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Capitalization and Indebtedness

Not applicable

Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable

Risk Factors

RISKS RELATED TO OUR BUSINESS

Current economic uncertainty and the volatility of oil and natural gas prices could have a significant adverse effect on us.

Global market and economic conditions are uncertain and volatile. In the past, economic contractions and uncertainty have weakened demand and lowered prices for oil and natural gas, resulting in a reduction in the levels of exploration for hydrocarbons and demand for our products and services. It is difficult to predict how long the current economic conditions will persist, whether they will deteriorate further, and which of our products and services will be adversely affected. We may have impairment losses as events or changes in circumstances occur that reduce the fair value of an asset below its book value. These conditions could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Uncertainty about the general economic situation has had and is likely to continue to have a significant adverse impact on the commercial performance and financial condition of many companies, which may affect some of our customers and suppliers. The current economic climate may lead customers to cancel or delay orders or leave suppliers unable to provide goods and services as agreed. Our government clients may face budget deficits that prohibit them from funding proposed and existing projects or that cause them to exercise their right to terminate our contracts with little or no prior notice. If our suppliers, vendors, subcontractors or other counterparties are unable to perform their obligations to us or our customers, we may be required to provide additional services or make alternate arrangements on less favorable terms with other parties to ensure adequate performance and delivery of service to our customers. These circumstances could also lead to disputes and litigation with our partners or customers, which could have a material adverse impact on our reputation, business, financial condition and results of operations.

Turmoil in the credit markets, such as has been experienced in prior periods, could also adversely affect us and our customers. Limited access to external funding has in the past caused some companies to reduce their capital spending to levels supported by their internal cash flow. Some companies have found their access to liquidity constrained or subject to more onerous terms. In this context, our customers may not be able to borrow money on reasonable terms or at all, which could have a negative impact on their demand for our products, and impair their ability to pay us for our products and services on a timely basis, or at all.

In addition, the potential impact on the liquidity of major financial institutions may limit our ability to fund our business strategy through borrowings under either existing or new debt facilities in the public or private markets and on terms we believe to be reasonable. Persistent volatility in the financial markets could have a material adverse effect on our ability to refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness and to otherwise fund our operational requirements. We cannot be certain that additional funds will be available if needed to make future investments in certain projects, take advantage of acquisitions or other opportunities or respond to competitive pressures. If additional funds are not available, or are not available on terms satisfactory to us, there could be a material adverse impact on our business and financial performance.

Furthermore, our cash balances are maintained in accounts held at major banks and financial institutions located primarily in Europe, North America and China. Deposits are in amounts that exceed available insurance.

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Although none of the financial institutions in which we hold our cash and investments has gone into bankruptcy, been forced into receivership, or has been seized by its governments, there is a risk that this may occur in the future. If this were to occur, we would be at risk of not being able to access our cash which may result in a temporary liquidity crisis that could impede our ability to fund operations.

We are subject to risks related to our international operations.

With operations worldwide, including in emerging markets, our business and results of operations are subject to various risks inherent in international operations. These risks include:

- instability of foreign economies and governments, which can cause investment in capital projects by our potential clients to be withdrawn or delayed, reducing or eliminating the viability of some markets for our services;
- risks of war, terrorism, riots and uprisings, which can make it unsafe to continue operations, adversely affect budgets and schedules and expose us to losses;
- risk of piracy, which may result in delays carrying out customer contracts in affected areas or their termination;
- seizure, expropriation, nationalization or detention of assets, or renegotiation or nullification of existing contracts;
- foreign exchange restrictions, import/export quotas, sanctions and other laws and policies affecting taxation, trade and investment; and
- availability of suitable personnel and equipment, which can be affected by government policy, or changes in policy, that limit the importation of qualified crew members or specialized equipment in areas where local resources are insufficient.

We are exposed to these risks in all of our international operations to some degree, particularly in emerging markets where the political and legal environment is less stable. We are subject to the risk of adverse developments with respect to certain international operations and any insurance coverage we have may not be adequate to compensate us for any losses arising from such risks.

Revenue generating activities in certain foreign countries may require prior United States government approval in the form of an export license and may otherwise be subject to tariffs and import/export restrictions. These laws can change over time and may result in limitations on our ability to compete globally. In addition, non-US persons employed by our separately incorporated non-US entities may conduct business in some foreign jurisdictions that are subject to US trade embargoes and sanctions by the US Office of Foreign Assets Control, including countries that have been designated by the US government as state sponsors of terrorism. We have typically generated revenue in some of these countries through the performance of marine surveys, the provision of data processing and reservoir consulting services, the sale of software licenses and software maintenance and the sale of Sercel equipment. We have current and ongoing relationships with customers in these countries. We have procedures in place to conduct these operations in compliance with applicable US laws. However, failure to comply with US laws on equipment and services exports could result in material fines and penalties, damage our reputation, and negatively affect the market price of our securities. We provided information in 2011 and 2012 to the US Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) concerning shipments to our vessels operating in or near Cuba that may not have complied fully with our internal policies and possibly violated applicable export controls and sanctions laws. See "Item 4: Information on the Company – Legal Proceedings – Requests for information made by the US Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security". In addition, our presence in these countries could reduce demand for our securities among certain investors.

Certain of our clients and certain tax, social security or customs authorities may request that we or certain of our subsidiaries or affiliates post performance bonds or guarantees issued by financial institutions, including in the form of stand-by letters of credit, in order to guarantee our legal or contractual obligations. We cannot assure

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you that we will be able to provide these bonds or guarantees in the amounts or durations required or for the benefit of the necessary parties. Our failure to comply with these requests could reduce our capacity to conduct business or perform our contracts. In addition, if we do provide these bonds or guarantees, our clients or the relevant authorities may call them under circumstances that we believe to be improper, and we may not be able to challenge such actions effectively in local courts.

We and certain of our subsidiaries and affiliated entities also conduct business in countries where there is government corruption. We are committed to doing business in accordance with all applicable laws and our codes of ethics, but there is a risk that we, our subsidiaries or affiliates or their respective officers, directors, employees or agents may act in violation of our codes and applicable laws, including the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977. Any such violations could result in substantial civil and criminal penalties and might materially adversely affect our business and results of operations or financial condition.

We are subject to certain risks related to acquisitions.

In the past we have grown by acquisitions, some of which, such as the merger with Veritas in 2007, the acquisition of Wavefield in 2008 or the acquisition of Fugro Geoscience Division in 2013, were quite significant. Such transactions, whether completed, pending or likely to be completed in the future, present various financial and management-related risks that can be material, such as integration of the acquired businesses in a cost-effective manner; implementation of a combined business strategy; diversion of management's attention; outstanding or unforeseen legal, regulatory, contractual, labor or other issues arising from the acquisitions; additional capital expenditure requirements; retention of customers; combination of different company and management cultures; operations in new geographic markets; the need for more extensive management coordination; and retention, hiring and training of key personnel. Should any of these risks associated with acquisitions materialize, they could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We have transferred our Seabed business to a joint venture company that is controlled by a third party.

In connection with the Geoscience Acquisition, we have transferred our shallow water, ocean bottom cable and ocean bottom node activities to a company in which Fugro holds a 60% majority interest and we hold a minority interest. As a result, we no longer have full control over the management and operations of these activities. While we have certain customary rights with respect to certain key decisions relating to the joint venture's activities, this is not the same as the right to determine the strategy and policies of this business. In addition, our shares in the joint venture company are subject to restrictions on transfer, as well as to Fugro's right to require us to sell our shares in certain circumstances.

We may need to write down goodwill from our balance sheet.

We have been involved in a number of business combinations in the past, leading to the recognition of large amounts of goodwill on our balance sheet. Goodwill on our balance sheet totaled US\$2,483 million as of December 31, 2013. Goodwill is allocated to cash generating units ("CGUs") as described in note 11 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013. The recoverable amount of a CGU is estimated at each balance sheet date and is generally determined on the basis of a group-wide estimate of future cash flows expected from the CGU in question. The estimate takes into account, in particular, the removal from service of certain assets used in our business (such as decommissioning or coldstacking vessels), or change in purpose of a given asset (such as the use of a seismic vessel as a source-vessel), or any significant underperformance in cash generation relative to previously-expected results, which may arise, for example, from the underperformance of certain assets, a deterioration in industry conditions or a decline in the economic environment. At each balance sheet date, if we expect that a CGU's recoverable amount will fall below the amount of capital employed recorded on the balance sheet, we may write down some value on given assets and/

or the goodwill in part or in whole. Such a write-down would not in itself have an impact on cash flow, but could have a substantial negative impact on our operating income and net income, and as a result, on our shareholders' equity and net debt/equity ratio.

We invest significant amounts of money in acquiring and processing seismic data for multi-client surveys and for our data library without knowing precisely how much of the data we will be able to sell or when and at what price we will be able to sell the data.

We invest significant amounts of money in acquiring and processing seismic data that we own. By making such investments, we are exposed to the following risks:

- We may not fully recover the costs of acquiring and processing the data through future sales. The amounts of these data sales are uncertain and depend on a variety of factors, many of which are beyond our control. In addition, the timing of these sales is unpredictable, and sales can vary greatly from period to period. Each of our individual surveys has a limited book life based on its location, so a particular survey may be subject to significant amortization even though sales of licenses associated with that survey are weak or non-existent, thus reducing our net income.
- Technological or regulatory changes or other developments could also materially adversely affect the value of the data. For example, regulatory changes such as limitations on drilling could affect the ability of our customers to develop exploration programs, either generally or in a specific location where we have acquired seismic data, and technological changes could make existing data obsolete.
- The value of our multi-client data could be significantly adversely affected if any adverse change occurs in the general prospects for oil and gas exploration, development and production activities in the areas where we acquire multi-client data or more generally.
- Any reduction in the economic value of such data will require us to write down its recorded value, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Our results of operations may be significantly affected by currency fluctuations.

We derive a substantial portion of our revenues from international sales, subjecting us to risks relating to fluctuations in currency exchange rates. Our revenues and expenses are mainly denominated in US dollars and euros, and to a significantly lesser extent, in Canadian dollars, Brazilian reais, Australian dollars, Norwegian kroner and British pounds. Historically, a significant portion of our revenues that were invoiced in euros related to contracts that were effectively priced in US dollars, as the US dollar often serves as the reference currency when bidding for contracts to provide geophysical services. Our expenses are not linked to the US dollar in the same way, leaving us exposed to currency fluctuations.

Fluctuations in the exchange rate of other currencies, particularly the euro, against the US dollar, have had in the past and will have in the future a significant effect upon our results of operations, which are now reported in US dollars. Since most of the competitive bids for data acquisition contracts that we participate in are denominated in US dollars, the depreciation of the US dollar against the euro harms our competitive position against companies whose costs and expenses are denominated to a greater extent in US dollars. While we attempt to reduce the risks associated with such exchange rate fluctuations through our hedging policy, we cannot assure you that we will maintain our profitability level or that fluctuations in the values of the currencies in which we operate will not materially adversely affect our future results of operations. As of December 31, 2013, we estimate our annual fixed expenses in euros to be approximately €500 million and as a result, an unfavorable variation of US\$0.10 in the average yearly exchange rate between the US dollar and the euro would reduce our operating income and our shareholders' equity by approximately US\$50 million. See "Exchange rate risks as of December 31, 2013" below.

Our working capital needs are difficult to forecast and may vary significantly, which could result in additional financing requirements that we may not be able to meet on satisfactory terms, or at all.

It is difficult for us to predict with certainty our working capital needs. This difficulty is due primarily to working capital requirements related to the marine seismic acquisition business, multi-client projects and the development and introduction of new lines of geophysical equipment products. For example, under specific circumstances, we may have to extend the length of payment terms we grant to customers or may increase our inventories substantially. We may therefore be subject to significant and rapid increases in our working capital needs that we may have difficulty financing on satisfactory terms, or at all, due notably to limitations in our debt agreements or market conditions.

Our results of operations may be affected by fluctuations in fuel costs.

Our marine acquisition business, with a fleet of 21 seismic vessels as of December 31, 2013, incurs significant fuel costs, which were approximately US\$255 million in 2013. Fuel costs can vary depending on the supply location, local regulations and the price of crude oil at a given time. Only a portion of this variation can be contractually charged to or negotiated with the client. We therefore estimate that an increase by 20% of the average annual price of crude oil could increase our fuel costs and have a negative effect of approximately US\$25 million on our operating income.

Our results of operations may be affected by the weight of intra-group production.

We dedicate a significant part of our production capacity to intra-group sales. For example, the Acquisition division may acquire Sercel equipment, the Marine, Land, and Airborne Acquisition business lines may acquire multi-client data, and the Subsurface Imaging business line may process multi-client surveys. The relative size of our intra-group sales and our external sales has a significant impact both on our revenues and our operating results. With respect to intra-group sales, we capitalize only the direct production costs, and we treat the corresponding general and administrative costs as expenses in our income statement, which decreases operating profit for the period when the sales occur.

Technological changes and new products and services are frequently introduced in the market, and our technology could be rendered obsolete by these introductions, or we may not be able to develop and produce new and enhanced products on a cost-effective and timely basis.

Technology changes rapidly in the seismic industry, and new and enhanced products are frequently introduced in the market in which we operate, particularly in the equipment manufacturing and data processing and geosciences sectors. Our success depends to a significant extent upon our ability to develop and produce new and enhanced products and services on a cost-effective and timely basis in accordance with industry demands. While we commit substantial resources to research and development, we may encounter resource constraints or technical or other difficulties that could delay the introduction of new and enhanced products and services in the future. In addition, the continuing development of new products risks making our older products obsolete. New and enhanced products and services, if introduced, may not gain market acceptance and may be materially adversely affected by technological changes or introductions of other new products or services by one of our competitors.

We depend on proprietary technology and are exposed to risks associated with the misappropriation or infringement of that technology.

Our ability to maintain or increase prices for our products (such as Sercel equipment and GGR Division software) and services depends in part on our ability to differentiate the value delivered by our products and services from those delivered by our competitors. Our proprietary technology plays an important role in this differentiation. We rely on a combination of patents, trademarks and trade secret laws to establish and protect our

proprietary technology. Patents last up to 20 years, depending on the date of filing and the protection accorded by each country. In addition, we enter into confidentiality and license agreements with our employees, customers and potential customers which limit access to and distribution of our technology. However, actions that we take to protect our proprietary rights may not be adequate to deter the misappropriation or independent third-party development of our technology. In addition, we may have lawsuits filed against us claiming that certain of our products, services, and technologies infringe the intellectual property rights of others. Although we do not have any current litigation involving our intellectual property rights or the intellectual rights of others which may have an impact on us, such litigation may take place in the future. In addition, the laws of certain foreign countries do not protect proprietary rights to the same extent as, in particular, the laws of France or the United States, which may limit our ability to pursue third parties that misappropriate our proprietary technology.

Our failure to attract and retain qualified employees may adversely affect our future business and operations.

Our future results of operations will depend in part upon our ability to retain certain of our highly skilled employees and to attract new ones. A number of our employees are highly skilled scientists and technicians. We compete with other seismic products and services companies and, to a lesser extent, companies in the oil industry for skilled geophysical and seismic personnel, particularly in times when demand for seismic services is relatively high. A limited number of such skilled personnel is available, and demand from other companies may limit our ability to fill our human resources needs. If we are unable to hire and retain a sufficient number of qualified employees, this could impair our ability to compete in the geophysical services industry and to develop and protect our know-how. Our success also depends to a significant extent upon the abilities and efforts of members of our senior management, the loss of whom could materially adversely affect our business and results of operations.

We have had losses in the past and there is no assurance of our profitability for the future.

We have experienced losses in the past. In 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2013, we recorded a net loss attributable to shareholders of US\$361.1 million, US\$59.4 million, US\$13.2 million and US\$691.2 million, respectively. However, in 2008 and 2012, our net profit attributable to shareholders amounted to US\$502.7 million and US\$92.4 million, respectively. There is therefore no assurance as to our profitability for the future⁽¹⁾.

RISKS RELATED TO OUR INDUSTRY

The volume of our business depends on the level of capital expenditures by the oil and gas industry, and reductions in such expenditures may have a material adverse effect on our business.

Demand for our products and services has historically been dependent upon the level of capital expenditures by oil and gas companies for exploration, production and development activities. These expenditures are significantly influenced by oil and gas prices and by expectations regarding future hydrocarbon prices, which may fluctuate based on relatively minor changes in the supply of and demand for oil and gas, expectations regarding such changes and other factors beyond our control. Lower or volatile hydrocarbon prices tend to limit the demand for seismic services and products.

Factors affecting prices and, consequently, demand for our products and services, include:

- demand for hydrocarbons;
- worldwide political, military and economic conditions, including political developments in the Middle East and North Africa, economic growth levels, the availability of financing and the ability of OPEC to set and maintain production levels and prices for oil;

⁽¹⁾ Effective January 1, 2013, we applied IAS 19 revised – Employees benefits. As the application of this new standard is a change of accounting policy, all comparative financial information, starting from 2009, has been restated to present comparative amounts for each period presented as if the new accounting policy had always been applied.

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- laws or regulations restricting the use of fossil fuels or taxing such fuels and governmental policies regarding atmospheric emissions and use of alternative energy;
- levels of oil and gas production;
- the rate of depletion of existing oil and gas reserves and delays in the development of new reserves;
- the pressure imposed by equity markets on oil and gas companies to maintain a dividend distribution policy which could lead them to significantly reduce their capital expenditure plans in the short term;
- oil and gas inventory levels;
- the price and availability of alternative fuels;
- policies of governments regarding the exploration for and production and development of oil and gas reserves in their territories; and
- general weather conditions, with warmer temperatures decreasing demand for products such as heating oil and extreme weather events potentially disrupting oil and gas exploration or production operations over a wide area.

Increases in oil and natural gas prices may not increase demand for our products and services or otherwise have a positive effect on our financial condition or results of operations. Forecasted trends in oil and gas exploration and development activities may not materialize and demand for our products and services may not reflect the level of activity in the industry. In particular, with respect to the marine acquisition market, prices remain very dependent upon the balance between supply and demand. They can thus fluctuate only slightly or even decline, even as demand increases if, at the same time, the available production capacity in the market increases to a greater degree (which was the case during 2010 and 2011).

Our backlog includes contracts that can be unilaterally delayed or terminated at the client's option.

In accordance with industry practice, contracts for the provision of seismic services typically can be delayed or terminated at the sole discretion of the client without payment of significant cancellation costs to the service provider. As a result, even if contracts are recorded in backlog, there can be no assurance that such contracts will be wholly executed by us and generate actual revenue, or even that the total costs already borne by us in connection with the contract would be covered in full pursuant to any cancellation clause. Furthermore, there can be no assurance that contracts in backlog will be performed in line with their original timetable and any possible delay could result in operating losses as most of our costs are fixed.

We are subject to intense competition in the markets where we carry out our operations, which could limit our ability to maintain or increase our market share or maintain our prices at profitable levels.

Most of our contracts are obtained through a competitive bidding process, which is standard for our industry. Competitive factors in recent years have included price, crew availability, technological expertise and reputation for quality, safety and dependability. While no single company competes with us in all of our segments, we are subject to intense competition in each of our segments. We compete with large, international companies as well as smaller, local companies. In addition, we compete with major service providers and government-sponsored enterprises and affiliates. Some of our competitors operate more crews than we do and have greater financial and other resources than we do. These and other competitors may be better positioned to withstand and adjust more quickly to volatile market conditions, such as fluctuations in oil and gas prices and production levels, as well as changes in government regulations. In addition, if geophysical service competitors increase their capacity (or do not reduce capacity if demand decreases), the excess supply in the seismic services market could apply downward pressure on prices. The negative effects of the competitive environment in which we operate could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

We have taken significant measures to adapt our fleet to changes in the seismic market, and we may take adjustment measures depending on the seismic market in the future, that could impose exceptional charges.

Our fleet of marine seismic acquisition vessels has evolved in the past in reaction to changes in the seismic market and our marine strategy. For example, our 2009 capacity plan reduced the size of the fleet to adjust to reduced seismic market demand, and our 2010 performance plan re-aligned our fleet components to focus on the high-end segment of the market. When we acquired Fugro's fleet, we retained only the C-class vessels; the *Geo Atlantic* was decommissioned in 2013, and we intend to use the *Geo Barents* vessel as a source vessel until its charter ends in 2014. In February 2014, we announced our intention to reduce the fleet from 18 to 13 3D high-end vessels by the end of 2016, and we have already stopped operating the *Symphony*. Past fleet reductions have generated, and we expect that current and any future reductions will generate, non-recurring charges and could hinder our operational scope in marine acquisition activity.

We have high levels of fixed costs that are incurred regardless of our level of business activity.

We have high fixed costs and seismic data acquisition activities that require substantial capital expenditures. As a result, downtime or decreased productivity due to reduced demand, weather interruptions, equipment failures, permit delays or other circumstances that affect our ability to generate revenue could result in significant operating losses.

The revenues we derive from land and marine seismic data acquisition vary significantly during the year.

Our land and marine seismic data acquisition revenues are partially seasonal in nature. In the marine market notably, certain basins can be very active and absorb higher capacity during a limited period of the year (such as the North Sea between April and September), triggering significant volatility in demand and price in their geographical markets throughout the year. The marine data acquisition business is, by its nature, exposed to unproductive interim periods due to vessel maintenance and repairs or transit time from one operational zone to another during which revenue is not recognized. Other factors that cause variations from quarter to quarter include the effects of weather conditions in a given operating area, the internal budgeting process of some important clients for their exploration expenses, and the time needed to mobilize production means or obtain the administrative authorizations necessary to commence data acquisition contracts.

Our business and that of our customers are subject to governmental regulation, which may adversely affect our operations or demand for our products in the future.

Our operations are subject to a variety of international, federal, regional, national, foreign and local laws and regulations, including flight clearances (for airborne activities), environmental, health and safety and labor laws. We invest financial and managerial resources to comply with these laws and related permit requirements. Our failure to do so could result in fines, enforcement actions, claims for personal injury or property damages, or obligations to investigate and/or remediate contamination. Failure to obtain the required permits on a timely basis may also prevent us from operating in some cases, resulting in increased crew downtime and operating losses. Moreover, if applicable laws and regulations, including environmental, health and safety requirements, or the interpretation or enforcement thereof, become more stringent in the future, we could incur capital or operating costs beyond those currently anticipated. The adoption of laws and regulations that directly or indirectly curtail exploration by oil and gas companies could also adversely affect our operations by reducing the demand for our geophysical products and services.

In the United States, new regulations governing oil and gas exploration were put in place following the Deepwater Horizon platform disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. These new regulations may have a significant financial impact on oil and gas companies that wish to carry out exploration projects in deep-water Gulf of Mexico. Our client mix could be altered with the disappearance of small and medium sized players, which could decrease our sales of multi-client data.

We are exposed to environmental risks

We are subject to various laws and regulations in the countries where we operate, particularly with respect to the environment. These laws and regulations may require Group companies to obtain licenses or permits prior to signing a contract. Our management believes that we comply with applicable environmental laws; however, frequent changes in such laws and regulations make it difficult to predict their cost or impact on our future operations. We are not implicated in any legal proceedings relating to environmental matters and are not aware of any claim or any potential liability in this area that could have a significant effect on our business or financial position.

Furthermore, we may be affected by new laws or regulations intended to limit or reduce emissions of gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, which may be contributing to climate change, and these laws or regulations may affect our operations or, more generally, the production and demand for fossil fuels such as oil and gas. The European Union has already established greenhouse gas regulations, and many other countries, including the United States, may do so in the future. This could impose additional direct or indirect costs on us as our suppliers incur additional costs that get passed on to us or reduce our customers' demand for our products or services.

We have made a consistent effort in recent years to improve environmental protection and safety, resulting in strengthened procedures and the adoption of measures to increase awareness among personnel and subcontractors, in particular through periodic mandatory safety meetings on the ground and onboard vessels. We have implemented a comprehensive system for managing health, safety and the environment, covering all activities, and we continue to adapt it to all of our activities.

RISKS RELATED TO OUR INDEBTEDNESS

Our substantial debt could adversely affect our financial health and prevent us from fulfilling our obligations.

We have a significant amount of debt. As of December 31, 2013, our net financial debt (which we define as gross financial debt less cash and cash equivalents) amounted to US\$2,218 million. As of this date, we had a debt reimbursable in cash or shares amounting to US\$2,300 million (€1,668 million), which corresponds to net financial debt less financial leases, and before IFRS accounting adjustments related to convertible bonds and issuing fees. Total capital employed as of December 31, 2013 was US\$6,108 million (€4,429 million). We cannot assure you that we will be able to generate sufficient cash to service our debt or sufficient earnings to cover fixed charges in future years.

Our substantial debt could have important consequences. In particular, it could:

- increase our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions;
- require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to payments on our indebtedness, thereby reducing the availability of our cash flow to fund capital expenditures and other general corporate purposes;
- limit our ability to plan for, or react to, changes in our businesses and the industries in which we operate;
- place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to competitors that have less debt; and
- limit our ability to borrow additional funds.

Our debt agreements contain restrictive covenants that may limit our ability to respond to changes in market conditions or pursue business opportunities.

The agreements governing our borrowings and our US and French senior revolving facilities contain restrictive covenants that limit our ability and the ability of certain of our subsidiaries to, among other things:

- incur or guarantee additional indebtedness or issue preferred shares;
- pay dividends or make other distributions;

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- purchase equity interests or reimburse subordinated debt prior to its maturity;
- create or incur certain liens;
- enter into transactions with affiliates;
- issue or sell capital stock of subsidiaries;
- engage in sale-and-leaseback transactions; and
- sell assets or merge or consolidate with another company.

Complying with the restrictions contained in some of these agreements requires us to meet certain ratios and tests, relating notably, to consolidated interest coverage and net indebtedness. The requirement that we comply with these provisions may adversely affect our ability to react to changes in market conditions, take advantage of business opportunities we believe to be desirable, obtain future financing, fund capital expenditures, or withstand a continuing or future downturn in our business.

Detailed information relating to our debt and the restrictions set forth in our borrowing agreements is contained in note 13 to our 2013 consolidated financial statements.

Our new French revolving facility entered into on July 31, 2013 and our new US revolving facility entered into on July 15, 2013 and amended on July 31, 2013 require that we meet the following ratios, which are tested at the end of each quarter for the rolling 12-month testing period:

- a maximum ratio of consolidated total net debt to consolidated EBITDA of not more than 3.00: to 1.00;
- a maximum ratio of consolidated EBITDA to total interest costs of at least 4.00 to 1.00.

Our US\$200 million term loan and revolving facilities entered into on July 1, 2013 require that we meet the following ratios and tests:

- a minimum of cash plus cash equivalents of not less than US\$75 million at all times;
- a maximum ratio of total net financial debt to EBITDA of not more than 3.00:1.00; and
- a minimum ratio of EBITDA to total interest costs of at least 3.00:1.00.

If we are unable to comply with the restrictions and covenants in the indentures governing our Senior Notes, the agreements governing our US and French senior revolving facilities and other current and future debt agreements, there could be a default under the terms of these indentures and agreements, which could result in an acceleration of repayment.

If we are unable to comply with the restrictions and covenants in the indentures governing our Senior Notes or in other current or future debt agreements, including those governing our US and French senior revolving facilities, there could be a default under the terms of these indentures and agreements. Our ability to comply with these restrictions and covenants, including meeting financial ratios and tests, may be affected by events beyond our control. As a result, we cannot assure you that we will be able to comply with these restrictions and covenants or meet such financial ratios and tests. In certain events of default under these agreements, lenders could terminate their commitments to lend or accelerate the loans or bonds and declare all amounts outstanding due and payable. Borrowings under other debt instruments that contain cross-acceleration or cross-default provisions may also be accelerated and become due and payable. If any of these events occur, our assets might not be sufficient to repay in full all of our outstanding indebtedness and we may be unable to find alternative financing. Even if we could obtain alternative financing, it might not be on terms that are favorable or acceptable to us.

We and our subsidiaries may incur substantially more debt.

We and our subsidiaries may incur substantial additional debt (including secured debt) in the future. The terms of the indentures governing our Senior Notes and the agreements governing our US and French revolving facilities and our other existing senior indebtedness limit, but do not prohibit, us and our subsidiaries from doing so.

On July 1, 2013, we entered into a 5-year US\$200 million term loan and revolving facilities secured by three vessels (*Geo Coral*, *Geo Caribbean*, *Oceanic Challenger*), split into two tranches of US\$100 million each, the proceeds of which were used in part to reimburse a portion of the vendor loan granted by Fugro. As of December 31, 2013, US\$95 million of the revolving facility tranche was drawn and US\$95 million were outstanding under the term loan tranche.

On July 15, 2013, we entered into a new US revolving credit facility of up to US\$165 million with a 5-year maturity. This facility was undrawn as of December 31, 2013.

On July 31, 2013, we entered into a new French revolving credit facility of up to US\$325 million with a 3-year maturity with two extension options of one year each. €110 million (US\$152 million) was drawn as of December 31, 2013. As of December 31, 2013, we had long-term confirmed and undrawn credit lines (including revolving facilities) amounting to US\$343 million.

If new debt is added to our current debt levels, the related risks for us could intensify.

To service our indebtedness and make capital expenditures, we require a significant amount of cash, and our ability to generate cash will depend on many factors beyond our control.

Our ability to make payments on and to refinance our indebtedness, and to fund planned capital expenditures, depends in part on our ability to generate cash in the future. This ability is, to a certain extent, subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control.

We cannot assure you that we will generate sufficient cash flow from operations to realize operating improvements on schedule or that future cash from operations and borrowings will be available to us in an amount sufficient to enable us to service and repay our indebtedness or to fund our other liquidity needs. If we are unable to satisfy our debt obligations, we may have to undertake alternative financing plans, such as refinancing or restructuring our indebtedness, selling assets, reducing or delaying capital investments or seeking to raise additional capital. We cannot assure you that any refinancing or debt restructuring would be possible, that any assets could be sold or that, if sold, the timing of the sales and the amount of proceeds realized from those sales would be favorable to us or that additional financing could be obtained on acceptable terms. Any disruptions in the capital and credit markets could adversely affect our ability to meet our liquidity needs or to refinance our indebtedness, including our ability to draw on our existing credit facilities or enter into new credit facilities. Banks that are party to our existing credit facilities may not be able to meet their funding commitments to us if they experience shortages of capital and liquidity or if they experience excessive volumes of borrowing requests from us and other borrowers within a short period of time. Furthermore, changes in the monetary policies of the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank may increase our financing costs and consequently adversely impact our ability to refinance our indebtedness.

MARKET AND OTHER RISKS

We are exposed to liquidity risks

Persistent volatility in the financial markets could have a material adverse effect on our ability to refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness and to otherwise fund our operational requirements. We cannot be certain that additional funds will be available if needed to make future investments in certain projects, take advantage of

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acquisitions or other opportunities or respond to competitive pressures. If additional funds are not available, or are not available on terms satisfactory to us, there could be a material adverse impact on our business and financial performance.

As of December 31, 2013, we had US\$2,218 million (€1,608 million) of net debt with US\$2,748 million (€1,992 million) financial debt (of which US\$24 million (€18 million) was bank overdrafts and accrued interest) and US\$530 million (€384 million) of cash and cash equivalents.

As of December 31, 2013, our financial debt consisted primarily of:

- US\$225 million outstanding principal amount of our 9 1/2% Senior Notes due 2016, US\$400 million outstanding principal amount of our 7 3/4% Senior Notes due 2017 and US\$650 million outstanding principal amount of our 9 1/2% Senior Notes due 2021;
- €360 million outstanding principal amount of our 1.75% OCEANE convertible bonds (bonds convertible into or exchangeable for new or existing shares) due 2016;
- €360 million outstanding principal amount of our 1.25% OCEANE convertible bonds (bonds convertible into or exchangeable for new or existing shares) due 2019;
- Our US\$325 million French revolving facility, of which €110 million was drawn as of December 31, 2013;
- Our US\$165 million US revolving facility, undrawn as of December 31, 2013;
- Our US\$200 million term loan and revolving facilities secured by three vessels (*Geo Coral*, *Geo Caribbean*, *Oceanic Challenger*), of which US\$95 million was drawn under the revolving facility and US\$95 million was outstanding under the term loan as of December 31, 2013;
- €112.5 million under the vendor loan granted by Fugro; and
- a total of US\$39 million (out of which US\$30 million was drawn) under various credit lines held by several of our subsidiaries.

The breakdown of our financial liabilities is presented in the table below:

(In millions of US dollars)	12/31/2013	N+1		N+2 to N+4		N+5 and >		Total	
		Nominal	Interests	Nominal	Interests	Nominal	Interests	Nominal	Interests
Senior Notes & convertible bonds	2,122	—	110	1,065	268	1,057	157	2,122	535
Bank borrowings	368	204	8	135	13	30	1	368	22
Financial leases	121	9	6	30	16	82	14	121	35
Banks overdrafts	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Other financial debts	174	19	9	116	26	39	2	174	37
Derivative instruments	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cash	(530)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total net financial liabilities	2,260	236	133	1,346	323	1,208	174	2,790	629

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The Senior Notes, the term loan and revolving facilities secured by three vessels and the French and US senior revolving facilities contain certain restrictive covenants, including covenants that require compliance with certain financial ratios. For the term loan and revolving facilities secured by vessels and the French and US senior revolving facilities, these financial ratios and tests were as follows as of December 31, 2013:

Ratio	US senior revolving facility		French senior revolving facility		Term loan and revolving facilities secured by vessel assets		12.31.2013
	Requirement		Requirement		Requirement		
Total net debt to EBITDA	£	3.00	£	3.00		£3.00	1.96x
EBITDA to total interest costs	³	4.00	³	4.00		³ 3.00	6.14x
Minimum liquidity		N/A		N/A	Cash plus Cash Equivalents > US\$75 million		US\$530 million

As of December 31, 2013, our available financial resources amounted to US\$781 million (including cash, cash equivalents, marketable securities and undrawn syndicated credit lines).

We are exposed to interest rate risk

We may be required to obtain a portion of our borrowings from financial institutions at variable interest rates indexed to draw periods ranging from one to 12 months. As a result, our interest expenses on this debt vary in line with movements in short-term interest rates. However, a significant portion of our debt consists of fixed-rate bonds, as well as a number of fixed-rate finance leases and fixed-rate medium-term bank credit facilities with variable maturities (see note 14 "Financial Instruments" to our consolidated financial statements, included elsewhere in this document). This debt is not exposed to interest rate fluctuations.

Net exposure to interest rate risk before and after hedging

The following table shows our variable interest rate exposure by maturity as of December 31, 2013.

12.31.2013	Financial assets(*)		Financial liabilities(*)		Net position before hedging		Off-balance sheet position		Net position after hedging	
	(a)		(b)		(c)=(a)-(b)		(d)		(e)=(c)+(d)	
In million US dollars	Fix rate	Variable rate	Fix rate	Variable rate	Fix rate	Variable rate	Fix rate	Variable rate	Fix rate	Variable rate
Overnight to 1 year	124	336	68	154	56	183	—	—	56	183
1 to 2 years	—	—	833	14	(833)	(14)	—	—	(833)	(14)
3 to 5 years	—	—	970	—	(970)	—	—	—	(970)	—
More than 5 years	—	—	683	—	(683)	—	—	—	(683)	—
Total	124	336	2,555	168	(2,431)	169	—	—	(2,431)	169

(*) Excluding bank overdrafts and accrued interest

As of December 31, 2013, our variable-rate assets (net of liabilities) maturing in less than one year totaled US\$183 million.

The following table shows our variable interest rate exposure over our financial assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2013:

In million US dollars	12.31.2013	
	Impact on result before tax	Impact on shareholders' equity before tax
Impact of an interest rate variation of +0.8%	1.3	1.3
Impact of an interest rate variation of -0.8%	(1.3)	(1.3)

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The sensitivity analysis is based on a net exposure of US\$169 million.

Our variable interest rate indebtedness carried an average interest rate of 2.2% in 2013, and our investments and other financial assets earned interest at an average rate of 0.8%.

Exchange rate risks as of December 31, 2013

The following table shows our exchange rate exposure as of December 31, 2013:

12.31.2013							
(Converted in millions of US\$)	Assets (a)	Liabilities (b)	Currency commitments (c)	Net position before hedging (d) = (a) - (b) ± (c)	Off-balance sheet positions (e)	Other hedging instruments (f)	Net position after hedging (g) = (d) + (e) - (f)
US\$ ⁽¹⁾	1,989.0	1,055.9	0.0	933.1	3.1	920.5	15.7

⁽¹⁾ US\$-denominated assets and liabilities in the entities whose functional currency is the euro.

12.31.2013						
	Assets	Liabilities	Currency commitments	Net position before hedging	Off-balance sheet positions	Net position after hedging
(In millions of EUR)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d) = (a) - (b) ± (c)	(e)	(f) = (d) + (e)
EUR ⁽²⁾	110.4	113.7	0.0	-3.3	0.0	-3.3

⁽²⁾ Euro-denominated assets and liabilities in the entities whose functional currency is the US\$.

Our net foreign-exchange exposure is principally linked to the euro. We seek to reduce our foreign-exchange position by selling the future receivables surplus over euro costs of our Equipment division as soon as they enter the backlog and taking out dollar-denominated loans supported by long-term assets. Although we attempt to reduce the risks associated with exchange rate fluctuations, we cannot assure you that fluctuations in the values of the currencies in which we operate will not materially adversely affect our future results of operations. Our annual fixed expenses in euros are equal to approximately €500 million and as a consequence, an unfavorable variation of US\$0.10 in the average yearly exchange rate between the US dollar and the euro would reduce our operating income and our shareholders' equity by approximately US\$50 million.

We have also a substantial net foreign-exchange exposure related to the Norwegian krone. As of December 31, 2013,

- our NOK-denominated assets and liabilities, in the entities whose functional currency is the US dollar, had a passive net position after hedging equivalent to US\$10 million, and
- our US\$-denominated assets and liabilities, in the entities whose functional currency is the NOK, had an active net position after hedging equivalent to US\$12 million.

We monitor our balance sheet exposure through either forward sales or capital operations.

As a result of our compliance with IAS 12 (Income Taxes), our results of operation are also exposed to the effect of exchange rate variations on our deferred tax amounts when the functional currency for an entity that owns a non-cash asset is not the same as the currency used for taxation purposes.

With respect to exchange rate risk related to investments in operating subsidiaries, we consider such risk to be low, since the functional currency of the majority of operating entities is the US dollar.

Sensitivity Analysis Table

	Impact on result before taxes		Impact on shareholders' equity before taxes	
	Increase of 10 cents	Decrease of 10 cents	Increase of 10 cents	Decrease of 10 cents
In US\$ million	50	(50)	50	(50)
TOTAL	50	(50)	50	(50)

We are exposed to risk related to equities and financial instruments

We are exposed to risk of fluctuations in the value of equities and other financial instruments we may hold.

Any transactions involving our own shares are decided by management in accordance with applicable regulations.

As of December 31, 2013, we owned 800,000 of our own shares with a balance sheet value of US\$20.6 million. As those shares are valued at historical cost, changes in the stock's market price do not have any impact in the consolidated statements of the Group.

Our investment policy does not authorize short term investment in the equities of other companies.

The fair value of the own shares as of December 31, 2013 is as follows:

12.31.2013	At fair value	Available for sales	Held to maturity	Derivatives	Total
Shares	US\$13.9 million	—	—	—	US\$13.9 million
Total	US\$13.9 million	—	—	—	US\$13.9 million

Credit risk and counter-party risk

We seek to minimize our counter-party risk by entering into hedging contracts only with highly rated commercial banks or financial institutions and by distributing the transactions among the selected institutions. Although our credit risk is the replacement cost at the then-estimated fair value of the instrument, we believe that the risk of incurring losses is remote and those losses, if any, would not be material. Our receivables and investments do not represent a significant concentration of credit risk due to the wide variety of customers and markets in which we sell our services and products and our presence in many geographic areas. In 2013, the Group's two most significant customers accounted 5.1% and 3.9% of the Group's consolidated revenues compared with 7.1% and 5.8% in 2012 and 13.0% and 3.0% in 2011.

Risk relating to the financial market environment

The current situation in the credit and capital markets is likely to have a significant adverse impact on industrial and commercial performance and the solvency of many companies in general, which may affect some of our customers and suppliers. As a result, the current economic climate may have an adverse impact on our business if customers cancel orders or delay or default on payment, or if suppliers fail to provide goods and services as agreed.

To deal with these risks as effectively as possible:

- We limit customer risk by taking a selective approach with our customers (including looking at their solvency) in our Services business and by using letters of credit in our Equipment business; and
- We, and Sercel in particular, have adopted a highly selective policy regarding suppliers, aimed at keeping exposure to any one supplier within prudent limits.

Risks related to insurance

The nature of our business subjects us to significant ongoing operating risks for which we may not have adequate insurance or for which we may not be able to procure adequate insurance on reasonable terms, if at all.

The nature of our business involves ongoing and significant operating risks for which we are not always insured, and in respect of which we may not be able to obtain adequate insurance at economically reasonable rates, if at all.

- Our seismic data acquisition activities, particularly in deepwater marine areas, are often conducted under harsh weather and other hazardous operating conditions, including the detonation of dynamite. These operations are subject to the risk of downtime or reduced productivity, as well as to the risks of loss to property and injury to personnel resulting from fires, accidental explosions, mechanical failures, spills, collisions, stranding, ice floes, high seas and natural disasters. In addition to losses caused by human errors and accidents, we may also be subject to losses resulting from, among other things, war, terrorist activities, piracy, political instability, business interruption, strikes and weather events.
- Our extensive range of seismic products and services expose us to litigation and legal proceedings including those related to product liability, personal injury and contract liability.
- We produce and sell highly complex products and we cannot assure you that our extensive product development, manufacturing controls and testing will be adequate and sufficient to detect all defects, errors, failures, and quality issues that could affect our customers and result in claims against us, order cancellations or delays in market acceptance.

We have put in place insurance coverage against operating hazards, including product liability claims and personal injury claims, damage, destruction or business interruption of data processing centers, manufacturing centers and other facilities, in amounts we consider appropriate in accordance with industry practice. Our risk coverage policy reflects our objective of covering major claims that could affect our facilities and equipment, as well as third-party liability claims that we may be exposed to as a result of our activities. We review the adequacy of insurance coverage for risks we face periodically. Whenever possible, we obtain agreements from customers that limit our liability.

However, we cannot assure you that our insurance coverage will be sufficient to fully indemnify us against liabilities arising from pending and future claims or that our insurance coverage will be adequate in all circumstances or against all hazards, or that we will be able to maintain adequate insurance coverage in the future at commercially reasonable rates or on acceptable terms.

Risks related to outsourcing

Disruptions to our supply chain and other outsourcing risks may adversely affect our ability to deliver our products and services to our customers.

Our supply chain is a complex network of internal and external organizations responsible for the supply, manufacture and logistics supporting our products and services around the world. We are vulnerable to disruptions in this supply chain from changes in government regulations, tax and currency changes, strikes, boycotts and other disruptive events as well as from unavailability of critical resources. These disruptions may have an adverse impact on our ability to deliver products and services to our customers.

Within our Group, Sercel makes particular use of subcontracting. Our French manufacturing sites outsource part of their production to local third-party companies selected according to certain criteria, including quality and financial soundness. Outsourced operations are distributed among several entities, each having a small proportion of aggregate outsourced activity in order to limit risk related to the failure of any one of our subcontractors. For our services business, our policy is not to rely on outsourcing for any of our activities, except in special cases where there is a lack of available capacity.