

Orion Marine Group Inc
Form DEF 14A
April 12, 2010

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A
(RULE 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant x
Filed by a party other than the Registrant o

Check the appropriate box:

- o Preliminary proxy statement
- o Confidential, for Use of the Commission only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- x Definitive proxy statement
- o Definitive additional materials
- o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-11(c) or Rule 14a-12

ORION MARINE GROUP, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Payment of filing fee (Check the appropriate box):

- x No fee required
- o Fee computed on the table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(I) and 0-11
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies;
 - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies;
 - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11
 - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
 - (5) Total fee paid:
- o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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

- (1) Amount previously paid:
- (2) Form, schedule or registration statement number:
- (3) Filing party:
- (4) Date filed:

ORION MARINE GROUP, INC.
12000 AEROSPACE, SUITE 300
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77034

April 12, 2010

To our Shareholders:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we cordially invite you to attend the 2010 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Orion Marine Group, Inc., which will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time. We are very pleased that this year's annual meeting will be our first completely virtual meeting of shareholders. You will be able to attend the 2010 Annual Meeting, vote and submit your questions during the meeting via live webcast by visiting www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ORN. You will need the 12-digit control number included in this proxy card in order to be able to enter the Annual Meeting.

At the Annual Meeting, you will be asked to:

- (1) To re-elect two members to our Board of Directors, to serve a three year term and until his successor is duly elected and qualified.
- (2) To approve the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for 2010.
- (3) To transact any other business that may properly come before the Annual Meeting, or any reconvened meeting after an adjournment thereof.

The following pages contain the formal Notice of Annual Meeting and the Proxy Statement.

The accompanying Proxy Statement provides detailed information regarding the matters to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting. In addition to the Proxy Statement, you should also receive a copy of our Annual Report to Shareholders, which includes our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009. The Form 10-K provides information regarding our operations as well as our audited, consolidated financial statements. In accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission rules, the Proxy Statement and the Form 10-K, as well as our other proxy materials may be found at www.proxyvote.com, which does not have cookies that identify visitors to the site.

Your vote is important. Please vote your shares as soon as possible. Voting is available via the Internet or telephone, or by paper proxy card. This will ensure representation of your shares. Returning the proxy card or voting by telephone or electronically does not deprive you of your right to attend the virtual meeting and to vote your shares during the live webcast for the matters to be acted upon at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Peter R. Buchler
Corporate Secretary

Houston, Texas
April 12, 2010

ORION MARINE GROUP, INC.
12000 AEROSPACE, SUITE 300
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77034

NOTICE OF 2010 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the
Shareholder Meeting to be held on May 20, 2010

The Proxy Statement and accompanying 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K are available at
<http://www.proxyvote.com>.

You may also access the proxy materials and vote your shares at <http://www.proxyvote.com>

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, on Thursday, May 20, 2010

INTERNET ACCESS: www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ORN
Use the 12-digit Control Number provided on your Proxy Card

ITEMS OF BUSINESS: (1) To elect two members to our Board of Directors, to serve a three year term and until his successor is duly elected and qualified.
(2) To approve the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for 2010.
(3) To transact any other business that may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any reconvened meeting after an adjournment thereof.

RECORD DATE: The shareholders of record at the close of business on March 30, 2010, will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof.

PROXY VOTING: It is important that your shares are represented and voted at the Annual Meeting. You can vote your shares by completing and returning the proxy card sent to you. You also have the option of voting your shares on the Internet or by telephone. Voting instructions are printed on your proxy card and are included in the accompanying Proxy Statement. You can revoke a proxy at any time prior to its exercise at the Annual Meeting by following the instructions in the Proxy Statement. You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting through the link at www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ORN, and may vote at that time.

This Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders and related Proxy Materials are being distributed or made available to shareholders beginning on or about April 12, 2010.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Peter R. Buchler
Corporate Secretary
Houston, Texas
April 12, 2010

ORION MARINE GROUP, INC.

12000 Aerospace Suite 300
Houston, Texas 77034
Telephone: (713) 852-6500

PROXY STATEMENT
FOR THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

We are providing this Proxy Statement, and accompanying proxy materials, to the holders of the common stock of Orion Marine Group, Inc. (“Orion” or the “Company”) for use at the 2010 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, and any adjournments or postponements thereof. The Annual Meeting will be held on May 20, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time at www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ORN. You may access this site using the 12-digit Control Number provided with your proxy materials. The Proxy Statement, the enclosed form of proxy, and the Company’s Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2009 are first being distributed or made available to shareholders on or about April 12, 2010.

Our Board of Directors has established March 30, 2010 as the record date (the “Record Date”) for determining shareholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof. Only shareholders at the close of business on the record date are entitled to vote on matters presented at the Annual Meeting.

This Proxy Statement contains important information for you to consider when deciding how to vote on the matters to be brought before the Annual Meeting. Please read it and the enclosed materials carefully.

PLEASE VOTE – YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

GENERAL INFORMATION

ABOUT THE COMPANY

We are a leading marine specialty contractor serving the heavy marine infrastructure market. We provide a broad range of marine construction services on, over, and under the water primarily along the Gulf Coast, the Atlantic Seaboard, the West Coast and in the Caribbean Basin. Our principal executive offices are located at 12000 Aerospace, Suite 300, Houston, Texas 77034. Our common stock is listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”). Our trading symbol is ORN. At the close of business on the Record Date, 26,870,605 shares were outstanding.

ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Why did I receive these proxy materials?

The Company’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) is providing these proxy materials to you in connection with the 2010 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, which will take place on May 20, 2010. As a shareholder of the Company on the Record Date, you are entitled to vote on the proposals described in this Proxy Statement.

What is the purpose of the Annual Meeting?

There are currently two proposals scheduled to be voted on at the Annual Meeting:

1. The election of two Class III directors, each to serve a three-year term expiring in 2013; and
2. The approval of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2010.

How does the Board of Directors recommend that I vote?

The Board of Directors recommends a vote:

1. "FOR" each of the nominees to the Board;
2. "FOR" the approval of the appointment Grant Thornton LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2010.

How many shares can be cast by shareholders?

Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote. There is no cumulative voting. There were 26,870,605 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote on the Record Date.

How many votes must be present to hold the Annual Meeting?

A majority of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote as of the Record Date must be present, in person, through Internet Access, or represented by proxy, at the Annual Meeting in order to hold the Annual Meeting and conduct business. This is called a “quorum.” The inspector of elections includes as present those who abstain from voting, those who do not vote on one or more proposals, withheld votes, and broker non-votes for the purpose of determining a quorum.

Who will count the votes?

The Company has appointed Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. (“Broadridge”) to tabulate the votes and act as the Inspector of Elections.

How many votes are required to elect directors and approve the proposals scheduled to be voted on at the Annual Meeting?

Directors are elected by a majority of the votes cast with respect to such director in an uncontested election (the number of votes “for” a director nominee must exceed the number of votes “against.” Abstentions and broker non-votes have no effect on the election of directors.

The approval of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock present at the Annual Meeting, either in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote. Abstentions have the same effect as votes against the proposal.

What is the difference between holding shares as a shareholder of record and as a beneficial owner?

Many of the Company’s shareholders hold their shares through a broker or other nominee rather than directly in their own name. As summarized below, there are some distinctions between shares held of record and those held beneficially.

Shareholder of record

If your shares are registered directly in your name with the Company’s transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust, you are considered the shareholder of record for those shares.

Beneficial owner

If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by another nominee, you are considered the beneficial owner of shares held in street name, and your broker or nominee is the shareholder of record.

What are the methods available to me to vote my shares?

A shareholder of record may vote

- (1) Over the Internet, at <http://www.proxyvote.com>
- (2) By telephone, by calling 1-800-690-6903
- (3) By mail, by signing, dating and mailing the proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or;
- (4) During the meeting through our link at www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ORN. The 12-digit Control Number provided on your Proxy Card is necessary to access this site.

Beneficial owners should refer to the proxy card or information forwarded to you by your broker or other nominee to see what options are available to you.

What if I do not provide specific voting instructions?

If you return your properly signed proxy card prior to the Annual Meeting, but do not mark a selection, it will be voted in accordance with the recommendations of the Board. In connection therewith, the Board of Directors has appointed Peter R. Buchler, J. Michael Pearson and Mark R. Stauffer as proxies. All properly executed proxies that specify a choice on the proposals will be voted in accordance with your instructions. If you are a beneficial owner and do not provide your broker or other nominee with specific voting instructions, your broker or other nominee may generally vote in their discretion, on routine matters, such as the uncontested election of directors and the ratification of the selection of accounting firms.

Can I change or revoke my vote?

Yes. You retain the power to revoke your proxy or change your vote any time before it is voted at the Annual Meeting by (1) filing with the Corporate Secretary at the Company's executive office, a written statement specifying such revocation. You may also change your vote by (2) delivering a duly executed proxy bearing a later date or by (3) voting during the Annual Meeting at our website www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ORN. However, a beneficial owner of shares who wishes to vote in person at the Annual Meeting must request, complete and deliver a proxy from your broker or other nominee.

Where can I find the voting results of the meeting?

We will announce preliminary voting results at the Annual Meeting and will publish the final results in a current report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC within four business days following the meeting, which will be available on our website at www.orionmarinegroup.com.

Who pays for the cost of the proxy solicitation?

The Company bears the expense of preparing, printing, mailing, and distributing the proxy materials. In addition to this solicitation by mail, directors, officers and employees of the Company may, without additional compensation, solicit the return of proxies by telephone, messenger, facsimile or email. The Company will request that brokers and other nominee holders of common stock furnish proxy materials to beneficial owners. The Company will reimburse such brokers and other nominees for their reasonable out-of-pocket expense in doing so.

What is householding?

Householding is a process which allows the Company to reduce costs and provide extra convenience to shareholders by mailing only one copy of proxy materials to multiple shareholders sharing the same address. If, at any time, you no longer wish to participate in householding, and would prefer to receive separate communications at the same address, or if you are currently receiving multiple copies of Company communications and wish to receive only one, please notify your broker or other nominee if your shares are held beneficially, or notify the Company if you hold our stock directly. Requests in writing should be addressed to: Orion Marine Group, Inc., 12000 Aerospace, Suite 300 St., Houston, Texas 77034, Attention: Corporate Secretary.

DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSALS PROPOSAL NO. 1 – ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

At the Annual Meeting, shareholders will be asked to elect two directors to serve on the Company's Board of Directors. The By-Laws of the Company permit the Board to determine, by resolution, the number of directors the Company will have. The authorized size of the Board is currently set at five persons.

The Company's Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws provide for a classified Board of Directors, divided into three classes, each class serving a staggered three-year term. As a result, shareholders will elect approximately one-third of our Board each year. A director holds office from the time of election until the third annual meeting

following election. The division of our Board into three classes with staggered terms may delay or prevent a change of our management or a change in control. The term of the two Class III directors expire at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

The Company is not aware of any nominee who will be unable to or will not serve as a director. If, prior to the Annual Meeting, any nominee should become unavailable to serve, the shares represented by a properly signed and returned proxy card, or voted by telephone or via the Internet will be voted for the election of such other person as may be designated by the Board, the Board may leave the position unfilled, or the Board may reduce the authorized number of directors, as provided in the Company's By-Laws.

The Board of Directors has nominated Austin J. Shanfelter and Gene Stoever for election as Class III directors each to serve a three-year term expiring at the 2013 annual meeting. Both Mr. Shanfelter and Mr. Stoever currently serve as members of the Board.

Please see “The Board of Directors and its Committees” below for information about the nominees for election as directors and the current members of the Board of Directors who will continue to serve following the Annual Meeting, their business experience and other information.

Directors are elected by a majority of the votes cast in uncontested elections (the number of votes “for” a director must exceed the number of votes “against” that nominee). Abstentions and broker non-votes are not counted for purposes of election of directors.

The Board recommends that you vote “FOR” election of all nominees. Properly dated and signed proxies will be so voted unless authority to vote in the election of directors is withheld.

PROPOSAL NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GRANT THORNTON LLP

The Audit Committee has recommended and the Board of Directors subsequently approved the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm to perform the audit of the Company’s financial statements for 2010. Grant Thornton was also the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm for the year ended December 31, 2009.

The Board is asking shareholders to approve the appointment of Grant Thornton, although ratification is not required by law or by the Company’s by-laws. The Board is submitting the appointment of Grant Thornton for approval as a matter of good corporate practice. Whether shareholders approve the appointment or not, the Board of Directors, in its discretion, may select an independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that to do so would be in the best interest of the Company and its shareholders. There is additional information about Grant Thornton under the heading “Information About Audit Fees and Audit Services,” below.

A representative of the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm, Grant Thornton LLP, is expected to be present at the Annual Meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement and will be available to respond to appropriate questions from shareholders.

The Board recommends that you vote “FOR” the approval of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

We conduct our business under the direction of our Board. Members of the Board of Directors devote such time, energy and attention as necessary to ensure diligent performance of their duties.

In November 2007, the Board of Directors adopted the Orion Marine Group, Inc. Corporate Governance Guidelines to assure that the Board has the necessary authority and guidelines in place to review and evaluate our business operations and to exercise judgment to act in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders. The Corporate Governance Guidelines set forth the practices the Board of Directors will follow with respect to making decisions regarding board composition and selection, board meetings, involvement of senior management in board meetings, Chief Executive Officer performance evaluation and succession planning, board committees and compensation matters. Directors are expected to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and each committee on which they serve, and the Board of Directors encourages all its members to attend each Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

Code of Ethics

In addition to its Code of Conduct, the Company has adopted a code of ethics that applies to its senior accounting and financial officers, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer and complies with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and Rule 406 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The code of ethics is posted on the Company’s website at www.orionmarinegroup.com. Changes in and waivers to the code of ethics for the Company’s directors, executive officers and certain senior financial officers will be posted on the Company’s website within five business days and maintained for at least twelve months.

Website Availability of Governance Documents

You can access the Company's Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics, Corporate Governance Guidelines, and Stockholder Communication Policy, as well as the Audit, Nominating and Governance and Compensation Committee Charters on the Investor Relations section of the Company's website at <http://www.orionmarinegroup.com>. Information contained on the Company's website or any other website is not incorporated into this proxy statement and does not constitute a part of this proxy statement. Additionally, any shareholder who so requests may obtain a printed copy of the governance documents from the Company's Corporate Secretary at the address indicated on the first page of this proxy statement.

Shareholder Communications with the Board

Interested persons wishing to communicate with the Board may do so by the following means:

Email: pbuchler@orionmarinegroup.com, Attn: Corporate Secretary

Mail: Board of Directors

Attn: Corporate Secretary

Orion Marine Group, Inc.

12000 Aerospace, Suite 300

Houston, TX 77034

Director Independence

The New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") listing rules require that a majority of the Company's directors be independent. The Board has reviewed the relationships between the Company and each director and has determined that all of the Company's directors, except Mr. Pearson who serves as President and Chief Executive Officer, have no direct or indirect material relationships with management, and that they satisfy the NYSE's definition of an independent director. In addition, each member of the Audit, Compensation, and Nominating & Corporate Governance Committees also satisfies the NYSE's independence standards for service on those committees. Members of the Audit Committee satisfy the independence requirements of the SEC's Regulation 240.10A-3.

Nomination of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for nominating a slate of candidates for Board membership, and acts through its Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee ("NCGC"), to review the composition of the Board, and screen and recruit potential director nominees in consultation with the Chairman of the Board and the Chief Executive Officer. The NCGC seeks to present a slate of candidates who collectively have a diverse set of complementary qualifications, skills and acumen to guide the Company and function effectively as a Board, and who individually demonstrate a high ethical standard, wide range of business experience at the policy-making level, and ability to exercise sound and mature judgment in matters that relate to the current and long-term objectives of the Company. The NCGC believes diversity of background, education, experience and social perspective, as well as independence, and the ability to represent the best interests of all shareholders, contribute to an optimal balance of Board members. The Board of Directors, upon recommendation by the NCGC, has determined that the nominees for director contribute to an active, effective and diverse Board.

Board Leadership Structure

We have structured our Board of Directors such that the Chairman of the Board is an independent director. We believe that a chairman independent of management provides critical and independent thinking with respect to the Company's strategy and long-term objectives. Our Chief Executive Officer serves on the Board of Directors and provides in-depth understanding of the operations of the Company and the issues, opportunities and challenges facing the Company.

The Board's Role in Risk Oversight

The members of our Board of Directors are actively involved in the oversight of risk that could affect the Company. This oversight is conducted primarily through the committees of the Board, as discussed in the charters of each committee and descriptions, below. The Audit Committee provides direction on risks identified by management through its annual risk assessment related to financial reporting and internal controls and provides a central oversight role with respect to financial and compliance risks, including compliance with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Our Compensation Committee considers potential risk related to the Company's overall compensation programs and effectiveness at linking executive pay to performance and aligning the interests of our executives and shareholders. Key risks to the Company's operations, liquidity and strategies are considered by the full Board.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ITS COMMITTEES

The following table sets forth the names, ages and positions of our director nominees and our continuing directors as of the date of this Proxy Statement.

	Current position	Age	Class	Director since	Term expires
Nominees for Director					
Austin J. Shanfelter	Director	52	III	2007	2010
Gene Stoever	Director	71	III	2007	2010
Continuing Directors					
Thomas N. Amonett	Director	66	I	2007	2011
Richard L. Daerr, Jr.	Chairman of the Board of Directors	65	II	2007	2012
J. Michael Pearson	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director	62	II	2006	2012

Nominees for Class III Directors for Three-Year Term to Expire in 2013

The following sets forth information concerning the nominees for election as directors at the Annual Meeting, including the nominees' position with us, and business experience during the past five years.

Austin J. Shanfelter — Mr. Shanfelter has been a member of our Board and a Class III director since May 2007, and has served as chairman of our Compensation Committee since May 2007. He served until December 18, 2008, as a member of the Board of Directors of MasTec, Inc. (NYSE: MTZ), a publicly traded specialty contractor, and as a special consultant. Mr. Shanfelter served as Chief Executive Officer and President of MasTec from August 2001 until March 2007. From February 2000 until August 2001, Mr. Shanfelter was MasTec's Chief Operating Officer. Prior to being named Chief Operating Officer, he served as President of one of their service offerings from January 1997. Mr. Shanfelter has been in the telecommunications infrastructure industry since 1981. Mr. Shanfelter has been a member of the Society of Cable Television Engineers since 1982 and the National Cable Television Association since 1991. Mr. Shanfelter has served as President of the Power and Communications Contractors Association ("PCAA"), an industry trade group, and is a member of the Board of Directors. Mr. Shanfelter also serves as a director of Lock Haven University Foundation, and as Chairman of Global HR Research LLC.

Mr. Shanfelter's achievements as an executive and director of MasTec, Inc., his many years of service as its Chief Executive Officer and President, and prior to this, its Chief Operating Officer, as well as his service on the board of other diverse entities, provide us with industry insight and perspective and qualify him to serve as one of our directors.

Gene Stoever — Mr. Stoever has been a member of our Board and a Class III director since May 2007, and has served as chairman of our Audit Committee since May 2007. He was an audit partner with KPMG LLP for 24 years until his retirement in 1993. During his approximately 30-year tenure with KPMG, he served domestic and multinational clients engaged in the manufacturing, construction, refining, oil and gas, real estate and banking industries, as well as serving as SEC Reviewing Partner responsible for advising and reviewing client filings with the SEC. Mr. Stoever currently serves as chairman of the audit committee of the Board of Directors of Evolution Petroleum Corp. (AMEX: EPM) and previously served on the Boards, and as chairman of the audit committees of Purina Mills, Sterling Diagnostic Imaging, Exopack, LLC, and Propex, Inc.. Mr. Stoever is a Certified Public Accountant in Texas (currently inactive license holder).

Mr. Stoever is well qualified to serve on our Board, based on his extensive experience in public accounting, his service on other boards, and his service as Chairman of our Audit Committee since 2007, coupled with his knowledge of financial reporting, SEC accounting rules and regulations, and generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards. Mr. Stoever qualifies as an “audit committee financial expert” pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission rules.

Background of the Continuing Directors

Thomas N. Amonett — Mr. Amonett has been a member of our Board and a Class I director since May 2007, and serves as the Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, and as a member of the Audit Committee. He has been President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of Champion Technologies, Inc., a manufacturer and distributor of specialty chemicals and related services primarily to the oil and gas industry, since 1999. From November 1998 to June 1999, he was President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of American Residential Services, Inc., a company providing equipment and services relating to residential heating, ventilating, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical and indoor air quality systems and appliances. From July 1996 until June 1997, Mr. Amonett was Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Weatherford Enterra, Inc., an energy services and manufacturing company. Mr. Amonett also served as the chairman of the board of TODCO, a provider of contract oil and gas drilling services primarily in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico shallow water and inland marine region from 2005 to 2007. He joined the board of Hercules Offshore, Inc., a provider of contract oil and gas drilling services and liftboat services, on July 11, 2007, where he serves on the Nominating and Corporate Governance committee and Mr. Amonett has been a director of Bristow Group Inc. (NYSE: BRS), a global provider of helicopter services, since 2006, where he currently serves on the audit committee and executive Compensation Committee. Mr. Amonett also serves as an advisory director to Triten Corporation, a privately held company. During the past five year, Mr. Amonett has been a director of Stelmar Shipping, Ltd., an owner and operator of petroleum and petroleum product tankers, and Reunion Industries, Inc., a manufacturer of metal products.

Mr. Amonett is qualified to serve as one of our directors, based on his considerable management, operational and financial experience in a wide range of industries. Of particular note is his service as President and Chief Executive Officer of several companies, his service as a director of other companies and his corporate governance experience and expertise.

Richard L. Daerr, Jr. — Mr. Daerr has served as non-executive Chairman of the Board and as a Class II director since May 2007, and is a member of each Board Committee. Mr. Daerr founded RK Enterprises in 1997, a firm that has assisted companies and investor groups in developing and implementing strategic plans and initiatives focused primarily on the energy, biotechnology, engineering and construction, and pharmaceuticals industries. From 1994 to 1996, Mr. Daerr served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Serv-Tech, Inc., an industrial services company that was listed on the NASDAQ. Mr. Daerr worked for CRSS, Inc. from 1979 to 1992 where he served as General Counsel and Chief Administrative Officer and as the President and Chief Operating Officer from 1990 to 1992. Prior to being acquired, CRSS, Inc. was a NYSE listed company and one of the largest engineering, architectural and construction management companies in the U.S. as well as one of the largest independent power producers in the U.S. CRSS owned a controlling interest in NATEC, Inc., a NASDAQ listed environmental services company of which Mr. Daerr was a director. Mr. Daerr has served on the boards of several private and public companies, including TIMEC Company, Inc., a refinery turnaround maintenance company, from 2002 to 2007, where he served as Chairman of an Independent Committee and served on the Audit Committee. Since 2003, Mr. Daerr has served as a director and on the Audit Committee of DISA, Inc., an industrial drug testing and background checking company. From 1976 to 1979 Mr. Daerr was Associate Counsel with Dresser Industries, Inc., an industrial equipment and materials supply company. From 1972 to 1976, he was a trial attorney with the antitrust division of the United States Department of Justice.

Mr. Daerr brings a vast amount of diverse experience to our Board, as he has served on numerous boards of public, private and not-for profit companies, as well as serving as a committee member within those boards. Mr. Daerr has been a consultant to various companies in the areas of strategic planning, acquisitions, divestitures and capital market transactions. As a former attorney with the Department of Justice and as counsel to other businesses in the private sector, Mr. Daerr has dealt with many of the laws and regulatory issues that affect public companies today.

J. Michael Pearson — Mr. Pearson has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer since 2006 and as a Class II director since May 2007. Mr. Pearson joined us as Chief Operating Officer in March 2006 from Global Industries, Inc. (NASDAQ: GLBL), an offshore marine construction company, where he served as Chief Operating Officer from May 2002 to November 2005 and Senior Vice President, Strategic Planning from February 2002 to May 2002. Prior to joining Global Industries, Inc., Mr. Pearson served as a General Manager for Enron Engineering and Construction Co. from 2000 to 2001. Prior to that position, Mr. Pearson served as Executive Vice President for Transoceanic Shipping Co. in 1999 and President and Chief Executive Officer for International Industrial Services, Inc. from 1997 to 1999. From 1973 to 1997, Mr. Pearson served in various management capacities at McDermott International, Inc. (NYSE: MDR), including as Vice President and General Manager. Mr. Pearson is a Registered Professional Engineer in Louisiana and Texas.

Mr. Pearson brings extensive industry knowledge to our Board of Directors and provides critical management insight regarding the challenges and opportunities facing the Company. He has over 30 years' management, operational and strategic experience in global marine construction related fields. He is also actively involved in numerous industry associations. His expertise as a Registered Professional Engineer is also of significant value as a Board Member.

Meetings of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors held eleven meetings during 2009. All directors attended at least 75% of all meetings of the Board of Directors and all directors attended the Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

Non-management directors meet in executive session on a regular basis, generally after a regularly-scheduled Board meeting. The Chairman of the Board presides over the executive session. In addition, the Audit Committee has adopted a practice of reserving time at each meeting to meet without members of Company management present. The Compensation Committee has adopted a similar practice.

Committees of the Board

The Board has established three standing committees; the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Each committee is governed by a written charter approved by the Board of Directors. A copy of each charter is available on the Company's website at <http://www.orionmarinegroup.com>.

The Audit Committee assists the Board in overseeing our accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of our financial statements. Pursuant to its charter, the Audit Committee has the following responsibilities, among others:

- to select the independent auditor to audit our annual financial statements;
- to approve the overall scope of and oversee the annual audit and any non-audit services;

to assist management in monitoring the integrity of our financial statements, the independent auditor's qualifications and independence, the performance of the independent auditor and our internal audit function, and our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;

to discuss the annual audited financial statements and unaudited quarterly financial statements with management and the independent auditor;

- to discuss policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management; and
- to review with the independent auditor any audit problems or difficulties and management's responses.

Messrs. Stoever (Chairman), Amonett and Daerr are currently members of the Audit Committee, and the Board has determined each is deemed independent as defined in the applicable rules of the NYSE, and the SEC and that Mr. Stoever meets the relevant standards as a financial expert as defined in Item 407 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC. During 2009, the Audit Committee met eight times. A report by the Audit Committee is found further in this Proxy Statement.

The Compensation Committee supports the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities relating to senior management and director compensation. Pursuant to its charter, the Compensation Committee has the following responsibilities, among others:

- to develop an overall executive compensation philosophy, strategy and framework consistent with corporate objectives and stockholder interests;
- to review, approve and recommend all actions relating to compensation, promotion and employment-related arrangements for senior management, including severance arrangements;
- to approve incentive and bonus plans applicable to senior management and administer awards under incentive compensation and equity-based plans;
- to review and recommend major changes to and take administrative actions associated with any other forms of non-salary compensation; and
- to review and approve or recommend to the entire Board for its approval, any transaction in our equity securities between us and any of our officers or directors subject to Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Messrs. Shanfelter (Chairman) and Daerr are currently members of the Compensation Committee, and the Board has determined that each is deemed independent as defined in the applicable rules of the NYSE, and the SEC. The Compensation Committee met eight times during 2009. A report by the Compensation Committee is found further in this Proxy Statement.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation. No member of the Compensation Committee at any time during 2009 or at any other time has been an officer or employee of the Company, and no member of the Compensation Committee had any relationship with the Company in 2009 requiring disclosure under Item 404 of Regulation S-K. During 2009, none of the Company's executive officers served as a director or member of a Compensation Committee of any other entity that has an executive officer serving as a member of the Company's Board.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee recommends director candidates to the Board, oversees the evaluation of Board and Committee members, develops and monitors corporate governance principles, practices and guidelines for the Board and the Company. Pursuant to its charter, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has the following responsibilities, among others:

- § to identify individuals qualified to become Board members and to recommend that the Board select the director nominees for election at annual meetings of stockholders or for appointment to fill vacancies;
- § to recommend to the Board director nominees for each committee of the Board;
- § to advise the Board about appropriate composition of the Board and its committees;
- § to advise the Board about, develop and recommend to the Board appropriate corporate governance practices, principles and guidelines, and to assist the Board in implementing those practices;
- § to lead the Board in its annual review of the performance of the Board and its committees; and
- § to perform such other functions as the Board may assign to the committee from time to time

Messrs. Amonett (Chairman) and Daerr are currently members of this committee, and the Board has determined that each is deemed independent as defined in the applicable rules of the NYSE, and the SEC. The Nominating and Governance Committee, met four times during 2009.

If a shareholder wishes to recommend a nominee for director for the 2011 Annual Meeting of Company Shareholders, written notice should be sent to the Corporate Secretary in accordance with instructions set forth below and later in this Proxy Statement under the caption "Submission of Shareholder Proposals for 2011 Annual Meeting". Any shareholder notice of intention to nominate a director shall include:

§ The name and address of the shareholder;

§ A representation that the shareholder is entitled to vote at the meeting at which directors will be elected;

§ The number of shares of the Company that are beneficially owned by the shareholder;

§ A representation that the shareholder intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to nominate the person or persons specified in the notice;

§ The following information with respect to the person nominated by the shareholder:

- o Name and address;
- o A complete resume or statement of the candidate's qualifications, including education, work experience, industry knowledge, membership on other boards of directors and civic activity;
- o A description of any arrangements and understandings between the shareholder and the nominee and any other persons pursuant to which the nomination is made;
- o The consent of each such nominee to serve as a director if elected; and
- o Such other information as required to be included in a proxy statement, including information with respect to a candidate's independence as defined under the rules and regulations of the SEC and the NYSE.

The Committee seeks to achieve a Board that is composed of individuals who have experience relevant to the needs of the Company and who have a high level of professional and personal ethics. In addition, prospective directors must have time available to devote to Board activities. The Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee uses a variety of methods and multiple sources to identify and evaluate nominees for directors, including referrals from other directors and management, recommendations by shareholders, and third party professional search firms.

The Company did not receive any shareholder nominations for director to be considered by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee for the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Annual Performance Evaluations

Annually, the Board and its committees conduct self-performance evaluations and review each committee charter. Also annually, the Corporate Governance Guidelines are reviewed and reassessed for adequacy.

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

The following table describes the compensation earned by persons who served as non-employee directors during 2009. Mr. Pearson, who is an employee of the Company, received no additional compensation for his service on the Board.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (1)	Stock Compensation (2)	Option Awards (3)	Total
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)

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Thomas N. Amonett	\$	53,000	\$	31,676	\$	24,324	\$	109,000
Richard L. Daerr, Jr.	\$	81,000	\$	31,676	\$	24,324	\$	137,000
Austin J. Shanfelter	\$	46,000	\$	31,676	\$	24,324	\$	102,000
Gene Stoever	\$	51,500	\$	14,176	\$	41,824	\$	107,500

13

- (1) Amounts in this column represent retainers, meeting fees and chairmanship fees as further described below.
- (2) As part of their annual compensation package in 2008 and 2009, the non-employee directors each received an equity award of either restricted stock or options (at the recipient's election) with a grant date fair value of \$35,000, based on the closing price of the Company's stock on the date of grant, which awards were granted in December 2008, and June 2009, and at which time the closing price was \$8.72 and \$18.09, respectively. Messrs. Amonett, Daerr and Shanfelter elected to receive stock, which is restricted from sale in total for a period of three years. Mr. Stoever elected to receive options to purchase our common stock, which grant is restricted from exercise for a period of three years and which amount recognized for financial reporting purposes is included in the Option Awards column. The amounts shown in the Stock Compensation column represent amounts recognized during 2009 for financial reporting purposes under Financial Accounting Standards Board Codification Topic 718 "Share-Based Compensation" ("Topic 718"). Compensation is expensed ratably over the three year vesting period.
- (3) The value of the stock awards is the total dollar cost recognized from option awards in 2007 and 2008 for financial reporting purposes in accordance with Topic 718. No amounts earned by a director have been capitalized on the balance sheet. The cost does not reflect any estimates made for financial statement reporting purposes of future forfeitures by the director related to service-based vesting conditions. The valuation of these stock option awards was made on the equity valuation assumptions described in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K (which accompanies this Proxy Statement) in Note 15 "Stock-Based Compensation" of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements. None of the awards has been forfeited. The options granted in 2007 vest 33% on the first anniversary of the grant date (May 17, 2008) and 1/36 of the total award each month of continuous service thereafter.
- (4) In October 2008, the non-employee directors each were granted 15,000 options separate from their 2008 compensation package. These options vest 33% on the first anniversary of the grant date (October 9, 2009) and 1/36 of the total award each month of continuous service thereafter.
- (5) In November 2009, after assessing industry peer group director compensation data, the Compensation Committee revised the director compensation plans, effective January 1, 2010. The changes in the compensation for non-employee directors included an increase in the equity component to an annual amount of \$60,000, based on the fair value on the date of grant. The Compensation Committee authorized stock grants to non-employee directors in respect of 2010 equity compensation with a 6 month vesting period. The grant date fair value of each director's award of 3,140 shares of restricted stock was \$19.11 per share, with \$14,177 recognized in 2009 for financial statement reporting purposes.

The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors retained Vivient Consulting to provide assistance with compensation actions in 2008 for the non-executive directors and relied on the work of Vivient Consulting for compensation actions in 2009. For 2010, The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors retained Towers Watson & Co., an independent consulting firm, to assist in determining the components and amounts of director compensation for 2010, based on comparisons of board compensation in similarly-situated companies. .

Non-employee directors were compensated in 2009 based on the following fee structure:

Annual retainer	\$ 35,000
Attendance at regularly scheduled meeting	\$ 1,000
Board Chairman additional annual retainer	\$ 25,000
Audit Committee Chairman additional annual retainer	\$ 12,500
Chairman of other committee additional annual retainer	\$ 7,000
Member of the Audit Committee additional annual retainer	\$ 7,000
Member of other committee additional annual retainer	\$ 5,000

All retainers and meeting fees are paid quarterly in arrears. The Company also reimburses non-employee directors for reasonable travel and lodging expenses incurred in attending Board and committee meetings.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY

The following table sets forth the executive officers of the Company serving as of the date of this Proxy Statement. All executive officers hold office until their successors are elected and qualified and serve at the discretion of the Board. There is no family relationship between or among any of the Company's directors and executive officers.

Name	Age	Position with the Company
J. Michael Pearson	62	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
Mark R. Stauffer	47	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Elliott J. Kennedy	55	Executive Vice President – Gulf Coast
James L. Rose	45	Executive Vice President – Atlantic and Caribbean
Peter R. Buchler	63	Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Below is a summary of the business experience of our executive officers who do not serve on the Board. Mr. Pearson's business experience is included under the caption "Background of the Continuing Directors", above.

Mark R. Stauffer — Mr. Stauffer has served as our Chief Financial Officer since 1999, and Executive Vice President since 2007, and served as Secretary from 2004 until August 31, 2007. Mr. Stauffer served as Vice President from 1999, when he joined us, to 2007. Prior to joining us, Mr. Stauffer served in various capacities at Coastal Towing, Inc. from 1986 to 1999, including Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Vice President-Finance, Controller, Accounting Manager and Staff Accountant. Mr. Stauffer is a Certified Public Accountant.

Elliott J. Kennedy — Mr. Kennedy served as Vice President since 1994 until December 2007, when he was named Executive Vice President – Gulf Coast of the Company. From 1992 to 1994, Mr. Kennedy served as Project Manager for Triton Marine. Prior to joining Triton, Mr. Kennedy served as Estimator/Project Manager for the Insite Division of Nustone Surfacing, Inc. From 1983 to 1989, he was Owner/Project Manager/ Estimator of E.J. Kennedy Design Construction. From 1980 to 1983, Mr. Kennedy was Project Manager/Superintendent for Infinity Construction.

James L. Rose — Mr. Rose has served as President of Misener Marine Construction, Inc. ("Misener Marine"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, since 2006, and he was named Executive Vice President – Atlantic and Caribbean of the Company in December 2007. Mr. Rose served as Area Manager for Jacksonville for Misener Marine from 2005 to 2006. From 2002 to 2005, Mr. Rose served as Project Engineer and Project Manager for Granite Construction Company. From 2001 to 2002, Mr. Rose served as Project Engineer and Project Manager for Misener Marine.

Peter R. Buchler – Mr. Buchler joined the Company as Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary in September 2009. He subsequently became the Company's Chief Compliance Officer and effective January 1, 2010, became Executive Vice President. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Buchler founded and operated The Buchler Group, LLC, a consulting firm providing corporate and contracting advisory services to the domestic and international construction industry. From 2003 to 2008, Mr. Buchler worked for Global Industries, Ltd. (NASDAQ: GLBL) in various capacities, including Assistant General Counsel, Vice President Commercial and Subcontracts, and Vice President of Asia Pacific. Prior to this, he served as Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Cooperheat-MQS, Inc, following service as Senior Counsel, Assistant General Counsel for Corporate, and Assistant General Counsel for Shipbuilding, Industrial Services and Marine Construction segments with McDermott International, Inc. (NYSE: MDR). Mr. Buchler is admitted to practice law in Texas and Louisiana.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following tables, based in part upon information supplied by officers, directors and certain shareholders, sets forth the ownership of common shares of the Company's stock as of the Record Date (or with respect to 5% shareholders as of the latest 13G filing) by:

- (1) each person or entity who is known by the Company to own beneficially more than 5% of the Company's common stock;
- (2) each of the Company's directors;
- (3) each of the Company's named executive officers, and
- (4) all directors and executive officers of the Company as a group.

Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners:

Name and Address	Common Shares Beneficially Owned	Percent of Common Shares(1)
5% Shareholders:		
BlackRock, Inc. 40 East 52nd St New York, NY 10022	1,400,001(a)	5.2%
Thompson , Siegel & Walmsley LLC 6806 Paragon Place, Suite 300 Richmond, VA 23230	1,773,390(b)	6.6%
BAMCO, Inc. 767 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10153	1,380,000(c)	5.1%

(1) Calculated based on 26,870,605 shares outstanding on the Record Date

- (a) As reported on Schedule 13G filed on January 29, 2010 by BlackRock, Inc. as of December 31, 2009, BlackRock, Inc., a parent holding company, has shared voting power and shared dispositive power of these shares.
- (b) As reported on Schedule 13G filed on February 10, 2010, by Thompson, Siegel & Walmsley, LLC, as of December 31, 2009, Thompson, Siegel & Walmsley, an investment advisor, hold sole voting power for 1,488,015 shares and shared voting power for an additional 285,375 shares, and sole dispositive power for 1,773,390 shares.
- (c) As reported on Schedule 13G filed on February 8, 2010 by BAMCO, Inc. as of December 31, 2008, BAMCO, Inc., Baron Capital Group, Inc., Baron Small Cap Fund, and Ronald Baron has shared voting power and shared dispositive power of these shares.

Security Ownership of Directors, Nominees, and Management

Name of Beneficial Owner (1)	Number of Outstanding Shares of Common Stock Owned(2)	Shares subject to Purchase (3)	Total Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Class (4)
Non-Management Directors:				
Thomas N. Amonett	9,089	14,602	23,691	*
Richard L. Daerr, Jr.	13,089	14,602	27,691	*
Austin Shanfelter	9,089	14,602	23,691	*
Gene Stoever	3,140	17,742	17,742	*
Named Executive Officers:				
Peter R. Buchler	4,579	—	4,579	*
Elliott J. Kennedy	38,946	36,587	75,533	*
J. Michael Pearson	17,007	126,886	143,893	*
James L. Rose	11,021	50,578	61,599	*
Mark R. Stauffer	72,477	101,242	173,719	*
Directors and Officers as a group (9 persons):	178,437	373,700	552,137	2.0%

*Less than 1%

(1) Unless otherwise indicated, the business address of each of the shareholders named in this table is Orion Marine Group, Inc., 12000 Aerospace, Suite 300, Houston, Texas 77034

(2) Includes grants of stock for which vesting restrictions have not lapsed, however, the recipient retains voting rights.

(3) Includes shares that may be acquired within 60 days of March 30, 2010 by exercising vested stock options, but does not include any unvested stock options

(4) Calculated based on 26,870,605 common shares outstanding on the Record Date. For each individual, this percentage is determined by assuming the named shareholder exercises all options which the shareholder has the right to acquire within 60 days of March 30, 2010, but that no other person exercises any options.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires the Company's officers and directors and persons who own more than 10% of the Company's equity securities, or insiders, to file with the SEC reports of beneficial ownership of those securities and certain changes in beneficial ownership on Forms 3, 4 and 5 and to furnish the Company with copies of those reports.

Based solely on a review of the copies of these reports furnished to the Company and representations that no other reports were required during the year ended December 31, 2009, all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to the Company's insiders were satisfied except as follows:

A grant of options made to Mr. Buchler on September 1, 2009, was not reported until November 13, 2009. A sale of stock from Mr. Pearson's 10b5-1 trading plan on November 23, 2009 was not reported on a Form 4 until December 2, 2009.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Introduction

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis is designed to provide shareholders with an understanding of the objectives and design of our compensation programs with respect to our named executive officers for the 2009 fiscal year. Our named executive officers are those individuals who served as our President and Chief Executive Officer, and our Chief Financial Officer during 2009, as well as the other individuals identified in “Executive Officers of the Company” above, and included in the Summary Compensation Table on page 27 of this Proxy Statement. Targets and goals disclosed in the limited context of this discussion should not be understood to be statements of management’s expectations or estimates of results or other guidance.

The Compensation Committee of our Board is responsible for establishing and implementing the Company’s executive compensation program. The discussion that follows will focus on the philosophy and objectives of the Company’s compensation program, the goals that the program is designed to reward, the determination of the formulas to measure performance and award levels, and the components of executive compensation.

Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

In determining the form and amount of compensation payable to the named executive officers, the Compensation Committee is guided by the following:

• Compensation levels should be sufficiently competitive to attract and retain key executives. The Compensation Committee aims to ensure that our executive compensation program attracts, motivates and retains high performance talent and rewards them for our achieving and maintaining a competitive position in our industry. Total compensation (i.e., maximum achievable compensation) should increase with position and responsibility.

• Compensation should relate directly to performance, and incentive compensation should constitute a substantial portion of total compensation. We aim to foster a pay-for-performance culture, with a significant portion of total compensation being “at risk.” Accordingly, a substantial portion of total compensation should be tied to and vary with our financial, operational and strategic performance, as well as individual performance. Executives with greater roles and the ability to directly impact our strategic goals and long-term results should bear a greater proportion of the risk if these goals and results are not achieved.

• Long-term incentive compensation should align executives’ interests with our shareholders. Awards of equity-based compensation encourage executives to focus on our long-term growth and prospects and incentivize executives to manage the company from the perspective of shareholders with a meaningful stake in us, as well as to focus on long-term career orientation.

Compensation Goals

Our executive compensation program is designed to reward strong financial performance of the Company that results from development and execution of our strategic goals and systems to position ourselves as a competitive force within our industry. In addition, we seek to implement and reinforce a culture of compliance and unwavering commitment to the operation of our business with high standards of professional conduct and integrity.

Establishing Executive Compensation

Annually, the Compensation Committee determines targeted total compensation levels, as well as the individual pay components of the named executive officers. The Compensation Committee retained the services of Vivient Consulting, an independent consultant, to review and provide recommendations concerning the components of the Company’s executive compensation package, including base pay, performance incentives, equity awards, and other

benefits for the 2008 fiscal year. The independent consultant provided the Compensation Committee with comparative market data of compensation practices and programs based on analysis of companies similar in breadth and scope to the Company (the "Peer Group"). The Peer Group was selected based on companies that met the following criteria:

- (1) Annual revenues of \$100 million to \$400 million per year;

- (2) US publically traded companies engaged in marine construction/services and civil construction;
- (3) Headquartered in the Gulf Coast region and/or Southern US
- (4) Completed an initial public offering (IPO) within the past three years.

Companies comprising the Peer Group for determination of compensation were:

Furmanite Corporation

Hill International

Sterling Construction Company, Inc.

Superior Offshore International

Superior Well Services

Team, Inc.

Using the data gathered from published compensation surveys and from peer group proxy filings, the independent consultant determined competitive base salary, bonus and long-term incentive levels for the named executive officers, and prepared recommendations on compensation components and levels. The Compensation Committee reviewed comparisons based on job title among the Peer Group to set benchmarking levels for 2008.

For the 2009 fiscal year, the Compensation Committee did not retain an independent consultant, but continued with its recommendations and reviewed the effectiveness of the 2008 executive compensation program in supporting the Company's business strategy, conformity with corporate governance guidelines, and the current business and regulatory environment. During 2009:

- Base pay increased approximately 5% from 2008 as the Company migrates over time to compensation levels positioned at the median of similar job titles, experience and tenure within its Peer Group.
- Base salary plus annual incentive compensation continued to migrate over time to levels positioned at the median within the Peer Group to attain target level Company and individual performance objectives. If the company and/or individual objectives are not met; incentive compensation may be below the benchmarked percent or not paid at all. Annual incentive compensation to be capped at two times base salary.
- Total direct compensation, or base salary plus annual incentive compensation and long-term incentive grants was also targeted at the median of the Peer Group. Achievement of superior performance and continued stock price appreciation results in growth of actual direct compensation over time. Below-target company performance and diminishing stock prices will decrease actual total direct compensation.
- Current levels of other compensation, including car allowance and matching contributions under our 401(k) plan were reasonable in amount and comparable to the Peer Group.

The Committee retained an independent consultant, Towers Watson & Co., , to assess executive compensation for the 2010 fiscal year. The Compensation Committee believes that the Company's executive compensation program is both reasonable in relation to competitive pay levels, and appropriate in supporting the Company's business objectives.

Role of Management

The Chief Executive Officer annually reviews the performance of, and compensation for, the named executive officers, other than his own, and makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee with respect to annual base salary adjustments and short- and long-term incentive compensation awards. The Compensation Committee reviews these recommendations and approves actual compensation for the named executive officers, as the Committee considers appropriate. The Compensation Committee reviews the performance of, and approves the compensation of, the Chief Executive Officer.

Components of Executive Compensation

There are four elements to the Company's executive compensation program:

- Fixed compensation – base pay
- “At-risk” annual compensation – annual incentives paid in cash, based on achievement of identified performance goals of the Company, as well as achievement of individual goals.
- “At-risk” long-term compensation – equity awards delivered generally in the form of stock options or restricted stock, which vest over time.

- Retirement and other benefits

Base Salary.

To determine base salary levels for the named executive officers in 2009, the Compensation Committee considered the recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer, the Committee's own evaluation of the individual performance of the executive against the established goals, and the 2008 recommendations by the independent consultant regarding the prevailing wages in our Peer Group. Other factors influencing the base salary decision for each named executive officer included level of responsibility, years of service, and experience, and competitive condition. The Compensation Committee applied the same factors in determination of the base pay of the Chief Executive Officer. All named executive officers have employment agreements in place, as more fully described below under "Employment Agreements, Severance Benefits and Change in Control Provisions."

Performance-Based Incentive Compensation

Incentive Bonus.

Our named executive officers and other key employees of the Company participate in one of two incentive plans. Payments under these plans are allocated, based on a bonus pool determined by the overall financial performance of the Company, as well as achievement of individual goals that are intended to help the Company accomplish its stated objectives. The overall financial performance of the Company is measured by a "Net Cash Flow" formula (or "NCF"). This formula is defined as (a) Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization ("EBITDA"), prior to any bonus computation, and (b) less net capital expenditures for the performance period.

The Company selected EBITDA as its measure of financial performance because it is used as a supplemental financial measure by our management as well as external users of our financial statements, such as investors, to assess the financial performance of our assets without regard to financing methods, capital structure, or historical cost. We subtract our net capital expenditures from the NCF computation as we regard investment in our core assets a vital component of our operations.

Mr. Pearson (our Chief Executive Officer), Mr. Stauffer (our Chief Financial Officer), Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Rose participate in the Executive Incentive Plan ("EIP"). Bonuses that may be awarded under the EIP are comprised of a formula award and a discretionary award. The formula award, which accounts for 75% of the bonus to be awarded under the EIP, is based on our achievement of a consolidated Net Cash Flow target (the "NCF Target"), and is only payable if we meet or exceed 80% of that target. The remaining 25% of the bonus amount, which is the discretionary award, is based on mutually-agreed-to individual objectives. These individual objectives are established on an annual basis. Similar to the formula award, the discretionary award is only available if we meet or exceed 80% of the NCF Target. Earned bonuses under the EIP are payable only if the individual is an employee in "good standing." An employee is in good standing under the EIP if the employee (a) has not resigned, (b) has not indicated an intention to resign, (c) has not been notified that his employment has been terminated and (d) is not on a performance improvement plan.

Under our Subsidiary Incentive Plan ("SIP"), which is applicable to our subsidiary management teams, and includes Mr. Buchler, each participant has a target bonus equal to 30%-50% of his or her annual base salary. The bonus amount is determined by the following four factors: (a) 30% of bonus amount is dependent upon overall company performance; (b) 35%-45% is dependent upon subsidiary financial performance; (c) 15%-20% is dependent upon individual goals established at the discretion of the President and Chief Executive Officer; and (d) 10%-20% is dependent upon subsidiary safety performance. The percentages for items (b), (c), and (d) may be adjusted for an individual at the discretion of the President and Chief Executive Officer. Earned bonuses under the SIP are payable only if the individual is an employee in "good standing." A participant is in good standing under the SIP if the participant (a) has not resigned, (b) has not indicated an intention to resign, (c) has not been notified that his employment has been terminated and (d) is not on a performance improvement plan.

The SIP is administered by our Senior Management Team (Mr. Pearson and Mr. Stauffer) who approve annually developed performance measures, performance standards, award levels, and award payments subject to approval by the Compensation Committee of the overall plan. Achievement of goals is also determined by our Senior Management Team.

20

2009 Bonuses - EIP.

In 2009, we set our NCF Target at \$35.4 million, slightly below our 2008 target, which was based on our internal financial projections and the overall economic environment. Our Target Pool amount, based upon achievement of 100% of the NCF Target, was \$654,700.

In 2009, we exceeded our NCF Target by more than 110%, and computed the total available bonus pool by adding the result of two different formulas.

The first formula applies to actual Net Cash Flow between 80% and 110% of the NCF Target. This formula is:

$$\frac{(\text{Actual NCF} - (80\% \text{ of NCF Target}) \times \text{Target Pool amount})}{20\% \text{ of NCF Target}} = \text{Initial Bonus Pool}$$

Calculated based on 2009 actual results as follows:

$$\text{Initial Bonus Pool} = \frac{(\$38.9 \text{ million} - (\$28.3 \text{ million}) \times \$654,700}{\$7.1 \text{ million}} = \$982,109$$

The second formula applies when the actual Net Cash Flow is above 110% of the target Net Cash Flow. In such case, the bonus pool is equal to the sum of the bonus pool calculated above, plus the extra amount determined by the following formula:

$$2.5 \times \frac{(\text{Actual NCF} - (110\% \text{ of NCF Target})) \times \text{Target Pool amount}}{20\% \text{ of NCF Target}} = \text{Additional Bonus Pool}$$

Calculated based on 2009 actual results (which were 112% of the Net Cash Flow target) as follows:

$$\text{Additional Bonus Pool} = \frac{2.5 \times (\$39.7 \text{ million} - (\$38.9 \text{ million}) \times \$654,700)}{\$7.1 \text{ million}} = \$191,172$$

Therefore, the total available bonus pool for 2009 was comprised of:

Initial Bonus Pool	\$ 982,109
Additional Bonus Pool	\$ 191,172
Total Bonus Pool	\$ 1,173,281

In accordance with the EIP 75% of the total bonus pool (\$879,961) was available related to the achievement of the financial component and 25% (\$293,320) was the maximum bonus available based on achievement of mutually established individual goals by each participant.

Set forth below is a discussion of compensation actions in respect of incentive compensation for each named executive officer, which reflects how the Compensation Committee viewed compensation in 2009. Generally, the Compensation Committee considered steps taken by each named executive officer to mitigate effects of the economic recession and to position the Company for sustainable growth over the longer term.

J. Michael Pearson – President and Chief Executive Officer

2009 performance goals for Mr. Pearson were designed to position the Company for additional growth through 1) identification of potential acquisition targets and, 2) internal management structure. In addition, Mr. Pearson was to initiate a retention and in-house Best Practices training program for project managers and project engineers.

The Compensation Committee determined that Mr. Pearson met these objectives.

Incentive bonus achieved from bonus pool	\$ 521,857	44.5% of aggregate bonus pool
Discretionary award*	80,000	
Total incentive bonus	\$ 601,857	

* The Compensation Committee awarded a discretionary bonus to Mr. Pearson for his efforts as the Company completed a successful secondary offering of public stock during 2009, for his performance in identifying two acquisition targets during 2009, and completing the transactions in parallel in early 2010, and for his leadership as the Company exceeded its financial goals in the midst of a difficult economic environment. Also, in March 2010, the Compensation Committee awarded Mr. Pearson a stock grant of 2,262 shares, which vest cumulatively at a rate of 1/3 upon the first anniversary of the stock grant and 1/36 per month thereafter such that all shares are vested on the third anniversary of the stock grant.

Mark R. Stauffer – Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Stauffer’s 2009 performance goals were designed to make recommendations to enhance the Company’s capital structure and build on the strengths of the Finance Department through enhanced analysis and reporting. In addition, Mr. Stauffer was encouraged to further his professional development within his peer group.

The Compensation Committee determined that Mr. Stauffer met these objectives.

Incentive bonus achieved from bonus pool	\$ 237,452	20.3% of aggregate bonus pool
Discretionary award*	45,154	
Total incentive bonus	\$ 282,606	

* The Compensation Committee awarded a bonus to Mr. Stauffer, at its discretion, for his efforts as the Company completed a successful secondary offering in 2009 and in recognition of his performance in the evaluation and assessment of two acquisition targets during 2009; both of which were ultimately completed in early 2010. Also, in March 2010, the Compensation Committee awarded Mr. Stauffer a stock grant of 1,277 shares, which vest cumulatively at a rate of 1/3 upon the first anniversary of the stock grant and 1/36 per month thereafter such that all shares are vested on the third anniversary of the stock grant.

Elliott J. Kennedy – Executive Vice President

Mr. Kennedy was challenged in 2009 to complete a program to update the Company’s dredges within the area of his supervision, enhance the Company’s position to seek larger projects, and personally achieve management skill growth. The Compensation Committee determined that Mr. Kennedy met these objectives.

Incentive bonus achieved from bonus pool	\$ 206,986	17.6% of aggregate bonus pool
Discretionary award*	58,410	
Total incentive bonus	\$ 265,397	

* The Compensation Committee recognized Mr. Kennedy with a discretionary award in recognition of his efforts in securing one of the largest contracts in the Company’s history. Also, in March 2010, the Compensation Committee awarded Mr. Kennedy a stock option grant of 3,879 shares, which vest cumulatively at a rate of 1/3 upon the first anniversary of the option grant and 1/36 per month thereafter such that all shares are vested on the third anniversary of the stock grant.

James L. Rose – Executive Vice President

2009 performance goals for Mr. Rose were to meet financial performance targets for operations under his direction and to further his professional growth through executive level courses.

The Compensation Committee determined that Mr. Rose only partially met these objectives, and a portion of his bonus related to the individual component was not granted..

Incentive bonus achieved from bonus pool	\$ 196,637	17.6% of aggregate bonus pool
Discretionary award	—	
Total incentive bonus	\$ 196,637	

2009 Bonuses – SIP (Mr. Buchler).

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Mr. Buchler, our Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, had a target bonus equal to 50% of his earned base salary for 2009. Similar to our 2009 EIP, 75% of Mr. Buchler's bonus was based on our NCF for 2009, and 25% was based on individual goals:

$$75\% \text{ Bonus Amount} = \frac{((\text{Lesser of Actual NCF or NCF Target}) - 80\% \text{ of NCF Target}) \times \$27,584}{20\% \text{ of NCF Target}}$$

As computed:

$$75\% \text{ Bonus Amount} = (\$35.4 \text{ million} - \$28.3 \text{ million}) * \$27,574 = \$27,584 \\ \$7.1 \text{ million}$$

Mr. Buchler earned the maximum available upon achievement of his individual goals, and received \$9,195 in respect of the individual component of his bonus calculation. The Compensation Committee determined that Mr. Buchler performed an exceptional task in taking over the General Counsel duties in the fall of 2009 and provided critical legal oversight of two complex acquisitions that were successfully completed in early 2010, and awarded a discretionary bonus of \$13,221, for a total award to Mr. Buchler of \$50,000.

2008 Incentive Bonuses

In 2008, our actual NCF did not exceed 110% of our NCF Target and the bonus pool was limited to \$416,169, of which \$312,127 related to the financial performance of the Company and \$104,042 was based on achievement of individual goals for each participant. The Compensation Committee approved supplemental bonuses, in the amount of \$274,809 to reward Messrs. Pearson, Stauffer, Kennedy and Rose for their efforts in improving the Company's financial performance in the second half of 2008.

2007 Bonuses

In 2007, our actual NCF exceeded 110% of our NCF Target and the maximum bonus pool for 2007 totaled \$1,041,844, of which 75% (\$781,383) related to the achievement of the financial component and 25% (\$260,461) was discretionary based on achievement of mutually established individual goals. The total paid under the EIP plan for 2007 was \$1,028,002. In addition, in 2007, we entered into transaction bonus agreements with our Chief Executive Officer, our Chief Financial Officer, each of our other named executive officers (other than Mr. Buchler, who joined the Company in 2009) and certain other key employees. Under these bonus agreements, as amended, our Chief Executive Officer, our Chief Financial Officer, each of our other named executive officers and certain other key employees received cash bonuses, common stock grants and options to acquire common stock.

2010 Incentive Bonus Structure

The Compensation Committee retained Towers Watson & Co. to review the incentive compensation structure for 2010. As recommended to the Committee, and approved by the Compensation Committee, the form and structure of the EIP Plan and the SIP Plan remain the same for fiscal 2010. The Target Net Cash Flow and the individual goal composition are to be set during the first quarter of 2010.

Long-Term Incentive Compensation.

We believe that long-term performance is achieved through an ownership culture that rewards and encourages long-term performance by our executive officers through the use of stock-based awards. Our Long Term Incentive Plan (the "LTIP") was adopted by the Company and approved by the shareholders in 2007. The purposes of the LTIP are to attract and retain the best available personnel for positions of substantial responsibility, to provide additional incentives to our employees and consultants, and to promote the success of our business. The LTIP provides for grants of (a) incentive stock options qualified as such under U.S. federal income tax laws, (b) stock options that do not qualify as incentive stock options, (c) stock appreciation rights (or SARs), (d) restricted stock awards, (e) restricted stock units, or (f) any combination of such awards. The Compensation Committee will determine on an annual basis who will receive awards under the LTIP and the limitations on those awards. The determination will be based on factors that normally apply to a company's decision to grant awards, i.e., performance and industry conditions.

Subject to their terms, stock options currently awarded generally vest 33% on the first anniversary of the grant date and 1/36 per month thereafter, and expire on the tenth anniversary of the grant date.

The Company does not backdate options or grant options retroactively. In addition, we do not intentionally coordinate grants of options so that they are made before announcement of favorable information, or after announcement of unfavorable information. Our option grants are granted at fair market value on a fixed date or event, with all required approvals obtained in advance of or on the actual grant date. Fair market value is the mean of the high and low sales prices of a share of the Company's common stock on the grant date. All grants to executive officers require the approval of the Compensation Committee.

In 2009, the named executive officers each received a grant of restricted stock and options, as discussed in the “Grants of Plan-Based Awards for Fiscal Year Ended 2009” table, below.

Other Awards. Participants may be granted, subject to applicable legal limitations and the terms of the LTIP and its purposes, other awards related to common stock. Such awards may include, but are not limited to, convertible or exchangeable debt securities, other rights convertible or exchangeable into common stock, purchase rights for common stock, awards with value and payment contingent upon our performance or any other factors designated by the Compensation Committee, and awards valued by reference to the book value of common stock or the value of securities of or the performance of specified subsidiaries. The Compensation Committee will determine terms and conditions of all such awards. Cash awards may be granted as an element of or as a supplement to any awards permitted under the LTIP. Awards may also be granted in lieu of obligations to pay cash or deliver other property under the LTIP or under other plans or compensatory arrangements, subject to any applicable provision under Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

Performance Awards. The Compensation Committee may designate that certain awards granted under the LTIP constitute “performance” awards. A performance award is any award the grant, exercise or settlement of which is subject to one or more performance standards. These standards may include business criteria for us on a consolidated basis, such as total stockholders’ return and earnings per share, or for specific subsidiaries or business or geographical units.

Incentive compensation is intended to compensate officers for achieving financial and operational goals and for achieving individual annual performance objectives. These objectives are expected to vary depending on the individual executive, but are expected to relate generally to strategic factors such as expansion of our services and to financial factors such as improving our results of operations.

The Company aligns executives’ interests with shareholder value. To that end, we expect that the Compensation Committee will continue to maintain compensation plans that relate a portion of each of our named executive officers’ overall compensation to our financial and operational performance, as measured by revenues, Net Cash Flow, and performance of individual operating divisions, and to accomplishing strategic goals such as the expansion of our business to other geographic areas. We expect that the Compensation Committee will evaluate individual executive performance with a goal of setting compensation at levels it believes are comparable with executives in other companies of similar size and stage of development operating in the heavy civil marine infrastructure industry while taking into account our relative performance and our own strategic goals.

Retirement and Other Benefits. Executive officers are eligible to participate in our benefit programs as described below. The Compensation Committee reviews the overall cost to us of these various programs generally on an annual basis or when changes are proposed. The Compensation Committee believes that the benefits provided by these programs have been important factors in attracting and retaining the overall executive officer group, including the named executive officers.

Each named executive officer is eligible to participate in our 401(k) plan. The plan provides that we match 100% on the first 2% of eligible compensation contributed to the plan, and 50% on the next 2% of eligible compensation contributed to the plan. These matching contributions vest over a four-year period. At our discretion, we may make additional matching and profit sharing contributions to the plan.

Each named executive officer is also eligible to participate in all other benefit plans and programs that are or in the future may be available to our other executive employees, including any profit-sharing plan, thrift plan, health insurance or health care plan, disability insurance, pension plan, supplemental retirement plan, vacation and sick leave plan, and other similar plans. In addition, each executive officer is eligible for certain other benefits, including

reimbursement of business and entertainment expenses, car allowances and life insurance. The Compensation Committee in its discretion may revise, amend or add to the officer's executive benefits and perquisites as it deems advisable.

Employment Agreements, Severance Benefits and Change in Control Provisions

We have employment agreements with our Chief Executive Officer, our Chief Financial Officer, our other named executive officers, and other key employees which entitle them to severance benefits in the amount of the officer's base salary for one year in the event of a resignation for good reason or a termination without cause. In the event of termination related to a change in control (if resignation is for good reason or termination without cause), the officers receive their respective base salary for two to three years. The Compensation Committee believes that such severance benefits due to these termination events provides our named executive officers a reasonable package based on the value such officers have created, which is ultimately realized by our shareholders. We believe that the payments under the employment agreements will better enable us to maintain the services of our employees if a change of control is contemplated. See "Executive Compensation — Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control" below.

Stock Ownership Guidelines

The Compensation Committee has not implemented stock ownership guidelines. The Compensation Committee will continue to periodically review best practices and re-evaluate our position with respect to stock ownership guidelines.

Tax and Accounting Implications

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code prohibits certain companies from deducting compensation of more than \$1.0 million paid to certain employees. We believe that compensation paid under the management incentive plans are fully deductible for federal income tax purposes. In certain situations, however, the Compensation Committee may approve compensation that will not meet the necessary requirements in order to ensure competitive levels of total compensation for our executives.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Our Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management and, based on such review and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to our Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement.

Respectfully submitted by the members of the Compensation Committee,
Austin J. Shanfelter, Chairman
Richard L. Daerr, Jr.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Summary Compensation Table

The table below sets forth information regarding compensation earned by, awarded to or paid to the Company's principal executive officer, principal financial officer and the three other named executive officers of the Company serving as executive officers at the Company's fiscal year ending December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, (collectively, the "Named Executive Officers").

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary \$	Incentive Plan Compensation \$ (1)(2)	Stock Awards \$ (3)(4)	Option Awards \$ (5)	All Other Compensation \$	Total \$
J. Michael Pearson President and Chief Executive Officer	2009	\$ 423,385	\$ 621,857	\$ 12,739	\$ 245,530	\$ 26,000(6)	\$ 1,329,511
	2008	\$ 398,077	\$ 280,000	—	\$ 184,284	\$ 25,250(6)	\$ 887,611
	2007	300,000	1,357,204	250,000	195,376	25,250(6)	2,127,830
Mark R. Stauffer Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2009	269,520	302,606	6,860	192,155	21,534(7)	792,675
	2008	249,439	160,000	—	151,936	20,700(7)	582,075
	2007	220,000	1,011,949	—	76,546	15,000(7)	1,323,495
Elliott J. Kennedy Executive Vice President	2009	235,020	280,397	4,900	131,104	4,628(8)	656,049
	2008	219,615	110,000	—	105,253	4,596(8)	439,464
	2007	200,000	264,396	48,749	38,630	4,882(8)	556,657
James L. Rose Executive Vice President	2009	234,635	211,637	4,900	124,623	7,155(9)	582,950
	2008	208,960	120,000	—	98,772	7,020(9)	434,752
	2007	155,000	245,714	—	37,224	7,020(9)	444,958
Peter R. Buchler (10) Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary	2009	73,558	65,000	3,429	18,245	3,600(11)	163,832

(1) See the discussion of "Performance Based Incentive Compensation", above.

(2) Upon execution of their employment agreements in December 2009, the named executive officers received a signing bonus as follows:

Mr. Pearson	\$ 20,000
Mr. Stauffer	\$ 20,000
Mr. Kennedy	\$ 15,000
Mr. Rose	\$ 15,000
Mr. Buchler	\$ 15,000

(3) In 2009, each named executive officer received an award of stock, which is restricted over the vesting period of three years. The amount represents the pro-rata compensation costs recognized in 2009 based on the fair value of the award on the day of grant of \$19.11.

(4) In 2007, this represents the fair value on the day of award of 18,519 shares of fully vested common stock awarded to Mr. Pearson and 3,611 shares of fully vested common stock awarded to Mr. Kennedy.

(5) Represents the compensation costs recognized in 2009 for awards granted in 2009 and in prior years, calculated in accordance with FASB Codification Topic 718 on the same basis used for financial reporting purposes for fiscal

2009. Assumptions used to calculate these amounts are included in Note 15 "Stock Based Compensation" of the audited financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009.

- (6) For Mr. Pearson, this amount reflects an automobile allowance provided to him of \$15,000, \$15,000 in each year, and the Company's matching contribution to his account under the Company's 401(k) Plan in the amount of \$11,000, \$10,250, and \$10,250 for 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.
- (7) For Mr. Stauffer, this amount reflects an automobile allowance provided to him of \$11,400, \$11,400 and \$5,700 and the Company's matching contribution under the Company's 401(k) Plan in the amount of \$10,134, \$9,300 and \$9,300 for 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

(8) For Mr. Kennedy, this amount reflects the value of use of a company-provided vehicle of \$228, \$496 and \$782 and the Company's matching contribution under the Company's 401(k) Plan in the amount of \$4,400, \$4,100 and \$4,100 in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

(9) For Mr. Rose, this amount reflects an automobile allowance of \$7,155 in 2009 and \$7,020 in each of 2008 and 2007.

(10) Mr. Buchler joined the Company in September, 2009.

(11) For Mr. Buchler, this amount reflects relocation expense reimbursement in 2009.

Grants of Plan Based Awards

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to grants of plan-based awards to the named executive officers for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Name	Grant Date	As of December 31, 2009			All Other Stock Awards Shares or Units (#)(2)	All Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options(#)(3)	Exercise Price of Base Option Awards (\$/Sh)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (\$)(4)
		Threshold \$	Target \$	Maximum \$				
J. Michael Pearson	Incentive 11/19/09	0	\$ 601,857	\$ —	17,007	38,190	\$ 19.11	\$ 650,000
Mark R. Stauffer	Incentive 11/19/09	0	282,606	—	9,158	20,564	\$ 19.11	\$ 350,000
Elliott J. Kennedy	Incentive 11/19/09	0	265,397	—	6,541	14,689	\$ 19.11	\$ 250,000
James L. Rose	Incentive 11/19/09	0	196,637	—	6,541	14,689	\$ 19.11	\$ 250,000
Peter R. Buchler	Incentive 9/1/09	0	50,000	—	—	15,000	\$ 19.59	\$ 133,200
	11/19/09				4,579	10,282	\$ 19.11	\$ 175,000

(1) As described above, bonus awards under the EIP and SIP are based on the achievement of a combination of financial performance by the Company individual goals by each named executive. Until 80% of the Net Cash flow Target is reached, the executive is not eligible to receive a bonus. Therefore, the threshold bonus is \$0. The target payment represents the amount paid in 2010 relating to the 2009 EIP and SIP.

(2) Awards of stock were issued under the LTIP. Provided the named executive officer remains continuously employed with the Company, the stock awards will vest with respect to 33% of the shares on the first anniversary of the grant date (November 19, 2010) and one-thirty-sixty of the shares thereafter upon completion of each full month following the first year anniversary, such that all shares are fully vested on the third anniversary of the grant date.

(2) The option awards were issued under the LTIP. Provided the named executive officer remains continuously employed with the Company, the option awards will vest with respect to 33% of the underlying shares on the first anniversary of the grant date (November 19, 2010) and one-thirty-sixth of the underlying shares upon the completion of each full month following the first year anniversary, such that all options are fully vested on the

third anniversary of the grant date.

- (3) The amounts shown reflect the grant date fair value of the applicable stock and option awards computed for financial reporting purposes in accordance with FASB Codification Topic 718. The valuation for the option awards was made on the assumptions more fully described in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 in Note 15 "Stock-Based Compensation" in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Narrative Discussion of Amounts in Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan Based Awards Table Employment Agreements

Employment Agreements with Certain Officers. We have employment agreement with each of our Chief Executive Officer, our Chief Financial Officer, our other named executive officers and certain other key employees. The employment agreements for each officer and key employee (with the exception of Mr. Buchler, who joined the Company in September 2009) commenced in May 2007, with an initial two-year term and were continued on a month to month basis until new agreements were put in place in December 2009. Each employment agreement provides for a base salary, a discretionary bonus, and participation in our benefit plans and programs.

Annualized base salaries in 2009 for each of our named executive officers were as follows: J. Michael Pearson — \$416,000; Mark R. Stauffer — \$265,000; Elliott J. Kennedy — \$231,000; James L. Rose — \$231,000; and Peter R. Buchler — \$225,000. Under the employment agreements, the officers are entitled to severance benefits in the event of a resignation for good reason or a termination without cause of the officer's base salary continued for a period of one year if such resignation or termination is not in connection with a change of control.

The employment agreements also provide for certain change of control benefits. The officers are entitled to severance benefits of the officer's base salary continued for a period of two to three years in the event of a resignation for good reason or a termination without cause that is related to a change of control at any time three months prior to or within twelve months after a change of control. Such period is two years for Messrs. Kennedy, Rose and Buchler, and three years for Messrs. Pearson and Stauffer. The amount of such severance payments will be reduced to an amount such that the aggregate payments and benefits to be provided to the officer do not constitute a "parachute payment" subject to a Federal excise tax.

The agreements also include confidentiality provisions without a time limit and non-competition provisions which apply during the periods specified in the employment agreements.

Stock Incentive Plans

2005 Stock Incentive Plan. We adopted a Stock Incentive Plan in 2005 for issuances of equity-based awards based on our common stock to our current or future employees and directors. The Stock Incentive Plan consists of two components: restricted stock and stock options. The 2005 Stock Incentive Plan is limited as follows: The aggregate number of such shares delivered under the 2005 Stock Incentive Plan and the Long Term Incentive Plan (described below) may not exceed an aggregate total of 2,943,946 shares. Stock withheld to satisfy exercise prices or tax withholding obligations are available for delivery pursuant to other awards. The Stock Incentive Plan is administered by our Board. The Board of Directors may delegate administration of the Stock Incentive Plan to a committee of the Board.

Our Board may terminate or amend the Stock Incentive Plan at any time with respect to any shares of stock for which a grant has not yet been made. Our Board of Directors also has the right to alter or amend the Stock Incentive Plan or any part thereof from time-to-time, including increasing the number of shares of stock that may be granted subject to stockholder approval. No change, however, in the Stock Incentive Plan or in any outstanding grant may be made that would materially reduce the benefits of the participant without the consent of the participant. The Stock Incentive Plan will expire on the earlier of the tenth anniversary of its approval by stockholders or its adoption or its termination by the Board of Directors. Awards then outstanding will continue pursuant to the terms of their grants.

Restricted Stock. Restricted stock is stock that vests over a period of time and that during such time is subject to forfeiture. At any time in the future, the Compensation Committee may determine to make grants of restricted stock under the Stock Incentive Plan to employees and directors containing such terms as the Compensation Committee shall determine. The Compensation Committee will determine the period over which restricted stock granted to

employees and members of our Board will vest. The Compensation Committee may base its determination upon the achievement of specified financial or other objectives. Shares of common stock to be delivered as restricted stock may be newly issued common stock, common stock already owned by us, common stock acquired by us from any other person or any combination of the foregoing. If we issue new common stock upon the grant of the restricted stock, the total number of shares of common stock outstanding will increase. We intend the restricted stock under the Stock Incentive Plan to serve as a means of incentive compensation for performance and not primarily as an opportunity to participate in the equity appreciation of our common stock. Therefore, Stock Incentive Plan participants will not pay any consideration for the common stock they receive, and we will receive no remuneration for the stock.

Stock Options. The Stock Incentive Plan permits the grant of options covering our common stock. Options may be incentive stock options, within the meaning of Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code, or nonqualified stock options as determined by the Compensation Committee. At any time in the future, the Compensation Committee may determine to make grants under the Stock Incentive Plan to employees and members of our Board containing such terms as the committee shall determine. Stock options will have an exercise price that may not be less than the fair market value of the stock on the date of grant. In general, stock options granted will become exercisable over a period determined by the Board. If a grantee's employment or membership on the Board terminates for any reason, the grantee's unvested stock options will be automatically forfeited unless, and to the extent, the option agreement or the Board provides otherwise.

Long Term Incentive Plan. We adopted our Long Term Incentive Plan (the "LTIP") in March 2007, and the stockholders approved the LTIP in May of that same year. The purposes of the LTIP are to attract and retain the best available personnel for positions of substantial responsibility, to provide additional incentives to our employees and consultants, and to promote the success of our business. The LTIP provides for grants of (a) incentive stock options qualified as such under U.S. federal income tax laws, (b) stock options that do not qualify as incentive stock options, (c) stock appreciation rights (or SARs), (d) restricted stock awards, (e) restricted stock units, or (f) any combination of such awards.

Shares Available. The maximum aggregate number of shares of our common stock that may be reserved and available for delivery in connection with awards under the LTIP is 2,017,938, but is also limited so that the total shares of common stock that may be delivered under the LTIP and the 2005 Stock Incentive Plan may not exceed 2,943,946. If common stock subject to any award is not issued or transferred, or ceases to be issuable or transferable for any reason, those shares of common stock will again be available for delivery under the LTIP to the extent allowable by law.

Eligibility. Any individual who provides services to us, including non-employee directors and consultants, and is designated by the Compensation Committee to receive an award under the LTIP will be a "Participant." A Participant will be eligible to receive an award pursuant to the terms of the LTIP and subject to any limitations imposed by appropriate action of the Compensation Committee.

Administration. Our Board of Directors has appointed the Compensation Committee to administer the LTIP pursuant to its terms, subject to board approval of plan structure, amendments and modifications. Our Compensation Committee will, unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, be comprised of two or more individuals each of whom constitutes an "outside director" as defined in Section 162(m) of the Code and "nonemployee director" as defined in Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act. Unless otherwise limited, the Compensation Committee has broad discretion to administer the LTIP, including the power to determine to whom and when awards will be granted, to determine the amount of such awards (measured in cash, shares of common stock or as otherwise designated), to proscribe and interpret the terms and provisions of each award agreement, to accelerate the exercise terms of an option (provided that such acceleration does not cause an award intended to qualify as performance based compensation for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Code to fail to so qualify), to delegate duties under the LTIP and to execute all other responsibilities permitted or required under the LTIP.

Terms of Options. The Compensation Committee may grant options to eligible persons including (a) incentive stock options (only to our employees) that comply with Section 422 of the Code and (b) nonstatutory options. The exercise price for an incentive stock option must not be less than the greater of (a) the par value per share of common stock or (b) the fair market value per share as of the date of grant. The exercise price per share of common stock subject to an option other than an incentive stock option will not be less than the par value per share of the common stock (but may be less than the fair market value of a share of the common stock on the date of grant). Options may be exercised as the Compensation Committee determines, but not later than 10 years from the date of grant. Any incentive stock

option granted to an employee who possesses more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of our shares within the meaning of Section 422(b)(6) of the Code must have an exercise price of at least 110% of the fair market value of the underlying shares at the time the option is granted and may not be exercised later than five years from the date of grant.

Terms of SARs. SARs may be awarded in connection with or separate from an option. A SAR is the right to receive an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of one share of common stock on the date of exercise over the grant price of the SAR. SARs awarded in connection with an option will entitle the holder, upon exercise, to surrender the related option or portion thereof relating to the number of shares for which the SAR is exercised, which option or portion thereof will then cease to be exercisable. Such SAR is exercisable or transferable only to the extent that the related option is exercisable or transferable. SARs granted independently of an option will be exercisable as the Compensation Committee determines. The term of a SAR will be for a period determined by the Compensation Committee but will not exceed ten years. SARs may be paid in cash, common stock or a combination of cash and stock, as provided for by the Compensation Committee in the award agreement.

Restricted Stock Awards. A restricted stock award is a grant of shares of common stock subject to a risk of forfeiture, restrictions on transferability, and any other restrictions imposed by the Compensation Committee in its discretion. Except as otherwise provided under the terms of the LTIP or an award agreement, the holder of a restricted stock award may have rights as a stockholder, including the right to vote or to receive dividends (subject to any mandatory reinvestment or other requirements imposed by the Compensation Committee). A restricted stock award that is subject to forfeiture restrictions may be forfeited and reacquired by us upon termination of employment or services. Common stock distributed in connection with a stock split or stock dividend, and other property distributed as a dividend, may be subject to the same restrictions and risk of forfeiture as the restricted stock with respect to which the distribution was made.

Restricted Stock Units. Restricted stock units are rights to receive common stock, cash, or a combination of both at the end of a specified period. Restricted stock units may be subject to restrictions, including a risk of forfeiture, as specified in the award agreement. Restricted stock units may be satisfied by common stock, cash or any combination thereof, as determined by the Compensation Committee. Except as otherwise provided by the Compensation Committee in the award agreement or otherwise, restricted stock units subject to forfeiture restrictions will be forfeited upon termination of a participant's employment or services prior to the end of the specified period. The Compensation Committee may, in its sole discretion, grant dividend equivalents with respect to restricted stock units.

Other Awards. Participants may be granted, subject to applicable legal limitations and the terms of the LTIP and its purposes, other awards related to common stock. Such awards may include, but are not limited to, convertible or exchangeable debt securities, other rights convertible or exchangeable into common stock, purchase rights for common stock, awards with value and payment contingent upon our performance or any other factors designated by the Compensation Committee, and awards valued by reference to the book value of common stock or the value of securities of or the performance of specified subsidiaries. The Compensation Committee will determine terms and conditions of all such awards. Cash awards may be granted as an element of or a supplement to any awards permitted under the LTIP. Awards may also be granted in lieu of obligations to pay cash or deliver other property under the LTIP or under other plans or compensatory arrangements, subject to any applicable provision under Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

Performance Awards. The Compensation Committee may designate that certain awards granted under the LTIP constitute "performance" awards. A performance award is any award the grant, exercise or settlement of which is subject to one or more performance standards. These standards may include business criteria for us on a consolidated basis, such as total stockholders' return and earnings per share, or for specific subsidiaries or business or geographical units.

SECURITIES AUTHORIZED FOR ISSUANCE UNDER EQUITY COMPENSATION PLANS

The following table provides information regarding options or warrants authorized for issuance under our equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2009:

Plan category	Column A	Column B	Column C
	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Weighted average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in Column A)
Equity compensation plans approved by shareholders	2,606,629	\$ 6.75	337,317
Equity compensation plans not approved by shareholders	—	—	—
Total	2,606,629	\$ 6.75	337,317

Outstanding Equity Awards At Fiscal Year End 2009

The following table reflects all outstanding equity awards held by our named executive officers as of the year ended December 31, 2009:

Name	Option awards				Stock awards	
	Number of securities underlying unexercised options	Option exercise price	Option expiration date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock that have not vested	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock that have not vested (7)(8)	
J. Michael Pearson	38,585	6,259	\$ 13.50	5/17/2017 (2)		
	33,250	16,750	\$ 14.25	12/4/2017 (3)		
	30,771	48,979	\$ 6.00	10/7/2018 (4)		
	—	38,190	\$ 19.11	11/19/2019(6)	17,007 \$ 358,167	
Mark R. Stauffer	38,585	6,259	\$ 13.50	5/17/2017 (2)		
	22,810	11,490	\$ 14.25	12/4/2017 (3)		
	21,167	33,693	\$ 6.00	10/7/2018 (4)		
	—	20,564	\$ 19.11	11/19/2019 (6)	9,158 \$ 192,867	
Elliott J. Kennedy	6,621	4,685	\$ 13.50	5/17/2017 (2)		
	4,213	7,202	\$ 14.25	12/4/2017 (3)		
	13,292	21,158	\$ 6.00	10/7/2018 (4)		
	—	14,689	\$ 19.11	11/19/2019(6)	6,541 \$ 137,753	
James L. Rose	6,717	8,408	\$ 1.96	3/31/2016 (1)	934 \$ 19,670	
	9,036	3,755	\$ 13.50	5/17/2017 (2)		

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	7,203	7,202	\$ 14.25	12/4/2017 (3)			
	13,292	21,158	\$ 6.00	10/7/2018 (4)			
	—	14,689	\$ 19.11	11/19/2019(6)	6,541	\$	137,753
Peter R. Buchler	—	15,000	\$ 19.59	9/1/2019 (5)			
	—	10,282	\$ 19.11	11/19/2019(6)	4,579	\$	96,434

- (1) These option awards were issued under the 2005 Stock Incentive Plan. Provided the named executive remains continuously employed with the Company, the option awards vest (a) 20% upon the first anniversary of grant date (March 31, 2007), and (b) one-sixtieth of the underlying shares upon completion of each full month following the first anniversary, such that all shares are fully vested on the fifth anniversary of the grant date. Notwithstanding, pursuant to the terms of a transaction bonus agreement entered into with each Mr. Pearson and Mr. Stauffer effective as of April 2, 2007, as amended, the options vested in full upon consummation of the 2007 Private Placement.
- (2) These option awards were issued under the LTIP. These options vest (a) 33% upon the first anniversary of grant date (May 17, 2008) and (b) one thirty-sixth of the underlying shares upon completion of each full month following the first anniversary, such that all shares are fully vested on the third anniversary of the grant date.
- (3) These option awards were issued under the LTIP. These options vest (a) 33% upon the first anniversary of grant date (December 4, 2008) and (b) one thirty-sixth of the underlying shares upon completion of each full month following the first anniversary, such that all shares are fully vested on the third anniversary of the grant date.
- (4) These option awards were issued under the LTIP. These options vest (a) 33% upon the first anniversary of grant date (October 7, 2009) and (b) one thirty-sixth of the underlying shares upon completion of each full month following the first anniversary, such that all shares are fully vested on the third anniversary of the grant date.
- (5) These option awards were issued under the LTIP. These options vest (a) 33% upon the first anniversary of grant date (September 1, 2010) and (b) one thirty-sixth of the underlying shares upon completion of each full month following the first anniversary, such that all shares are fully vested on the third anniversary of the grant date.
- (6) These option awards were issued under the LTIP. These options vest (a) 33% upon the first anniversary of grant date (November 19, 2010) and (b) one thirty-sixth of the underlying shares upon completion of each full month following the first anniversary, such that all shares are fully vested on the third anniversary of the grant date.
- (7) On May 3, 2005, Messrs. Stauffer, Kennedy, and Rose received awards of 123,319, 168,162, and 11,211 shares of restricted stock, respectively. The shares of restricted stock were issued under the 2005 Stock Incentive Plan. Provided the named executive officer remains continuously employed with us (or a parent or subsidiary of ours), the restricted stock will vest (or, as applicable, vested) as follows: (a) one-fifth of the restricted stock became vested on May 3, 2006, and (b) one-sixtieth of the restricted stock will vest (or, as applicable, vested) upon the completion of each full month following May 3, 2006. Notwithstanding, pursuant to the terms of a transaction bonus agreement entered into with each of Mr. Stauffer and Mr. Kennedy effective as of April 2, 2007, as amended, their stock vested in full upon the consummation of the 2007 Private Placement. The shares of stock awarded to Mr. Rose continue to vest ratably until all shares are vested on May 3, 2010.
- (8) In November 2009, Messrs. Pearson, Stauffer, Kennedy, Rose and Buchler received awards of 17,007, 9,158, 6,541, 6,541 and 4,579 shares of restricted stock issued under the LTIP. The shares vest (a) 33% upon the first anniversary of grant date (November 19, 2010) and (b) one thirty-sixth of the underlying shares upon completion of each full month following the first anniversary, such that all shares are fully vested on the third anniversary of the grant date.

Option Exercises and Stock Vested In Fiscal Year Ended 2009

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise	Option Value Realized on Exercise	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting	Value Realized on Vesting
J. Michael Pearson	179,373	\$ 2,839,475		
Mark R. Stauffer	33,633	\$ 532,410		
Elliott J. Kennedy	32,405	\$ 161,590		
James L. Rose	39,718	\$ 376,665	2,242	\$ 36,534

Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control

Overview

This section describes the benefits payable to our named executive officers in two circumstances:

- Change in control
- Termination of employment

For this purpose the term “change in control” or “during a protection period” generally means the occurrence of any of the following events:

(a) A “change in the ownership of the Company” which will occur on the date that any one person, or more than one person acting as a group, acquires ownership of our stock that, together with stock held by such person or group, constitutes more than 50% of the total fair market value or total voting power of our stock; however the following acquisitions will not constitute a change in control: (i) any acquisition by any employee benefit plan (or related trust) sponsored or maintained by us or any entity controlled by us or (ii) any acquisition by investors (immediately prior to such acquisition) of us for financing purposes, as determined by the Compensation Committee in its sole discretion.

(b) A “change in the effective control of the Company” which will occur on the date that either (i) any one person, or more than one person acting as a group, acquires ownership of our stock possessing 35% or more of the total voting power of our stock, excluding (y) any acquisition by any employee benefit plan (or related trust) sponsored or maintained by us or (z) any acquisition by investors (immediately prior to such acquisition) of us for financing purposes, as determined by the Compensation Committee in its sole discretion or (ii) a majority of the members of the Board are replaced during any 12-month period by directors whose appointment or election is not endorsed by a majority of the members of the Board prior to the date of the appointment or election.

(c) A “change in the ownership of a substantial portion of the Company’s assets” which occurs on the date that any one person, or more than one person acting as a group, acquires our assets that have a total gross fair market value equal to or more than 40% of the total gross fair market value of all of our assets immediately prior to such acquisition.

The employment agreements also provide for termination of employment unrelated to a change in control (as defined above) if the executive is terminated without cause (as defined below) or he voluntarily terminates his employment for good reason (as defined below)

The term “cause” means: (a) a material breach by the executive of the noncompetition and confidentiality provisions of the employment agreement; (b) the commission of a criminal act by the executive against us, including, but not limited to, fraud, embezzlement or theft; (c) the conviction, plea of no contest or nolo contendere, deferred adjudication or unadjudicated probation for any felony or any crime involving moral turpitude; or (d) the executive’s failure or refusal to carry out, or comply with, any lawful directive of our Board of Directors consistent with the terms of the employment agreement which is not remedied within 30 days after receipt of notice from us.

The term “good reason” means: (a) a substantial reduction of the executive’s base salary without his consent; (b) a substantial reduction of his duties (without his consent) from those in effect as of the effective date of the employment agreement or as subsequently agreed to by the executive and us; or (c) the relocation of the executive’s primary work site to a location greater than 50 miles from the current work site as of the effective date of the employment agreement.

The benefits payable to each named executive officer in each circumstance are contained in the provisions of that executive’s respective employment agreement, which were entered into in December 2009. These benefits ensure that the executive is motivated primarily by the needs of the Company as a whole, and not by circumstances that are

outside the ordinary course of business. In general, the executive is assured that he will receive a continued level of compensation if his employment is adversely affected by the termination of employment or a change in control of the Company.

Payment of these benefits is conditional upon the Company's receipt of appropriate waivers and a release from all claims against the Company.

Summary of payments

The table below summarizes the benefits payable to each named executive in the various termination scenarios. No benefits are payable if an executive voluntarily terminates employment without good reason or employment is terminated by us for cause.

In all cases, the executive has the right to receive vested stock awards and exercise vested stock options. Equity awards for which vesting has not occurred lapse according to the provisions of the LTIP.

The tables below assume that the terminations took place on December 31, 2009.

	Death or disability	Involuntary termination without cause or for good reason, not during a protection period	Involuntary termination without cause or for good reason, during a protection period (Change of control)
J. Michael Pearson			
Severance	\$ —	\$ 416,000	\$ 1,248,000
Annual incentive	—	280,000	840,000
Car allowance	—	15,000	45,000
Transitional	—	30,000	90,000
Total	\$ —	\$ 741,000	\$ 2,223,000

	Death or disability	Involuntary termination without cause or for good reason, not during a protection period	Involuntary termination without cause or for good reason, during a protection period (Change of control)
Mark R. Stauffer			
Severance	\$ —	\$ 265,000	\$ 795,000
Annual incentive	—	160,000	480,000
Car allowance	—	11,400	34,200
Transitional	—	30,000	90,000
Total	\$ —	\$ 466,400	\$ 1,399,200