

NOBLE CORP
Form DEF 14A
March 14, 2007

Table of Contents

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
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NOBLE CORPORATION

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if other than the Registrant)

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

NOBLE CORPORATION
13135 South Dairy Ashford, Suite 800
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
To Be Held On April 26, 2007

To the Members of
Noble Corporation:

The annual general meeting of members of Noble Corporation, a Cayman Islands exempted company limited by shares (the Company), will be held on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the St. Regis Hotel, 1919 Briar Oaks Lane, Houston, Texas, for the following purposes:

1. To elect three directors to the class of directors whose three-year term will expire in 2010;
2. To approve the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as independent auditors for 2007; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 1, 2007 as the record date for the determination of members entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual general meeting or any adjournment thereof. Only holders of record of ordinary shares of the Company at the close of business on the record date are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. A complete list of such members will be available for examination at the offices of the Company in Sugar Land, Texas during normal business hours for a period of 10 days prior to the meeting.

A record of the Company's activities during 2006 and financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2006 are contained in the accompanying 2006 Annual Report. The Annual Report does not form any part of the material for solicitation of proxies.

Your vote is important. All members are cordially invited to attend the meeting. *We urge you, whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, to submit your proxy by telephone, via the Internet or by completing, signing, dating and mailing the enclosed proxy or voting instruction card in the postage-paid envelope provided.* If a member who has submitted a proxy attends the meeting in person, such member may revoke the proxy and vote in person on all matters submitted at the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Julie J. Robertson
Secretary

Sugar Land, Texas
March 14, 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

GENERAL

VOTING SECURITIES

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF MANAGEMENT

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Summary Compensation Table

Grants of Plan Based Awards

Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

Option Exercises and Stock Vested

Pension Benefits

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

Potential Payments on Termination or Change of Control

Director Compensation

Compensation Committee Report

EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

AUDITORS

Report of the Audit Committee

OTHER MATTERS

ANNEX A

Table of Contents

**NOBLE CORPORATION
13135 South Dairy Ashford, Suite 800
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
PROXY STATEMENT
For Annual General Meeting of Members
To Be Held on April 26, 2007
GENERAL**

This proxy statement is furnished to members of Noble Corporation (the Company) in connection with the solicitation by our board of directors (Board) of proxies for use at the annual general meeting of members to be held at the time and place and for the purposes set forth in the accompanying notice. The approximate date of mailing of this proxy statement and the accompanying proxy or voting instruction card is March 16, 2007.

Proxies and Voting Instructions

If you hold ordinary shares, par value \$.10 per share, of the Company (Ordinary Shares) in your name, you can submit your proxy in any of the following three convenient voting methods. Please have your proxy card available when voting via either the telephone or Internet. You will be prompted to provide your unique Control Number and Check Digit ID for security purposes. Both of these numbers will be provided on your proxy card.

Telephone Call toll free 1-866-628-8859 (24 hours a day, seven days a week) and follow the instructions given. Telephone voting will be available until 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on Wednesday, April 25, 2007.

Internet Vote on the Internet at www.myproxyonline.com and follow the on-screen instructions. This method of submitting your proxy will be available until 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on Wednesday, April 25, 2007.

Proxy Card Complete, sign and date your proxy card and mail it in the postage-paid envelope provided. Proxy cards must be received by us before voting begins at the annual general meeting.

If you hold Ordinary Shares through someone else, such as a bank, broker or other nominee, you may get material from them asking you how you want to vote your shares. You should check to see if they offer telephone or Internet voting.

You may revoke your proxy at any time prior to its exercise by:

Giving written notice of the revocation to our corporate secretary;

Appearing and voting in person at the annual general meeting; or

Properly submitting a later-dated proxy by telephone, via the Internet or by delivering a later-dated proxy card to our corporate secretary.

If you attend the annual general meeting in person without voting, this will not automatically revoke your proxy. If you revoke your proxy during the meeting, this will not affect any vote previously taken. If you hold

Table of Contents

Ordinary Shares through someone else, such as a bank, broker or other nominee, and you desire to revoke your proxy, you should follow the instructions provided by your nominee.

If you were a participant in the Noble Drilling Corporation 401(k) Savings Plan on the record date for the meeting, you should receive a voting instruction card. You can provide instructions to the plan trustee as to how to vote Ordinary Shares held in the plan by calling the telephone number or visiting the Internet site as set forth above, or by completing, signing, dating and mailing the voting instruction card in the postage-paid envelope.

Voting Procedures and Tabulation

The Company will appoint one or more inspectors of election to act at the annual general meeting and to make a written report thereof. Prior to the annual general meeting, the inspectors will sign an oath to perform their duties in an impartial manner and according to the best of their ability. The inspectors will ascertain the number of Ordinary Shares outstanding and the voting power of each, determine the Ordinary Shares represented at the annual general meeting and the validity of proxies and ballots, count all votes and ballots, and perform certain other duties as required by law. The determination of the inspectors as to the validity of proxies will be final and binding.

Abstentions and broker non-votes (i.e., proxies submitted by brokers that do not indicate a vote for a proposal because they do not have discretionary voting authority and have not received instructions as to how to vote on the proposal) are counted as present in determining whether the quorum requirement for the annual general meeting is satisfied. For purposes of determining the outcome of any matter to be voted upon as to which the broker has indicated on the proxy that the broker does not have discretionary authority to vote, these shares will be treated as not present at the meeting and not entitled to vote with respect to that matter, even though those shares are considered to be present at the meeting for quorum purposes and may be entitled to vote on other matters. Abstentions, on the other hand, are considered to be present at the meeting and entitled to vote on the matter abstained from.

With regard to the election of directors, votes may be cast in favor of or withheld from each nominee. Votes that are withheld will be excluded entirely from the vote and will have no effect. Broker non-votes and other limited proxies will have no effect on the outcome of the election of directors.

With regard to the proposal to approve the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as independent auditors for 2007, an abstention will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal. Broker non-votes and other limited proxies will have no effect on the outcome of the vote with respect to such proposal.

VOTING SECURITIES

Our only outstanding voting securities are the Ordinary Shares. Only holders of record of Ordinary Shares at the close of business on March 1, 2007, the record date for the annual general meeting, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual general meeting. On the record date for the annual general meeting, there were 134,275,081 Ordinary Shares outstanding and entitled to be voted at the annual general meeting. A majority of such shares, present in person or represented by proxy, is necessary to constitute a quorum. Each Ordinary Share is entitled to one vote. Under Cayman Islands law, the holders of the Ordinary Shares do not have appraisal rights with respect to matters to be voted upon at the annual general meeting.

Table of Contents**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS**

The following table sets forth as of December 31, 2006 information with respect to the only persons who were known to the Company to be the beneficial owners of more than five percent of the outstanding Ordinary Shares.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned	
	Number of Shares	Percent of Class
FMR Corp. (1) 82 Devonshire Street Boston, Massachusetts 02109	20,322,470	15.0%
Massachusetts Financial Services Company (2) 500 Boylston Street Boston, Massachusetts 02116	7,105,190	5.2%

(1) Based on a Schedule 13G (Amendment No. 10) dated February 14, 2007 filed by FMR Corp. with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). The filing is made jointly with Edward C. Johnson 3d and Fidelity Management & Research Company. FMR Corp. reports that it has sole investment power with respect to all such Ordinary Shares and sole voting power with respect to 2,101,367 Ordinary Shares.

- (2) Based on a Schedule 13G (Amendment No. 8) dated February 12, 2007 filed by Massachusetts Financial Services Company with the SEC. Massachusetts Financial Services Company reports that it has sole investment power with respect to all such Ordinary Shares and sole voting power with respect to 6,551,908 Ordinary Shares.

Table of Contents

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Our memorandum and articles of association provide for three classes of directors, with approximately one-third of the directors constituting our Board being elected each year to serve a three-year term. There are three directors comprising the class whose term expires at the 2007 annual general meeting: Michael A. Cawley, Luke R. Corbett and Jack E. Little. The nominating and corporate governance committee of our Board has approved, and our Board has unanimously nominated, Messrs. Cawley, Corbett and Little for re-election as directors of the Company to serve three-year terms expiring in 2010.

The directors nominated for election this year will be elected by a plurality of the Ordinary Shares present in person or represented by proxy at the annual general meeting and entitled to vote. All duly submitted and unrevoked proxies will be voted for the nominees selected by our Board, except where authorization so to vote is withheld. **Our Board unanimously recommends that members vote FOR the election of its nominees for director.**

Information with respect to the directors nominated for election this year, and the directors whose terms do not expire at the 2007 annual general meeting, is presented below.

Nominees For Directors

Michael A. Cawley,
age 59, director since
1985

Mr. Cawley has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation (the Noble Foundation), since February 1992, after serving as Executive Vice President of the Noble Foundation since January 1991. Mr. Cawley has served as a trustee of the Noble Foundation since 1988. The Noble Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation, and it is engaged in agricultural research, education, demonstration and consultation; plant biology and applied biotechnology; and assistance through granting to selected nonprofit organizations. For more than five years prior to 1991, Mr. Cawley was the President of Thompson & Cawley, a professional corporation, attorneys at law; and Mr. Cawley currently serves as of counsel to the law firm of Thompson, Cawley, Veazey & Burns, a professional corporation. Mr. Cawley is also a director of Noble Energy, Inc.

Luke R. Corbett,
age 60, director since
2001

Mr. Corbett has served as a director of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation since August 2006. Anadarko engages in the exploration, development, production, and marketing of natural gas, crude oil, condensate, and natural gas liquids primarily in the United States. Mr. Corbett served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Kerr-McGee Corporation from May 1999 until his retirement in August 2006, and also from February 1997 to February 1999. Between February 1999 and May 1999, he served as Chief Executive Officer of Kerr-McGee, and from 1995 to 1997, he served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Kerr-McGee. Kerr-McGee, an Oklahoma City-based oil and natural gas exploration and production company, was acquired by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation in August 2006. Mr. Corbett served as a director of Kerr-McGee from 1995 to August 2006 and he currently serves as a director of OGE Energy Corp.

Jack E. Little,
age 68, director since
2000

Mr. Little served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Shell Oil Company, and a member of the Board of Directors and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Shell Exploration & Production Company for more than five years until his retirement in June 1999. Shell Oil Company and its subsidiaries, with extensive operations in the United States, explore, develop, produce, purchase, transport and market crude oil and natural gas; they also purchase, manufacture, transport and market oil and chemical products and provide technical and business services. Mr. Little is also a director of TXU

Table of Contents

Class Whose Term Expires In 2008

Lawrence J. Chazen,
age 66, director since
1994

Mr. Chazen has served since 1977 as Chief Executive Officer of Lawrence J. Chazen, Inc., a California registered investment adviser engaged in providing financial advisory services.

Mary P. Ricciardello,
age 51, director since
2003

Ms. Ricciardello served as Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer of Reliant Energy, Inc. from January 2001 to August 2002, and immediately prior to that served as its Senior Vice President and Comptroller from September 1999 to January 2001 and as its Vice President and Comptroller from 1996 to September 1999. Ms. Ricciardello also served as Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer of Reliant Resources, Inc. from May 2001 to August 2002. Reliant principally provides electricity and energy services to retail and wholesale customers. Ms. Ricciardello's current principal occupation is as a certified public accountant, and she has not held a principal employment since leaving her positions with Reliant Energy, Inc. and Reliant Resources, Inc. in August 2002. Ms. Ricciardello is also a director of U.S. Concrete, Inc.

William A. Sears,
age 72, director since
1998

Mr. Sears retired from his position as Director of Operations for British Petroleum Exploration in 1997, after serving with them in various positions since 1983. British Petroleum Exploration is part of the BP group of companies, which is one of the world's largest energy companies, with main activities comprising the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas; refining, marketing, supply and transportation; and the manufacture and marketing of petrochemicals.

Class Whose Term Expires In 2009

James C. Day,
age 63, director since
1983

Mr. Day has served as Chairman of the Board of the Company since October 1992. Mr. Day will retire from the Company and our Board effective April 30, 2007. Mr. Day served as Chief Executive Officer of the Company from January 1984 through October 29, 2006. He served as President of the Company from January 1984 to January 1999 and from March 1, 2005 to February 10, 2006. From January 1983 until his election as President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Day served as Executive Vice President and Vice President of the Company. Mr. Day is also a director of ONEOK, Inc., a publicly traded company, and a trustee of the Noble Foundation.

Julie H. Edwards,
age 48, director since
2006

Ms. Edwards served as Senior Vice President of Corporate Development of Southern Union Company from November 2006 to January 2007, and immediately prior to that served as its Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from July 2005 to November 2006. Southern Union is primarily engaged in the transportation and distribution of natural gas. Prior to joining Southern Union, Ms. Edwards served as Executive Vice President - Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer for Frontier Oil Corporation in Houston since 2000. She joined Frontier Oil in 1991 as Vice President - Secretary and Treasurer after serving as Vice President of Corporate Finance for Smith Barney, Harris, Upham & Co., Inc., New York and Houston, from 1988 to 1991, after joining the company as an associate in 1985. Ms. Edwards has not held a

principal employment since leaving her position with Southern Union. Ms. Edwards is also a director of the NATCO Group, Inc.

Table of Contents

Mark A. Jackson,

age 51, director since
July 28, 2006

Mark A. Jackson has served as Chief Executive Officer of the Company since October 30, 2006, as President of the Company since February 2006 and as Chief Operating Officer of the Company since March 2005. Mr. Jackson served as Senior Vice President of the Company from September 2000 to February 2006. Mr. Jackson served as Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Controller of the Company from September 2000 to September 2005. In addition, Mr. Jackson served as the Company's acting Chief Financial Officer from March through November 2006. From 1999 to August 2000, Mr. Jackson served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Santa Fe Snyder Corporation, an oil and gas exploration and production company. From 1997 to 1999, he served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Snyder Oil Corporation, an oil and gas exploration and production company. Prior to 1997, Mr. Jackson served consecutively in the positions of Vice President & Controller, Vice President - Finance and Vice President & Chief Financial Officer of Apache Corporation, an oil and gas exploration and production company, beginning in 1988.

Marc E. Leland,

age 68, director since
1994

Mr. Leland has served since 1984 as President of Marc E. Leland & Associates, Inc., a company engaged in the business of providing financial advisory services.

None of the corporations or other organizations in which our non-management directors carried on their respective principal occupations and employments during the past five years is a parent, subsidiary or other affiliate of the Company.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Independence

Our Board has determined that each of the eight non-management directors of the Company qualifies as an independent director under the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) corporate governance rules and that each member of the audit committee qualifies as independent under Rule 10A-3 of the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act). These eight independent, non-management directors comprise in full the membership of each committee described below under Board Committees and Meetings.

To be considered independent under the NYSE rules, our Board must affirmatively determine that the director has no material relationship with the Company (either directly or as a partner, shareholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with the Company). In addition, a director will not be independent if, within the preceding three years,

the director was employed by the Company;

an immediate family member of the director was an executive officer of the Company;

the director or an immediate family member of the director received more than \$100,000 per year in direct compensation from the Company, other than director and committee fees and pension or other forms of deferred compensation for prior service (provided such service is not contingent in any way on continued service);

the director was affiliated with or employed by, or an immediate family member of the director was affiliated with or employed in a professional capacity by, a present or former internal or external auditor of the Company;

Table of Contents

the director or an immediate family member of the director was employed as an executive officer of another company where any of the Company's present executives serve on that company's compensation committee; or

the director is an executive officer or an employee, or an immediate family member of the director is an executive officer, of a company that made payments to, or received payments from, the Company for property or services in an amount which, in any single fiscal year, exceeded the greater of \$1 million or two percent of such other company's consolidated gross revenues.

The following will not be considered by our Board to be a material relationship that would impair a director's independence. If a director is an executive officer of, or beneficially owns in excess of 10 percent equity interest in, another company

that does business with the Company, and the amount of the annual payments to the Company is less than five percent of the annual consolidated gross revenues of the Company;

that does business with the Company, and the amount of the annual payments by the Company to such other company is less than five percent of the annual consolidated gross revenues of the Company; or

to which the Company was indebted at the end of its last fiscal year in an aggregate amount that is less than five percent of the consolidated assets of the Company.

For relationships not covered by the guidelines in the immediately preceding paragraph, the determination of whether the relationship is material or not, and therefore whether the director would be independent or not, is made by our directors who satisfy the independence guidelines described above. These independence guidelines used by our Board are set forth in our corporate governance guidelines, which are published under the governance section of our website at www.noblecorp.com.

In accordance with the Company's corporate governance guidelines, the non-management directors have chosen a lead director to preside at regularly scheduled executive sessions of our Board held without management present. Mr. Little currently serves as lead director.

Board Committees and Meetings

The Company has standing audit, compensation, nominating and corporate governance, and finance committees of our Board. Each of these committees operates under a written charter that has been adopted by the respective committee and by our Board. The charters are published under the governance section of the Company's website at www.noblecorp.com and are available in print to any member who requests them.

The current members of the committees, number of meetings held by each committee during 2006, and a description of the functions performed by each committee are set forth below:

Audit Committee (nine meetings). The current members of the audit committee are Mary P. Ricciardello, Chair, Lawrence J. Chazen, Julie H. Edwards and Jack E. Little. Each member attended all meetings of the audit committee except Ms. Edwards, who did not attend one meeting during the time she served on the committee. The primary responsibilities of the audit committee are to select and retain the Company's auditors (including review and approval of the terms of engagement and fees), to review with the auditors the Company's financial reports (and other financial information) provided to the SEC and the investing public, to prepare and publish an annual report for inclusion in this proxy statement, and to assist our Board with oversight of the following: integrity of the Company's financial statements; compliance by the Company with standards of business ethics and legal and regulatory requirements; qualifications and independence of the Company's independent auditors; and performance of the Company's independent auditors and internal auditors. Our Board has determined that Ms. Ricciardello and Ms. Edwards are each an audit committee financial expert as that term is defined under the applicable SEC rules and regulations. The audit committee's report relating to 2006 begins on page 40 of this proxy statement.

Compensation Committee (six meetings). The current members of the compensation committee are William A. Sears, Chair, Michael A. Cawley and Marc E. Leland. Each member attended all meetings of

Table of Contents

the compensation committee. The primary responsibilities of the compensation committee are to discharge our Board's responsibilities relating to compensation of directors and executive officers, to assist our Board in reviewing and administering compensation, benefits, incentive and equity-based compensation plans, and to prepare an annual disclosure under the caption "Compensation Committee Report" for inclusion in the Company's proxy statement for its annual general meeting of members. The compensation committee's report relating to 2006 appears on page 38 of this proxy statement.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (four meetings). The current members of the nominating and corporate governance committee are Jack E. Little, Chair, Michael A. Cawley, Lawrence J. Chazen, Luke R. Corbett, Julie H. Edwards, Marc E. Leland, Mary P. Ricciardello and William A. Sears. Each member attended all meetings of the nominating and corporate governance committee, except Mr. Corbett, who was appointed a member of the committee on October 27, 2006. Mr. Corbett attended all the nominating and corporate governance committee meetings that were held during the period in 2006 for which he has been a committee member. The primary responsibilities of the nominating and corporate governance committee are to assist our Board in reviewing, evaluating, selecting and recommending director nominees when one or more directors are to be appointed, elected or re-elected to our Board; to monitor, develop and recommend to our Board a set of principles, policies and practices relating to corporate governance; and to oversee the process by which our Board, our Chief Executive Officer and executive management are evaluated.

Members entitled to vote for the election of directors may recommend candidates for nomination in accordance with the policy and procedures set forth in article 57 of the Company's articles of association. Recommended nominees must satisfy the age qualifications set forth in article 54 of the Company's articles of association. A copy of articles 54 and 57 is included in Annex A attached to this proxy statement. The nominating and corporate governance committee believes that directors should possess the highest personal and professional ethics, character, integrity and values; an inquisitive and objective perspective; practical wisdom; and mature judgment. Directors must be willing to devote sufficient time to discharging their duties and responsibilities effectively, and they should be committed to serving on our Board for an extended period of time. The nominating and corporate governance committee endeavors to have a Board representing diverse experience in policy-making positions in areas that are relevant to the Company's lines of business and areas of operations worldwide.

The nominating and corporate governance committee's process for identifying candidates includes seeking recommendations from one or more of the following: current and retired directors and executive officers of the Company; a firm (or firms) that specializes in identifying director candidates (which firm may earn a fee for its services paid by the Company); persons known to directors of the Company in accounting, legal and other professional service organizations or educational institutions; and, subject to compliance with applicable procedures, members of the Company. The nominating and corporate governance committee's process for evaluating candidates includes investigation of the person's specific experiences and skills, time availability in light of commitments, potential conflicts of interest, and independence from management and the Company. Candidates recommended by a member are evaluated in the same manner as are other candidates. We did not receive any recommendations from members of the Company for director nominees for the 2007 annual general meeting.

Finance Committee (four meetings). The current members of the finance committee are Luke R. Corbett, Chair, Michael A. Cawley, Lawrence J. Chazen, Julie H. Edwards, Marc E. Leland, Jack E. Little, Mary P. Ricciardello and William A. Sears. Each of the members attended all meetings of the finance committee. The primary responsibility of the finance committee is to assist our Board in fulfilling its oversight function with respect to our financial affairs and policies, including capital requirements and structure, share repurchase programs, dividend policy, and long-range financial strategic planning.

In addition to the standing committees described above, our Board designated a non-standing management transition committee in April 2006. The primary responsibility of this committee as set forth in the Board resolution establishing the committee is to assist our Board in overseeing and planning management transition matters relating to the Company's announcement of the retirement of Mr. Day, the Chairman of the Board and former Chief Executive Officer of the Company, effective April 30, 2007. The members of the management transition committee are Jack E. Little, Michael A. Cawley and Mary P. Ricciardello. This committee met five times during 2006. Each of the

committee members attended all meetings of the management transition committee.

Under the Company's policy on director attendance at annual general meetings of members, all directors are expected to attend each annual general meeting, and any director who should become unable to attend the 2007

Table of Contents

annual general meeting is responsible for notifying the Chairman of the Board in advance of the meeting. At the date of this proxy statement, we know of no director who will not attend the 2007 annual general meeting. In 2006, all directors attended the annual general meeting of members.

In 2006, our Board held nine meetings. All directors attended all the 2006 Board meetings, except Mr. Little, who did not attend one meeting, Mr. Jackson, who became a director of the Company on July 28, 2006, and Ms. Edwards, who became a director of the Company on February 3, 2006. Each of Mr. Jackson and Ms. Edwards attended all our Board meetings that were held during the period in 2006 for which he or she served as a director.

Member Communications with Directors

Our Board has approved the following process for members and other security holders of the Company and interested parties to send communications to our Board. To contact all directors on our Board, all directors on a Board committee, an individual director, or the non-management directors of our Board as a group, the member, other security holder or interested party can:

mail Noble Corporation, Attention: Corporate Secretary, 13135 South Dairy Ashford, Suite 800, Sugar Land, Texas 77478;

e-mail nobleboard@noblecorp.com; or

telephone the NobleLine (toll-free and anonymous, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week) at 877-285-4162.

All communications received in the mail are opened by the office of the Company's Secretary for the purpose of determining whether the contents represent a message to our Board. All communications received electronically are processed under the oversight of our Board by the Company's director of internal audit and/or general counsel. Complaints or concerns relating to the Company's accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters are referred to the audit committee of our Board. Complaints or concerns relating to other corporate matters, which are not addressed to a specific director, are referred to the appropriate functional manager within the Company for review and response. A summary of the incoming contact and the manager's response is reported to our Board. Complaints or concerns relating to corporate matters other than the specific items referred to the audit committee as described above, which are addressed to a specific director, committee of our Board, or group of directors, are promptly relayed to such persons.

Director Education

We provide our directors with information and materials that are designed to assist them in performing their duties as directors. We provide director manuals, periodic presentations on new developments in relevant areas, such as legal and accounting matters, as well as opportunities to attend director education programs at the Company's expense. Our director manual contains important information about the Company and the responsibilities of our directors, including: our memorandum and articles of association; guidelines for assignments regarding standing committees of our Board; the charter for each of our Board committees; a summary of laws and regulations regarding compliance with insider reporting and trading; our code of business conduct and ethics; corporate directors guidebooks published by such organizations as the American Bar Association Section of Business Law, National Association of Corporate Directors, and American Society of Corporate Secretaries; a statement of the Company paradigms that govern how we conduct our business; and our safety policy and quality policy and objectives.

TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS

Certain Transactions

One of our nominees for re-election as a director of the Company, Mr. Corbett, was Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Kerr-McGee Corporation prior to the completion of its acquisition by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation on August 10, 2006. Subsidiaries of the Company received an aggregate of approximately \$62.8 million from Kerr-McGee Corporation (or its subsidiaries) for contract drilling services performed by the Company's subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business in 2006 prior to such acquisition. The drilling contracts for such services were negotiated and entered into under competitive marketplace conditions. The Company

Table of Contents

believes that these transactions during 2006 were on terms that were reasonable and in the best interests of the Company.

Policies and Procedures Relating to Transactions with Related Persons

Transactions with related persons are reviewed, approved or ratified in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth in our code of business conduct and ethics and our administrative policy manual, the procedures described below with respect to director and officer questionnaires, and the other procedures described below.

Our code of business conduct and ethics provides that conflicts of interest are prohibited as a matter of Company policy, except under guidelines approved by our Board. Any employee, officer or director who becomes aware of a conflict, potential conflict or an uncertainty as to whether a conflict exists should bring the matter to the attention of a supervisor, manager or other appropriate personnel. A conflict of interest exists when an individual's personal interest is adverse to or otherwise in conflict with the interests of the Company. Our code of business conduct and ethics sets forth several examples of how conflicts of interest may arise, including when

an employee, officer or director or a member of his or her family receives improper personal benefits because of such employee's, officer's or director's position in the Company;

a loan by the Company to, or a guarantee by the Company of an obligation of, an employee or his or her family member is made;

an employee works for or has any direct or indirect business connection with any of our competitors, customers or suppliers; or

Company assets and properties are used for personal gain or Company business opportunities are usurped for personal gain.

In addition, our administrative policy manual, which applies to all our employees, defines some additional examples of what the Company considers to be a conflict of interest, including when

subject to certain limited exceptions, an employee or consultant or any member of his or her immediate family has an interest in any business entity that deals with the Company where there is an opportunity for preferential treatment to be given or received;

an employee or consultant serves as an officer, a director, or in any management capacity of another business entity directly or indirectly related to the contract drilling or energy services industries without specific authority from our Board;

an employee or consultant or any member of his or her immediate family buys, sells or leases any kind of property, facilities or equipment from or to the Company or any of its subsidiaries or to any business entity or individual who is or is seeking to become a contractor, supplier or customer, without specific authority from our Board; or

subject to certain limited exceptions, an employee or consultant or any member of his or her immediate family accepts gifts, payments, extravagant entertainment, services or loans in any form from anyone soliciting business, or who may already have established business relations, with the Company.

Each year we require all our directors, nominees for director and Company officers to complete and sign a questionnaire in connection with the solicitation of proxies for use at our annual general meeting of members. The purpose of the questionnaire is to obtain information, including information regarding transactions with related persons, for inclusion in our proxy statement or annual report.

In addition, we annually review SEC filings made by beneficial owners of more than five percent of any class of our voting securities to determine whether information relating to transactions with such persons needs to be included in our proxy statement or annual report.

Table of Contents**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth as of December 31, 2006 the beneficial ownership of Ordinary Shares by each of our directors, each named executive officer of the Company listed in the Summary Compensation Table appearing on page 22 of this proxy statement, and all our directors and named executive officers as a group.

Name	Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned (1)	
	Number of Shares	Percent of Class (2)
<i>Directors</i>		
Michael A. Cawley	930,967(3)(4)	0.7%
Lawrence J. Chazen	36,870(3)	
Luke R. Corbett	36,082(3)	
James C. Day	1,644,677(3)(4)	1.2%
Julie H. Edwards	4,123	
Mark A. Jackson	204,883(3)	0.2%
Marc E. Leland	55,729(3)	
Jack E. Little	53,218(3)	
Mary P. Ricciardello	21,573(3)	
William A. Sears	69,642(3)	0.1%
<i>Named Executive Officers (excluding any Director above) and Group</i>		
Thomas L. Mitchell	40,000	
Julie J. Robertson	485,405(3)	0.4%
Robert D. Campbell	245,478(3)	0.2%
Bruce W. Busmire	72	
<i>All directors and named executive officers as a group (14 persons)</i>	2,954,080(5)	2.2%

(1) Unless otherwise indicated, the beneficial owner has sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares listed.

(2) The percent of class shown is less than one-tenth of one percent unless otherwise indicated.

(3) Includes shares attributable to Ordinary Shares

not outstanding
but subject to
options
exercisable at
December 31,
2006 or within
60 days
thereafter, as
follows:

Mr. Cawley
43,500 shares;
Mr. Chazen
22,000 shares;
Mr. Corbett
27,000 shares;
Mr. Day
367,324 shares;
Mr. Leland
36,500 shares;
Mr. Little
39,500 shares;
Ms. Ricciardello
12,000 shares;
Mr. Sears
46,500 shares;
Mr. Jackson
86,464 shares;
Ms. Robertson
360,622 shares;
and Mr.
Campbell
211,843 shares.

- (4) Includes 874,639
Ordinary Shares
beneficially
owned by the
Noble
Foundation.
Mr. Cawley, as
President and
Chief Executive
Officer and a
trustee, and
Mr. Day as a
trustee, of the
Noble
Foundation may
be deemed to
beneficially own,
and have voting

and investment power with respect to, the 874,639 Ordinary Shares held by the Noble Foundation. As one of the 11 members of the board of trustees of the Noble Foundation, neither Mr. Cawley nor Mr. Day represents sufficient voting power on the Noble Foundation's board of trustees to determine voting or investment decisions with respect to the 874,639 Ordinary Shares. Mr. Cawley and Mr. Day each disclaim any pecuniary interest in the 874,639 Ordinary Shares.

- (5) Includes 1,253,253 Ordinary Shares not outstanding but subject to options exercisable at December 31, 2006 or within 60 days thereafter and 874,639 Ordinary Shares beneficially

owned by the
Noble
Foundation. See
footnotes (3) and
(4) above.

Table of Contents**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION****Compensation Discussion and Analysis***Compensation Philosophy*

The Company's executive compensation program reflects the Company's philosophy that executives' compensation should be structured so as to closely align executives' interests with the interests of our members (shareholders). The program is designed around equity-based incentive and performance-based pay and, in order to promote an atmosphere of teamwork, fairness and motivation, these concepts extend beyond the named executive officers to other employees throughout the Company. The primary objectives of the Company's total compensation package are to emphasize operating performance criteria that enhance member (shareholder) value and to establish and maintain a competitive executive compensation program that enables the Company to attract, retain and motivate high caliber executives who will contribute to the long-term success of the Company. When used in this Compensation Discussion and Analysis section, the term "named executive officers" means those persons listed in the Summary Compensation Table.

Consistent with this philosophy, we seek to provide a total compensation package for the named executive officers that is similar to those of the companies in the direct peer and broad energy peer benchmarking groups described below and yet is structured so that it results in having a substantial portion of total compensation subject to company, individual and share price performance. In making these determinations, we annually review each compensation component and compare it to various internal and external performance standards and market reference points. The application of our compensation philosophy to our named executive officers is described below in this Compensation Discussion and Analysis section.

Executive Compensation Program Design

The objective of the Company and the compensation committee is to attract, retain and motivate the most highly qualified executive officers who will contribute to the Company's goals by consistently delivering exceptional performance. In order to accomplish the Company's goals, we believe compensation paid to executive officers should be designed around equity-based incentive and performance-based pay, thereby aligning the interest of our executive officers with those of the Company's members.

Equity-based incentive and performance-based pay constituted a substantial portion of the compensation package of the indicated named executive officers during the year ended December 31, 2006, as shown by the percentages in the following table, which are calculated based on the information set forth in the Summary Compensation Table.

Percentage of Total Compensation in 2006

Compensation Component	James C. Day	Mark A. Jackson	Thomas L. Mitchell	Julie J. Robertson	Robert D. Campbell
Equity-based incentives or performance-based pay (1)	58%	59%	52%	58%	53%
Not equity-based incentives or performance-based pay (2)	42%	41%	48%	42%	47%
Total Compensation	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

(1) Percentage represents the sum of the dollar amounts in the Stock Awards, Option Awards, and Non-Equity

Incentive Plan
Compensation
columns of the
Summary
Compensation
Table divided
by the amount
set forth in the
Total column.

- (2) Percentage
represents the
sum of the
dollar amounts
in the Salary,
Bonus, Change
in Pension
Value and
Nonqualified
Deferred
Compensation
Earnings, and
All Other
Compensation
columns of the
Summary
Compensation
Table divided
by the amount
set forth in the
Total column.

Table of Contents

At the request of the compensation committee, our compensation program is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it meets the objectives of our compensation program and is benchmarked with the market.

Prior compensation from the Company, such as gains from previously awarded stock options, is not generally taken into account in setting other elements of compensation, such as base pay, short-term incentive award payments, long-term incentive awards or retirement and other benefits. With respect to newly-hired executive officers, we take into account their prior base salary and performance and incentive based pay, as well as the contribution expected to be made by the new executive officer and the responsibilities and duties of the executive officer with us. We believe that our executive officers should be fairly compensated each year relative to market pay levels of our peer groups and internal equity within the Company.

Compensation Program Benchmarking

Based on its work with Hewitt Associates LLC, an independent management and compensation consulting firm retained by the compensation committee (Hewitt), the compensation committee approved three comparator groups to be used for annual benchmarking of our compensation program. The compensation information for these groups comes from surveys and publicly available data. Details on the three groups are as follows:

Direct Peer Group

Rationale: Provides market data on companies that are very similar to us in terms of business activities, operations, revenue size and scope

Companies included are:

¾ Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc.
¾ ENSCO International, Inc.
¾ GlobalSantaFe Corp.
¾ Helmerich & Payne, Inc.
¾ Nabors Industries Ltd.
¾ Pride International, Inc.
¾ Rowan Companies, Inc.
¾ Transocean, Inc.

Broad Energy Peer Group

Rationale: Provides market data on companies that are similar to us in terms of competition for executive talent, energy industry knowledge, operations, revenue size and scope

Companies included are:

¾ Baker Hughes Inc.
¾ BJ Services Company
¾ Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation
¾ Cameron International Corporation
¾ Chicago Bridge & Iron Company
¾ Cimarex Energy Company
¾ El Paso Corporation
¾ Equitable Resources, Inc.
¾ FMC Technologies Inc.
¾ Forest Oil Corporation
¾ Noble Energy, Inc.
¾ Pioneer Natural Resources Company
¾ Plains Exploration & Production Company
¾ Schlumberger Ltd.
¾ Southwestern Energy Company
¾ St. Mary Land & Exploration Company
¾ Veritas DGC Inc.

General Industry Peer Group

Rationale: Provides market data on companies that are similar to us in terms of revenue size and that represent employment alternatives for some executives outside of the industry

Companies included are:

¾ ACCO Brands Corporation
¾ Albemarle Corporation
¾ Allergan, Inc.
¾ Ametek, Inc.
¾ Arch Chemicals, Inc.
¾ Brady Corporation
¾ Chaparral Steel Company
¾ Church & Dwight Company, Inc.
¾ Cleco Corporation
¾ Curtiss-Wright Corporation
¾ Donaldson Company, Inc.
¾ Equifax Inc.
¾ Herman Miller, Inc.
¾ Joy Global Inc.
¾ Kaman Corporation
¾ Kennametal Inc.
¾ Kinetic Concepts Inc.
¾ Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.
¾ PolyOne Corporation
¾ The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company

- ¾ Steelcase Inc.
- ¾ Thomas & Betts Corporation
- ¾ Vulcan Materials Company
- ¾ W. R. Grace & Company
- ¾ Walter Industries, Inc.
- ¾ Woodward Governor Company

Data from these peer groups are an important part of the decision process used by the compensation committee in determining the design, components and award levels in our executive pay programs. The

Table of Contents

compensation committee endeavors to conduct its review on an annual basis for each named executive officer to ensure that our compensation program works as designed and intended. This review by the compensation committee also facilitates discussion among the members of the compensation committee regarding all our compensation and benefit programs.

Compensation Program Overview

Following is an overview of the principal components of our compensation program:

Compensation Program Component**Structure/Rationale****Objectives**

Salary

Salary for the named executive officers is reviewed and set annually based on market practices observed within the Direct Peer and Broad Energy Peer Groups in particular. Salary levels and adjustments to salary take into account our executives' responsibilities, individual performance and internal equity within the Company. This component of pay is generally used to attract, retain and motivate executives.

We generally target salary levels between the 50th and 75th percentile of the Direct and Broad Energy Peer Groups with high performing named executive officers approximating the 75th percentile. Based on our review of market data provided by Hewitt, the named executive officers' pay levels for 2006 are consistent with our philosophy.

Short-term incentives awarded under the Noble Corporation Short Term Incentive Plan (STIP)

Given the emphasis we and the compensation committee place on performance-based compensation, annual incentive targets are set above the energy market 50th percentile. This structure allows for a total cash compensation opportunity (base salary, plus short-term incentive awards) at or above the energy market 50th percentile commensurate with performance. This program encourages and rewards achievement of annual financial and operational performance and individual goals and objectives.

Bonus targets are set annually to correspond generally with the market 75th percentile of the Direct and Broad Energy Peer Groups. The Company's goal is for the total cash compensation opportunity for each named executive officer to be between the 50th and 75th percentile of the Direct and Broad Energy Peer Groups, if the performance of the named executive officer warrants. The named executive officers' pay levels for 2006 are consistent with our philosophy.

Table of Contents

Compensation Program

Component	Structure/Rationale	Objectives
<p>Long-term incentives awarded pursuant to the Noble Corporation 1991 Stock Option and Restricted Stock Plan (the 1991 Plan)</p>	<p>Awards are provided to executive officers on the basis of market compensation data as well as the executive officers' responsibility and ability to influence the management and growth of the Company.</p> <p>Grants and awards of long-term incentives ensure a longer term focus and facilitate share ownership for named executive officers.</p> <p>Our long-term incentives consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance-vested restricted share awards designed to reward relative total member (shareholder) return versus industry comparators, Time-vested restricted share awards which facilitate retention of the named executive officer and a focus on longer term share price appreciation, and Stock option grants that are designed to reward absolute share price appreciation. <p>Although infrequently used for named executive officers, we and the compensation committee have the ability to grant additional stock options and time-vested restricted shares based on specific situations including new hire awards, retention and motivation needs.</p>	<p>Given the design as described further below, award levels are set to correspond generally with the Direct and Broad Energy Peer Groups' 75th percentile level.</p> <p>The named executive officers' pay levels for 2006 are consistent with our philosophy.</p>
<p>Retirement and Other Benefits</p>	<p>Our retirement programs provide retirement income benefits to their participants. These retirement programs and certain other benefits are discussed in further detail under</p>	<p>The Company believes that these programs and benefits assist in maintaining a competitive position in terms of attracting and retaining officers</p>

the caption Retirement and Other and other employees.
Benefits.

Change of Control Employment
Agreements

We enter into these agreements with our named executive officers and certain other key employees in an effort to attract and retain executive talent and to ensure their actions align with the interests of the Company and its members in the event of a change of control. These agreements are discussed in further detail under the caption Potential Payments on Termination or Change of Control Change of Control Employment Agreements.

The Company believes that these agreements assist in maintaining a competitive position in terms of attracting and retaining officers and other employees.

When targeting a percentile of the Direct Peer Group, the compensation committee benchmarked compensation by ranking our named executive officers in relation to total compensation paid and comparing the named executive officers to individuals comparably ranked in companies included in the Direct Peer Group. When targeting a percentile of the Broad Energy Peer Group, the compensation committee benchmarked compensation of the named executive officers to like positions in the companies included in the Broad Energy Peer Group.

Table of Contents*How Amounts for Compensation Components are Determined*

In addition to the information provided above, following are other details on specific compensation components for 2006:

2006 Base Salary. Base salary levels of the named executive officers are determined based on a combination of factors, including our compensation philosophy, market compensation data, competition for key executive talent, the named executive officer's experience, leadership, achievement of specified business objectives and contribution to the Company's success, the Company's overall annual budget for merit increases and the named executive officer's individual performance. In the compensation committee's first meeting of each year (late January or early February), the compensation committee conducts an annual review of the base salaries of named executive officers by taking into account these factors.

The base salary increases reflected in compensation for 2006 of the named executive officers were made effective in February 2006 in connection with the compensation committee's annual review or were made primarily to compensate for an increase in responsibilities and duties. In 2006, the compensation committee also focused on the heightened competition for executives in the energy market.

For the named executive officers serving the Company at December 31, 2006, base salary at that date ranged (i) from 77 percent to 97 percent of the 75th percentile of the like positions in the Broad Energy Peer Group and (ii) from 96 percent to 116 percent of the 75th percentile of the applicable ranks in the Direct Peer Group, except for Mr. Day's base salary, which was 121 percent of the 75th percentile of the applicable rank in the Direct Peer Group.

Noble does not necessarily target base salary at any particular percentage of total compensation. Instead, base salary is generally determined by considering the factors set forth above.

2006 Short-Term Incentives. The STIP gives participants, including the named executive officers, the opportunity to earn annual cash bonuses in relation to specified target award levels defined as a percentage of their base salaries. Certain full-time employees who have completed one year of services as of the close of the STIP plan year are eligible for consideration of a bonus under the STIP. The compensation committee sets performance goals annually for the plan. Plan award sizes are developed considering market data and internal equity. For each of the named executive officers serving the Company at December 31, 2006, the combination of base salary plus target award exceeded the market 50th percentile of the Direct and Broad Energy Peer Groups. Noble does not target short-term incentive awards to be a particular percentage of total compensation.

The purpose of our short-term incentive plan is to tie compensation directly to specific business goals and management objectives and individual performance. The Company believes that the performance goals for the 2006 plan year, which were based on safety results, earnings per share, and return on capital, were appropriately chosen to focus our named executive officers on performance designed to lead to increased member (shareholder) value.

The target awards set forth in the plan range from 10 percent of base salary to 100 percent of base salary. The target awards for the named executive officers who were eligible to participate in the STIP for the 2006 plan year were 55 percent, 75 percent, 90 percent or 100 percent of base salary. For each participant, a portion of the total STIP award is based on the achievement of performance goals (Performance Bonus) and the remaining portion of the STIP award is available at the discretion of the compensation committee based on merit, individual and team performance and additional selected criteria (Discretionary Bonus).

The Performance Bonus portion of the STIP award is calculated by multiplying one-half of the target award by a multiplier, which is calculated by measuring actual performance against the performance goals. Corporate personnel, who include the named executive officers, and division personnel have different performance goals. The performance goals for 2006 for both corporate personnel and division personnel were weighted with respect to three criteria: safety results (40 percent), earnings per share (30 percent) and return on capital employed (30 percent). In order to promote cooperation between the corporate office and the divisions, a combined weighted percentage of goal achievement for corporate employees is calculated by weighting the achievement of corporate goals equally with the achievement of division goals. The applicable multiplier used to calculate the Performance Bonus is then determined within a range of zero for an achievement of a combined weighted percentage of goal achievement of less than 65 percent and 2.0 for an achievement of a combined weighted percentage of goal achievement of more

Table of Contents

than 160 percent. The Performance Bonus portion of the STIP award is then determined by taking the applicable multiplier, ranging from zero to 2.0, and multiplying it by one-half of the individual's target award.

The Discretionary Bonus portion of the STIP is available at the discretion of the compensation committee and can range from zero to 2.0 times one-half of the individual's target award. The resulting total STIP awards for the 2006 plan year, which include the Performance Bonus and Discretionary Bonus, could have ranged from zero to 200 percent of base salary for the named executive officer with the highest target award and from zero to 110 percent of base salary for the named executive officer with the lowest target award.

For the 2006 plan year, the combined weighted percentage of goal achievement resulted in an applicable multiplier of 1.75. The Performance Bonuses for the 2006 plan year paid to the named executive officers are included in the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table.

Our Chief Executive Officer recommended, and the compensation committee approved, Discretionary Bonuses for the 2006 plan year for the named executive officers (other than our Chief Executive Officer and our Chairman of the Board) who were eligible to participate in the STIP for the 2006 plan year. The Discretionary Bonuses for our Chief Executive Officer and our Chairman of the Board were determined by the compensation committee. The Discretionary Bonuses for the 2006 plan year paid to the named executive officers are included in the Bonus column of the Summary Compensation Table.

2006 Long-Term Incentives. It has been a longstanding objective of the Company to reward executive officers and key employees with equity compensation, in keeping with the overall compensation philosophy to align executives' and employees' interests with the interests of our members. We believe long-term incentives promote sustained member value by encouraging named executive officers to accomplish goals that benefit the Company both in the present and over a longer time period.

The compensation committee established in 2004 an equity-based long-term incentive program for executive officers and key employees consisting of three elements: nonqualified stock options, time-vested restricted Ordinary Shares (Restricted Shares) and performance-vested Restricted Shares. In 2006, awards and grants of long-term incentives to named executive officers were made so that approximately one-third of the total value of all long-term incentives was made in the form of each element.

Each grant of nonqualified stock options to our named executive officers in 2006 vests one-third per year over three years commencing one year from the grant date. All options granted have an exercise price equal to the fair market value (average of the high and low sales price) of an Ordinary Share on the date of grant. Each option expires 10 years after the date of its grant.

Each award of time-vested Restricted Shares to our named executive officers in 2006 vests one-third per year over three years commencing one year from the award date. Prior to vesting, time-vested Restricted Shares may not be sold, transferred or pledged. Holders of time-vested or performance-vested Restricted Share awards are entitled to receive dividends and distributions with respect to the Restricted Shares they hold at the same rate and in the same manner as the holders of the Ordinary Shares.

Performance-vested Restricted Shares vest based on the achievement of specified corporate performance criteria over a three-year performance cycle. The number of performance-vested Restricted Shares awarded to a participant equals the number of shares that would vest if the maximum level of performance for a given performance cycle is achieved. The number of such shares that vests is determined at the end of the applicable performance period. Any performance-vested Restricted Shares that do not vest are forfeited. Prior to vesting, performance-vested Restricted Shares may not be sold, transferred or pledged.

In setting the target number of performance-vested Restricted Shares, the compensation committee takes into consideration market data, the award's impact on total compensation, the performance of the executive during the last completed year, and the potential for further contributions by the executive in the future. The target number of performance-vested Restricted Shares is equal to 66.7 percent of the number of shares that would vest if the maximum level of performance is achieved for a particular performance cycle.

The terms of the performance-vested Restricted Shares awarded by the compensation committee in February 2006 for the 2006-2008 performance cycle include a performance measure of cumulative total member (shareholder) return (TSR) for the Ordinary Shares relative to the companies in the Dow Jones U.S. Oil Equipment

Table of Contents

& Services Index (the DJ Index) and the companies in the Direct Peer Group. The Company must have positive TSR for the performance cycle for any of the performance-vested Restricted Shares to vest.

To determine the percentage of performance-vested Restricted Shares awarded for the 2006-2008 performance cycle that will vest,

First, the percentile ranking of the TSR for the Ordinary Shares is computed relative to the companies in the DJ Index at the end of the performance cycle;

Second, the percentile ranking of the TSR for the Ordinary Shares is computed relative to the Direct Peer Group; and

Finally, the DJ Index percentile ranking is cross-referenced with the Direct Peer Group percentile ranking in the summarized performance matrix below to determine the percentage of performance-vested Restricted Shares awarded that vest for the 2006-2008 performance cycle.

Percentage of Restricted Shares Vesting (1)

<u>TSR Relative Rank vs. DJ Index</u>	<u>TSR Relative Rank vs. Direct Peer Group</u>					
	0 %tile	25 %tile	50 %tile	75 %tile	88 %tile	100 %tile
90 %tile and greater	80.0%	86.7%	93.3%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
85 %tile	71.0%	76.9%	82.8%	88.7%	97.6%	100.0%
80 %tile	62.4%	67.6%	72.8%	78.0%	85.8%	93.6%
75 %tile	53.4%	57.8%	62.3%	66.7%	73.4%	80.0%
70 %tile	49.6%	53.7%	57.9%	62.0%	68.2%	74.4%
50 %tile	34.2%	37.0%	39.9%	42.7%	47.0%	51.2%
40 %tile	26.6%	28.9%	31.1%	33.3%	36.6%	40.0%
Below 40 %tile	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

(1) Values between those listed are interpolated on a straight line basis. Each percentage represents a percentage of the total number of shares awarded for the maximum level of performance for a given performance cycle.

All outstanding performance-vested Restricted Shares for performance cycles prior to the 2006-2008 performance cycle vest, if at all, based solely on the performance measure of TSR for the Ordinary Shares relative to the companies in the DJ Index.

The value of the long-term incentive awards is recommended by our Chief Executive Officer for all positions with the exception of his own. The value of the awards is developed considering our objectives for this component of total compensation relative to the pay of the companies in the Direct and Broad Energy Peer Groups, given the structure and performance requirements of the program design. This target award level, which significantly influences

total compensation, is used because we believe that if the Company performs at or above the 75th percentile relative to the companies in the DJ Index and the Direct Peer Group then our compensation levels should be commensurate with this performance. If the Company performs lower than this, our compensation levels should be lower than the 75th percentile. The compensation committee determines the award value for our Chief Executive Officer.

In addition to our philosophy, internal equity, current share price, and individual performance during the prior year are considered. We do not target long-term incentive opportunities to be a particular percentage of total compensation. The compensation committee granted stock options and awarded performance-vested Restricted Shares and time-vested Restricted Shares in 2006 to individuals (including our Chief Executive Officer and the other named executive officers) who demonstrated superior performance in their current position, as well as the likelihood of high-level performance in the future.

Table of Contents*Retirement and Other Benefits*

We offer retirement programs that are intended to supplement the employee's personal savings and social security. The programs include the Noble Drilling Corporation 401(k) Savings Plan, the Noble Drilling Corporation 401(k) Savings Restoration Plan, the Noble Drilling Corporation Salaried Employees Retirement Plan, the Noble Drilling Corporation Retirement Restoration Plan, and the Noble Drilling Corporation Profit Sharing Plan. The Company believes that these retirement programs assist the Company in maintaining a competitive position in terms of attracting and retaining officers and other employees.

401(k) Savings Plan and 401(k) Savings Restoration Plan. We adopted the Noble Drilling Corporation 401(k) Savings Plan to enable U.S. employees, including the named executive officers, to save for retirement through a tax-advantaged combination of employee and Company contributions and to provide employees the opportunity to directly manage their retirement plan assets through a variety of investment options. The 401(k) plan allows eligible employees to elect to contribute from one percent to 50 percent of their basic compensation, which is generally the employee's base pay, to the plan. Employee contributions are matched in cash or Ordinary Shares by us at the rate of \$0.70 per \$1.00 employee contribution for the first six percent of the employee's basic compensation. After the employee has completed five years of continuous service as determined under the 401(k) plan (15 years of service for periods of time prior to January 1, 2007), employee contributions are matched in cash or Ordinary Shares by us at the rate of \$1.00 per \$1.00 employee contribution for the first six percent of the employee's basic compensation. Vesting in the employer matching contribution account is based on the employee's years of service with the Company and its affiliates. The amount credited to the employer matching contribution account becomes fully vested upon completion of three years of service by the employee (five years of service for periods of time prior to January 1, 2002). However, regardless of the number of years of service, an employee is fully vested in his employer matching contribution account if the employee retires at age 65 or later or the employee's employment is terminated due to death or disability.

The Noble Drilling Corporation 401(k) Savings Restoration Plan is a nonqualified, unfunded employee benefit plan under which certain highly compensated employees of the Company may elect to defer compensation in excess of amounts deferrable under the Noble Drilling Corporation 401(k) Savings Plan and, subject to certain limitations specified in the plan, receive employer matching contributions (which are made in Ordinary Shares). The Noble Drilling Corporation 401(k) Savings Restoration Plan is discussed in further detail below in this Executive Compensation section following the table captioned Nonqualified Deferred Compensation.

Profit Sharing Plan. The Noble Drilling Corporation Profit Sharing Plan is a qualified defined contribution plan. This plan excludes as participants any employee hired prior to August 1, 2004 or any employee who participates in the Noble Drilling Corporation Salaried Employees Retirement Plan (in which participation was discontinued effective July 31, 2004 for persons commencing employment after that date). Each year we may elect to make a discretionary contribution to the plan. Any such contribution would be an amount determined and authorized for the plan year by our Board and the board of directors of Noble Drilling Corporation, a Delaware corporation wholly-owned by direct and indirect subsidiaries of the Company. The total plan contribution, if any, is allocated to each participant in the plan based on such employee's basic compensation, which is generally the employee's base pay, in proportion to the total basic compensation of all participants in the plan. For the 2006 plan year, each participant was allocated a contribution equal to five percent of their basic compensation. Vesting in the profit sharing account is based on the employee's years of service with the Company and its affiliates. An employee's profit sharing account becomes fully vested upon completion of three years of service by the employee. However, regardless of the number of years of service, an employee is fully vested in his employer matching contribution account if the employee retires at age 65 or later or the employee's employment is terminated due to death or disability.

Salaried Employees Retirement Plan and Retirement Restoration Plan. Participation in the Noble Drilling Corporation Salaried Employees Retirement Plan (and the related unfunded, nonqualified Noble Drilling Corporation Retirement Restoration Plan) remains in effect for all participants hired before July 31, 2004. In general, our U.S. salaried employees, including the named executive officers who are participants, are provided with income for their retirement through the Noble Drilling Corporation Salaried Employees Retirement Plan, a qualified defined benefit pension plan, in which benefits are determined by years of service and average monthly compensation. Compensation in excess of the annual compensation limit as defined by the Internal Revenue Service for a given year is considered

in the Noble Drilling Corporation Retirement Restoration Plan. Because benefits under the pension plan increase with an employee's period of service, we believe the pension encourages participants to make long-term commitments to the Company, and as such, serves as an important means by which

Table of Contents

the Company can retain executives and other employees. The Noble Drilling Corporation Salaried Employees Retirement Plan and Noble Drilling Corporation Retirement Restoration Plan are discussed in further detail below in this Executive Compensation section following the table captioned Pension Benefits.

Other Benefits. The Company provides named executive officers with perquisites and other personal benefits that the Company and the compensation committee believe are reasonable and consistent with its overall compensation program. Attributed costs of perquisites for the named executive officers for the year ended December 31, 2006 are included in the All Other Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table.

The Company provides healthcare, life and disability insurance, and other employee benefit programs to its employees, including its named executive officers, which the Company believes assists in maintaining a competitive position in terms of attracting and retaining officers and other employees. These employee benefits plans are provided on a non-discriminatory basis to all employees.

Stock Ownership Guidelines

We encourage all our executives to align their interests with our members by making a personal investment in the Ordinary Shares. The Company's minimum ownership guidelines for our executives are set forth below. The named executive officers participate in pay grade levels 33 through 37. We expect that each of our executives will meet these minimum guidelines within five years of when the guidelines first apply to him or her.

Pay Grade Level	Ownership Guidelines (Multiple of Base Salary)
Pay Grade 37	5.0 times
Pay Grades 34 through 36	4.0 times
Pay Grades 31 through 33	3.5 times
Pay Grades 28 through 30	2.5 times
Pay Grade 27	2.0 times

Determination of Timing of Equity-Based Awards

The Company's practice historically has been to award Restricted Shares and grant options in connection with the hire date of new executives or at a regularly-scheduled quarterly meeting of the compensation committee following the public release of the immediately preceding quarter's financial results and any other material nonpublic information.

Change of Control Arrangements

The named executive officers are parties to change of control employment agreements which we have offered to certain senior executives since 1998. These agreements become effective only upon a change of control (within the meaning set forth in the agreement). If a defined change of control occurs and the employment of the named executive officer is terminated either by us (for reasons other than death, disability or cause) or by the officer for good reason, which requirements can be referred to as a "double trigger", the executive officer will receive payments and benefits set forth in the agreement. The terms of the agreements are summarized in this proxy statement under the caption

Potential Payments on Termination or Change of Control Change of Control Employment Agreements. We believe a "double trigger" requirement, rather than a "single trigger" requirement (which would be satisfied if a change of control occurs and the named executive officer is terminated for any reason or determines to leave during the first year after the change of control), maximizes member (shareholder) value because it prevents an unintended windfall to the named executive officers in the event of a friendly (non-hostile) change of control.

Impact of Accounting and Tax Treatments of Compensation

Prior to 2004, the accounting and tax treatments of compensation generally were not a material consideration in determining the design or amounts of pay for named executive officers. In April 2004, the compensation committee implemented a revised equity-based long-term incentive compensation program for executive officers and key employees, consisting of three elements: performance-vested Restricted Shares, time-vested Restricted Shares and nonqualified stock options. In recent years the compensation committee has increased

Table of Contents

the proportion of annual long-term incentive compensation to our named executive officers represented in the form of Restricted Shares as compared to nonqualified stock options. This compensation committee action reflects various proposals to adopt, and the ultimate adoption, during such time period of new accounting standards modifying the accounting treatment of nonqualified stock options.

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), generally limits the tax deductibility to public companies for compensation in excess of \$1 million per person per year, unless such compensation meets certain specific requirements. The compensation committee's intent is to structure compensation awards that will be deductible without limitation where doing so will further the purposes of the Company's executive compensation programs. The compensation committee also considers it important to retain flexibility to design compensation programs, even where compensation payable under such programs may not be fully deductible, if such programs effectively recognize a full range of criteria important to the Company's success and result in a gain to the Company that would outweigh the limited negative tax effect.

Board Process and Independent Review of Compensation Program

The compensation committee is responsible for determining the compensation of our directors and executive officers, including the compensation of our Chief Executive Officer and other named executive officers, and for assisting our Board in reviewing and administering the compensation programs, benefits, incentive and equity-based compensation plans. In addition, the compensation committee is authorized to exercise all the powers granted to it in its charter. The compensation committee charter provides that the compensation committee will have access to the necessary corporate resources to carry out its charter authority.

The compensation committee may delegate its authority to an officer of the Company subject to restrictions on participants in compensation plans determining their own benefits. In addition, the compensation committee may form one or more subcommittees and delegate its authority to any such subcommittee, as it deems appropriate.

The compensation committee charter authorizes the compensation committee to retain and terminate, as the compensation committee deems necessary, independent advisors to provide advice and evaluation of the compensation or employment of directors or executive officers, or other matters relating to compensation, benefits, incentive and equity-based compensation plans and corporate performance. The compensation committee is further authorized to approve the fees and retention terms of any independent advisor that it retains. Pursuant to the authority granted to it in its charter, the compensation committee has retained Hewitt as an advisor regarding compensation matters. In 2006, Hewitt reviewed the Company's compensation program and policies, attended meetings from time to time with the compensation committee at the committee's request, and presented reports thereon to the compensation committee.

For our Chief Executive Officer, the compensation committee evaluates and assesses our Chief Executive Officer's performance related to leadership, financial and operating results, board relations, and other material considerations. These considerations as well as compensation market information are then incorporated into the compensation committee's compensation adjustment decisions. Market information and perspectives on market-based adjustments are provided by Hewitt.

For executive officers (other than our Chief Executive Officer), our Chief Executive Officer works with Hewitt and our Executive Vice President to review compensation market information, to review prior compensation decisions and to recommend compensation adjustments to the compensation committee at the compensation committee's first meeting of each year (late January or early February). Our Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President may attend compensation committee meetings at the request of the compensation committee. The compensation committee reviews and approves all compensation adjustments for the named executive officers.

Hewitt acts at the direction of the compensation committee and independent of management. The compensation committee determines Hewitt's ongoing engagement activities related to executive compensation consulting, including the preparation of compensation comparisons based on information regarding comparable businesses of a similar size and operational scope to the Company. Hewitt also endeavors to keep the compensation committee informed of executive compensation trends and regulatory/compliance developments.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth the compensation of the persons who served as our Chief Executive Officer during 2006, the persons who served as our Chief Financial Officer during 2006, and the other executive officers of the Company who we have determined are our named executive officers pursuant to the applicable rules of the SEC (collectively, the named executive officers).

Summary Compensation Table

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary	Bonus(1)	Stock Awards(2)	Option Awards(2)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (3)	Change in Pension Value and Non-Qualified Deferred	All Other Compensation	Total
							(4)		
James C. Day Chairman of the Board and former Chief Executive Officer (5)	2006	\$ 946,735(5)	\$ 948,750	\$ 2,546,561	\$ 858,904	\$ 831,250	\$ 1,125,171	\$ 70,089(5)	\$ 7,327,460
Mark A. Jackson Chief Executive Officer, President, Chief Operating Officer, and former acting Chief Financial Officer (6)	2006	\$ 604,367(6)	\$ 679,375	\$ 1,060,749	\$ 395,957	\$ 590,625	\$ 108,415	\$ 16,293(7)	\$ 3,455,781
Thomas L. Mitchell Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer And Controller (8)	2006	\$ 62,885	\$ 100,000(8)	\$ 143,903	\$ 40,106	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 4,824	\$ 351,718
Julie J. Robertson Executive Vice President and Corporate Secretary	2006	\$ 397,083	\$ 297,500	\$ 675,418	\$ 248,218	\$ 262,500	\$ 154,292	\$ 18,896(7)	\$ 2,053,907
Robert D. Campbell Senior Vice President and General Counsel	2006	\$ 299,167	\$ 155,625	\$ 374,623	\$ 104,421	\$ 144,375	\$ 88,493	\$ 13,238(7)	\$ 1,179,942
	2006	\$ 62,724	\$ 0	\$ 38,004	\$ 20,854	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 160,081(9)	\$ 281,663

Bruce W. Busmire
Former Senior Vice
President, Chief
Financial Officer,
Treasurer and
Controller (9)

- (1) Prior to the SEC's 2006 adoption of amendments to the disclosure requirements for executive compensation, the Company disclosed cash awards made pursuant to the STIP in the Bonus column of the Summary Compensation Table pursuant to the disclosure requirements existing at the time such disclosures were made. In this proxy statement, pursuant to the amended disclosure requirements promulgated by the SEC in 2006, the cash Performance Bonuses awarded pursuant to the STIP are disclosed in the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column and the cash Discretionary Bonuses

awarded pursuant to the STIP are disclosed in the Bonus column. Except as otherwise noted, the amounts disclosed in the Bonus column represent Discretionary Bonuses awarded pursuant to the STIP.

- (2) Represents the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes with respect to the year ended December 31, 2006 in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (revised 2004), *Share-Based Payment* (SFAS No. 123R). For the awards reported in these columns, estimates of forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions have been disregarded. A description of the assumptions

Table of Contents

made in our valuation of stock and option awards is set forth in Note 7 to the Company's consolidated financial statements in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 (the 2006 Form 10-K).

- (3) Represents Performance Bonuses awarded pursuant to the STIP for the 2006 plan year.
- (4) The amounts in this column represent the aggregate change in the actuarial present value of each named executive officer's accumulated benefit under the Noble Drilling Corporation Salaried Employees Retirement Plan and the Noble Drilling Corporation Retirement Restoration Plan

from
December 31,
2005 to
December 31,
2006. None of
the named
executive
officers received
above-market or
preferential
earnings on
compensation
that is deferred
on a basis that is
not
tax-qualified.

- (5) Mr. Day served
as Chief
Executive
Officer until
October 30,
2006. He will
retire from the
Company and
our Board
effective
April 30, 2007.
The amount in
Salary includes
\$175,000 that
was deferred in
the form of
Ordinary Shares
pursuant to the
Noble Drilling
Corporation
401(k) Savings
Restoration Plan
and \$900 in
director's fees.
The amount in
All Other
Compensation
includes
\$15,000 in
Company
contributions to
the Noble
Drilling
Corporation

401(k) Savings Plan and the Noble Drilling Corporation 401(k) Savings Restoration Plan and \$42,944, which represents the incremental cost to the Company for the use of Company aircraft. In calculating such incremental cost, the direct operating cost of the aircraft per hour, which is determined by the Company on an annual basis, was multiplied by the number of hours the aircraft was flown for such use.

- (6) Mr. Jackson was appointed as Chief Executive Officer effective October 30, 2006. The interim basis service of Mr. Jackson as acting Chief Financial Officer terminated effective November 6, 2006. The amount in Salary includes \$200 in director's fees.

- (7) Includes Company contributions to the Noble Drilling Corporation 401(k) Savings Plan and the Noble Drilling Corporation 401(k) Savings Restoration Plan, as follows: Mr. Jackson - \$10,500; Ms. Robertson \$15,000; and Mr. Campbell \$10,500.
- (8) Mr. Mitchell joined the Company as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Controller effective November 6, 2006. The amount in Bonus consists of a discretionary cash bonus awarded by the compensation committee. This bonus was not awarded pursuant to the STIP.
- (9) On March 17, 2006, Mr. Busmire, then Senior Vice President and Chief

Financial
Officer of the
Company,
resigned his
employment to
pursue other
interests. The
amount in All
Other
Compensation
includes
\$155,880 paid
pursuant to a
separation
agreement
entered into by
the Company
and
Mr. Busmire.
This agreement
is further
described in this
proxy statement
under the
caption
Potential
Payments on
Termination or
Change of
Control
Separation
Agreement.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to grants of plan-based awards during the year ended December 31, 2006 to each of the named executive officers.

Grants of Plan Based Awards

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive			All Other Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units	All Other Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options	Exercise or Base Price of Awards (\$/Sh)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards
		Threshold	Target	Maximum	Threshold	Target	Maximum				
James C. Day	February 2				0	20,753	31,129				\$ 861,651
	February 2							16,789			\$ 1,273,446
	February 2								35,576	\$ 75.85	\$ 947,745
		\$ 0	\$ 475,000	\$ 950,000							
Mark A. Jackson	February 2				0	9,155	13,733				\$ 380,129
	February 2							7,407			\$ 561,821
	February 2								15,695	\$ 75.85	\$ 418,115
	April 26							1,708			\$ 140,398
	April 26								3,620	\$ 82.20	\$ 96,437
		\$ 0	\$ 337,500	\$ 675,000							
Thomas L. Mitchell	November 6(6)							40,000			\$ 2,867,600
	November 6(6)								40,000	\$ 70.99	\$ 799,200
Julie J. Robertson	February 2				0	6,927	10,391				\$ 287,623
	February 2							5,604			\$ 425,063

	February 2				11,876	\$ 75.85	\$	316,377
		\$ 0	\$ 150,000	\$ 300,000				
Robert D. Campbell	February 2	0	1,831	2,747			\$	76,037
	February 2				1,481		\$	112,334
	February 2				3,139	\$ 75.85	\$	83,623
		\$ 0	\$ 82,500	\$ 165,000				
Bruce W. Busmire	February 2	0	1,526	2,289			\$	63,360
	February 2				1,234		\$	93,599
	February 2				2,616	\$ 75.85	\$	69,690

(1) Represents the dollar value of the applicable range (threshold, target and maximum amounts) of Performance Bonuses awarded pursuant to the STIP for the 2006 plan year. The amounts of the Performance Bonus awards made to the named executive officers pursuant to the STIP for the 2006 plan year are set forth in the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table.

(2) Represents performance-vested Restricted Shares awarded during the year ended December 31, 2006

- pursuant to the 1991 Plan.
- (3) Represents time-vested Restricted Shares awarded during the year ended December 31, 2006 pursuant to the 1991 Plan.
- (4) Represents nonqualified stock options granted during the year ended December 31, 2006 pursuant to the 1991 Plan.
- (5) Represents the aggregate grant date fair value of the award computed in accordance with SFAS No. 123R.
- (6) On September 25, 2006, the compensation committee approved certain plan-based awards to Mr. Mitchell to be effective upon the date he commenced employment. The exercise price of the nonqualified stock options of \$70.99 represent the fair market value per share on the date of grant as specified in the 1991 Plan (average of

Table of Contents

the high and low sales prices of the Ordinary Shares). This exercise price is less than the closing market price on the date of grant of \$71.69.

For a description of the material terms of the awards reported in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table, including performance-based conditions and vesting schedules applicable to such awards, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis – How Amounts for Compensation Components are Determined.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to outstanding equity awards at December 31, 2006 held by the named executive officers.

Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

Option Awards	Stock Awards	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or
	Equity	
	Incentive Plan Awards:	
	Market	
 		