a function of changes in supply of offshore drilling units and demand for contract drilling services, which, in turn, affect dayrates and the utilization and performance of our drilling units. However, costs for operating drilling units are generally fixed regardless of the dayrate being earned. Therefore, our operating and maintenance costs with respect to our offshore drilling units will not necessarily fluctuate in proportion to changes in operating revenues. In addition, should our drilling units incur idle time between contracts, we typically will not de-man those drilling units but rather use the crew to prepare the units for its next contract. During times of reduced activity, reductions in costs may not be immediate, as portions of the crew may be required to prepare rigs for stacking, after which time the crew members are assigned to active rigs or dismissed. In addition, as our drilling units are mobilized from one geographic location to another, labor and other operating and maintenance costs can vary significantly. In general, labor costs increase primarily due to higher salary levels and inflation. Equipment maintenance expenses fluctuate depending upon the type of activity the unit is performing and the age and condition of the equipment. Contract preparation expenses vary based on the scope and length of contract preparation required and the duration of the firm contractual period over which such expenditures are incurred. If we experience increased operating costs without a corresponding increase in earnings, this may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

In the event Samsung does not perform under its agreements with us and we are unable to enforce certain refund guarantees, we may lose all or part of our investment, which would have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

As of April 6, 2015, we had paid an aggregate of \$312.0 million to Samsung in connection with our seventh generation drillships currently scheduled for delivery in June 2016, February 2017 and June 2017. The estimated remaining total construction payments for these three newbuilding drillships, excluding financing costs, amounted to approximately \$1.8 billion in the aggregate as of December 31, 2014.

In the event Samsung does not perform under its agreements with us and we are unable to enforce certain refund guarantees with third party bankers due to an outbreak of war, bankruptcy or otherwise, we may lose all or part of our investment, which would have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

The derivative contracts we have entered into to hedge our exposure to fluctuations in interest rates could result in higher than market interest rates and charges against our income.

As of December 31, 2014, we had entered into interest rate swaps for the purpose of managing our exposure to fluctuations in interest rates applicable to indebtedness under our secured credit facilities, which was drawn at a floating rate based on LIBOR. Our hedging strategies, however, may not be effective and we may incur substantial losses if interest rates move materially differently from our expectations. Our existing interest rate swaps as of December 31, 2014 do not, and future derivative contracts may not, qualify for treatment as hedges for accounting purposes. We recognize fluctuations in the fair value of these contracts in our statement of operations. In addition, our financial condition could be materially adversely affected to the extent we do not hedge our exposure to interest rate fluctuations under our financing arrangements, under which loans have been advanced at a floating rate based on LIBOR and for which we have not entered into an interest rate swap or other hedging arrangement. Any hedging activities we engage in may not effectively manage our interest rate exposure or have the desired impact on our financial conditions or results of operations. At December 31, 2014, the fair value of our interest rate swaps was a net liability position of \$16.4 million.

Table of Contents

An increase in interest rates would increase the cost of servicing our indebtedness and could reduce our profitability.

Our debt under certain of our senior secured credit facilities bears interest at variable rates. We may also incur indebtedness in the future with variable interest rates. As a result, an increase in market interest rates would increase the cost of servicing our indebtedness and could materially reduce our profitability and cash flows. The impact of such an increase would be more significant for us than it would be for some other companies because of our substantial indebtedness.

A change in tax laws, treaties or regulations, or their interpretation, of any country in which we operate could result in a higher tax rate on our worldwide earnings, which could result in a significant negative impact on our earnings and cash flows from operations.

We conduct our worldwide drilling operations through various subsidiaries. Tax laws and regulations are highly complex and subject to interpretation. Consequently, we are subject to changing tax laws, treaties and regulations in and between countries in which we operate. Our income tax expense is based upon our interpretation of tax laws in effect in various countries at the time that the expense was incurred. A change in these tax laws, treaties or regulations, or in the interpretation thereof, or in the valuation of our deferred tax assets, could result in a materially higher tax expense or a higher effective tax rate on our worldwide earnings, and such change could be significant to our financial results. If any tax authority successfully challenges our operational structure, inter-company pricing policies or the taxable presence of our operating subsidiaries in certain countries; or if the terms of certain income tax treaties are interpreted in a manner that is adverse to our structure; or if we lose a material tax dispute in any country, particularly in the United States, Canada, the U.K., Brazil, Angola, Cyprus, Ghana, Netherlands, Ivory Coast, Tanzania, Falkland Islands, Ireland, Sierra Leone, Gabon, West Africa, Equatorial Guinea or Norway, our effective tax rate on our worldwide earnings could increase substantially and our earnings and cash flows from our operations could be materially adversely affected.

Our subsidiaries are subject to taxation in the jurisdictions in which their offshore drilling activities are conducted. Such taxation results in decreased earnings available to our shareholders.

United States tax authorities may treat us as a passive foreign investment company for United States federal income tax purposes, which may have adverse tax consequences to U.S. shareholders.

A foreign corporation will be treated as a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes if either (1) at least 75% of its gross income for any taxable year consists of certain types of passive income or (2) at least 50% of the average value of the corporation's assets produce or are held for the production of those types of passive income. For purposes of these tests, passive income includes dividends, interest, and gains from the sale or exchange of investment property and rents and royalties other than rents and royalties which are received from unrelated parties in connection with the active conduct of a trade or business. For purposes of these tests, income derived from the performance of services does not constitute passive income. U.S. shareholders of a PFIC are subject to a disadvantageous U.S. federal income tax regime with respect to the income derived by the PFIC, the distributions they receive from the PFIC and the gain, if any, they derive from the sale or other disposition of their shares in the PFIC.

We do not believe that we are currently a PFIC, although certain of our wholly-owned subsidiaries may have been classified as PFICs at any time through the conclusion of the 2008 taxable year. Based on our current operations and future projections, we do not believe that we or any of our subsidiaries have been, are or will be a PFIC with respect to any taxable year beginning with the 2009 taxable year.

However, no assurance can be given that the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, or a court of law will accept our position, and there is a risk that the IRS or a court of law could determine that we or one of our subsidiaries is a PFIC. Moreover, no assurance can be given that we or one of our subsidiaries would not constitute a PFIC for any future taxable year if there were to be changes in the nature and extent of its operations.

If the IRS were to find that we are or have been a PFIC for any taxable year, our U.S. shareholders will face adverse U.S. tax consequences. Under the PFIC rules, unless those shareholders make an election available under the Code (which election could itself have adverse consequences for such shareholders), such shareholders would be liable to pay U.S. federal income tax at the then prevailing income tax rates on ordinary income plus interest upon excess distributions and upon any gain from the disposition of the common shares, as if the excess distribution or gain had been recognized ratably over the shareholder's holding period of the common shares. In the event that our shareholders face adverse U.S. tax consequences as a result of investing in our common shares, this could adversely affect our ability to raise additional capital through the equity markets.

Table of Contents

We may be subject to litigation that, if not resolved in our favor and not sufficiently insured against, could have a material adverse effect on us.

We may be, from time to time, involved in various litigation matters. These matters may include, among other things, contract disputes, personal injury claims, environmental claims or proceedings, asbestos and other toxic tort claims, employment matters, governmental claims for taxes or duties, and other litigation that arises in the ordinary course of our business. We cannot predict with certainty the outcome or effect of any claim or other litigation matter, and the ultimate outcome of any litigation or the potential costs to resolve them may have a material adverse effect on us. Insurance may not be applicable or sufficient in all cases, insurers may not remain solvent and policies may not be located.

Investor confidence may be adversely impacted if we are unable to comply with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

We have implemented procedures in order to meet the evaluation requirements of Rules 13a-15(c) and 15d-15(c) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act, for the assessment under Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, or Section 404. Section 404 requires us to include in our annual reports on Form 20-F (i) our management's report on, and assessment of, the effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting and (ii) our independent registered public accounting firm's attestation to and report on the effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting in our annual report. If we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal controls over financial reporting, we will not be in compliance with all of the requirements imposed by Section 404. Any failure to comply with Section 404 could result in an adverse reaction in the financial marketplace due to a loss of investor confidence in the reliability of our financial statements, which ultimately could harm our business.

We and many of our subsidiaries are incorporated in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which does not have a well-developed body of corporate law, and as a result, shareholders may have fewer rights and protections under Marshall Islands law than under a typical jurisdiction in the United States.

Our corporate affairs are governed by our second amended and restated articles of incorporation and second amended and restated bylaws and by the Marshall Islands Business Corporations Act, or the BCA. The provisions of the BCA resemble provisions of the corporation laws of a number of states in the United States. However, there have been few judicial cases in the Republic of the Marshall Islands interpreting the BCA. The rights and fiduciary responsibilities of directors under the law of the Republic of the Marshall Islands are not as clearly established as the rights and fiduciary responsibilities of directors under statutes or judicial precedent in existence in certain United States jurisdictions. Shareholders' rights may differ as well. While the BCA does specifically incorporate the non-statutory law, or judicial case law, of the State of Delaware and other states with substantially similar legislative provisions, shareholders may have more difficulty in protecting their interests in the face of actions by management, directors or controlling shareholders than would shareholders of a corporation incorporated in a United States jurisdiction.

It may not be possible for investors to enforce U.S. judgments against us.

We and all but one of our subsidiaries are incorporated in jurisdictions outside the United States and a substantial portion of our assets and those of our subsidiaries are located outside the United States. In addition, all of our directors and officers reside outside the United States and a substantial portion of the assets of our directors and officers are located outside the United States. As a result, it may be difficult or impossible for U.S. investors to serve process within the United States upon us, our subsidiaries or our directors and officers or to enforce a judgment against us for civil liabilities in U.S. courts. In addition, you should not assume that courts in the countries in which we or our subsidiaries are incorporated or where our assets or the assets of our subsidiaries and directors and officers are located

(i) would enforce judgments of U.S. courts obtained in actions against us or our subsidiaries and directors and officers based upon the civil liability provisions of applicable U.S. federal and state securities laws or (ii) would enforce, in original actions, liabilities against us or our subsidiaries and directors and officers based on those laws.

Table of Contents

We depend on officers and directors who are associated with affiliated companies which may create conflicts of interest.

Our officers and directors have fiduciary duties to manage our business in a manner beneficial to us and our shareholders. However, our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. George Economou, is also the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of DryShips, our parent company, and has significant shareholdings in DryShips. In addition, our Executive Vice President, Mr. Anthony Kandylidis is also the Executive Vice President of Dryships. Mr. Economou has fiduciary duties to manage the business of DryShips in a manner beneficial to DryShips and its shareholders and may have conflicts of interest in matters involving or affecting us and our customers or shareholders. In addition, Messrs. Economou and Kandylidis may have conflicts of interest when faced with decisions that could have different implications for DryShips than they do for us. The resolution of these conflicts may not always be in our best interest or that of our shareholders and could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, cash flows and financial condition.

In addition, we have engaged Cardiff Drilling to provide consulting and other services relating to our drilling units. The capital stock of Cardiff Drilling is owned Mr. Economou. We have also engaged Vivid Finance Ltd., or Vivid Finance, a company controlled by Mr. Economou, to act as a consultant on financing matters relating to us and our subsidiaries. If any of these conflicts of interest are not resolved in our favor, this could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Furthermore, the indenture governing our Senior Secured Notes contains restrictions on our ability and the ability of our Restricted Subsidiaries (as defined in the indenture), including Drill Rigs Holdings, the issuer of the Senior Secured Notes, to engage in transactions with, or make certain payments to, affiliates. These restrictions do not prohibit us or any Restricted Subsidiary from entering into a management agreement with an affiliate, including DryShips and any of its subsidiaries, for the provision of drilling unit management services (and the making of payments thereunder) that is entered into in the ordinary course of business and that is in line with industry standards, so long as such agreement has been approved by a majority of the disinterested directors.

Because the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board is not currently permitted to inspect our independent accounting firm, you may not benefit from such inspections.

Auditors of U.S. public companies are required by law to undergo periodic Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, or PCAOB, inspections that assess their compliance with U.S. law and professional standards in connection with performance of audits of financial statements filed with the SEC. Certain European Union countries, including Greece, do not currently permit the PCAOB to conduct inspections of accounting firms established and operating in such European Union countries, even if they are part of major international firms. Accordingly, unlike for most U.S. public companies, the PCAOB is prevented from evaluating our auditor's performance of audits and its quality control procedures, and, unlike stockholders of most U.S. public companies, we and our stockholders are deprived of the possible benefits of such inspections.

We are a foreign private issuer, which could make our common shares less attractive to some investors or otherwise harm our stock price.

We are a foreign private issuer, as such term is defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act. As a foreign private issuer the rules governing the information that we disclose differ from those governing U.S. corporations pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. We are not required to file quarterly reports on Form 10-Q or provide current reports on Form 8-K disclosing significant events within four days of their occurrence. In addition, our officers and directors are exempt from the reporting and short-swing profit recovery

provisions of Section 16 of the Exchange Act and related rules with respect to their purchase and sales of our securities. Our exemption from the rules of Section 16 of the Exchange Act regarding sales of ordinary shares by insiders means that you will have less data in this regard than shareholders of U.S. companies that are subject to the Exchange Act. Moreover, we are exempt from the proxy rules, and proxy statements that we distribute will not be subject to review by the SEC. Accordingly there may be less publicly available information concerning us than there is for other U.S. public companies. These factors could make our common shares less attractive to some investors or otherwise harm our stock price.

Table of Contents

Risks Relating to Our Common Shares

We cannot assure you that an active and liquid public market for our common shares will continue.

Our common shares commenced regular way trading on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on October 6, 2011 and commenced trading in the Norwegian OTC market maintained by the Norwegian Security Dealers Association in December 2010. We cannot assure you that an active and liquid public market for our common shares will continue.

Since 2008, the U.S. stock market has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations. In addition, the offshore drilling industry has been highly unpredictable and volatile. If the volatility in the market or the offshore drilling industry continues or worsens, it could have an adverse effect on the market price of our common stock and may impact a potential sale price if holders of our common stock decide to sell their shares.

The market price of our common stock may be influenced by many factors, many of which are beyond our control, including those described in this section and the following:

actual or anticipated variations in our operating results;

changes in your cash flow, EBITDA or earnings estimates;

changes in the price of oil;

publication of research reports about us or the industry in which we operate;

increases in market interest rates that may lead purchasers of common shares to demand a higher expected yield which, would mean our share price would fall;

changes in applicable laws or regulations, court rulings and enforcement and legal actions;

changes in market valuations of similar companies;

announcements by us or our competitors of significant contracts, acquisitions or capital commitments;

adverse market reaction to any increased indebtedness we incur in the future;

additions or departures of key personnel;

actions by institutional stockholders;

speculation in the press or investment community;

terrorist attacks;

economic and regulatory trends; and

general market conditions.

As a result of these and other factors, investors in our common stock may not be able to resell their shares at or above the price they paid for such shares or at all. These broad market and industry factors may materially reduce the market price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance.

Table of Contents***Future sales of our common shares could have an adverse effect on our share price.***

In order to finance the currently contracted and future growth of our fleet, we will have to incur substantial additional indebtedness and possibly issue additional equity securities. Future common share issuances, directly or indirectly through convertible or exchangeable securities, options or warrants, will generally dilute the ownership interests of our existing common stockholders, including their relative voting rights, and could require substantially more cash to maintain the then existing level, if any, of our dividend payments to our common stockholders, as to which no assurance can be given. Preferred shares, if issued, will generally have a preference on dividend payments, which could prohibit or otherwise reduce our ability to pay dividends to our common stockholders. Our debt will be senior in all respects to our common shares, will generally include financial and operating covenants with which we must comply and will include acceleration provisions upon defaults thereunder, including our failure to make any debt service payments, and possibly under other debt. Because our decision to issue equity securities or incur debt in the future will depend on a variety of factors, including market conditions and other matters that are beyond our control, we cannot predict or estimate the timing, amount or form of our capital raising activities in the future. Such activities could, however, cause the price of our common shares to decline significantly.

As of March 2, 2015, DryShips owned 78,301,755, or approximately 59.2%, of our outstanding common shares, our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. George Economou, was deemed to beneficially own 5,993,289, or approximately 4.5%, of our outstanding common shares and our Executive Vice President, Mr. Anthony Kandylidis, was deemed to beneficially own 1,684,512, or 1.3%, of our outstanding common shares. The common shares held by DryShips and beneficially owned by Mr. Economou are restricted securities within the meaning of Rule 144 under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and may not be transferred unless they have been registered under the Securities Act or an exemption from registration is available. Upon satisfaction of certain conditions, Rule 144 permits the sale of certain amounts of restricted securities six months following the date of acquisition of the restricted securities from us. As our common shares become eligible for sale under Rule 144, the volume of sales of our common shares on applicable securities markets may increase, which could reduce the market value of our common shares.

DryShips, our parent company, controls the outcome of matters on which our shareholders are entitled to vote.

As of March 2, 2015, DryShips owned approximately 59.2%, of our outstanding common shares. DryShips will control the outcome of matters on which our shareholders are entitled to vote, including the election of directors and other significant corporate actions. DryShips' interests may be different from your interests and the commercial goals of DryShips as a shareholder, and our goals, may not always be aligned. The substantial equity interests owned by DryShips may make it more difficult for us to maintain our business independence from other companies owned by DryShips and DryShips' affiliates.

Anti-takeover provisions contained in our organizational documents could make it difficult for our shareholders to replace or remove our current board of directors or have the effect of discouraging, delaying or preventing a merger or acquisition, which could adversely affect the market price of our securities.

Several provisions of our second amended and restated articles of incorporation and second amended and restated bylaws could make it difficult for our shareholders to change the composition of our board of directors in any one year, preventing them from changing the composition of management. In addition, the same provisions may discourage, delay or prevent a merger or acquisition that shareholders may consider favorable.

These provisions include:

authorizing our board of directors to issue blank check preferred shares without shareholder approval;

providing for a classified board of directors with staggered, three-year terms;

prohibiting cumulative voting in the election of directors;

authorizing the removal of directors only for cause and only upon the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding common shares entitled to vote generally in the election of directors;

limiting the persons who may call special meetings of shareholders; and

establishing advance notice requirements for nominations for election to our board of directors or for proposing matters that can be acted on by shareholders at shareholder meetings.

Table of Contents

In addition, we entered into an Amended and Restated Stockholder Rights Agreement that makes it more difficult for a third party to acquire us without the support of our board of directors. Under the Amended and Restated Stockholder Rights Agreement, our board of directors declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right, or a right, to purchase one one-thousandth of a share of our Series A Participating Preferred Shares for each of our outstanding common shares. Each right entitles the registered holder, upon the occurrence of certain events, to purchase from us one one-thousandth of a share of Series A Participating Preferred Shares. The rights may have anti-takeover effects. The rights will cause substantial dilution to any person or group that attempts to acquire us without the approval of our board of directors. As a result, the overall effect of the rights may be to render more difficult or discourage any attempt to acquire us. Because our board of directors will be able to approve a redemption of the rights or a permitted offer, the rights should not interfere with a merger or other business combination approved by our board of directors.

Although the BCA does not contain specific provisions regarding business combinations between corporations organized under the laws of the Republic of Marshall Islands and interested shareholders, our second amended and restated articles of incorporation include provisions that prohibit us from engaging in a business combination with an interested shareholder for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested shareholder, unless:

prior to the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested shareholder, our board of directors approved either the business combination or the transaction which resulted in the shareholder becoming an interested shareholder;

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the shareholder becoming an interested shareholder, the interested shareholder owned at least 85% of our voting stock outstanding at the time the transaction commenced;

at or subsequent to the date of the transaction that resulted in the shareholder becoming an interested shareholder, the business combination is approved by the board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of shareholders by the affirmative vote of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested shareholder; or

the shareholder became an interested shareholder prior to the consummation of our initial public offering under the Securities Act.

For purposes of these provisions, a business combination includes mergers, consolidations, exchanges, asset sales, leases and other transactions resulting in a financial benefit to the interested shareholder and an interested shareholder is any person or entity that beneficially owns 15% or more of our outstanding voting stock and any person or entity affiliated with or controlling or controlled by that person or entity, other than DryShips, provided, however, that the term interested shareholder does not include any person whose ownership of shares in excess of the 15% limitation is the result of action taken solely by us; provided that such person shall be an interested shareholder if thereafter such person acquires additional shares of our voting shares, except as a result of further action by us not caused, directly or indirectly, by such person. Further, the term business combination, when used in reference to us and any interested shareholder does not include any transactions for which definitive agreements were entered into prior to May 3, 2011, the date the second amended and restated articles of incorporation were filed with the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

We are incorporated in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which does not have a well-developed body of corporate law, and as a result, shareholders may have fewer rights and protections under Marshall Islands law than under a typical jurisdiction in the United States.

Our corporate affairs are governed by our second amended and restated articles of incorporation and second amended and restated bylaws and by the Marshall Islands Business Corporations Act, or the BCA. The provisions of the BCA resemble provisions of the corporation laws of a number of states in the United States. However, there have been few judicial cases in the Republic of the Marshall Islands interpreting the BCA. The rights and fiduciary responsibilities of directors under the law of the Republic of the Marshall Islands are not as clearly established as the rights and fiduciary responsibilities of directors under statutes or judicial precedent in existence in certain United States jurisdictions. Shareholders' rights may differ as well. While the BCA does specifically incorporate the non-statutory law, or judicial case law, of the State of Delaware and other states with substantially similar legislative provisions, shareholders may have more difficulty in protecting their interests in the face of actions by management, directors or controlling shareholders than would shareholders of a corporation incorporated in a United States jurisdiction.

Table of Contents

It may not be possible for investors to enforce U.S. judgments against us.

We and almost all of our subsidiaries are incorporated in jurisdictions outside the United States and a substantial portion of our assets and those of our subsidiaries are located outside the United States. In addition, all of our directors and officers reside outside the United States and a substantial portion of the assets of our directors and officers are located outside the United States. As a result, it may be difficult or impossible for U.S. investors to serve process within the United States upon us, our subsidiaries or our directors and officers or to enforce a judgment against us for civil liabilities in U.S. courts. In addition, you should not assume that courts in the countries in which we or our subsidiaries are incorporated or where our assets or the assets of our subsidiaries and directors and officers are located (i) would enforce judgments of U.S. courts obtained in actions against us or our subsidiaries and directors and officers based upon the civil liability provisions of applicable U.S. federal and state securities laws or (ii) would enforce, in original actions, liabilities against us or our subsidiaries and directors and officers based on those laws.

We may issue additional common shares or other equity securities without your approval, which would dilute your ownership interests and may depress the market price of our common shares.

We may issue additional common shares or other equity securities of equal or senior rank in the future in connection with, among other things, future vessel acquisitions, repayment of outstanding indebtedness, or our equity incentive plan, without shareholder approval, in a number of circumstances.

Our issuance of additional common shares or other equity securities of equal or senior rank would have the following effects:

our existing shareholders' proportionate ownership interest in us may decrease;

the amount of cash available for dividends payable on our common shares may decrease;

the relative voting strength of each previously outstanding common share may be diminished; and

the market price of our common shares may decline.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Matters discussed in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement, and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein may constitute forward-looking statements. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides safe harbor protections for forward-looking statements in order to encourage companies to provide prospective information about their business. Forward-looking statements include statements concerning plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events or performance, and underlying assumptions and other statements, which are other than statements of historical facts or present facts or conditions.

We desire to take advantage of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and are including this cautionary statement in connection with this safe harbor legislation. This prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement, and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein and any other written or oral statements made by us or on our behalf may include forward-looking statements, which reflect our current views with respect to future events and financial performance. When used in this prospectus, the words anticipate, believe, expect, intend, estimate, forecast, project, plan, potential, may, should, and identify forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking statements in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement, and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein are based upon various assumptions, many of which are based, in turn, upon further assumptions, including without limitation, management's examination of historical operating trends, data contained in our records and other data available from third parties. Important assumptions relating to the forward-looking statements include, among other things, assumptions regarding demand for our services, the cost and availability of refined marine fuel from suppliers, pricing levels, the timing and cost of capital expenditures, competitive conditions, and general economic conditions. These assumptions could prove inaccurate. Although we believe that these assumptions were reasonable when made, because these assumptions are inherently subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies which are difficult or impossible to predict and are beyond our control, we cannot assure you that we will achieve or accomplish these expectations, beliefs or projections.

The factors discussed under the caption Risk Factors in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement, and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

SHARE HISTORY AND MARKETS

Since October 6, 2011, the primary trading market for our common shares has been the NASDAQ Global Select Market, on which our shares are listed under the symbol ORIG. On September 19, 2011 our common shares began when issued trading and on October 6, 2011 commenced regular way trading on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. The secondary trading market for our common shares is the Norwegian OTC Market, on which our common shares have been trading since the pricing of a private offering on December 15, 2010. You should carefully review the high and low prices of our common shares in the tables for the months, quarters and years indicated under the heading Item 9. The Offer and Listing in our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2014, which is incorporated by reference herein.

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

The following table sets forth our unaudited ratio of earnings to fixed charges (or the dollar amount of the coverage deficiency in periods that earnings are inadequate to cover fixed charges) for each of the preceding five fiscal years.

(1)

	Year Ended December 31, 2010	Year Ended December 31, 2011	Year Ended December 31, 2012	Year Ended December 31, 2013	Year Ended December 31, 2014
(in thousands of US dollars)					
Earnings					
Pre-tax income/(loss) from continuing operations	\$ 155,197	\$ 122,726	\$ (88,379)	\$ 107,914	\$ 337,626
Add: Fixed charges	35,827	111,697	151,562	286,056	337,473
Less: Capitalized interest	(35,780)	(57,761)	(44,951)	(65,492)	(37,342)
Add: Current period amortization of interest capitalized in prior periods		1,723	3,155	3,596	6,879
Total Earnings/ (loss)	\$ 155,244	\$ 178,385	\$ 21,387	\$ 332,074	\$ 644,636
Fixed Charges					
Interest expensed and capitalized	\$ 30,749	\$ 93,919	\$ 138,618	\$ 247,259	\$ 294,478
Amortization and write-off of debt issue cost and discount relating to convertible notes	5,078	17,778	12,944	38,797	42,995
Total Fixed Charges	\$ 35,827	\$ 111,697	\$ 151,562	\$ 286,056	\$ 337,473
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	4.3	1.6		1.2	1.9
Dollar amount of the coverage deficiency in Earnings to Fixed Charges	N/A	N/A	130,175	N/A	N/A

(1) We have not issued any preferred shares as of the date of this prospectus, or during any periods covered by the above table.

Table of Contents

CAPITALIZATION

Each prospectus supplement will include information on the Company's consolidated capitalization.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use net proceeds from the sale of securities as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will not receive any proceeds from sales of our common shares by selling shareholders.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We or any selling shareholder may sell or distribute our securities included in this prospectus through underwriters, through agents, to dealers, in private transactions, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to the prevailing market prices, or at negotiated prices.

In addition, we or the selling shareholders may sell our securities included in this prospectus through:

a block trade in which a broker-dealer may resell a portion of the block, as principal, in order to facilitate the transaction;

purchases by a broker-dealer, as principal, and resale by the broker-dealer for its account; or

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which a broker solicits purchasers; or

trading plans entered into by the selling shareholder pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, that are in place at the time of an offering pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement hereto that provide for periodic sales of their securities on the basis of parameters described in such trading plans.

In addition, we or the selling shareholders may enter into option or other types of transactions that require us or them to deliver our securities to a broker-dealer, who will then resell or transfer the securities under this prospectus. We or any selling shareholder may enter into hedging transactions with respect to our securities. For example, we or any selling shareholder may:

enter into transactions involving short sales of our common shares by broker-dealers;

sell common shares short and deliver the shares to close out short positions;

enter into option or other types of transactions that require us or the selling shareholder to deliver common shares to a broker-dealer, who will then resell or transfer the common shares under this prospectus; or

loan or pledge the common shares to a broker-dealer, who may sell the loaned shares or, in the event of default, sell the pledged shares.

We or any selling shareholder 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 party may use securities pledged by us or any selling shareholder or borrowed from us, any selling shareholder or others to settle those sales or to close

out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from us or any selling shareholder in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of stock. The third party in such sale transactions will be an underwriter and, if not identified in this prospectus, will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement (or a post-effective amendment). In addition, we or any selling shareholder may otherwise loan or pledge securities to a financial institution or other third party that in turn may sell the securities short using this prospectus. Such financial institution or other third party may transfer its economic short position to investors in our securities or in connection with a concurrent offering of other securities.

The selling shareholders and any broker-dealers or other persons acting on our behalf or on the behalf of the selling shareholders that participate with us or the selling shareholders in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters and any commissions received or profit realized by them on the resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. As a result, we have informed, or will inform, the selling shareholders that Regulation M, promulgated under the Exchange Act, may apply to sales by the selling shareholders in the market. The selling shareholders may agree to indemnify any broker, dealer or agent that participates in transactions involving the sale of our common shares against certain liabilities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act.

As of the date of this prospectus, we are not a party to any agreement, arrangement or understanding between any broker or dealer and us with respect to the offer or sale of the securities pursuant to this prospectus.

Table of Contents

At the time that any particular offering of securities is made, to the extent required by the Securities Act, a prospectus supplement will be distributed, setting forth the terms of the offering, including the aggregate number of securities being offered, the purchase price of the securities, the initial offering price of the securities, the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents, any discounts, commissions and other items constituting compensation from us and any discounts, commissions or concessions allowed or re allowed or paid to dealers. Furthermore, we, our executive officers, our directors and the selling shareholders may agree, subject to certain exemptions, that for a certain period from the date of the prospectus supplement under which the securities are offered, we and they will not, without the prior written consent of an underwriter, offer, sell, contract to sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of any of our common shares or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for our common shares. However, an underwriter, in its sole discretion, may release any of the securities subject to these lock-up agreements at any time without notice. We expect an underwriter to exclude from these lock-up agreements securities exercised and/or sold pursuant to trading plans entered into by any selling shareholder pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act, that are in place at the time of an offering pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement hereto that provide for periodic sales of securities on the basis of parameters described in such trading plans.

Underwriters or agents could make sales in privately negotiated transactions and/or any other method permitted by law, including sales deemed to be an at-the-market offering as defined in Rule 415 promulgated under the Securities Act, which includes sales made directly on or through the Nasdaq Global Select Market, the existing trading market for our common shares, or sales made to or through a market maker other than on an exchange.

We will bear costs relating to the securities offered and sold under this Registration Statement.

Table of Contents

SELLING SHAREHOLDERS

The selling shareholders, who will be named in a prospectus supplement, may offer and sell from time to time pursuant to this registration statement, an aggregate of up to 86,051,001 of our common shares that were previously issued in: (i) (a) private placements that occurred on inception of the Company in December 2010, (b) private placements that occurred between August 2011 and February 2013; (ii) pursuant to share dividends in October 2011; and (iii) pursuant to restricted stock awards granted under the equity incentive plan dated March 21, 2012, as amended, which most recently were issued in January 2015. 53,129,069 of the shares are pledged to a commercial lender who will be identified in a prospectus supplement. We will not receive any of the proceeds from any sale of our common shares by any of the selling shareholders.

Table of Contents

ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL LIABILITIES

We are a Marshall Islands company and our principal administrative offices are located outside the United States in Nicosia, Cyprus. All of our directors, officers and the experts named in this prospectus reside outside the United States. In addition, a substantial portion of our assets and the assets of our directors, officers and experts are located outside of the United States. As a result, it may be difficult or impossible for U.S. investors to serve process within the United States upon us or any of these persons. You may also have difficulty enforcing, both in and outside the United States, judgments you may obtain in United States courts against us or these persons in any action, including actions based upon the civil liability provisions of United States federal or state securities laws.

Furthermore, there is substantial doubt that courts in the countries in which we or our subsidiaries are incorporated or where our assets or the assets of our subsidiaries, directors or officers and such experts are located (i) would enforce judgments of U.S. courts obtained in actions against us or our subsidiaries, directors or officers and such experts based upon the civil liability provisions of applicable U.S. federal and state securities laws or (ii) would enforce, in original actions, liabilities against us or our subsidiaries, directors or officers and such experts based on those laws.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

For purposes of the description of the Company's capital stock below, references to us, we and our refer only to Ocean Rig UDW Inc. and not any of our subsidiaries. Please see our second amended and restated articles of incorporation and second amended and restated bylaws, copies of which are exhibits to our most recent Annual Report on Form 20-F incorporated by reference herein.

Purpose

Our purpose, as stated in our second amended and restated articles of incorporation, is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which corporations may now or hereafter be organized under the Business Corporations Act of the Marshall Islands, or the BCA. Our second amended and restated articles of incorporation and second amended and restated bylaws do not impose any limitations on the ownership rights of our shareholders.

Authorized Capitalization

Under our second amended and restated articles of incorporation, our authorized capital stock consists of 1,000,000,000 common shares, par value \$0.01 per share, and 500,000,000 preferred shares, par value \$0.01 per share.

As of March 2, 2015, 132,317,178 common shares were issued and outstanding. No preferred shares were issued and outstanding. All of our common shares are in registered form.

Share History

On May 3, 2011, following the approval by our board of directors and shareholders, we amended and restated our amended and restated articles of incorporation, among other things, to increase our authorized share capital to 1,000,000,000 common shares and 500,000,000 of preferred shares, each with a par value of \$0.01 per share.

On March 20, 2012, we entered into a registration rights agreement with DryShips, pursuant to which DryShips has the right, subject to certain restrictions, to require us to register under the Securities Act a total of 97,301,755 common shares of the Company that it owned as of the date of the agreement.

On March 21, 2012, our board of directors adopted the Ocean Rig UDW Inc. 2012 Equity Incentive Plan, or the plan, and reserved a total of 2,000,000 common shares. Under the plan, officers, key employees, and directors are eligible to receive awards of stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, phantom stock units and unrestricted stock.

On February 14, 2012, the compensation committee of our board of directors approved the award of an aggregate of 112,950 restricted common shares under the plan to members of our management and employees of the Company, which vested over a period of three years, one third on each of December 31, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

On May 15, 2012 the compensation committee of our board of directors approved the grant of 4,500 shares of non-vested common stock to an officer as an additional bonus for his services rendered during 2011. At the same time, the compensation committee also approved the grant of 28,200 shares of non-vested common stock to new recruited employees as a sign-up stock bonus. The shares vested over a period of three years, one third on each of December 31, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

On December 5, 2012, 7,500 shares were awarded to an officer of the Company and the shares vested on March 2013.

Edgar Filing: Ocean Rig UDW Inc. - Form 424B5

On May 16, 2013, the compensation committee of our board of directors approved the grant of 192,400 shares of non-vested common stock to the Company's employees. The shares vest over a period of three years.

Table of Contents

On August 20, 2013 the compensation committee of our board of directors approved the grant of 150,000 shares of the Company's common stock to Azara Services S.A., or Azara, pursuant to a consultancy agreement with Azara effective January 1, 2013, relating to the services of Mr. George Economou as Chief Executive Officer of the Company. The shares vest over a period of two years, with 50,000 shares vesting on the grant date.

On March 31, 2014, the compensation committee of our board of directors approved the grant of 161,200 shares of non-vested common stock to employees of the Company. The shares vest over a period of three years.

On August 19, 2014, the compensation committee of our board of directors approved a bonus of 150,000 shares of the Company's common stock to Azara, pursuant to a consultancy agreement with Azara effective January 1, 2013, relating to the services of Mr. George Economou as Chief Executive Officer of Ocean Rig during 2013. The shares vest over a period of three years, one third on each of December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively.

On November 4, 2014, the compensation committee of our board of directors approved the grant of 45,450 shares of non-vested common stock to employees of the Company. The shares vest over a period of three years.

On December 30, 2014, the compensation committee of our board of directors approved a bonus in the form of 300,000 shares to be granted to Azara for the contribution of Mr. George Economou for Chief Executive Officer's services rendered during 2014. The shares vest over a period of three years, one third on each of December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

As of December 31, 2014, 309,452 shares have vested under the plan, while 171,626 shares were forfeited due to employees' resignations.

Description of Common Shares

Under our second amended and restated articles of incorporation and second amended and restated bylaws, each outstanding share of our common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding preferred shares, holders of our common shares will be entitled to receive ratably all dividends, if any, declared by the board of directors out of funds legally available for dividends. Holders of our common shares will not have conversion, redemption or pre-emptive rights to subscribe to any of our securities. The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of our common shares will be subject to the rights of the holders of any of our preferred shares, which we may issue in the future.

Description of Preferred Shares

Under our second amended and restated articles of incorporation, we are authorized to issue up to 500,000,000 of our preferred shares, par value \$0.01 per share. Our second amended and restated articles of incorporation authorize our board of directors to establish one or more series of preferred shares and to determine, with respect to any series of preferred shares, the terms and rights of that series, including:

the designation of the series;

the number of shares of the series;

the preferences and relative, participating, option or other special rights, if any, and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions of such series; and

the voting rights, if any, of the holders of the series.

We have designated 8,000,000 shares of our preferred shares as Series A Participating Preferred Shares in connection with the adoption of our Amended and Restated Stockholder Rights Agreement described under Preferred Share Purchase Rights.

Directors

Our directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast by shareholders entitled to vote in an election. There is no provision for cumulative voting. Our second amended and restated articles of incorporation provide that our board of directors must consist of at least one member, with the exact number to be fixed by a vote of at least two-thirds of the entire board of directors. Directors will be elected annually on a staggered basis, whereby each director will be divided into one of three classes, Class A, Class B and Class C, which shall be as nearly equal in number as possible. Each director shall serve for a three-year term and until his successor shall have been duly elected and qualified, except in the event of his death, resignation, removal or the earlier termination of his term of office. Our board of directors have the authority to fix the amounts which shall be payable to the members of our board of directors for attendance at any meeting or for services rendered to us.

Table of Contents

Shareholder Meetings

Under our second amended and restated bylaws, annual shareholder meetings will be held at a time and place selected by our board of directors. The meetings may be held in or outside of the Marshall Islands. Our board of directors may set a record date between 15 and 60 days before the date of any meeting to determine the shareholders that will be eligible to receive notice and vote at the meeting. One or more shareholders representing at least one-third of the total voting rights of the total issued and outstanding shares present in person or by proxy at a shareholder meeting shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of the meeting.

Dissenters Rights of Appraisal and Payment

Under the BCA, our shareholders have the right to dissent from various corporate actions, including any merger or consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of our assets not made in the usual course of our business, and receive payment of the fair value of their shares. However, the right of a dissenting shareholder to receive payment of the appraised fair value of his shares is not available under the BCA for the shares of any class or series of stock, which shares or depository receipts in respect thereof, at the record date fixed to determine the shareholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the meeting of the shareholders to act upon the agreement of merger or consolidation, were either (i) listed on a securities exchange or admitted for trading on an interdealer quotation system or (ii) held of record by more than 2,000 holders. In the event of any further amendment of our amended and restated articles of incorporation, a shareholder also has the right to dissent and receive payment for the shareholder's shares if the amendment alters certain rights in respect of those shares. The dissenting shareholder must follow the procedures set forth in the BCA to receive payment. In the event that we and any dissenting shareholder fail to agree on a price for the shares, the BCA procedures involve, among other things, the institution of proceedings in any appropriate court in any jurisdiction in which our shares are primarily traded on a local or national securities exchange.

Shareholders Derivative Actions

Under the BCA, any of our shareholders may bring an action in our name to procure a judgment in our favor, also known as a derivative action, provided that the shareholder bringing the action is a holder of common shares both at the time the derivative action is commenced and at the time of the transaction to which the action relates.

Limitations on Liability and Indemnification of Officers and Directors

The BCA authorizes corporations to limit or eliminate the personal liability of directors and officers to corporations and their shareholders for monetary damages for breaches of directors' and officers' fiduciary duties. Our second amended and restated articles of incorporation provide that no director or officer shall be personally liable to us or any of our shareholders for breach of fiduciary duty as a director except to the extent such exemption from liability or limitation thereof is not permitted under the BCA as the same may exist or be amended.

Our second amended and restated bylaws includes a provision that entitles any of our directors or officers to be indemnified by us upon the same terms, under the same conditions and to the same extent as authorized by the BCA if he acted in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in and not opposed to our best interests, and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful.

Our second amended and restated bylaws also authorize us to carry directors' and officers' insurance as a protection against any liability asserted against our directors and officers acting in their capacity as directors and officers regardless of whether we would have the power to indemnify such director or officer against such liability by law or under the provisions of our second amended and restated bylaws. We believe that these indemnification provisions

and insurance will be useful to attract and retain qualified directors and executive officers.

The indemnification provisions included in our second amended and restated bylaws may discourage shareholders from bringing a lawsuit against our directors for breach of fiduciary duty. These provisions may also have the effect of reducing the likelihood of derivative litigation against directors and officers, even though such an action, if successful, might otherwise benefit us and our shareholders.

There is currently no pending material litigation or proceeding involving any of our directors, officers or employees for which indemnification is sought.

Table of Contents

Anti-takeover Effect of Certain Provisions of our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

Several provisions of the second amended and restated articles of incorporation and second amended and restated bylaws may have anti-takeover effects. These provisions will be intended to avoid costly takeover battles, lessen our vulnerability to a hostile change of control and enhance the ability of our board of directors to maximize shareholder value in connection with any unsolicited offer to acquire us. However, these anti-takeover provisions, which are summarized below, could also discourage, delay or prevent (1) the merger or acquisition of us by means of a tender offer, a proxy contest or otherwise that a shareholder may consider in its best interest and (2) the removal of incumbent officers and directors.

Blank Check Preferred Shares

Under the terms of our second amended and restated articles of incorporation, our board of directors will have the authority, without any further vote or action by our shareholders, to issue up to 500,000,000 of our blank check preferred shares. Our board of directors will be entitled to issue our preferred shares on terms calculated to discourage, delay or prevent a change of control of us or the removal of our management.

Classified Board of Directors

Our second amended and restated articles of incorporation provide that our board of directors serve staggered, three-year terms. Approximately one-third of our board of directors will be elected each year. The classified board provision could discourage a third party from making a tender offer for our shares or attempting to obtain control of us. It could also delay shareholders who do not agree with the policies of our board of directors from removing a majority of our board of directors for two years.

Election and removal of directors

Our second amended and restated articles of incorporation prohibit cumulative voting in the election of directors and our second amended and restated bylaws require our shareholders to give advance written notice of nominations for the election and removal of directors. Our second amended and restated articles of incorporation will also provide that our directors may be removed only for cause upon the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the outstanding shares of the capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors. These provisions may discourage, delay or prevent the removal of incumbent officers and directors.

Limited Actions by Shareholders

Under the BCA, our amended and restated articles of incorporation and our second amended and restated bylaws, any action required or permitted to be taken by our shareholders must be effected at an annual or special meeting of shareholders or by the unanimous written consent of our shareholders. Our second amended and restated bylaws provide that, unless otherwise prescribed by law, only a majority of our board of directors, the Chairman of our board of directors or our executive officers who are also directors may call special meetings of our shareholders, and the business transacted at the special meeting is limited to the purposes stated in the notice. Accordingly, a shareholder may be prevented from calling a special meeting for shareholder consideration of a proposal over the opposition of our board of directors and shareholder consideration of a proposal may be delayed until the next annual meeting.

Advance Notice Requirements for Shareholder Proposals and Director Nominations

Our second amended and restated bylaws provide that shareholders seeking to nominate candidates for election as directors or to bring business before an annual meeting of shareholders must provide timely notice of their proposal in writing to the corporate secretary. Generally, to be timely, a shareholder's notice must be received at our principal executive offices not less than 150 days nor more than 180 days prior to the one year anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting of shareholders. Our second amended and restated bylaws will also specify requirements as to the form and content of a shareholder's notice. These provisions may impede shareholders' ability to bring matters before an annual meeting of shareholders or make nominations for directors at an annual meeting of shareholders.

Table of Contents

Preferred Share Purchase Rights

Each common share includes one right, which we refer to as a Right, that entitles the holder to purchase from us a unit consisting of one-thousandth of a share of the Company's Series A Participating Preferred Stock, or the Preferred Stock, at an exercise price of \$100.00 per unit, or the Exercise Price, subject to specified adjustments. The Rights were issued pursuant to a preferred share purchase rights agreement dated June 3, 2011, or the Rights Agreement, and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC is the rights agent under the assigned Rights agreement, or the Rights Agent. Until a Right is exercised, the holder of a Right will have no rights to vote or receive dividends or any other shareholder rights.

The Rights may have anti-takeover effects. The Rights will cause substantial dilution to any person or group that attempts to acquire us without the approval of our Board. As a result, the overall effect of the Rights may be to render more difficult or discourage any attempt to acquire us. Because our Board can approve a redemption of the Rights for a permitted offer, the Rights should not interfere with a merger or other business combination approved by our Board. We have summarized the material terms and conditions of the Rights Agreement and the Rights below. For a complete description of the Rights, we encourage you to read the Rights Agreement, which we have filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Detachment of the Rights

The Rights are attached to all certificates representing our currently outstanding common stock and will attach to all common stock certificates we issue prior to the Rights distribution date that we describe below. The Rights are not exercisable until after the Rights distribution date and will expire at the close of business on the tenth anniversary date of the adoption of the rights plan, unless we redeem or exchange them earlier as we describe below. The Rights will separate from the common stock and a Rights distribution date would occur, subject to specified exceptions, on the earlier of the following two dates:

the 10th day after public announcement that a person or group has acquired ownership of 15% or more of the Company's common stock or

the 10th business day (or such later date as determined by the Board) after a person or group announces a tender or exchange offer which would result in that person or group holding 15% or more of the Company's common stock.

Any person or group who acquires ownership of 15% or more of the Company's common stock shall be deemed an Acquiring Person, but shall not include the Company, or anyone excepted from such definition in the Rights Agreement.

Persons who are the beneficial owner of 15% or more of the Company's common stock on the effective date of the Rights Agreement are excluded from the definition of Acquiring Person, until such time as they acquire an additional 5% of our outstanding common stock for purposes of the Rights, and therefore until such time, their ownership cannot trigger the Rights. Specified inadvertent owners that would otherwise become an acquiring person, including those who would have this designation as a result of repurchases of common shares by us, will not become acquiring persons as a result of those transactions, as described in detail in the Rights Agreement.

Our Board may defer the Rights distribution date in some circumstances, and some inadvertent acquisitions will not result in a person becoming an acquiring person if the person promptly divests itself of a sufficient number of common shares.

Until the Rights distribution date:

our common stock certificates will evidence the Rights, and the Rights will be transferable only with those certificates; and

any new common share will be issued with Rights and new certificates will contain a notation incorporating the Rights agreement by reference.

Table of Contents

As soon as practicable after the Rights distribution date, the Rights agent will mail certificates representing the Rights to holders of record of common shares at the close of business on that date. After the Rights distribution date, only separate Rights certificates will represent the Rights.

We will not issue Rights with any common shares we issue after the Rights distribution date, except as our Board may otherwise determine.

Flip-In Event

A flip-in event will occur under the Rights Agreement when a person becomes an Acquiring Person other than pursuant to certain kinds of permitted offers. An offer is permitted under the Rights Agreement if a person will become an Acquiring Person pursuant to a merger or other acquisition agreement that has been approved by our Board prior to that person becoming an Acquiring Person.

If a flip-in event occurs and we have not previously redeemed the Rights as described under the heading Redemption of Rights below or, if the Acquiring Person acquires less than 50% of our outstanding common stock and we do not exchange the Rights as described under the heading Exchange of Rights below, each Right, other than any Right that has become void, as we describe below, will become exercisable at the time it is no longer redeemable for the number of common shares, or, in some cases, cash, property or other of our securities, having a current market price equal to two times the exercise price of such Right.

When a flip-in event occurs, all Rights that then are, or in some circumstances that were, beneficially owned by or transferred to an Acquiring Person or specified related parties will become void in the circumstances the Rights Agreement specifies.

Flip-Over Event

A flip-over event will occur under the Rights Agreement when, at any time after a person has become an Acquiring Person:

we are acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction, other than specified mergers that follow a permitted offer of the type we describe above; or

50% or more of our assets or earning power is sold or transferred.

If a flip-over event occurs, each holder of a Right, other than any Right that has become void as we describe under the heading Flip-In Event above, will have the Right to receive the number of common shares of the acquiring company which has a current market price equal to two times the exercise price of such Right.

Antidilution

The number of outstanding Rights associated with our common stock is subject to adjustment for any stock split, stock dividend or subdivision, combination or reclassification of our common stock occurring prior to the Rights distribution date. With some exceptions, the Rights Agreement will not require us to adjust the Exercise Price of the Rights until cumulative adjustments amount to at least 1% of the Exercise Price. The Rights Agreement does not require us to issue fractional shares of our preferred shares that are not integral multiples of one-thousandth of a share,

instead we may make a cash adjustment based on the market price of the common stock on the last trading date prior to the date of exercise.

Redemption of Rights

At any time until the date on which the occurrence of a flip-in event is first publicly announced, we may order redemption of the Rights in whole, but not in part, at a redemption price of \$0.001 per Right. The redemption price is subject to adjustment for any stock split, stock dividend or similar transaction occurring before the date of redemption. At our option, we may pay that redemption price in cash or common shares. The Rights are not exercisable after a flip-in event if they are timely redeemed by us or until ten days following the first public announcement of a flip-in event. If our Board timely orders the redemption of the Rights, the Rights will terminate on the effectiveness of that action.

Table of Contents

Exchange of Rights

We may, at our option, exchange the Rights (other than Rights owned by an Acquiring Person or an affiliate or an associate of an Acquiring Person, which have become void), in whole or in part. The exchange will be at an exchange ratio of one common share per Right, subject to specified adjustments at any time after the occurrence of a flip-in event and prior to any person other than us or our existing shareholders becoming the beneficial owner of 50% or more of our outstanding common shares for the purposes of the Rights Agreement.

Amendment of Terms of Rights

During the time the Rights are redeemable, we may amend any of the provisions of the Rights Agreement, other than by decreasing the redemption price. Once the Rights cease to be redeemable, we generally may amend the provisions of the Rights agreement, other than to decrease the redemption price, only as follows:

to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency;

to make changes that do not materially adversely affect the interests of holders of Rights, excluding the interests of any Acquiring Person; or

to shorten or lengthen any time period under the Rights Agreement, except that we cannot lengthen the time period governing redemption and we may only lengthen any time period for the purpose of protecting, enhancing or clarifying the right of and/or the benefits to the holders of Rights (other than the Acquiring Person).

Transfer Agent

The U.S. transfer agent for our common shares is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company LLC. The registrar and transfer agent for our common shares held through the Norwegian VPS is Nordea Bank Norge ASA.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series, under one or more indentures, each dated as of a date on or prior to the issuance of the debt securities to which it relates. We may issue senior debt securities and subordinated debt securities pursuant to separate indentures, a senior indenture and a subordinated indenture, respectively, in each case between us and the trustee named in the indenture. These indentures will be filed either as exhibits to an amendment to this Registration Statement, or as an exhibit to a Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or Exchange Act, report that will be incorporated by reference to the Registration Statement or a prospectus supplement. We refer to any or all of these reports as subsequent filings. The senior indenture and the subordinated indenture, as amended or supplemented from time to time, are sometimes referred to individually as an indenture and collectively as the indentures. Each indenture will be subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act. The aggregate principal amount of debt securities which may be issued under each indenture will be unlimited and each indenture will contain the specific terms of any series of debt securities or provide that those terms must be set forth in or determined pursuant to, an authorizing resolution, as defined in the applicable prospectus supplement, and/or a supplemental indenture, if any, relating to such series.

Certain of our subsidiaries may guarantee the debt securities we offer. Those guarantees may or may not be secured by liens, mortgages, and security interests in the assets of those subsidiaries. The terms and conditions of any such subsidiary guarantees, and a description of any such liens, mortgages or security interests, will be set forth in the prospectus supplement that will accompany this prospectus.

The following description of the terms of the debt securities sets forth certain general terms and provisions. The statements below are not complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the applicable indenture. The specific terms of any debt securities that we may offer, including any modifications of, or additions to, the general terms described below as well as any applicable material U.S. federal income tax considerations concerning the ownership of such debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement or supplemental indenture. Accordingly, for a complete description of the terms of a particular issue of debt securities, the general description of the debt securities set forth below should be read in conjunction with the applicable prospectus supplement and indenture, as amended or supplemented from time to time.

General

Neither indenture limits the amount of debt securities which may be issued, and each indenture provides that debt securities may be issued from time to time. The debt securities may be issued in one or more series. The senior debt securities will be unsecured and will rank in parity with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. Each series of subordinated debt securities will be unsecured and subordinated to all present and future senior indebtedness. Any such debt securities will be described in an accompanying prospectus supplement.

You should read the subsequent filings relating to the particular series of debt securities for the following terms of the offered debt securities:

the designation, aggregate principal amount and authorized denominations;

the issue price, expressed as a percentage of the aggregate principal amount;

the maturity date;

the interest rate per annum, if any;

if the offered debt securities provide for interest payments, the date from which interest will accrue, the dates on which interest will be payable, the date on which payment of interest will commence and the regular record dates for interest payment dates;

any optional or mandatory sinking fund provisions or conversion or exchangeability provisions;

Table of Contents

the date, if any, after which and the price or prices at which the offered debt securities may be optionally redeemed or must be mandatorily redeemed and any other terms and provisions of optional or mandatory redemptions;

if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof, the denominations in which offered debt securities of the series will be issuable;

if other than the full principal amount, the portion of the principal amount of offered debt securities of the series which will be payable upon acceleration or provable in bankruptcy;

any events of default not set forth in this prospectus;

the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which principal, premium and interest will be payable, if other than the currency of the United States of America;

if principal, premium or interest is payable, at our election or at the election of any holder, in a currency other than that in which the offered debt securities of the series are stated to be payable, the period or periods within which, and the terms and conditions upon which, the election may be made;

whether interest will be payable in cash or additional securities at our or the holder's option and the terms and conditions upon which the election may be made;

if the amount of payments of principal, premium or interest may be determined with reference to an index, formula or other method based on a coin or currency other than that in which the offered debt securities of the series are stated to be payable, the manner in which the amounts will be determined;

any restrictive covenants or other material terms relating to the offered debt securities, which may not be inconsistent with the applicable indenture;

whether the offered debt securities will be issued in the form of global securities or certificates in registered form;

any terms with respect to subordination;

any listing on any securities exchange or quotation system;

additional provisions, if any, related to defeasance and discharge of the offered debt securities; and

the applicability of any guarantees.

Unless otherwise indicated in subsequent filings with the Commission relating to the indenture, principal, premium and interest will be payable and the debt securities will be transferable at the corporate trust office of the applicable trustee. Unless other arrangements are made or set forth in subsequent filings or a supplemental indenture, principal, premium and interest will be paid by checks mailed to the holders at their registered addresses.

Unless otherwise indicated in subsequent filings with the Commission, the debt securities will be issued only in fully registered form without coupons, in denominations of \$1,000 or any integral multiple thereof. No service charge will be made for any transfer or exchange of the debt securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with these debt securities.

Some or all of the debt securities may be issued as discounted debt securities, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates, to be sold at a substantial discount below the stated principal amount. United States federal income consequences and other special considerations applicable to any discounted securities will be described in subsequent filings with the Commission relating to those securities.

We refer you to applicable subsequent filings with respect to any deletions or additions or modifications from the description contained in this prospectus.

Table of Contents

Senior Debt

We may issue senior debt securities under a senior debt indenture. These senior debt securities would rank on an equal basis with all our other unsecured debt except subordinated debt.

Subordinated Debt

We may issue subordinated debt securities under a subordinated debt indenture. Subordinated debt would rank subordinate and junior in right of payment, to the extent set forth in the subordinated debt indenture, to all our senior debt (both secured and unsecured).

In general, the holders of all senior debt are first entitled to receive payment of the full amount unpaid on senior debt before the holders of any of the subordinated debt securities are entitled to receive a payment on account of the principal or interest on the indebtedness evidenced by the subordinated debt securities in certain events.

If we default in the payment of any principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on any senior debt when it becomes due and payable after any applicable grace period, then, unless and until the default is cured or waived or ceases to exist, we cannot make a payment on account of or redeem or otherwise acquire the subordinated debt securities.

If there is any insolvency, bankruptcy, liquidation or other similar proceeding relating to us or our property, then all senior debt must be paid in full before any payment may be made to any holders of subordinated debt securities.

Furthermore, if we default in the payment of the principal of and accrued interest on any subordinated debt securities that is declared due and payable upon an event of default under the subordinated debt indenture, holders of all our senior debt will first be entitled to receive payment in full in cash before holders of such subordinated debt can receive any payments.

Senior debt means:

the principal, premium, if any, interest and any other amounts owing in respect of our indebtedness for money borrowed and indebtedness evidenced by securities, notes, debentures, bonds or other similar instruments issued by us, including the senior debt securities or letters of credit;

all capitalized lease obligations;

all hedging obligations;

all obligations representing the deferred purchase price of property; and

all deferrals, renewals, extensions and refundings of obligations of the type referred to above;
but senior debt does not include:

subordinated debt securities; or

any indebtedness that by its terms is subordinated to, or ranks on an equal basis with, our subordinated debt securities.

Covenants

Any series of offered debt securities may have covenants in addition to or differing from those included in the applicable indenture which will be described in subsequent filings prepared in connection with the offering of such securities, limiting or restricting, among other things:

Table of Contents

the ability of us or our subsidiaries to incur either secured or unsecured debt, or both;

the ability to make certain payments, dividends, redemptions or repurchases;

our ability to create dividend and other payment restrictions affecting our subsidiaries;

our ability to make investments;

mergers and consolidations by us or our subsidiaries;

sales of assets by us;

our ability to enter into transactions with affiliates;

our ability to incur liens; and

sale and leaseback transactions.

Modification of the Indentures

Each indenture and the rights of the respective holders may be modified by us only with the consent of holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series under the respective indenture affected by the modification, taken together as a class. But no modification that:

- (1) changes the amount of securities whose holders must consent to an amendment, supplement or waiver;
- (2) reduces the rate of or changes the interest payment time on any security or alters its redemption provisions (other than any alteration to any such section which would not materially adversely affect the legal rights of any holder under the indenture) or the price at which we are required to offer to purchase the securities;
- (3) reduces the principal or changes the maturity of any security or reduces the amount of, or postpones the date fixed for, the payment of any sinking fund or analogous obligation;
- (4) waives a default or event of default in the payment of the principal of or interest, if any, on any security (except a rescission of acceleration of the securities of any series by the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding securities of that series and a waiver of the payment default that resulted from such acceleration);
- (5) makes the principal of or interest, if any, on any security payable in any currency other than that stated in the security;

(6) makes any change with respect to holders' rights to receive principal and interest, the terms pursuant to which defaults can be waived, certain modifications affecting shareholders or certain currency-related issues; or

(7) waives a redemption payment with respect to any security or changes any of the provisions with respect to the redemption of any securities;

will be effective against any holder without his consent. Other terms as specified in subsequent filings may be modified without the consent of the holders.

Events of Default

Each indenture defines an event of default for the debt securities of any series as being any one of the following events:

Table of Contents

default in any payment of interest when due which continues for 30 days;

default in any payment of principal or premium when due;

default in the deposit of any sinking fund payment when due;

default in the performance of any covenant in the debt securities or the applicable indenture which continues for 60 days after we receive notice of the default;

default under a bond, debenture, note or other evidence of indebtedness for borrowed money by us or our subsidiaries (to the extent we are directly responsible or liable therefor) having a principal amount in excess of a minimum amount set forth in the applicable subsequent filing, whether such indebtedness now exists or is hereafter created, which default shall have resulted in such indebtedness becoming or being declared due and payable prior to the date on which it would otherwise have become due and payable, without such acceleration having been rescinded or annulled or cured within 30 days after we receive notice of the default; and

events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization.

An event of default of one series of debt securities does not necessarily constitute an event of default with respect to any other series of debt securities.

There may be such other or different events of default as described in an applicable subsequent filing with respect to any class or series of offered debt securities.

In case an event of default occurs and continues for the debt securities of any series, the applicable trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities then outstanding of that series may declare the principal and accrued but unpaid interest of the debt securities of that series to be due and payable. Any event of default for the debt securities of any series which has been cured may be waived by the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series then outstanding.

Each indenture requires us to file annually after debt securities are issued under that indenture with the applicable trustee a written statement signed by two of our officers as to the absence of material defaults under the terms of that indenture. Each indenture provides that the applicable trustee may withhold notice to the holders of any default if it considers it in the interest of the holders to do so, except notice of a default in payment of principal, premium or interest.

Subject to the duties of the trustee in case an event of default occurs and continues, each indenture provides that the trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under that indenture at the request, order or direction of holders unless the holders have offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity. Subject to these provisions for indemnification and the rights of the trustee, each indenture provides that the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of any series then outstanding have the right to 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 as long as the exercise of that right does not conflict with any law or the indenture.

Defeasance and Discharge

The terms of each indenture provide us with the option to be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the debt securities issued thereunder upon the deposit with the trustee, in trust, of money or U.S. government obligations, or both, which through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient to pay any installment of principal, premium and interest on, and any mandatory sinking fund payments in respect of, the debt securities on the stated maturity of the payments in accordance with the terms of the debt securities and the indenture governing the debt securities. This right may only be exercised if, among other things, we have received from, or there has been published by, the United States Internal Revenue Service a ruling to the effect that such a discharge will not be deemed, or result in, a taxable event with respect to holders. This discharge would not apply to our obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities, to replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities, to maintain paying agencies and hold moneys for payment in trust.

Table of Contents

Defeasance of Certain Covenants

The terms of the debt securities provide us with the right to omit complying with specified covenants and that specified events of default described in a subsequent filing will not apply. In order to exercise this right, we will be required to deposit with the trustee money or U.S. government obligations, or both, which through the payment of interest and principal will provide money in an amount sufficient to pay principal, premium, if any, and interest on, and any mandatory sinking fund payments in respect of, the debt securities on the stated maturity of such payments in accordance with the terms of the debt securities and the indenture governing such debt securities. We will also be required to deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that we have received from, or there has been published by, the IRS a ruling to the effect that the deposit and related covenant defeasance will not cause the holders of such series to recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes.

A subsequent filing may further describe the provisions, if any, of any particular series of offered debt securities permitting a discharge defeasance.

Subsidiary Guarantees

Certain of our subsidiaries may guarantee the debt securities we offer. In that case, the terms and conditions of the subsidiary guarantees will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless we indicate differently in the applicable prospectus supplement, if any of our subsidiaries guarantee any of our debt securities that are subordinated to any of our senior indebtedness, then the subsidiary guarantees will be subordinated to the senior indebtedness of such subsidiary to the same extent as our debt securities are subordinated to our senior indebtedness.

Global Securities

The debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository identified in an applicable subsequent filing and registered in the name of the depository or a nominee for the depository. In such a case, one or more global securities will be issued in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding debt securities of the series to be represented by the global security or securities. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for debt securities in definitive certificated form, a global security may not be transferred except as a whole by the depository for the global security to a nominee of the depository or by a nominee of the depository to the depository or another nominee of the depository or by the depository or any nominee to a successor depository for that series or a nominee of the successor depository and except in the circumstances described in an applicable subsequent filing.

We expect that the following provisions will apply to depository arrangements for any portion of a series of debt securities to be represented by a global security. Any additional or different terms of the depository arrangement will be described in an applicable subsequent filing.

Upon the issuance of any global security, and the deposit of that global security with or on behalf of the depository for the global security, the depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the principal amounts of the debt securities represented by that global security to the accounts of institutions that have accounts with the depository or its nominee. The accounts to be credited will be designated by the underwriters or agents engaging in the distribution of the debt securities or by us, if the debt securities are offered and sold directly by us. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to participating institutions or persons that may hold interest through such participating institutions. Ownership of beneficial interests by participating institutions in the global security will be shown on, and the transfer of the beneficial interests will be effected only through, records maintained

by the depository for the global security or by its nominee. Ownership of beneficial interests in the global security by persons that hold through participating institutions will be shown on, and the transfer of the beneficial interests within the participating institutions will be effected only through, records maintained by those participating institutions. The laws of some jurisdictions may require that purchasers of securities take physical delivery of the securities in certificated form. The foregoing limitations and such laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in the global securities.

Table of Contents

So long as the depository for a global security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of that global security, the depository or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by the global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture. Unless otherwise specified in an applicable subsequent filing and except as specified below, owners of beneficial interests in the global security will not be entitled to have debt securities of the series represented by the global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of debt securities of the series in certificated form and will not be considered the holders thereof for any purposes under the indenture. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in the global security must rely on the procedures of the depository and, if such person is not a participating institution, on the procedures of the participating institution through which the person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture.

The depository may grant proxies and otherwise authorize participating institutions to give or take any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action which a holder is entitled to give or take under the applicable indenture. We understand that, under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders or any owner of a beneficial interest in the global security desires to give any notice or take any action a holder is entitled to give or take under the applicable indenture, the depository would authorize the participating institutions to give the notice or take the action, and participating institutions would authorize beneficial owners owning through such participating institutions to give the notice or take the action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners owning through them.

Unless otherwise specified in applicable subsequent filings, payments of principal, premium and interest on debt securities represented by a global security registered in the name of a depository or its nominee will be made by us to the depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the global security.

We expect that the depository for any debt securities represented by a global security, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium or interest, will credit participating institutions' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of the global security as shown on the records of the depository. We also expect that payments by participating institutions to owners of beneficial interests in the global security held through those participating institutions will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers registered in street names, and will be the responsibility of those participating institutions. None of us, the trustees or any agent of ours or the trustees will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial interests in a global security, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial interests.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable subsequent filings, a global security of any series will be exchangeable for certificated debt securities of the same series only if:

the depository for such global securities notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository or such depository ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act and, in either case, a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days after we receive the notice or become aware of the ineligibility;

we in our sole discretion determine that the global securities shall be exchangeable for certificated debt securities; or

there shall have occurred and be continuing an event of default under the applicable indenture with respect to the debt securities of that series.

Upon any exchange, owners of beneficial interests in the global security or securities will be entitled to physical delivery of individual debt securities in certificated form of like tenor and terms equal in principal amount to their beneficial interests, and to have the debt securities in certificated form registered in the names of the beneficial owners, which names are expected to be provided by the depository's relevant participating institutions to the applicable trustee.

Table of Contents

In the event that the Depository Trust Company, or DTC, acts as depository for the global securities of any series, the global securities will be issued as fully registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co., DTC's partnership nominee.

DTC is a member of the U.S. Federal Reserve System, a limited-purpose trust company under New York State banking law and a registered clearing agency with the Commission. Established in 1973, DTC was created to reduce costs and provide clearing and settlement efficiencies by immobilizing securities and making book-entry changes to ownership of the securities. DTC provides securities movements for the net settlements of the National Securities Clearing Corporation, or NSCC, and settlement for institutional trades (which typically involve money and securities transfers between custodian banks and broker/dealers), as well as money market instruments.

DTC is a subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Company, or DTCC. DTCC is a holding company established in 1999 to combine DTC and NSCC. DTCC, through its subsidiaries, provides clearing, settlement and information services for equities, corporate and municipal bonds, government and mortgage backed securities, money market instruments and over-the-counter derivatives. In addition, DTCC is a leading processor of mutual funds and insurance transactions, linking funds and carriers with their distribution networks. DTCC's customer base extends to thousands of companies within the global financial services industry. DTCC serves brokers, dealers, institutional investors, banks, trust companies, mutual fund companies, insurance carriers, hedge funds and other financial intermediaries either directly or through correspondent relationships.

DTCC is industry-owned by its customers who are members of the financial community, such as banks, broker/dealers, mutual funds and other financial institutions. DTCC operates on an at-cost basis, returning excess revenue from transaction fees to its member firms. All services provided by DTC are regulated by the Commission.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, the debt securities may be registered in the name of DTC's nominee, Cede & Co. The deposit of the debt securities with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. will effect no change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the debt securities. DTC's records reflect only the identity of the direct participating institutions to whose accounts debt securities are credited, which may or may not be the beneficial owners. The participating institutions remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Delivery of notices and other communications by DTC to direct participating institutions, by direct participating institutions to indirect participating institutions, and by direct participating institutions and indirect participating institutions to beneficial owners of debt securities are governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. consents or votes with respect to the debt securities. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails a proxy to the issuer as soon as possible after the record date. The proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those direct participating institutions to whose accounts the debt securities are credited on the record date.

If applicable, redemption notices shall be sent to Cede & Co. If less than all of the debt securities of a series represented by global securities are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each direct participating institutions in that issue to be redeemed.

To the extent that any debt securities provide for repayment or repurchase at the option of the holders thereof, a beneficial owner shall give notice of any option to elect to have its interest in the global security repaid by us, through its participating institution, to the applicable trustee, and shall effect delivery of the interest in a global security by

causing the direct participating institution to transfer the direct participating institution's interest in the global security or securities representing the interest, on DTC's records, to the applicable trustee. The requirement for physical delivery of debt securities in connection with a demand for repayment or repurchase will be deemed satisfied when the ownership rights in the global security or securities representing the debt securities are transferred by direct participating institutions on DTC's records.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as securities depository for the debt securities at any time. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor securities depository is not appointed, debt security certificates are required to be printed and delivered as described above.

We may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through the securities depository. In that event, debt security certificates will be printed and delivered as described above.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants to purchase our debt or equity securities or securities of third parties or other rights, including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies, securities or indices, or any combination of the foregoing. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any other securities and may be attached to, or separate from, such securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent. The terms of any warrants to be issued and a description of the material provisions of the applicable warrant agreement will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the following terms of any warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered:

the title of such warrants;

the aggregate number of such warrants;

the price or prices at which such warrants will be issued;

the currency or currencies, in which the price of such warrants will be payable;

the securities or other rights, including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies, securities or indices, or any combination of the foregoing, purchasable upon exercise of such warrants;

the price at which and the currency or currencies, in which the securities or other rights purchasable upon exercise of such warrants may be purchased;

the date on which the right to exercise such warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of such warrants which may be exercised at any one time;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which such warrants are issued and the number of such warrants issued with each such security;

if applicable, the date on and after which such warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;

if applicable, a discussion of any material U.S. federal income tax considerations; and

any other terms of such warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of such warrants.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

We may issue purchase contracts for the purchase or sale of:

debt or equity securities issued by us or securities of third parties, a basket of such securities, an index or indices of such securities or any combination of the above as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement; or

currencies.

Each purchase contract will entitle the holder thereof to purchase or sell, and obligate us to sell or purchase, on specified dates, such securities or currencies at a specified purchase price, which may be based on a formula, all as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may, however, satisfy our obligations, if any, with respect to any purchase contract by delivering the cash value of such purchase contract or the cash value of the property otherwise deliverable or, in the case of purchase contracts on underlying currencies, by delivering the underlying currencies, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will also specify the methods by which the holders may purchase or sell such securities or currencies and any acceleration, cancellation or termination provisions, provisions relating to U.S. federal income tax considerations, if any, or other provisions relating to the settlement of a purchase contract.

The purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders thereof or vice versa, which payments may be deferred to the extent set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, and those payments may be unsecured or pre-funded on some basis. The purchase contracts may require the holders thereof to secure their obligations in a specified manner to be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Alternatively, purchase contracts may require holders to satisfy their obligations thereunder when the purchase contracts are issued. Our obligation to settle such pre-paid purchase contracts on the relevant settlement date may constitute indebtedness. Accordingly, pre-paid purchase contracts will be issued under either the senior indenture or the subordinated indenture.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS

We may issue rights to purchase our equity securities. These rights may be issued independently or together with any other security offered by this prospectus and may or may not be transferable by the shareholder receiving the rights in the rights offering. In connection with any rights offering, we may enter into a standby underwriting agreement with one or more underwriters pursuant to which the underwriter will purchase any securities that remain unsubscribed for upon completion of the rights offering.

The applicable prospectus supplement relating to any rights will describe the terms of the offered rights, including, where applicable, the following:

the exercise price for the rights;

the number of rights issued to each shareholder;

the extent to which the rights are transferable;

any other terms of the rights, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the rights;

the date on which the right to exercise the rights will commence and the date on which the right will expire;

the amount of rights outstanding;

the extent to which the rights include an over-subscription privilege with respect to unsubscribed securities; and

the material terms of any standby underwriting arrangement entered into by us in connection with the rights offering.

The description in the applicable prospectus supplement of any rights we offer will not necessarily be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable rights certificate or rights agreement, which will be filed with the Commission if we offer rights. For more information on how you can obtain copies of any rights certificate or rights agreement if we offer rights, see [Where You Can Find Additional Information](#) of this prospectus. We urge you to read the applicable rights certificate, the applicable rights agreement and any applicable prospectus supplement in their entirety.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue units consisting of one or more rights, purchase contracts, warrants, debt securities (and related guarantees), preferred shares, common shares or any combination of such securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe:

the terms of the units and of the rights, purchase contracts, warrants, debt securities (and related guarantees), preferred shares and common shares comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be traded separately;

a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units;

if applicable, a discussion of any material U.S. federal income tax considerations; and

a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units.

Table of Contents**EXPENSES**

The following are the estimated expenses of the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered under the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, all of which will be paid by us.

SEC registration fee	\$ 314,495.30*
Printing and engraving expenses	\$ **
Legal fees and expenses	\$ **
Accounting fees and expenses	\$ **
Transfer agent and registrar fees	\$ **
Indenture trustee fees and expenses	\$ **
Miscellaneous	\$ **
Total	\$ **

* Previously Paid.

** To be provided by a prospectus supplement or as an exhibit to a report on Form 6-K that is incorporated by reference into this registration statement.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Seward & Kissel LLP, New York, New York with respect to matters of United States and Marshall Islands law. McInnes Cooper will provide an opinion regarding certain matters under the laws of Canada. Savvas D. Georgiades Law Office will provide an opinion regarding certain matters under the laws of Cyprus. Ogier will provide an opinion regarding certain matters under the laws of Jersey. Loyens & Loeff N.V. will provide an opinion regarding certain matters under the laws of the Netherlands. Advokatfirmaet Wiersholm AS will provide an opinion regarding certain matters under the laws of Norway. CMS Cameron McKenna LLP will provide an opinion regarding certain matters under the laws of Scotland.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Ocean Rig UDW Inc, appearing in Ocean Rig UDW Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2014, (including schedule appearing therein) and the effectiveness of Ocean Rig UDW Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, have been audited by Ernst & Young (Hellas) Certified Auditors Accountants S.A., independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing. The address of Ernst & Young (Hellas) Certified Auditors Accountants S.A. is Chimarras 8B, 15125, Maroussi, Greece and is registered as a corporate body with the public register for company auditors-accountants kept with the Body of Certified-Auditors-Accountants, or SOEL, Greece with registration number 107.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As required by the Securities Act, we filed a registration statement relating to the securities offered by this prospectus with the Commission. This prospectus is a part of that registration statement, which includes additional information.

Government Filings

We file annual and special reports with the Commission. You may read and copy any document that we file at the public reference room maintained by the Commission at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the public reference room by calling 1 (800) SEC-0330. The Commission maintains a website (<http://www.sec.gov>) that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding registrants that file electronically with the Commission.

This prospectus and any prospectus supplement are part of a registration statement that we filed with the Commission and do not contain all of the information in the registration statement. The full registration statement may be obtained from the Commission or us, as indicated below. Forms of the indenture and other documents establishing the terms of the offered securities are filed as exhibits to the registration statement. Statements in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement about these documents are summaries and each statement is qualified in all respects by reference to the document to which it refers. You should refer to the actual documents for a more complete description of the relevant matters. You may inspect a copy of the registration statement at the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C., as well as through the Commission's website.

Table of Contents

Information Incorporated by Reference

The Commission allows us to incorporate by reference information that we file with it. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those filed documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the Commission prior to the termination of this offering will also be considered to be part of this prospectus and will automatically update and supersede previously filed information, including information contained in this document.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings made with the Commission under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act:

Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2014, filed with the Commission on March 9, 2015, which contains audited consolidated financial statements for the most recent fiscal year for which those statements have been filed.

The description of our common stock and our preferred share purchase rights set forth in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the Commission on September 16, 2011, as amended.

We are also incorporating by reference all subsequent annual reports on Form 20-F that we file with the Commission and certain reports on Form 6-K that we furnish to the Commission after the date of this prospectus (if they state that they are incorporated by reference into this prospectus) until we file a post-effective amendment indicating that the offering of the securities made by this prospectus has been terminated. In all cases, you should rely on the later information over different information included in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and subsequent filings. We, any selling shareholder, and any underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We, any selling shareholder, and any underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement as well as the information we previously filed with the Commission and incorporated by reference, is accurate as of the dates on the front cover of those documents only. Our business, financial condition and results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

You may request a free copy of the above mentioned filings or any subsequent filing we incorporated by reference to this prospectus by writing or us at the following address:

Ocean Rig UDW Inc.

10 Skopa Street, Tribune House

2nd Floor, Office 202, CY 1075

Nicosia, Cyprus

011 357 22767517

Information Provided by the Company

We will furnish holders of our common shares with annual reports containing audited financial statements and a report by our independent registered public accounting firm, and intend to furnish quarterly reports containing selected unaudited financial data for the first three quarters of each fiscal year. The audited financial statements will be prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles and those reports will include a Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations section for the relevant periods. As a foreign private issuer, we are exempt from the rules under the Exchange Act prescribing the furnishing and content of proxy statements to shareholders. While we intend to furnish proxy statements to any shareholder in accordance with the rules of the Nasdaq Global Select Market, those proxy statements are not expected to conform to Schedule 14A of the proxy rules promulgated under the Exchange Act. In addition, as a foreign private issuer, we are exempt from the rules under the Exchange Act relating to short swing profit reporting and liability.

Disclosure of Commission Position on Indemnification for Securities Act Liabilities

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, the registrant has been informed that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is therefore unenforceable.

Table of Contents