

NABORS INDUSTRIES LTD
Form PRE 14A
April 09, 2012

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

(Amendment No.)

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
- Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

NABORS INDUSTRIES LTD.

(Name of registrant as specified in its charter)

(Name of person(s) filing proxy statement, if other than the registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Crown House
4 Par-la-Ville Road
Second Floor
Hamilton, HM 08 Bermuda

April 26, 2012

Fellow shareholder:

We cordially invite you to attend Nabors Industries Ltd. s 2012 annual general meeting of shareholders to:

1. Elect three directors for a one-year term, or a three-year term if the Bye-law amendment in Item 3 is not approved;
2. Approve and appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent auditor for the year ending December 31, 2012 and authorize the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors to set the auditor s remuneration;
3. Approve certain amendments to the Company s Amended and Restated Bye-laws, including: (a) an amendment to declassify the Board of Directors (Item 3), (b) adoption of a bye-law relating to certain business combinations (Item 4) and (c) technical amendments to the Bye-laws (Item 5);
4. Approve the Company s 2012 Incentive Bonus Plan;
5. Approve the Company s 2012 Stock Plan;
6. Hold a nonbinding advisory vote regarding the compensation paid by the Company to its named executive officers, commonly referred to as a Say-on-Pay proposal;
7. Consider two shareholder proposals, if properly presented by the shareholder proponents; and

8. Transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Further information regarding the meeting and the above proposals is set forth in the proxy statement. We are mailing to most of our shareholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, rather than a paper copy of the proxy statement and 2011 Annual Report to Shareholders. The Notice contains instructions on how to access the proxy materials, vote online and obtain a paper copy of the proxy materials.

You are entitled to vote at the meeting if you were a shareholder at the close of business on April 9, 2012. Even if you plan to attend the meeting, please submit a proxy as soon as possible to ensure that your shares are voted at the meeting in accordance with your instructions.

The Company's financial statements will also be presented at the meeting. We hope you will read the proxy statement and submit your proxy, or use telephone or internet voting prior to the meeting. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the management of Nabors, I extend our appreciation for your continued support.

Sincerely yours,

ANTHONY G. PETRELLO

Deputy Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

You may designate proxies to vote your shares by telephone, internet or mailing your proxy card. Your internet or telephone designation saves the Company money and authorizes the named proxies to vote your shares in the same manner as if you marked, signed and returned your proxy card. Please review the instructions in the proxy statement and on your proxy card regarding each of these options.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON JUNE 5, 2012:

Our Proxy Statement and our 2011 Annual Report are available at www.edocumentview.com/NBR.

NABORS INDUSTRIES LTD.

Crown House

4 Par-la-Ville Road

Second Floor

Hamilton, HM 08 Bermuda

Proxy Statement

2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

JUNE 5, 2012

We are sending you this proxy statement in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Nabors Industries Ltd. for the 2012 annual general meeting of shareholders (the meeting). In this proxy statement, Nabors, the Company, we, us and our refer to Nabors Industries Ltd. Where the context requires, these references also include our subsidiaries and predecessors.

Important Notice of Electronic Availability of Materials

Pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules, we may furnish proxy materials, including this proxy statement and the Company's annual report for the year ended December 31, 2011, to our shareholders by providing access to such documents on the internet instead of mailing printed copies. Most shareholders will not receive printed copies of the proxy materials unless they request them. Instead, a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, which was mailed to most of our shareholders, will explain how you may access and review the proxy materials and how you may submit your proxy on the internet. If you would like to receive a paper or electronic copy of our proxy materials, please follow the instructions included in the Notice of Internet Availability. Shareholders who requested paper copies of proxy materials or previously elected to receive proxy materials electronically did not receive the Notice and are receiving the proxy materials in the format requested.

This proxy statement and our 2011 Annual Report are available electronically on our hosted website at www.edocumentview.com/NBR.

The Notice of Internet Availability and the proxy materials are first being made available to our shareholders on or about April 26, 2012.

Annual General Meeting Information

Date and location of the annual general meeting. We will hold the meeting at the Fairmont Hamilton Princess, 76 Pitts Bay Road, Hamilton, HM 08 Bermuda at 11:00 a.m. Atlantic Daylight Time on Tuesday, June 5, 2012, unless adjourned or postponed. Directions to the meeting can be found under the Investor Relations tab of our website at www.nabors.com or by calling our Investor Relations department at 281-775-8063.

Admission to the annual general meeting. Only record or beneficial owners of Nabors common shares may attend the meeting in person. If you are a shareholder of record, you may be asked to present proof of identification, such as a driver's license. Beneficial owners must also present evidence of share ownership, such as a recent brokerage account or bank statement. All attendees must comply with our standing rules, which are available on our website and will be distributed upon entrance to the meeting.

Voting Information

Record date and quorum. The record date for the meeting is April 9, 2012. You may vote all common shares of Nabors that you owned as of the close of business on that date. Each common share entitles you to one vote on each matter voted on at the meeting. On the record date, 318,728,069 common shares were outstanding. A majority of the shares outstanding on the record date, represented in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum to transact business at the meeting. Abstentions and withheld votes will be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum.

Submitting voting instructions for shares held in your name. You may direct your vote at the meeting by telephone or internet, which saves the Company money, or by completing, signing and returning your proxy card. A properly submitted proxy will be voted in accordance with your instructions unless you subsequently revoke your instructions. If you submit a signed proxy without indicating your vote, the person voting the proxy will vote your shares according to the Board's recommendation unless they lack the discretionary authority to do so as discussed below.

Submitting voting instructions for shares held in street name. If you hold your shares through a broker, follow the instructions you receive from your broker. If you want to vote in person, you must obtain a legal proxy from your broker and bring it to the meeting. If you do not submit voting instructions to your broker, your broker may still be permitted to vote your shares. New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) member brokers may vote your shares under the following circumstances:

Discretionary items. The approval and appointment of Nabors' independent auditor is a discretionary item. NYSE member brokers that do not receive instructions from beneficial owners may vote on this proposal in their discretion.

Nondiscretionary items. The election of directors, approval of amendments to our Bye-laws, approval of our incentive bonus and stock plans, Say-on-Pay vote and consideration of shareholder proposals are nondiscretionary items. Absent specific voting instructions from the beneficial owners, NYSE member brokers may not vote on these proposals.

If you do not submit voting instructions and your broker does not have discretion to vote your shares on a matter, your shares will not be voted on that matter (broker nonvotes). Accordingly, broker nonvotes will not be counted in determining the outcome of the vote on any nondiscretionary matter at the meeting. Broker nonvote shares will, however, be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum.

Revoking your proxy. You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is actually voted by (1) delivering a written revocation notice prior to the meeting to the Corporate Secretary in person or by courier at the address on the first page of this proxy statement or by mail to P.O. Box HM3349, Hamilton, HMPX Bermuda; (2) submitting a later-dated proxy that we receive no later than the conclusion of voting at the meeting; or (3) actually voting in person at the meeting. Please note that merely attending the meeting will not, by itself, constitute a revocation of a proxy.

Votes required to elect directors and to adopt other proposals.

Directors will be elected (**Item 1**) by a plurality of the votes cast; however, as discussed below, any nominee who does not receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares voted in connection with his election must promptly tender his resignation from the Board, which the Board will accept unless it determines that it would not be in the Company's best interests to do so.

Approval of the independent auditor (**Item 2**), 2012 Incentive Bonus Plan (**Item 6**), and 2012 Stock Plan (**Item 7**) requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote thereon.

Approval of the amendments to the Bye-laws (**Items 3, 4 and 5**) requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the issued common shares entitled to vote.

The Say-on-Pay vote (**Item 8**), shareholder proposal asking the Board to adopt a proxy access bye-law (**Item 9**) and shareholder proposal recommending that the Company amend its Bye-laws to seek shareholder approval of future severance agreements (**Item 10**) are nonbinding, but the Board will consider the results of the votes in making future decisions.

Withholding your vote or voting to abstain . You may withhold your vote for any nominee for election for director. Withheld votes will be excluded from the vote. On the other proposals, you may vote to abstain . If you vote to abstain , your shares will be counted as present at the meeting for purposes of that proposal, and your vote will have the effect of a vote *against* the proposal.

ITEM 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors currently has nine members and is divided into three classes. One of the amendments to the Bye-laws in Proposal 3 would declassify the Board so that directors are elected for one-year terms rather than three-year terms. If approved, the amendment would be effective immediately for directors elected at the meeting (Class III directors), while directors currently serving will continue to serve for the terms to which they were elected (i.e., Class I directors will serve until 2013, and Class II directors will serve until 2014).

On February 24, 2012, the Board voted to expand the Board to nine members from seven and appointed James R. Crane and Michael C. Linn to fill the newly created vacancies. Messrs. Crane, Linn and John Yearwood are the current Class III directors who have been nominated by the Board, upon the recommendation of the Governance and Nominating Committee, for re-election to the Board to serve until the 2013 annual general meeting if the Bye-law amendment declassifying the Board is approved, or until 2015 if it is not approved, or until such later time as their successors are duly elected and qualified. Each of the nominees has agreed to serve as a director if elected. We do not anticipate that the nominees will be unable or unwilling to stand for election, but if that happens, your proxy will be voted for another person nominated by the Board. Eugene M. Isenberg and William T. Comfort are also Class III directors. Mr. Isenberg has advised the Board that he plans to retire upon expiration of his term at the meeting, and Mr. Comfort will likewise retire in accordance with the age limitation in the Board's Guidelines on Significant Corporate Governance Matters (Governance Guidelines). Following the retirement of Messrs. Isenberg and Comfort, the Board intends to vote to revert to seven members. As a result, only three Class III directors will be elected and shareholders are limited to voting for only three nominees.

In identifying and recommending nominees for director, the Governance and Nominating Committee places primary emphasis on the following criteria:

Reputation, integrity and (for nonmanagement directors) independence;

Judgment, age and diversity of viewpoints, backgrounds and experience;

Business or other relevant experience;

The extent to which the interplay of the nominee's expertise, skills, knowledge and experience with that of the other members of the Board of Directors will result in an effective board that is responsive to the needs of the Company; and

For current directors, the director's history of attendance at Board and committee meetings, the director's preparation for and participation in and contributions to the effectiveness of those meetings.

These criteria include those set forth in our Governance Guidelines, which are available on our website at www.nabors.com and to any shareholder who requests them in writing. Requests should be addressed to the

Corporate Secretary and delivered in person or by courier to the address on the first page of this proxy statement or by mail to P.O. Box HM3349, Hamilton, HMPX Bermuda.

The Governance and Nominating Committee does not set specific, minimum qualifications that nominees must meet in order for the committee to recommend them to the Board of Directors, but rather believes that each nominee should be evaluated on his or her individual merits, taking into account the needs of the Company and the composition of the Board. Members of the Committee discuss and evaluate possible candidates in detail and suggest individuals to explore in more depth. The Committee has discretion to engage outside consultants to help it identify candidates. During the past year, the Committee recommended that the Board add Messrs. Crane and Linn as directors. Mr. Petrello had become acquainted with Mr. Linn during their joint service on a charitable board and with Mr. Crane through their mutual community service commitments and, later, as a result of Crane Worldwide's international logistics support services to the Company. Mr. Petrello suggested Messrs. Crane and Linn as candidates to the Committee. After a review of both gentlemen's qualifications and a series of interviews, the Committee recommended, and the Board approved, their appointment as Class III Directors.

In the business descriptions that follow, except as noted, the companies for which directors have worked are not a parent, subsidiary or otherwise affiliated with the Company.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF MESSRS. CRANE, LINN AND YEARWOOD AS CLASS III DIRECTORS FOR A TERM ENDING AT THE 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IF THE BYE-LAW AMENDMENT IN ITEM 3 IS APPROVED, OR AT THE 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IF IT IS NOT APPROVED.

CLASS III

Nominees for election

Name	Age	Position with Nabors, Business Experience and Qualifications
James R. Crane	57	Director since 2012. Chairman and CEO of Crane Capital Group Inc., an investment management company, since 2007.

Mr. Crane was Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Eagle Global Logistics, Inc., a NASDAQ-listed global transportation, supply chain management and information services company, from 1984 until its sale in August 2007. Crane Capital Group currently invests in transportation, power distribution, real estate and asset management. Its holdings include Crane Worldwide Logistics, a premier global provider of customized transportation and logistics services with 75 offices in 21 countries, and Champion Energy Services, a retail electricity provider. Mr. Crane also led an investor group that in 2011 purchased the Houston Astros. He holds a B.S. in Industrial Safety from Central Missouri State University and serves on the Board of Directors of Western Gas Holdings, LLC, a subsidiary of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation.

Mr. Crane's experience in marketing, logistics, global operations and creating shareholder value were the primary factors considered by the Board in appointing him as a director and in nominating him for election.

Name	Age	Position with Nabors, Business Experience and Qualifications
Michael C. Linn	60	<p>Director since 2012. President of MCL Ventures, LLC, an investment company, since 2012. Director of LINN Energy, LLC since 2003.</p> <p>Mr. Linn founded LINN Energy, a NASDAQ-listed independent oil and natural gas company, in 2003. He served as LINN's Executive Chairman from January 2010 to December 2011, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from June 2006 to January 2010, and President and Chief Executive Officer from March 2003 to June 2006. He serves on the National Petroleum Council and on the Board of the Independent Petroleum Association of America. Mr. Linn is a Texas Representative for the Legal and Regulatory Affairs Committee of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission. He was previous chairman and currently serves on the Natural Gas Council. Mr. Linn holds a B.A. in Political Science from Villanova University and a J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law.</p> <p>Mr. Linn's broad understanding of the energy landscape and insight into the needs of our customers, together with his extensive industry knowledge and relationships, were the primary factors considered by the Board in appointing him as a director and nominating him for election.</p>
John Yearwood	52	<p>Director since 2010. Mr. Yearwood currently serves on the Board of Directors of NFR Energy LLC (a joint-venture subsidiary of the Company), Sheridan Production Partners and Barra Energia. Until August 2010, he served as the Chief Executive Officer, President and Chief Operating Officer of Smith International, Inc. He was first elected to Smith's Board of Directors in 2006 and remained on the board until he successfully negotiated and completed the sale of Smith to Schlumberger Limited in August 2010. Before joining Smith, Mr. Yearwood spent 27 years with Schlumberger in numerous operations management and staff positions throughout Latin America, Europe, North Africa and North America, including as President and in financial director positions.</p> <p>Mr. Yearwood received a Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Geology and the Environment from Oxford Brookes University in England. Mr. Yearwood brings extraordinary executive management experience in the oilfield services industry to the Board. His extensive knowledge of the industry, combined with his keen insight into strategic development initiatives, operations and our competitive environment, have provided the basis for the extraordinary leadership and critical independent oversight Mr. Yearwood demonstrates as Lead Director.</p>
Retiring Directors		
Eugene M. Isenberg	82	<p>Chairman of the Board of Nabors and its subsidiary, Nabors Industries, Inc., since 1987; and Chief Executive Officer from 1987 to October 2011. Mr. Isenberg also serves on the Board of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Foundation.</p>

Name	Age	Position with Nabors, Business Experience and Qualifications
William T. Comfort	74	Director since 2008. Mr. Comfort has been Chairman of Citigroup Venture Capital since 1979. Mr. Comfort is also Managing Partner & Chairman of the Investment Committee of Court Square Capital Partners, Chairman of Oracle Financial Services Software (OFSS-India) and is on the Investment Committee for CX Partners (India). He also serves on the boards of The John A. Hartford Foundation, NYU Law School Foundation, and The American India Foundation.

CLASS I

Directors Continuing in Office Terms Expiring 2013

Name	Age	Position with Nabors, Business Experience and Qualifications
John V. Lombardi	69	Director since 2009. President and Professor of History of Louisiana State University System since 2007.

Dr. Lombardi was Chancellor and Professor of History of the University of Massachusetts Amherst from 2002 until 2007. Prior to that, he served in various capacities, including President, Director of The Center for Measuring University Performance, and Professor of History, at the University of Florida from 1990 to 2002; as Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Professor of History at The Johns Hopkins University from 1987 to 1990; and in various capacities, including Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dean of International Programs, Director of the Latin American Studies Program, and Professor of History, at Indiana University from 1967 to 1987, where in addition he taught a course on international business. Dr. Lombardi serves on the Advisory Board of the Jay I. Kislak Foundation, Inc. He previously served on the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts, where he also served on the Executive Committee, and on the Executive Strategic Council of IMS Global Learning Consortium. Dr. Lombardi has authored or co-authored numerous books and articles on a wide variety of topics, including measuring university performance, Latin American history and international business.

Dr. Lombardi's experience in the functional role of chief executive officer and other leadership positions in four of the most prominent public institutions in the United States over a period of four decades, combined with his Latin American expertise, uniquely qualify him for service on the Board. Dr. Lombardi's financial expertise in such diverse areas as budgeting, forecasting, risk management and executive compensation provide valuable insight both to the Board and to the Audit and Compensation Committees, on which he serves.

Name	Age	Position with Nabors, Business Experience and Qualifications
James L. Payne	75	Director since 1999. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Shona Energy Company, Inc. since 2005.

Mr. Payne was Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Nuevo Energy Company (a company engaged in the acquisition, production and exploration of oil and natural gas properties) from 2001 until 2004 when the company merged with Plains Exploration and Production Company. He retired as Vice Chairman of Devon Corp. (a leading independent natural gas and oil exploration and production company) in 2001. Prior to the merger between Devon Corp. and Santa Fe Snyder Company (an independent natural gas and oil exploration and production company) in 2000, he had served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Santa Fe Snyder Company. He was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Santa Fe Energy Company from 1990 to 1999 when it merged with Snyder Oil Company. He was a Director of Pool Energy Services Co. from 1993 until its acquisition by Nabors in 1999, of BJ Services Company from 1999 until its merger with Baker Hughes Incorporated in 2010, of Baker Hughes from 2010 until his retirement in 2011, and of Global Industries, Ltd., an offshore construction company, from 2000 until his retirement in 2011. Mr. Payne is a graduate of the Colorado School of Mines, where he was named a Distinguished Achievement Medalist in 1993. He holds an MBA degree from Golden Gate University and has completed the Stanford Executive Program.

Mr. Payne's decades of experience in the oil and gas industry, particularly in executive management and director roles, provide valuable insight in areas such as corporate governance, executive and director compensation, risk oversight and safety initiatives. His industry knowledge and relationships, as well as his operational and financial acumen, derived from his experiences with both startup and well established companies, provide valuable resources to the Board.

CLASS II

Directors Continuing in Office Terms Expiring in 2014

Name	Age	Position with Nabors, Business Experience and Qualifications
Anthony G. Petrello	57	Director of Nabors and its subsidiary, Nabors Industries, Inc., since 1991 and Deputy Chairman of Nabors since 2003; President and Chief Executive Officer of Nabors and Nabors Industries, Inc. since October 2011; President and Chief Operating Officer of Nabors and Nabors Industries, Inc. from 1991 to October 2011.

From 1979 to 1991, Mr. Petrello was with the law firm Baker & McKenzie, where his practice focused on international arbitration, taxation and general corporate law. He served as Managing Partner of the firm's New York office from 1986 until his resignation in 1991. Mr. Petrello holds a J.D. degree from Harvard Law School

Name	Age	Position with Nabors, Business Experience and Qualifications
		and B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mathematics from Yale University. Mr. Petrello also serves as a director of Stewart & Stevenson LLC and of Hilcorp Energy Company.
		In addition to his operating functions, Mr. Petrello provides strategic planning initiative and direction enabling the Company to adapt and prosper in our dynamic competitive environment.

Myron M. Sheinfeld	82	<p>Director since 1988. Counsel with the law firm of King & Spalding LLP since 2007.</p> <p>From 2001 until 2007, Mr. Sheinfeld was Senior Counsel to the law firm Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P. From 1970 until 2001 he held various positions in the law firm Sheinfeld, Maley & Kay P.C., where he earned a reputation as one of the country's preeminent bankruptcy practitioners and scholars. Mr. Sheinfeld was an adjunct professor of bankruptcy and reorganization law at the University of Texas School of Law from 1975 to 1991 and is a contributing author to numerous legal and business publications, and a contributor, member of the Board of Editors, co-editor and co-author of <i>COLLIER ON BANKRUPTCY</i>, and a co-author of <i>COLLIER ON BANKRUPTCY TAX</i>. He is the former President, a current Director and a member of The Tri Cities Chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors. He is a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference, former Chair of the ABA Standing Committee on Specialization and former Chair of the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.</p>
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Mr. Sheinfeld brings decades of experience dealing with complex capital and debt structures, forensic accounting issues and risk management concerns to our Board. His extensive experience with the financial concerns of businesses in our industry provides valuable perspective to the Board and the Audit Committee as the Company has faced challenges presented by its growth, legislative and regulatory changes, an evolving governance climate and sometimes volatile market conditions.

OTHER EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Name	Age	Position with Nabors, Business Experience and Qualifications
R. Clark Wood	39	<p>Principal Accounting Officer and Principal Financial Officer of Nabors Industries Ltd. since March 2009; Controller of Nabors Corporate Services, Inc. (a subsidiary of the Company) since 2007; Assistant Controller of Nabors Corporate Services, Inc. from 2003 through 2007. Prior to joining Nabors, Mr. Wood worked for seven years at Arthur Andersen LLP and KPMG LLP and rose to the rank of Senior Audit Manager. Mr. Wood obtained a Masters in Professional Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin.</p>

Name	Age	Position with Nabors, Business Experience and Qualifications
Mark D. Andrews	39	Corporate Secretary of Nabors since 2007. Prior to joining Nabors, Mr. Andrews served in various treasury and financial management positions with General Electric Company beginning in 2000. Mr. Andrews was employed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP from 1996 to 2000 in a number of capacities, including Tax Manager, within the firm's Mining and Resource Practice. Mr. Andrews holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Wilfrid Laurier University and is also a Chartered Accountant and a CFA charterholder.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Board of Directors met four times during 2011. As described below, the Board has six committees, which report their activities to the Board. Appointments to and chairmanships of the committees are recommended by the Governance and Nominating Committee and approved by the Board. Directors are expected to attend all meetings of the Board and the committees on which they serve. Each of our incumbent directors attended over 75% of the aggregate meetings of the Board and committees on which he served during 2011, except Mr. Payne, who attended 69% of the aggregate meetings of the Board and the committees on which he served. The charters of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, Governance and Nominating Committee, and Risk Oversight Committee are available on our website at www.nabors.com. Copies of the respective charters are available in print without charge to any shareholder who requests a copy; please direct any requests to the Corporate Secretary and deliver them in person or by courier to the address on the first page of this proxy statement or by mail to P.O. Box HM3349, Hamilton, HMPX Bermuda.

Committee	Current Members	Primary Responsibilities	No. of Meetings
Audit	Myron M. Sheinfeld (Chair) John V. Lombardi John Yearwood	Oversees the integrity of our consolidated financial statements, system of internal controls, financial risk management, and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. Selects, determines the compensation of, evaluates and, when appropriate, replaces the independent auditor, and preapproves audit and permitted nonaudit services. Determines the qualifications and independence of our independent auditor and evaluates the performance of our internal auditors and independent auditor.	4 ⁽¹⁾

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Committee	Current Members	Primary Responsibilities	No. of Meetings
Compensation	John V. Lombardi (Chair)	After review, recommends to the Board the acceptance and inclusion of the annual audited consolidated financial statements in our annual report on Form 10-K. Reviews and approves the compensation of our executive officers and other senior leaders.	4 ⁽²⁾
	William T. Comfort		
	James L. Payne		
	John Yearwood	Oversees the administration of our equity-based compensation plans.	
Executive	Eugene M. Isenberg (Chair)	As necessary between meetings of the Board, exercises all power and authority of the Board in overseeing the management of the business and affairs of the Company.	0 ⁽³⁾
	Anthony G. Petrello		
	John Yearwood		
Governance and Nominating	James L. Payne (Chair)	Identifies and recommends candidates for election to the Board.	4
	Myron M. Sheinfeld		
	John Yearwood	Establishes procedures for the committee's oversight of the evaluation of the Board.	
		Recommends director compensation.	
		Reviews annually our corporate governance policies.	
		Reviews and approves any related-party transactions involving directors and executive officers.	
Risk Oversight	John Yearwood (Chair)	Monitors management's identification and evaluation of major strategic, operational, regulatory, information and external risks inherent in the Company's business.	4
	William T. Comfort		
	John V. Lombardi		
	James L. Payne		
	Myron M. Sheinfeld	Reviews the integrity of the Company's systems of operational	

controls regarding legal and regulatory compliance.

Committee	Current Members	Primary Responsibilities	No. of Meetings
Technical and Safety	William T. Comfort (Chair) Anthony G. Petrello John Yearwood	Reviews the Company's processes for managing and mitigating operational risk.	4
		Monitors the Company's compliance with health, safety and environmental standards.	
		Reviews the Company's safety performance.	
		Reviews the Company's strategic technology position.	

- (1) In addition to its formal meetings, the Audit Committee conducted telephonic information sessions in connection with the Company's quarterly earnings releases and other matters.
 - (2) In addition to its formal meetings, the Compensation Committee took action on one occasion by written consent.
 - (3) The Executive Committee did not meet during 2011, but took action on two occasions by written consent.
- Mr. Yearwood has served as our Lead Director since 2011. The Lead Director's primary responsibility is to preside over executive sessions of the nonemployee directors and to call meetings of the nonemployee directors as desirable. He also:

chairs certain portions of Board meetings,

serves as liaison between the Chairman of the Board and the nonemployee directors,

develops and approves, together with the Chairman, the agenda for Board meetings, and

performs other duties delegated by the Board from time to time.

Although the Chairman of the Board is a former Chief Executive Officer, the Board believes that coupling the chairmanship with an experienced, independent Lead Director, creates the most effective leadership structure for the Company at this time. The Company's corporate governance structure, including the composition of the Board, its committees, and the presence of a strong Lead Director, provide effective independent oversight of management and of the Board itself. The Board believes that the extensive management experience of the directors appointed to serve in this role qualifies them to provide that oversight and that an independent Chairman is not necessary.

Director Independence

The Governance and Nominating Committee conducts a review at least annually of the independence of the members of the Board and its committees and reports its findings to the full Board. Seven of our nine directors are nonemployee directors (all except Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello). As permitted by the rules of the NYSE, the Board has adopted categorical standards to assist it in making determinations of director independence. These standards incorporate and are consistent with the definition of "independent" contained in the NYSE listing rules. Those standards are set forth in our Governance Guidelines available on our website at www.nabors.com.

The Board has affirmatively determined that each of our nonemployee directors meets these standards and is independent. The Board reviews each of the transactions, relationships and arrangements described in the section entitled "Certain Relationships and Related-Party Transactions" as well as social and other relationships in determining whether a director is independent.

The Board has determined that Mr. Yearwood qualifies as an audit committee financial expert as defined under the SEC's current rules. In addition, several of our directors hold a Certificate of Director Education from the National Association of Corporate Directors.

Nominations for Directors

The Governance and Nominating Committee recommends director candidates to the full Board after receiving input from all directors. The Committee considers the entirety of each candidate's credentials and does not have specific, minimum qualifications or requirements that nominees must meet. The Committee is guided by the following basic selection criteria for all nominees: independence, highest character and integrity, experience, reputation and sufficient time to devote to Board matters. The Committee also gives consideration to diversity of viewpoints, backgrounds and experience, age, international and industry background and experience, and specialized expertise in the context of the needs of the Board as a whole. From a diversity standpoint, the Committee places particular emphasis on identifying candidates whose experience and talents complement and augment those of other Board members with respect to current and anticipated matters of importance to the Company. The Committee attempts to balance the composition of the Board to promote comprehensive consideration of issues. For example, the widely varying levels of industry experience among Board members reflect the Committee's strategy of balancing extensive industry knowledge with relevant experience in other forms of business. The Committee has the authority to engage consultants, including retained search firms, to help identify new director candidates.

The Governance and Nominating Committee will consider director candidates recommended by shareholders. The policy adopted by the Committee provides that candidates recommended by shareholders are given appropriate consideration in the same manner as other candidates. Shareholders who wish to submit a candidate for consideration by the Governance and Nominating Committee for election at our 2013 annual general meeting of shareholders may do so by submitting in writing the candidate's name, together with the information described on our website at www.nabors.com. Submissions to the Board of Directors should be delivered in person or by courier to the address on the first page of this proxy statement or by mail to P.O. Box HM3349, Hamilton, HMPX Bermuda, prior to April 6, but no earlier than March 7, 2013.

Shareholder and Interested Parties Communications with the Board

Shareholders and other interested parties may contact any of the Company's directors, a committee of the Board of Directors, the Board's independent directors as a group or the Board generally, by writing to them at Nabors Industries Ltd., c/o Corporate Secretary. Communications should be delivered in person or by courier to the address shown on the first page of this proxy statement or by mail to P.O. Box HM3349, Hamilton, HMPX Bermuda. Shareholder communications received in this manner will be handled in accordance with procedures approved by the Board's independent directors. The Board's Policy Regarding Shareholder Communications with the Board of Directors is available at www.nabors.com. The Company encourages directors to attend the annual general meeting of shareholders. Six of the eight directors then comprising the full Board attended the 2011 annual general meeting of shareholders.

Executive Sessions of Nonemployee Directors

Our nonemployee directors, each of whom is independent, meet in executive session at each regular meeting of the Board without the Chief Executive Officer or any other member of management present. The Lead Director presides over these executive sessions.

NONEMPLOYEE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

We believe that it is important to attract and retain outstanding nonemployee directors and to align their economic interest in the Company with other shareholders. We accomplish this through a combination of an annual retainer and equity incentive awards. Our annual retainer is \$50,000 for each director; an additional \$50,000 for the Chairman of each committee (except the Chairman of the Audit Committee, whose additional retainer is \$100,000); and an additional \$50,000 for the Lead Director. No additional amounts are paid for attendance at Board or committee meetings. The cash component of director compensation is paid on a pro rata basis at the end of each quarter. Any director may elect to receive immediately vested stock options, in lieu of any cash payments, valued at the amount of the payment. Mr. Comfort elected to forego all cash compensation, or equity in lieu thereof, during 2011.

We issue restricted shares to our nonemployee directors upon initial appointment or election to the Board as well as annually under equity incentive plans adopted from time to time. The Board reduced the number of restricted shares awarded to nonemployee directors by 25% in 2006 and another 20% in 2007 based upon the review of an independent consultant. Towers Watson performed a similar review in 2009, but the number of shares awarded annually has remained constant since 2007. The Board believes that its practice of awarding directors a predetermined number of shares, rather than a predetermined equity value, better aligns directors' interests with those of our other shareholders. The result is fluctuating compensation values, which rise when our stock price is higher and decline when our stock price is lower, as evidenced in the following table. Each nonemployee director received an award of 12,000 restricted shares in February 2011 which vest over a three-year period. Overall director compensation relative to a peer group also fluctuates to the extent other directors in that peer group receive equity of a predetermined value. The Board considers those fluctuations in deciding whether to follow past practice with respect to equity grants.

The following table sets forth information concerning total director compensation in 2011 for each nonemployee director.

2011 Director Compensation Table

Name(4)	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$) (1)(2)	Option Awards (\$)(3)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)		Total (\$)
					All Other Compensation (\$)		
William T. Comfort	0	337,920	0	0	0	0	337,920
John V. Lombardi	75,000	337,920	25,000	0	0	0	437,920
James L. Payne	100,000	337,920	0	0	0	0	437,920
Myron M. Sheinfeld	150,000	337,920	0	0	0	0	487,920
John Yearwood	137,500	337,920	0	0	0	0	475,420

- (1) The amounts shown in the Stock Awards column reflect the grant date fair value of restricted stock awards. On February 18, 2011, each nonemployee director then on the Board received a restricted stock award of 12,000 shares scheduled to vest over three years. The grant date fair value of the restricted stock award is based on Nabors' closing stock price on the grant date, which was \$28.16 on February 18, 2011.
- (2) As of December 31, 2011, the aggregate numbers of restricted stock awards outstanding were: Mr. Comfort 24,000 shares; Dr. Lombardi 28,000 shares; Mr. Payne 24,000 shares; Mr. Sheinfeld 24,000 shares; and Mr. Yearwood 28,000 shares.
- (3) The amount shown in the Option Awards column reflects the grant date fair value of the stock option awards. No stock option awards were granted to nonemployee directors during 2011, except to Dr. Lombardi

who received them in lieu of his quarterly cash retainer. As of December 31, 2011, the aggregate numbers of stock options outstanding were: Dr. Lombardi 19,730; Mr. Payne 80,000; and Mr. Sheinfeld 217,700, all of which are fully vested.

- (4) Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello, who were employees of the Company throughout 2011, are not included in this table. Their compensation is discussed in our Compensation Discussion and Analysis section beginning on page and is included in the Summary Compensation Table beginning on page . Messrs. Crane and Linn did not join the Board until February 2012.

BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF COMPANY COMMON STOCK

Stock ownership of directors and executive officers. We encourage our directors, officers and employees to own our common stock in order to align their interests with those of other shareholders. Ownership of Company stock ties a portion of their net worth to the Company's stock price and provides a continuing incentive for them to work toward superior long-term stock performance. The following table sets forth the beneficial ownership of common stock, as of April 9, 2012, by each of our current directors and named executive officers, and by all our current directors and executive officers as a group:

Beneficial Owner ⁽¹⁾	Common Shares Beneficially Owned	
	Number of Shares	Percent of Total ⁽²⁾
Directors		
William T. Comfort ⁽²⁾	172,000	*
James R. Crane ⁽²⁾	24,000	*
Eugene M. Isenberg ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	18,249,922	5.55%
Michael C. Linn ⁽²⁾	24,000	
John V. Lombardi ⁽²⁾	79,730	*
James L. Payne ⁽²⁾	195,100	*
Anthony G. Petrello ⁽²⁾	9,727,918	3.00%
Myron M. Sheinfeld ⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	306,188	*
John Yearwood ⁽²⁾	48,000	*
Other Named Executive Officers		
Mark D. Andrews ⁽²⁾	8,693	*
R. Clark Wood ⁽²⁾	64,050	*
All Directors/Executive Officers as a group (11 persons) ⁽²⁾⁻⁽⁴⁾	28,899,601	8.62%

* Less than 1%

- (1) The address of each of the directors and officers listed is in care of Nabors Industries Ltd. at the address shown on the first page of this proxy statement.
- (2) As of April 9, 2012, Nabors had 318,728,069 shares outstanding and entitled to vote. For purposes of this table, beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) pursuant to which a person or group of persons is deemed to have beneficial ownership of any common shares that such person has the right to acquire within 60 days. We have included in the table common shares underlying stock options that are vested or scheduled to vest within 60 days of April 9, 2012. For purposes of computing the percentage of shares held by the persons named above, such option shares are not deemed to be outstanding for purposes of computing the ownership of any person other than the relevant option holder.

The number of common shares underlying fully vested stock options, or those vesting within 60 days, included in the table are as follows:

Mr. Andrews 3,528; Mr. Isenberg 10,166,666; Dr. Lombardi 19,730; Mr. Payne 80,000; Mr. Petrello 6,033,487; Mr. Sheinfeld 170,000; Mr. Wood 26,657; and all directors and named executive officers as a group 16,500,068.

- (3) The shares listed for Mr. Isenberg are held directly or indirectly through certain trusts, defined benefit plans and individual retirement accounts of which Mr. Isenberg is a grantor, trustee or beneficiary. Included in the table are 772 shares owned directly or held in trust by Mr. Isenberg's spouse. Mr. Isenberg disclaims beneficial ownership of those shares.
- (4) The shares listed for Mr. Sheinfeld include 584 shares owned directly by Mr. Sheinfeld's spouse. Mr. Sheinfeld disclaims beneficial ownership of those shares.

Principal Shareholders. The following table contains information regarding the only persons we know of, other than the directors and officers described above, that beneficially owned more than 5% of our common stock as of April 9, 2012:

Beneficial Owner	Common Shares Beneficially Owned	
	Number of Shares	Percent of Total ⁽¹⁾
BlackRock Inc. ⁽²⁾ 40 East 52nd Street New York, NY 10022	18,064,172	5.67%
Wentworth, Hauser & Violich, Inc. ⁽³⁾ 301 Battery Street, Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94111	20,655,513	6.48%

- (1) Based upon total shares outstanding as of April 9, 2012.
- (2) Based on a Schedule 13G filed on February 13, 2012, BlackRock Inc. and certain of its affiliates have sole voting and dispositive power with respect to all shares reported.
- (3) Based on a Schedule 13G filed on February 14, 2012, Wentworth, Hauser & Violich, Inc. and certain of its affiliates have sole voting power with respect to 19,902,343 shares and shared dispositive power with respect to all shares reported.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board. The charter is available on our website at www.nabors.com. The Audit Committee is responsible for the oversight of the integrity of the Company's consolidated financial statements, the Company's system of internal controls over financial reporting, financial risk management, the qualifications and independence of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm (independent auditor), the performance of the Company's internal auditors and independent auditor, and the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. Subject to approval by the shareholders, we have the sole authority and responsibility to select, determine the compensation of, evaluate and, when appropriate, replace the Company's independent auditor. The Board has determined that each Committee member is independent under applicable independence standards of the NYSE and the Exchange Act.

The Committee serves in an oversight capacity and is not part of the Company's managerial or operational decision-making process. Management is responsible for the financial reporting process, including the system of internal controls, for the preparation of consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and for the report on the Company's internal control over financial reporting. The Company's independent auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, is responsible for auditing those financial statements and expressing an opinion as to (i) their conformity with such accounting principles and (ii) the effectiveness of the Company's internal controls over financial reporting. Our responsibility is to oversee the financial reporting process and to review and discuss management's report on the Company's internal controls over financial reporting. We rely, without independent verification, on the information provided to us and on the representations made by management, the internal auditors and the independent auditor.

We held four meetings during 2011, as well as a number of telephonic conferences. The Committee, among other things:

Reviewed and discussed the Company's quarterly earnings releases, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and annual report on Form 10-K, including the consolidated financial statements;

Reviewed and discussed the Company's policies and procedures for financial risk assessment and financial risk management and the major financial risk exposures of the Company and its business units, as appropriate;

Reviewed and discussed the annual plan and the scope of work of the internal auditors for 2011 and summaries of the significant reports to management by the internal auditors;

Reviewed and discussed the annual plan and scope of work of the independent auditor;

Provided input to the Compensation Committee regarding performance of key finance, internal control and risk management personnel;

Reviewed and discussed with management their reports on the Company's policies regarding applicable legal and regulatory requirements;

Reviewed and approved the Committee's charter; and

Met with PricewaterhouseCoopers and the internal auditors in executive sessions.

We reviewed and discussed with management, the internal auditors and PricewaterhouseCoopers the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2011, the critical accounting policies that are set forth in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K, management's annual report on the Company's internal controls over financial reporting, and PricewaterhouseCoopers' opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls over financial reporting.

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We discussed with PricewaterhouseCoopers matters that independent registered public accounting firms must discuss with audit committees under generally accepted auditing standards and standards of the Public

Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), including, among other things, matters related to the conduct of the audit of the Company s consolidated financial statements and the matters required to be discussed by PCAOB AU 380 (Communications with Audit Committees). This review included a discussion with management and the independent auditor of the quality (not merely the acceptability) of the Company s accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant estimates and judgments, and the disclosures in the Company s consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures related to critical accounting policies.

PricewaterhouseCoopers also provided to the Committee the written disclosures and the letter required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB and represented that it is independent from the Company. We discussed with PricewaterhouseCoopers its independence from the Company, and considered if services it provided to the Company beyond those rendered in connection with its audit of the Company s annual consolidated financial statements included in its annual report on Form 10-K, reviews of the Company s interim condensed consolidated financial statements included in its quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, and its opinion on the effectiveness of the Company s internal controls over financial reporting were compatible with maintaining its independence. We also reviewed and preapproved, among other things, the audit, audit-related, tax and other services performed by PricewaterhouseCoopers. We received regular updates on the amount of fees and scope of audit, audit-related, tax and other services provided.

Based on our review and these meetings, discussions and reports discussed above, and subject to the limitations on our role and responsibilities referred to above and in the Audit Committee charter, we recommended to the Board that the Company s audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2011 be included in the Company s annual report on Form 10-K. We also selected PricewaterhouseCoopers as the Company s independent auditor for the year ending December 31, 2012 and are presenting that selection to the shareholders for approval at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Myron M. Sheinfeld, Chairman

John V. Lombardi

John Yearwood

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors has reviewed and discussed the following Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management. Based on that review and discussion, the committee has recommended to the Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement and incorporated by reference into the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

John V. Lombardi, Chairman

William T. Comfort

James L. Payne

John Yearwood

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This section is intended to help you understand our executive compensation practices and the decisions we made in 2011 concerning the compensation payable to the following individuals, referred to hereafter as our named executive officers :

Eugene M. Isenberg, our Chairman and former Chief Executive Officer (or CEO),

Anthony G. Petrello, our Deputy Chairman, President and CEO,

R. Clark Wood, our Principal Accounting Officer and Principal Financial Officer, and

Mark D. Andrews, our Corporate Secretary.

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis is provided as a supplement to, and should be read in conjunction with, the tables and related narratives that appear on pages through of this proxy statement.

Overview

Role of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee is comprised solely of independent directors and oversees the compensation of our named executive officers, other key executives comprising our senior leadership team and employees generally. The committee administers our equity-based programs and reviews and approves all forms of compensation (including equity grants). The committee also evaluates the performance of the CEO and reviews the performance of our other named executive officers and key executives annually. The full details of the Compensation Committee's duties are described in its charter, which is available on our website at www.nabors.com.

Our Compensation Philosophy. To meet the challenges of running a business of our diversity and scope, it is critical to attract, retain and motivate leaders who understand the complexities of our business and can deliver positive results. We have structured our compensation program to accomplish this purpose. Our philosophy is to provide our executives with appropriate and competitive individual pay opportunities with actual pay outcomes that reward superior corporate and individual performance. The ultimate goal is to increase shareholder value by providing executives with appropriate incentives to achieve our long-term business objectives. To that end, we provide cash and equity awards designed to reward executives for superior performance, as measured by both financial and nonfinancial factors. We use equity awards to align executives' interests with those of other shareholders. The time-vesting feature of those awards, combined with other forms of deferred compensation, encourages our talented executives to remain in our employ.

Key Developments in 2011. As industry conditions continued to improve in 2011, so did our results of operations. Stronger oil prices encouraged our customers' spending for exploration, production and development activities, and we continued to reallocate assets to areas of higher utilization. Competition for executive talent remained strong. Management compensation for 2010 and 2011 increased as a result of the continued improvement in both industry conditions and our operating results although not at the same pace.

The Compensation Committee and the Board have taken steps to decrease overall compensation to our named executive officers, as well as the Company's responsibility for termination payments to them. Most notably, the Board transferred the role of Chief Executive Officer from Mr. Isenberg to Mr. Petrello in late October and subsequently negotiated a termination of Mr. Isenberg's employment agreement effective December 31, 2011. At the same time, the Compensation Committee maintained its emphasis on balancing conservatism, incentivizing performance and encouraging retention of our other executive officers and senior leadership. Specifically, as discussed later in this Compensation Discussion and Analysis:

The Board successfully eliminated the Company's exposure to a \$100 million termination payment as part of its negotiated termination of Mr. Isenberg's employment agreement. Under the previously negotiated employment agreement with Mr. Petrello, the termination payment formula for actual or constructive termination without cause has been reduced to three times the average of the base salary and annual bonus paid to Mr. Petrello during each of the three fiscal years preceding the date of termination, and that formula will be further reduced to two times the same average effective April 1, 2015.

The net result of the change in CEO and termination of Mr. Isenberg's employment agreement was to reduce the contractual cash bonus commitment of the Company to our senior executives by almost half (from 3.75% to 2% of cash flow in excess of 15% of the average shareholders' equity), which had already been reduced significantly as part of the 2009 renegotiation of employment agreements.

As part of the agreement negotiated with Mr. Isenberg, contributions to his account under an executive deferred compensation plan were terminated, and he forfeited the balance in that account.

Under the agreement negotiated with Mr. Isenberg, the Company agreed to deposit \$6.6 million into an interest-bearing escrow account to be distributed to his trust or estate upon his death.

Although improved operating performance increased the incentive compensation of Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello, Mr. Petrello agreed to accept stock options during 2011 in lieu of nearly \$5 million of his contractual cash bonus entitlement for the year.

After freezing salaries of most of our named executive officers and other senior leadership at or below their 2008 levels, the Compensation Committee raised salaries (other than for Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello) modestly for 2011 to reflect current market conditions;

After freezing most bonuses at their 2007 levels for two years for our named executive officers and other senior leadership, then increasing bonuses (other than for Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello) for 2010 for most of those leaders, the Compensation Committee enhanced bonuses for 2011 to reward individual performance and promote retention.

The Compensation Committee has been mindful of the burn rate of shares in our equity plans. It changed the form of annual equity awards in 2010 from stock options to reduce the burn rate, and continued its practice of granting long-term equity incentives in the form of restricted stock in 2011 to encourage stability, while maintaining level the grant-date value of equity incentives awarded.

Response to Say-on-Pay Vote.

A majority of the shares represented at our annual meeting of shareholders in 2011 voted against the Compensation Committee's recommendation in an advisory vote on executive compensation. Because Say-on-Pay votes do not reveal shareholders' specific concerns, following last year's vote, our Lead Director, other directors and certain members of management engaged in dialogue with several of our significant shareholders regarding the reasons for their vote. The principal concerns communicated to the Board and our responses were as follows:

Shareholder Concern	Company Response
<p>the corporate governance issues raised by shareholder proponents at the 2011 annual general meeting (majority vote standard in director elections and declassification of the board);</p> <p>succession planning;</p> <p>a desire for new independent directors with relevant industry and international expertise on the Board; and</p> <p>the overall level of executive compensation.</p>	<p>announcement of a director-resignation policy in the event a director is not elected by a majority vote;</p> <p>the Board has proposed a Bye-law amendment to declassify the Board;</p> <p>the Board transferred CEO responsibilities from Mr. Isenberg to Mr. Petrello;</p> <p>two new independent directors with extensive industry and international experience have been added to the Board;</p> <p>The Board reduced the overall level of senior executive compensation by nearly 50%;</p> <p>the Board eliminated the significant termination benefits in Mr. Isenberg's employment agreement; and</p> <p>the Board has proposed an incentive compensation plan with performance metrics for approval by shareholders.</p>

How We Determine Executive Compensation

Chief Executive Officer. The compensation of our former and current CEOs, Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello, has been determined primarily by the terms of their employment agreements. The agreements that governed their compensation through April 2009 had been in place since they joined the Company in 1987 and 1991, respectively. The agreements provided for a base salary, annual cash bonus and various other elements of compensation (described more fully below). It is essential to understand the history of these contractual arrangements.

In 1987, as Mr. Isenberg led the Company out of bankruptcy, he was named Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and charged with turning the Company around and building significant shareholder value. Aside from a personal equity investment, he did not receive any equity in the Company. In arrangements negotiated with the principal shareholders and creditors, which were then approved by the bankruptcy court, his employment agreement provided for a minimum annual salary, but established a performance formula for determining his annual cash bonus that reflected the importance of cash flow in our capital-intensive business. The original bonus formula was 10% of the Company's cash flow (if any) that exceeded 10% of average shareholders' equity for the year. As the Company grew and prospered, Mr. Isenberg repeatedly agreed to reduce his bonus by lowering the percentage of cash flow received and raising the equity hurdle.

A similar employment agreement was negotiated at arm's length with Mr. Petrello before he joined Nabors in 1991 as our President, the percentage of cash flow in his bonus coming directly out of Mr. Isenberg's percentage.

Since 1987, our senior executives demonstrated versatility and leadership in forging a stable and effective organization. The cash compensation Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello earned under their agreements grew significantly over the years, primarily because of the extraordinary growth of the Company. Nevertheless, the committee was mindful of the evolving competitive, financial, accounting and regulatory landscape of executive compensation, which dictated reconsideration of these compensation arrangements in contracts negotiated decades ago. Accordingly, at the committee's recommendation, the Board of Directors in 2006 set a September 2010 expiration date for Messrs. Isenberg's and Petrello's employment agreements.

The Compensation Committee subsequently conducted a thorough review of the compensation arrangements with Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello and considered adjustments to each element of compensation, taking into account current compensation standards, performance evaluations of the executives, mitigation of contingent payments in existing arrangements, and succession planning and retention objectives. In conducting its review, the committee engaged BDO Seidman as its independent consultant to help identify and analyze appropriate elements and levels of executive compensation, including specifically the evaluation and restructuring of Messrs. Isenberg's and Petrello's arrangements. The committee reviewed market data from the following companies in the oilfield sector based on industry affiliation and size at the recommendation of BDO Seidman: Baker Hughes Incorporated, BJ Services Company, Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc., Ensco International Incorporated, Halliburton Co., Helmerich & Payne, Inc., Noble Corporation, Pride International, Inc., Rowan Companies, Inc., Schlumberger Limited, Smith International, Inc., Transocean Ltd., Weatherford International Ltd., ConocoPhillips, National Oilwell Varco, Inc. and Plains Exploration & Production Company. The Compensation Committee did not target individual elements of compensation or total compensation at a specific percentile within the peer group.

In 2009, we amended their employment agreements on terms substantially more favorable to the Company than before. Mr. Petrello's agreement remains in effect, while Mr. Isenberg's agreement was terminated effective December 31, 2011. Notably:

The annual bonus formula was reduced 62% for Mr. Isenberg and 25% for Mr. Petrello (Mr. Petrello's bonus formula automatically increased from 1.5% to 2% of cash flow in excess of the equity hurdle upon his appointment as Chief Executive Officer.)

All tax gross-ups were eliminated, including those on perquisites and golden parachute excise taxes.

Additional stock option grants in the event of a change in control were eliminated.

Noncompetition and nonsolicitation covenants were added.

The terms were extended to March 30, 2013, with one-year extensions beginning on April 1, 2011 unless either party gives notice of nonrenewal. Mr. Petrello's agreement has been automatically extended twice and is now in effect through March 30, 2015.

The previous formulas for severance payments in the event of death, disability, termination without cause, or constructive termination without cause were eliminated and replaced with significantly lower amounts. For instance, Mr. Isenberg's severance payment was reduced from over \$263 million to \$100 million. However, as noted above, Mr. Isenberg's agreement was terminated without payment of the severance amount; instead, the Company agreed to pay \$6.6 million to an interest-bearing escrow account to be distributed to Mr. Isenberg's trust or estate upon his death.

As an inducement to the foregoing reductions:

Mr. Isenberg's annual base salary was increased slightly to \$1.3 million, the after-tax proceeds of which he volunteered to donate to education. Mr. Petrello's annual base salary was increased slightly to \$1.1 million.

Nabors agreed to credit \$600,000 and \$250,000, respectively, to Messrs. Isenberg's and Petrello's accounts under our executive deferred compensation plan (the Executive Plan) each quarter they

remained employed, ending with the first quarter of 2019 for Mr. Petrello. As noted above, contributions to Mr. Isenberg's account ceased and he forfeited the balance in that account on December 31, 2011.

As a result of the foregoing changes, Mr. Isenberg's compensation was 68% lower in 2009 than 2008, and 81% lower in 2010 than in 2008; Mr. Petrello's compensation was 59% lower in 2009 than 2008, and 62% lower in 2010 than 2008. Even as industry conditions improved in 2011, Mr. Isenberg's compensation was over 72% lower in 2011 than in 2008, while Mr. Petrello's was more than 31% lower in 2011 than in 2008.

Our Company has a long-standing pay-for-performance philosophy. Specifically, the incentive cash component of senior executives' compensation has been determined using a pay-for-performance financial metric: cash flow in excess of a 15% return on shareholder equity. As described above, this metric was originally developed and approved by the Company's shareholders and creditors when Mr. Isenberg brought the Company out of bankruptcy. It was later incorporated into the contractual arrangements with Mr. Petrello by reducing Mr. Isenberg's compensation dollar-for-dollar. The Compensation Committee continues to rely on cash flow generation as a primary metric for evaluating all senior executive compensation. This metric, on an historical basis, also tracks stock performance, although the movement is not always in perfect tandem. Apart from their cash bonuses, the emphasis on equity incentives, long identified as a best practice, has been part of our executives' compensation structure since the Company's inception. Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello together have accumulated nearly 9% of the Company's outstanding shares over roughly two decades, largely through voluntarily accepting equity awards in lieu of cash compensation, thereby placing a significant portion of their earned compensation at the risk of forward stock performance. Mr. Petrello's employment agreement also requires that he maintain a certain threshold of share ownership. He will realize the economic benefit of these shareholdings only by generating strong long-term shareholder returns.

The Compensation Committee recognizes that financial results and stock price do not always move together. The stock market generally anticipates and reacts quickly to upward and downward trends in our business, while those trends may take longer to impact our financial results. Consequently, it is not uncommon in times of significant fluctuations in the market, such as those experienced in recent years, for our financial performance to lag trends in our stock price. Elements of our executives' compensation tied to financial performance may not immediately reflect changes in shareholder value and vice versa. For example, during the downturn in 2008, our cash performance remained strong and Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello earned robust bonuses. During that same period, our stock price dropped precipitously, causing the value of their holdings to decline by significantly more than the amount of their compensation. Conversely, after the first quarter of 2009 and through 2010, our share price rebounded significantly, but our operating results declined until midway through 2010. The decline in operating results, combined with a reduction in their bonus formulas, caused Messrs. Isenberg's and Petrello's bonuses to drop significantly after the first quarter of 2009. Because we strive to achieve both strong financial performance and significant shareholder returns, we consider each element of compensation separately and as a whole in evaluating the effectiveness of our executive compensation program.

Other named executive officers and senior leadership of the Company. The Compensation Committee sets the compensation for our other named executive officers and for other senior leadership of the Company, which is comprised generally of the heads of the Company's significant business units and certain corporate departments. The Company has entered into employment agreements with certain of these individuals that guarantee a minimum level of compensation. Those agreements expire at various times from 2012 through 2014. In setting the compensation of our senior leadership team, including the named executive officers other than Mr. Petrello (and, historically, Mr. Isenberg) we generally focus on three key elements: performance considerations and business goals; the subjective judgment of the Compensation Committee with input from Mr. Petrello (and, historically, Mr. Isenberg); and in some years, market referencing.

Performance Considerations and Business Goals. We compensate our executives and assign them additional responsibilities as recognition for how well they perform individually and as a team in achieving individual and collective business goals. At the end of each year, each executive's overall performance is

assigned a rating by Mr. Petrello (and, historically, Mr. Isenberg), which is reviewed by the Compensation Committee. These performance ratings heavily influence the executive's compensation, but through 2011, they were not applied in a formulaic manner. For example, rather than setting specific targets for achievement of business or individual goals, the performance rating was determined on a more subjective basis as further explained below. Beginning in 2012, the Compensation Committee has adopted a plan that will result in a significant portion of the incentive compensation of those individuals being derived from a formula based upon performance against pre-established performance metrics. In addition, the Board has proposed a performance-based Incentive Bonus Plan for shareholder approval at the meeting.

Compensation Committee Judgment. The Compensation Committee exercises subjective judgment in making compensation decisions with respect to our senior management team. Mr. Petrello (and, historically, Mr. Isenberg) provides significant input to the committee on the compensation, including annual merit-based salary adjustments, bonus and equity awards, of the senior leadership of the Company other than themselves. The committee draws on its own judgment and observations of the executive officers and other senior leadership, but also relies heavily on the judgment of Mr. Petrello (and, historically, Mr. Isenberg) in evaluating the performance of such officers and leaders. The Compensation Committee has discretion to decrease formula-driven awards, or to provide additional incentive compensation to individuals, based on individual performance and executive retention considerations. The committee also considers input from the Audit Committee with respect to risk management considerations in evaluating performance objectives and incentives.

Market Referencing. In some years, we also consider market data in making compensation decisions for this group of executives. The principle of market referencing means that our compensation is considered in light of similarly situated executives at selected peer companies and/or industrial and finance companies in general. To help collect market information, we look at proxy statement disclosures of the peer companies and/or review published compensation survey sources of industrial and finance companies generally. We do not target individual elements of compensation or total compensation at a certain percentile within a peer group. When we use market referencing, we review peer group information and/or survey data solely to inform ourselves how our executives' and senior leaders' aggregate compensation compares to competitive norms in order to set compensation at levels we believe are appropriate for attracting and retaining talented leaders. We did not employ a peer group analysis in determining the compensation of our named executive officers or other senior leadership for 2011, although we did consider market data in determining their overall compensation.

Tally Sheets. In making compensation determinations, the Compensation Committee reviews tally sheets for each of the named executive officers and senior leadership team. These tally sheets present the dollar amount of each component of the named executive officers' and senior leaders' compensation, including current cash compensation (base salary and bonus), equity awards, retirement benefits, perquisites and any other compensation, including compensation (if any) paid to senior leaders pursuant to employment agreements. In its review, the committee determined that all of these elements in the aggregate provide a reasonable and competitive compensation opportunity for each executive and that each element contributes to our overall compensation objectives discussed above.

Components of Executive Compensation

The key elements of our executive compensation program are base salary, annual performance bonus and long-term incentives, such as equity awards that vest over several years. Stock ownership is the simplest, most direct way to align our executive officers' interests with those of our other shareholders. The vesting and other design features of these awards encourage long-term stock ownership by our executive officers to further motivate them to create long-term shareholder value. This is particularly true in the case of Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello, who have not sold any shares since 2005 and have exercised stock options infrequently. Their most recent exercises occurred only on the eve of the expiration of the options, and they continue to hold the

underlying shares, except those relinquished for the payment of withholding taxes or exercise price. They continue to hold a combined equity interest in the Company of nearly 9%. Our three-part compensation approach enables us to remain competitive within our industry while ensuring that our named executive officers are appropriately incentivized to deliver shareholder value.

Retirement benefit accruals and perquisites or other fringe benefits make up only a minor portion of the total annual compensation opportunity. We also provide severance protection for Mr. Petrello as discussed later in this Compensation Discussion and Analysis and in the section entitled Employment Agreements beginning on page of this proxy statement, as well as for certain of our senior leaders.

Base Salary

Chief Executive Officer. In 2009, as part of the overall adjustment of their compensation arrangements, Messrs. Isenberg's and Petrello's base salaries were set at \$1.3 million and \$1.1 million, respectively. Mr. Isenberg volunteered in his agreement to donate the entire after-tax proceeds of his base salary to education and established a foundation to provide assistance based on need or merit to employees of the Company or their children to pursue higher education. In June 2009, Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello agreed to reduce their base salaries by 10%, commensurate with reductions in the salaries of all named executive officers and other senior leaders of the Company, and their employment agreements were amended accordingly. Those reductions expired on June 30, 2010.

Other named executive officers and senior leadership of the Company. The Compensation Committee reviews the performance of each other senior executive officer individually with Mr. Petrello (and, historically, Mr. Isenberg) and determines an appropriate base salary level based primarily on individual performance and competitive factors. These competitive factors sometimes include as a reference the compensation levels of similarly situated executives of other drilling contractors and in the oil services sector generally, and also the compensation levels needed to attract and retain highly talented executives from outside the industry. We do not target base salaries at a certain percentile within any peer group. Instead, we review market data generally to inform ourselves how our executives' and senior leaders' aggregate compensation compares to competitive norms. In the case of newly hired executives, the committee sometimes considers the salary of the candidate in his or her last employment. Base salaries for our named executive officers for 2009 through 2011 are reported in the Summary Compensation Table on page under the Salary column. As mentioned above, in light of the uncertainty of the economic environment, salaries of our named executives and other senior leaders were reduced by 10% in June 2009. The committee froze 2010 salaries for most of our named executive officers and other senior leaders at their 2009 year-end levels, including the 10% reduction, through the first half of 2010. Effective January 1, 2010, the Compensation Committee increased the salary of Mr. Wood, our corporate controller who has acted as our principal financial and accounting officer since March 2009, in recognition of the expansion of his duties and his strong performance. Salaries were restored to their 2008 levels in July 2010. Certain of our senior leaders and named executive officers received salary increases effective January 2011, to reflect current market conditions, reward performance and encourage retention.

Annual Performance Bonus and Long-Term Incentives

Overview. We intend our annual performance bonus and long-term incentive program to reward achievement of corporate objectives and to incentivize our named executive officers to deliver strong shareholder returns. By granting annual equity awards that vest over several years, we provide a longer-term focus that further aligns the interests of our executives with our other shareholders. The Compensation Committee supports a practice of paying bonuses and long-term incentives that deliver above-average compensation if financial results and/or shareholder returns exceed expectations. As noted above, industry conditions and operating results continued to improve in 2011. Strategies employed by senior management enabled us to generate strong operating cash flow, and we continued to enjoy access to capital markets on an attractive basis. Our resulting cash position enabled us to continue to fund capital expenditures necessary to sustain our position in the market,

to repay our convertible debt and to complete strategic acquisitions designed to enhance our position in emerging markets. The Compensation Committee believes that retention and financial motivation of our management team best positions the Company to continue to grow shareholder value.

Chief Executive Officer. As noted above, Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello's employment agreements with the Company were designed to align their compensation with enhancing shareholder value. The major portion of their contractual cash compensation represents performance-based bonus compensation. In addition to a base salary, their employment agreements provide for annual cash bonuses in an amount equal to a specified percentage of Nabors' cash flow in excess of 15% of the average shareholders' equity for each fiscal year. As a result of the Company's strong performance in 2011, Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello earned bonuses of \$19,500,000 and \$13,629,000. Mr. Isenberg agreed to lower his bonus amount to \$15,595,000 and Mr. Petrello agreed to accept stock options in lieu of nearly \$5 million of his contractual bonus.

Over the years, Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello have agreed to accept equity in lieu of significant portions of their contractual bonuses, putting their earned bonuses at the risk of forward stock performance. This practice is consistent with our pay-for-performance philosophy designed to align the interests of our executives with those of other shareholders and has resulted in significant losses to our executives in periods when the stock performance has declined. For example, in 2002, Mr. Petrello was granted stock options valued at \$10 million in lieu of an equivalent portion of his contractual bonus for 2001. Notwithstanding the significant appreciation of those options over the years, he continued to hold them through industry and market downturns. When he did exercise those options on the eve of their recent expiration, he realized value of only \$9.5 million, which he received in shares of stock that he continues to hold.

Messrs. Isenberg's and Petrello's employment agreements also provided for long-term equity incentive awards. In light of their overall compensation packages, no incremental equity awards were made to them in 2011.

Other named executive officers and senior leadership of the Company. We provide incentives to these executive officers and senior leadership in two categories: (1) annual performance bonuses that are designated in cash, but are sometimes paid in whole or in part in the form of equity awards, and (2) long-term incentives that are delivered in the form of restricted stock, stock options or other equity awards. The Compensation Committee balances the goals of rewarding past performance, incentivizing future performance and retention in determining the amount and form of these incentives. Through our annual cash bonus and long-term equity incentives, we link individual awards to both Company and individual performance.

Annual incentive awards are not guaranteed. Generally, the Compensation Committee determines the amount of the annual bonus, if any, for an officer and then uses that amount as a basis for determining the number of shares of restricted stock or options to be granted as a long-term equity award to that officer, as explained below. While not based on objective formulas or specific targets, the performance considerations for the annual bonus include both financial and nonfinancial assessments, including financial achievements in relation to internal budgets, developing internal infrastructure and enhancing positions in certain markets. The nonfinancial criteria include attainment of safety goals, maintaining Nabors' share in its principal geographic markets, enhancing Nabors' technical capabilities and developing operations in identified strategic markets. At the end of each year, Mr. Petrello (and, historically, Mr. Isenberg) have performed a personal assessment of each member of the leadership team other than themselves, which is reviewed by the Compensation Committee. These assessments heavily influence the executive's annual bonus and long-term equity incentives, but are not applied in a formulaic manner.

The Compensation Committee also considers overall corporate performance during the year, the amount of cash bonus as a percentage of the individual's base salary, market referencing information in some years, and the recommendations of Mr. Petrello (and, historically, Mr. Isenberg). Based on these considerations, as well as the terms of employment agreements with certain individuals, the committee approves annual incentive awards for

the other named executive officers and senior leadership team. Because of the heavy influence of both individual and corporate performance in the determination of the amount of equity awards and because the future value of those awards is inherently subject to the risk of forward stock performance, the committee typically provides for time-vesting of those awards, incentivizing retention, rather than imposing an additional element of performance risk.

For 2011, as in prior years, long-term incentives were determined by multiplying the value of the annual cash bonus amount by a multiple determined for that individual based upon position and performance, and delivering the resulting value in the form of equity, based on the value of our stock. For example, Mr. Andrews earned an annual cash bonus of \$50,000 for 2011. Mr. Andrews also received a separate long-term incentive award for 2011 in the form of restricted shares, the number of which was determined by multiplying the total value of his annual bonus (\$50,000) by the applicable multiple (1.0) and dividing the resulting amount by the value of our stock on the grant date. Based on this calculation, he was granted 2,241 shares of restricted stock, with the restrictions lapsing ratably over four years.

The annual cash bonuses for the named executive officers for 2011 are reported in the Summary Compensation Table on page under the column entitled Bonus . The grant-date values of long-term incentives granted to our named executive officers in 2011 are reported in the Stock Awards column of that table.

Equity Award Policy. The Company has established a Stock Option/Restricted Stock Award Policy that applies to the grant of equity incentive awards to all employees, including our named executive officers. The policy does not restrict the timing of awards, although the Compensation Committee generally makes incentive awards to our named executive officers and senior leadership at the first meeting of the Compensation Committee following the end of each calendar year, which usually occurs in February following publication of our annual results.

Pursuant to this policy, the Compensation Committee delegates authority to the CEO, subject to predetermined caps, to approve equity awards to employees at other times during the year, such as in connection with new hires and promotions, or in connection with the appraisal review and compensation adjustment process for employees. All awards granted by the CEO are required to be reported to the Compensation Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting. In connection with the appraisal review and compensation adjustment process for 2011, the CEO was delegated authority to grant up to an aggregate of 1,000,000 restricted shares to employees.

Retirement Benefits

Our named executive officers and senior leaders are eligible to participate in the following retirement plans:

a tax-qualified 401(k) plan, and

a nonqualified deferred compensation plan (the Deferred Compensation Plan).

Collectively, these plans facilitate retention and encourage our employees to accumulate assets for retirement. The 401(k) plan is a tax-qualified, defined-contribution benefit plan covering substantially all our employees. A description of the Deferred Compensation Plan, the benefits of our named executive officers under that plan and the Executive Plan described below, and the terms of their participation can be found in the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation table and the discussion following that table beginning on page of this proxy statement.

Messrs. Petrello and Wood (and, historically, Mr. Isenberg) are also eligible to participate in the Executive Plan. Pursuant to Mr. Isenberg's employment agreement, at the end of each calendar quarter he remained employed, Nabors credited \$600,000 to his account under this plan. Those deferred amounts, together with

earnings thereon, were forfeited upon the termination of his employment agreement effective December 31, 2011. Pursuant to Mr. Petrello's employment agreement, at the end of each calendar quarter he remains employed through the first quarter of 2019, Nabors credits \$250,000 to his account under this plan. These deferred amounts, together with earnings thereon, will be distributed to Mr. Petrello when he reaches age 65 or earlier upon his termination of employment due to death, disability, termination without cause or constructive termination without cause. Mr. Petrello will forfeit his account balance under this plan upon termination of employment for cause or voluntary resignation. In 2010, the Compensation Committee elected to establish an account for Mr. Wood under the Executive Plan and credited \$125,000 in each of 2010 and 2011 to that account. Some of our other senior leaders also participate in the Executive Plan.

Other Benefits and Perquisites

All of our employees, including our named executive officers, are entitled to participate in health and welfare benefits plans. Our named executive officers may also receive company-sponsored club memberships and/or an automobile allowance as part of their overall compensation package. In addition, Mr. Petrello is entitled to additional benefits under the terms of his employment agreement, and Mr. Isenberg retains certain benefits under his employment agreement, each as described in the section entitled "Employment Agreements" beginning on page 27.

Share Ownership Policy

We encourage our named executive officers and senior leaders to own the Company's shares to further align their interests with those of other shareholders. Mr. Petrello's employment agreement requires that he own a minimum amount of shares, measured by the acquisition-date value of those shares. Acquisition value was chosen as the appropriate measure because of the volatility of stock prices in our industry and the complications that may arise from the use of a fluctuating valuation method. Mr. Petrello must own shares with an acquisition-date value of five times his base salary. As noted in the Beneficial Ownership of Company Common Stock table on page 27, Mr. Petrello currently owns 9,727,918 shares. None of our other named executive officers or senior leaders is subject to a minimum share ownership requirement.

Termination and Change-in-Control Arrangements

Severance protection, particularly in the context of a change-in-control transaction, can play a valuable role in attracting and retaining key executive officers. Accordingly, we have provided such protection for Mr. Petrello (and, historically, Mr. Isenberg) in his employment agreement. Detailed information regarding employment agreements and severance benefits they provide is included in the section entitled "Employment Agreements" beginning on page 27 of this proxy statement. The severance benefits in the prior agreements were negotiated when the employment agreements were entered into in 1987 and 1991, respectively.

The severance benefits in Messrs. Isenberg's and Petrello's employment agreements were substantially renegotiated in 2009. Under the previous formula for severance payments approved by major shareholders, creditors and the bankruptcy court in 1987, in the event of Mr. Isenberg's death, disability, termination without cause, or constructive termination without cause, he would have been entitled (if his employment had terminated on December 31, 2008) to \$263.6 million, excluding excise tax gross-ups. Effective in April 2009, all tax gross-ups were eliminated and the severance provisions were replaced with a flat payment of \$100 million upon any such termination in consideration of the surrender by Mr. Isenberg of rights under the prior agreement and other concessions under the new agreement. Upon termination of Mr. Isenberg's employment agreement, the Board negotiated an agreement pursuant to which the \$100 million termination payment was not paid.

Similarly, the formula for termination without cause, or constructive termination without cause, was reduced to three times the average of the base salary and annual bonus paid to Mr. Petrello during each of the three fiscal years preceding the date of termination, with the bonus amounts to be calculated in all cases as though the bonus

formula under the new agreement had been in effect. The formula will be further reduced to two times the average stated above in April 2015. Also effective in April 2009, all tax gross-ups were eliminated under his new agreement, including the gross-up for golden parachute excise taxes. The previous formula for severance payments in the event of Mr. Petrello's death or disability was eliminated and substituted with a flat payment of \$50 million upon any such termination, representing a negotiated amount taking into account Mr. Petrello's rights under the prior agreement and his concessions under the new agreement. For comparison, the cash severance amount to which Mr. Petrello would have been entitled under the old agreement if his employment had terminated on December 31, 2008 under any of these conditions was \$89.6 million before excise tax gross-ups.

In light of the overall concessions by Messrs. Isenberg and Petrello in the renegotiation of their employment agreements, including the elimination of tax gross-up payments, the elimination of substantial stock option grants in the event of a change in control, and substantial reductions in their bonus formulas, the committee agreed to retain a death benefit in the new agreements, although at a much reduced level, in order to mitigate the risk of paying a substantially higher death benefit during the term of the prior agreements. The committee believes that it was able to obtain a more balanced compensation package in the new employment agreements through inclusion of the substantially reduced death benefit.

Risk Assessment

In view of the current economic and financial environment, the Compensation Committee has reviewed and will continue to review with management the design and operation of our incentive compensation arrangements, including the performance objectives and the mix of short- and long-term performance horizons used in connection with incentive awards, for the purpose of assuring that these arrangements will not provide our executives with incentives to engage in business activities or other behavior that would impose unnecessary or excessive risk to the value of our company or the investments of our shareholders.

Tax Considerations

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), limits to \$1 million the amount of compensation that may be deducted by Nabors in any year with respect to any of its named executive officers. Certain performance-based compensation approved by shareholders is not subject to the \$1 million limit. Although Nabors intends to take reasonable steps to obtain deductibility of compensation, it reserves the right not to do so in its judgment, particularly with respect to retaining the service of its executive officers.

2011 SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The table below summarizes the total compensation paid to or earned by each of our named executive officers for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2009, December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2011.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary \$(1)	Bonus \$(2)	Award(s) \$(3)	Option Awards \$(4)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan
						Compensation \$(5)