

Independence Contract Drilling, Inc.  
Form DEF 14A  
March 27, 2017

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

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 Rule 14a-12

Independence Contract Drilling, Inc.

(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.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

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(1) \_\_\_\_\_

Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

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Date Filed:

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March 27, 2017

**TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:**

The 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Independence Contract Drilling, Inc. (the “Annual Meeting”) will be held at our principal executive offices, located at 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086 on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. (Central Daylight Time).

The attached Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the “Notice”) and proxy statement provide information concerning the matters to be considered at the Annual Meeting.

Your vote is important and we encourage you to vote even if you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting. You may vote by internet or by telephone using the instructions on the Notice or by signing and returning the proxy card in the postage pre-paid envelope provided for your convenience. You may also attend and vote at the Annual Meeting in person.

Sincerely,

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Thomas R. Bates, Jr.  | Byron A. Dunn           |
| Chairman of the Board | Chief Executive Officer |

Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders  
of Independence Contract Drilling, Inc.  
March 27, 2017

To the Stockholders of Independence Contract Drilling, Inc.:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Independence Contract Drilling, Inc. (the "Company") will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 8:00 a.m., Central Daylight Time, at the Company's principal executive offices, located at 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086.

At the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting"), stockholders of the Company ("Stockholders") will be asked to:

1. Elect six directors to the board of directors of the Company (the "Board of Directors") to serve until the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders; and
2. Transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournments or postponements of the meeting.

Only Stockholders of record at the close of business on March 15, 2017 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting. A list of Stockholders will be available commencing ten days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting and may be inspected at our principal executive offices during normal business hours. The list of Stockholders also will be available for review at the Annual Meeting. If there are not sufficient votes for a quorum or to approve the items of business at the time of the Annual Meeting, the Annual Meeting may be adjourned in order to permit further solicitation of proxies.

The proxy materials include this Notice, the Proxy Statement, the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 (the "Annual Report") and the enclosed proxy card. We encourage you to read the Annual Report as it includes our audited financial statements and other important information about our business.

Your vote is important. Even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please vote by mail or through the telephone or internet voting systems. Specific directions for submitting your vote by mail or through the telephone or internet are included in the accompanying Proxy Statement and on the accompanying Proxy Card. Even if you have submitted your proxy, you may still vote in person if you attend the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Philip A. Choyce  
Corporate Secretary

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY  
OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD  
ON MAY 2, 2017**

The Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders,  
Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting and the Annual Report on Form 10-K  
for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 are available at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com).

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INDEPENDENCE CONTRACT DRILLING, INC.

11601 N. Galayda Street  
Houston, TX 77086

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PROXY STATEMENT

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This Proxy Statement contains information related to the Independence Contract Drilling, Inc. 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting"). In this Proxy Statement, we refer to the Board of Directors of Independence Contract Drilling, Inc. as the "Board" and to Independence Contract Drilling, Inc. as the "Company," "we," "us," and like terms.

We are furnishing the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders, this Proxy Statement and the enclosed Proxy Card, together with the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 (collectively the "Proxy Materials"), in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board for use at the Annual Meeting. The Proxy Materials are being mailed together on or about March 29, 2017 to each of our stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting.

**2017 ANNUAL MEETING DATE AND LOCATION**

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Company's principal executive offices, which are located at 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086, on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 8:00 a.m., Central Daylight Time, or at such other time and place to which the Annual Meeting may be postponed or adjourned. References in this Proxy Statement to the "Annual Meeting" also refer to any adjournments, postponements or changes in location of the Annual Meeting, to the extent applicable.

**ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING**

What is the purpose of the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders?

At the Annual Meeting, our Stockholders will be asked to consider and vote upon the election of six directors to serve until the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, and vote upon any other business that is properly presented at the Annual Meeting.

Why did I receive these Proxy Materials?

You received these Proxy Materials from us in connection with the solicitation by our Board of proxies to be voted at the Annual Meeting because you owned shares of our common stock at the close of business on March 15, 2017. We refer to this date as the "Record Date."

This Proxy Statement contains important information for you to consider when deciding how to vote your shares at the Annual Meeting. Please read this Proxy Statement carefully.

Who can vote at the Annual Meeting?

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on the Record Date will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. As of the close of business on the Record Date, there were 37,795,257 shares of common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote.

**Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name**

If, on the Record Date, your shares were registered directly in your name with the transfer agent for our common stock, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, then you are a stockholder of record. As a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting or vote by proxy. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to fill out and return the enclosed proxy card or vote by proxy over the telephone or on the internet as instructed below to ensure your vote is counted.

**Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker, Bank or Other Agent**

If, on the Record Date, your shares were held in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in "street name" and these Proxy Materials are being forwarded to you by that organization. The organization holding your account is considered the stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the Annual Meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker or other agent on how to vote the shares in your account. You are also invited to attend the Annual Meeting. However, since you are not the stockholder of record, you may not vote your shares in person at the Annual Meeting unless you request and obtain a valid proxy card from your broker or other agent.

What am I being asked to vote on?

You are being asked to vote on one proposal:

- Proposal 1: The election of six directors to serve until the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

In addition, you are entitled to vote on any other matters that may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

What are the recommendations of the Board?

The Board recommends a vote as follows:

- FOR the election of each of the nominees for director.

Could other matters be decided at the Annual Meeting?

At the time this Proxy Statement was mailed, we did not know of any matters to be raised at the Annual Meeting other than those referred to in this Proxy Statement. With respect to any other matter that properly comes before the Annual Meeting, the individuals listed on your proxy card will vote the proxies as recommended by our Board or, if no recommendation is given, in their own discretion.

How do I vote?

For Proposal 1, you may vote "For" a nominee to the Board, you may "Withhold" your vote for any nominee you specify or you may abstain from voting.

Please note that by casting your vote by proxy you are authorizing the individuals listed on the proxy card (the "Proxy Holders") to vote your shares in accordance with your instructions and in their discretion with respect to any other matter that properly comes before the Annual Meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

The procedures for voting are as follows:

**Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name**

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting. Alternatively, you may vote by proxy by using the accompanying proxy card, over the internet or by telephone. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to vote by proxy to ensure your vote is counted. Even if you have submitted a proxy before the Annual Meeting, you may still attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person. In such case, your previously submitted proxy will be disregarded.

- To vote in person, come to the Annual Meeting and we will give you a ballot when you arrive.

To vote using the proxy card, simply complete, sign and date the accompanying proxy card and return it promptly in the pre-paid envelope provided. If you return your signed proxy card to us before the Annual Meeting, we will vote your shares as you direct.

- To vote by proxy over the internet, follow the instructions provided on the proxy card.
- To vote by telephone, call the toll free number found on the proxy card.

#### Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of Broker, Bank or Other Agent

If you are a beneficial owner of shares registered in the name of your brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization, you should have received a voting instruction card and voting instructions with these Proxy Materials from that organization rather than from us. Simply complete and mail the voting instruction card to ensure that your vote is counted. To vote in person at the Annual Meeting, you must obtain a valid proxy from your brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization. Follow the instructions from your brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization included with these Proxy Materials, or contact your broker, bank or other agent to request a proxy form.

We provide internet proxy voting to allow you to vote your shares on-line, with procedures designed to ensure the authenticity and correctness of your proxy vote instructions. However, please be aware that you must bear any costs associated with your internet access, such as usage charges from internet service providers and telephone companies.

#### Who counts the votes?

Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. (“Broadridge”) has been engaged as our independent agent to tabulate stockholder votes (the “Inspector of Election”). If you are a stockholder of record, your executed proxy card is returned directly to Broadridge for tabulation. As noted above, if you hold your shares through a broker, your broker returns one proxy card to Broadridge on behalf of all its clients.

#### How are votes counted?

Votes will be counted by the Inspector of Election appointed for the Annual Meeting. With respect to Proposal 1, the Inspector of Election will separately count the number of “For” votes, “Withheld” votes and broker non-votes received for each nominee. As noted above, if you are a beneficial owner, you will need to obtain a proxy form from the brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization that holds your shares and follow the instructions included on that form regarding how to instruct that institution to vote your shares. If you do not give instructions to your brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization, then they can vote your shares with respect to “routine” items, but not with respect to “non-routine” items. See below for more information regarding: “What are ‘broker non-votes’?” and “Which ballot measures are considered ‘routine’ and ‘non-routine’?”.

#### What are abstentions?

Abstentions occur when stockholders are present in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting but fail to vote or voluntarily withhold their vote for any of the matters upon which the stockholders are voting.

#### What are “broker non-votes”?

Broker non-votes occur when a beneficial owner of shares held in “street name” does not give instructions to the brokerage firm, bank, dealer or nominee holding the shares as to how to vote on matters deemed “non-routine.” Generally, if shares are held in street name, the beneficial owner of the shares is entitled to give voting instructions to the broker or nominee holding the shares. If the beneficial owner does not provide voting instructions, the broker or nominee can still vote the shares with respect to matters that are considered to be “routine,” but not with respect to “non-routine” matters. In the event that a broker, bank, custodian, nominee or other record holder of shares of our common stock indicates on a proxy that it does not have discretionary authority to vote certain shares on a particular proposal, then those shares will be treated as broker non-votes with respect to that proposal. Accordingly, if you own shares through a nominee, such as a broker or bank, please be sure to instruct your nominee how to vote to ensure that your vote is counted on each of the proposals.

#### Which ballot measures are considered “routine” or “non-routine”?

Proposal 1, the election of six directors to serve until the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, is considered “non-routine” under applicable rules, which could result in broker non-votes.

#### What is the effect of broker non-votes and abstentions and how many votes are needed to approve the proposal?

Proposal 1-the election of six directors to serve until the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders: to be elected as a director, each nominee must receive the affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting. As noted above, you may vote “For” a nominee to the Board, you may “Withhold” your vote for any nominee you specify or you may abstain from voting. Neither votes that are “Withheld” from a director’s election nor broker non-votes or abstentions will affect the outcome of the vote on the election of a director as they are not considered to be “cast.”





How many votes do I have?

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each share of common stock of the Company you own as of the Record Date.

What if I return a proxy card but do not make specific choices?

If we receive a signed and dated proxy card and the proxy card does not specify how your shares are to be voted, your shares will be voted "For" the election of each director nominee. If any other matter is properly presented at the Annual Meeting, your proxy (one of the individuals named on your proxy card) will vote your shares using his or her best judgment.

Who is paying for this proxy solicitation?

This proxy solicitation is being made by us and we will pay for the entire cost of soliciting proxies. In addition to these mailed Proxy Materials, our directors, officers and employees may also solicit proxies in person, by telephone or by other means of communication. Directors, officers and employees will not be paid any additional compensation for soliciting proxies. We may also reimburse brokerage firms, banks and other agents for the cost of forwarding the Proxy Materials to beneficial owners.

We have retained Broadridge to aid in the distribution of proxy materials and to provide voting and tabulation services for the Annual Meeting. For these services, we will pay Broadridge a fee of approximately \$18,500 and reimburse it for certain expenses. In addition, we will reimburse brokerage firms, nominees, fiduciaries, custodians and other agents for their expenses in distributing the Proxy Materials to the beneficial owners of our common stock.

What does it mean if I receive more than one set of materials?

If you receive more than one set of materials, your shares are registered in more than one name or are registered in different accounts. In order to vote all the shares you own, you must either sign and return all of the proxy cards or follow the instructions for any alternative voting procedure on each of the proxy cards.

Can I change my vote after submitting my proxy?

If you are a stockholder of record, you may revoke your proxy at any time prior to the vote tabulation at the Annual Meeting by: (1) sending in an executed proxy card with a later date, (2) timely submitting a proxy with new voting instructions by telephone or over the internet, (3) sending a written notice of revocation by mail to Independence Contract Drilling, Inc., 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086 marked "Proxy Information Enclosed, Attention: Corporate Secretary" or (4) attending and voting in person by completing a ballot at the Annual Meeting. Attendance at the Annual Meeting will not, in itself, constitute revocation of a completed and delivered proxy card.

If you are a beneficial owner, you should follow the instructions provided by your brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization.

What is the quorum requirement?

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. A quorum will be present at the Annual Meeting if a majority of our outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote are present in person or represented by proxy, regardless of whether the proxy has authority to vote on all matters. On the Record Date, there were 37,795,257 shares outstanding and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Your shares will be counted towards the quorum only if you submit a valid proxy vote or vote at the Annual Meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted towards the quorum requirement. If there is no quorum, the chairman of the Annual Meeting may adjourn the Annual Meeting to another place, if any, date and time.

How can I find out the results of the voting at the Annual Meeting?

Voting results will be announced by the filing of a Current Report on Form 8-K ("Form 8-K") within four business days after the Annual Meeting. If final voting results are unavailable at that time, we will file an amended Form 8-K within four business days of the day the final results are available.

Implications of being an “emerging growth company.”

We are an “emerging growth company” as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012 and, as such, have elected to comply with certain reduced public company reporting and other requirements. These reduced requirements include reduced disclosures about the Company’s executive compensation arrangements and no non-binding advisory votes on executive compensation. We will cease to be an emerging growth company upon the earliest of: (1) the last day of the fiscal year in which we have \$1.0 billion or more in annual revenues; (2) the date on which we become a “large accelerated filer,” as defined in Rule 12b-2 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), which generally requires more than \$700 million in market value of our common units held by non-affiliates as of June 30 of the year such determination is made; (3) the date on which we issue more than \$1.0 billion of non-convertible debt over a three-year period; or (4) the last day of the fiscal year following the fifth anniversary of our Initial Public Offering (“IPO”) (which fiscal year will be 2019).

What is “householding” and how does it affect me?

We may send a single set of Proxy Materials and other stockholder communications to any household at which two or more stockholders reside unless we have received contrary instructions from those stockholders. This process is called “householding.” This reduces duplicate mailings and saves printing and postage costs as well as natural resources. The Proxy Materials and other stockholder communications may be householded based on your prior express or implied consent. If you wish to receive a separate copy of our Proxy Materials for each stockholder sharing your address in the future, please contact Independence Contract Drilling, Inc., 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086, Attn: Corporate Secretary, by phone at (281) 598-1230 or by email at investor.relations@icdrilling.com, and we will promptly deliver to you the requested material. You may also contact us in the same manner if you received multiple copies of the Proxy Materials and would prefer to receive a single copy in the future.

Many banks, brokers, and other holders of record have instituted householding. If you or your family have one or more beneficial ownership accounts, you may have received householding information from your bank, broker, or other holder of record in the past. Please contact the holder of record directly if you have questions, require additional copies of this Proxy Statement or our Annual Report or wish to revoke your decision to household and thereby receive multiple copies. You should also contact the holder of record if you wish to institute householding. These options are available to you at any time.

When are stockholder proposals due for next year’s annual meeting?

Stockholder proposals for inclusion in next year’s proxy statement

Stockholders interested in submitting a proposal for inclusion in our Proxy Materials and for presentation at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders may do so by following the procedures set forth in Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act. Provided that the date of such 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is not more than 30 days from the date of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders, such proposals must be submitted in writing to Independence Contract Drilling, Inc., 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086, Attn: Corporate Secretary, no later than 120 calendar days before the date of the proxy statement released for the previous year’s Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Therefore, the deadline for submitting proposals for inclusion in our Proxy Materials and for presentation at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders pursuant to Rule 14a-8 is January 2, 2018. No stockholder proposal was received for inclusion in this Proxy Statement.

Other stockholder proposals for presentation at next year’s annual meeting

Our Amended and Restated Bylaws (“Bylaws”) require that stockholders interested in submitting a proposal or nominee for consideration at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which is not submitted for inclusion in our Proxy Materials pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act, may do so by following the procedures set forth in Section 1.3 of our Bylaws. Section 1.3 of our Bylaws requires any such proposals to be submitted in writing to Independence Contract Drilling, Inc., 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086, Attn: Corporate Secretary no later than the close of business on the 90th day nor earlier than the close of business on the 120th day prior to the anniversary of the preceding year’s annual meeting. Pursuant to this requirement, notice must be received no later than close of business on February 1, 2018 nor earlier than close of business on January 2, 2018 to be considered timely under our Bylaws for purposes of our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders; provided, however, that in the event that such date of the annual meeting is more than 30 days before or more than 60 days after May 2, 2018, stockholder

notice must be delivered no earlier than the close of business on the 120th day prior to such annual meeting and no later than the close of business on the 90th day prior to such annual meeting or the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made by us. To be in proper form, a stockholder's notice must include the information about the proposal or nominee specified in our Bylaws.

A stockholder seeking to submit a proposal or nomination is encouraged to seek independent counsel about our Bylaws and applicable Exchange Act requirements. We reserve the right not to consider any proposal or nomination that is not timely or otherwise does not meet our Bylaws or applicable Exchange Act requirements for submitting such proposal or nomination.

Whom should I contact with questions about the Annual Meeting?

If you have any questions about this Proxy Statement or the Annual Meeting, please contact our Corporate Secretary, at 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086 or by telephone at (281) 598-1230.

Directions to Annual Meeting

Directions to our Annual Meeting, to be held at our principal executive offices, which are located at 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086, are available on our website at: <http://www.icdrilling.com/contact.html>.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

We are committed to adhering to sound principles of ethical conduct and good corporate governance. We have adopted a number of corporate governance policies and practices designed to promote the long-term interests of our stockholders, maintain internal checks and balances, strengthen management accountability, engender public trust and foster responsible decision making and accountability. The following are certain of the important corporate governance policies and practices we have adopted.

### Committee Charters

We have adopted a charter for each of the three committees of the Board. Each committee charter outlines the authority and responsibilities delegated by the Board to the respective committee; enumerates membership requirements for the committee, including any applicable New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) or Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) membership requirements; and sets forth a framework for committee meetings. Summaries of each of the committee charters are set forth below under the heading “-Board Committees.” Copies of each of our committee charters is available on our website at <http://icdrilling.investorroom.com/corporategovernance>.

### Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (“Code of Ethics-Employees”), which provides the basic principles and guidelines to foster a culture of honesty and accountability and to establish standards of integrity, honesty and ethical conduct that all our officers and employees must follow. We have adopted a separate code of ethics that applies to our directors, including employee directors, which is described in more detail below. A copy of our Code of Ethics - Employees is available on our website at [http://icdrilling.investorroom.com/code\\_of\\_conduct](http://icdrilling.investorroom.com/code_of_conduct). Stockholders may also request a printed copy of the Code of Ethics - Employees, free of charge, by contacting our Corporate Secretary, at Independence Contract Drilling, Inc., 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086 or by telephone at (281) 598-1230 or by emailing [investor.relations@icdrilling.com](mailto:investor.relations@icdrilling.com). Any waiver of the Code of Ethics - Employees for executive officers may be made only by our Board or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated that authority and will be promptly disclosed to our stockholders as required by applicable U.S. federal securities laws and the corporate governance rules of the NYSE. Amendments to the Code of Ethics - Employees must be approved by our Board and will be promptly disclosed (other than technical, administrative or non-substantive changes) on our website.

### Code of Ethics for Senior Officers of the Company

We have adopted a Code of Ethics for Senior Officers of the Company (“Code of Ethics-Senior Officers”), supplementing the Code of Ethics-Employees, that sets forth the ethical principles by which our President and Chief Executive Officer, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Chief Accounting Officer and other executives of the Company are expected to conduct themselves when carrying out their duties. A copy of our Code of Ethics - Senior Officers is available on our website at [http://icdrilling.investorroom.com/code\\_of\\_conduct](http://icdrilling.investorroom.com/code_of_conduct). Stockholders may also request a printed copy of the Code of Ethics - Senior Officers, free of charge, by contacting our Corporate Secretary, at Independence Contract Drilling, Inc., 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086 or by telephone at (281) 598-1230 or by emailing [investor.relations@icdrilling.com](mailto:investor.relations@icdrilling.com). Amendments to the Code of Ethics - Senior Officers must be approved by our Board and will be promptly disclosed (other than technical, administrative or non-substantive changes) on our website.

### Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for Directors

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for Directors (“Code of Ethics-Directors”), which provides the basic principles and guidelines to foster a culture of honesty and accountability and to establish standards of integrity, honesty and ethical conduct that all members of our Board must follow. A copy of our Code of Ethics-Directors is available on our website at [http://icdrilling.investorroom.com/code\\_of\\_conduct](http://icdrilling.investorroom.com/code_of_conduct). Stockholders may also request a printed copy of the Code of Ethics - Directors, free of charge, by contacting our Corporate Secretary, at Independence Contract Drilling, Inc., 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086 or by telephone at (281) 598-1230 or by emailing [investor.relations@icdrilling.com](mailto:investor.relations@icdrilling.com). Any waiver of the Code of Ethics - Directors may be made only by our Board or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated that authority and will be promptly disclosed to our stockholders as required by applicable U.S. federal securities laws and the corporate governance rules of the NYSE. Amendments to the Code of Ethics - Directors must be approved by our Board and will be promptly disclosed (other

than technical, administrative or non-substantive changes) on our website.

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#### Corporate Governance Guidelines

We have adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines (the “Corporate Governance Guidelines”) in compliance with the corporate governance rules of the NYSE. The Corporate Governance Guidelines provide a flexible framework within which the Board and its committees operate. The Corporate Governance Guidelines cover, among other things, director qualification standards, responsibilities of directors, Board access to management and advisors, compensation of directors, and Chief Executive Officer evaluation and succession planning. A copy of our Corporate Governance Guidelines is available on our website at <http://icdrilling.investorroom.com/corporategovernance>.

#### Related Person Transaction Policy

We have adopted a Related Person Transaction Policy (the “Related Person Transaction Policy”), which provides guidelines for the review and approval of certain transactions, arrangements or relationships involving the Company and any of our directors (or nominees for director), executive officers, stockholder owning more than 5% of the Company and any immediate family members of any such person. As a general matter, we discourage such “related person transactions” because they present a heightened risk of potential or actual conflicts of interest and may create the appearance that decisions are based on considerations other than the best interest of the Company and its stockholders. In addition, our Related Person Transaction Policy is designed to assist the Board in preparing the disclosure that SEC rules require to be included in the Company’s applicable filings under the Securities Act of 1933 (the “Securities Act”) and the Exchange Act. Please see “Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions - Policies and Procedures for Identifying, Assessing and Approving Related Person Transactions” for additional information regarding our Related Person Transaction Policy. In addition to our Related Person Transaction Policy, which applies only to the persons enumerated above in specified circumstances, we have also adopted a Conflicts of Interest Policy, described in more detail below, that facilitates the general review of possible conflicts of interest for all our employees and our directors.

#### Conflicts of Interest Policy

We have adopted a Conflicts of Interest Policy (the “Conflicts of Interest Policy”), which provides guidelines and procedures regarding the timely and proper disclosure of possible conflicts of interest a Company employee or director may have in order to allow the Company to review each such possible conflict. Under our Conflicts of Interest Policy, a conflict arises when an individual’s private interest interferes in any way with the interests of the Company as a whole. Our Conflicts of Interest Policy is designed to prohibit directors, officers or other employees from engaging in any business or conduct or entering into any agreement or arrangement that would give rise to actual or potential conflicts of interest and provides guidance on how to report potential conflicts of interest. The Conflicts of Interest Policy supplements our Related Person Transaction Policy and each of our codes of ethics.



## INFORMATION ABOUT OUR BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES

## Board Structure

Our business and affairs are managed under the direction of the Board. Our Board currently consists of six directors with three standing committees to assist the Board in discharging its responsibilities: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Details as to the membership of the Board and each committee and the function of each committee are provided below. Our Bylaws state that the Board shall initially consist of five members and generally provides that this number may be increased or decreased by a majority vote of the Board. However, no reduction of the authorized number of directors may have the effect of removing any director before the director's term of office expires.

The following table identifies current members of the Board, the standing committees of the Board on which they serve and the chair of each committee as of the date of this Proxy Statement. The Board appoints members to its various committees on an annual basis at a regularly scheduled meeting, typically following the annual meeting of stockholders. Additional information about each committee is set forth below under the heading "-Committees of Our Board." As noted above under "Corporate Governance-Committee Charters," each committee has a charter, which is available on our website at <http://icdrilling.investorroom.com/corporategovernance>. Stockholders may also obtain electronic or printed copies of these documents, free of charge, by contacting our Corporate Secretary, at Independence Contract Drilling, Inc., 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086 or by telephone at (281) 598-1230 or by emailing [investor.relations@icdrilling.com](mailto:investor.relations@icdrilling.com). Biographies and other background information concerning each of our current directors are set forth under the heading "Proposal 1: Election of Directors-Director Biographies."

|   | Audit<br>Committee | Compensation<br>Committee | Nominating and<br>Corporate Governance<br>Committee |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Thomas R. Bates, Jr.<br>Chairman of the Board | Member             | Member                    |   |
| Byron A. Dunn<br>Chief Executive Officer      |                    |                           |   |
| James D. Crandell                             |                    | Member                    | Member  |
| Matthew D. Fitzgerald                         | Chair              |                           | Chair   |
| Daniel F. McNease                             | Member             | Chair                     |   |
| Tighe A. Noonan                               |                    |                           | Member  |

#### Attendance at Board and Committee Meetings

In 2016, our Board held nine meetings and each of our directors attended at least 75% of the meetings of our Board and any Board committee on which he served.

#### Attendance at Annual Meetings

Directors are encouraged, but not required, to attend our annual meeting of stockholders. During 2016, five of our directors attended the annual meeting of stockholders.

#### Director Independence

Our Board has determined that Messrs. Bates, Crandell, Fitzgerald, McNease and Noonan are each independent under the listing standards of the NYSE. Mr. Dunn is not considered independent due to his current employment relationship with us.

In evaluating each director's independence, the Board considered all of the objective independence standards under any applicable NYSE listing standards and SEC rules as well as subjectively considered each of our directors' direct and indirect relationships with the Company. The material relationships consisted of:

Mr. Noonan's position as a founding shareholder partner and partner of 4D Global Energy Advisors SAS ("4D") and 4D's business relationship with the Company, 4D's business relationships and Mr. Noonan's former position as a director of the ultimate parent of Global Energy Services Operating, LLC ("GES") and GES's business relationships with the Company during the last three fiscal years;

Mr. Bates' former position as a director of the ultimate parent of GES and GES's business relationship with the Company during the last three fiscal years; and

Mr. Crandell's position as a director of Now, Inc. ("DNOW") and DNOW's relationship as a potential supplier of certain products and services to the Company.

#### Board Leadership Structure

Thomas R. Bates, Jr., an independent director, serves as our Chairman of the Board. Currently, the Board believes that having an independent director serve as Chairman of the Board is in the best interest of the Company. Our Chief Executive Officer is responsible for setting our strategic direction and providing day-to-day leadership, while the Chairman of the Board sets the agenda for Board meetings, presides over Board meetings and provides guidance to the Chief Executive Officer. We believe this structure ensures a greater role for independent directors in the oversight of our Company and active participation from independent directors in setting agendas and establishing priorities and procedures for the work of the Board. Our Board periodically reviews our leadership structure and may make such changes in the future as it deems appropriate.

#### Executive Sessions

To facilitate candid discussion among the directors, our non-employee directors typically meet in executive session in conjunction with regular Board meetings or as otherwise determined to be necessary. Mr. Bates, our non-executive Chairman of the Board, presides over and is responsible for preparing an agenda for these meetings.

### Board's Role in Risk Oversight

Risk is inherent with every business, and how well a business manages risk can ultimately determine its success. Management is responsible for the day-to-day management of risks our Company faces, while our Board, as a whole and through its committees, has responsibility for the oversight of risk management. In its risk oversight role, our Board has the responsibility to satisfy itself that the risk management processes designed and implemented by management are adequate and functioning as designed.

Our Board believes that establishing the right “tone at the top” and that full and open communication between management and our Board are essential for effective risk management and oversight. Our Chairman has regular discussions with our Chief Executive Officer and other senior officers to discuss strategy and risks facing our Company. Senior management regularly attends Board meetings, provides Board presentations on strategic matters involving our operations and is available to address any questions or concerns raised by our Board on risk management and any other matters.

While our Board is ultimately responsible for risk oversight at our Company, each of our Board committees assists our Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities in certain areas of risk. The Audit Committee assists our Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to risk management in the areas of financial reporting, internal controls and accounting. The Compensation Committee assists our Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the management of risks arising from our compensation policies and programs. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee assists our Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the management of risks associated with Board organization, membership and structure, succession planning and corporate governance.

### Board Diversity

Our Board seeks independent directors who represent a mix of backgrounds and experiences that will enhance the quality of our Board's deliberations and decisions. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for identifying and recommending to our Board qualified individuals to be nominated to serve on our Board. In selecting potential Board candidates, our Board considers diversity in its broadest sense, including, among other things, diversity of background, perspective, personal and professional experiences and geography, as well as the existing skill-set of our Board and the needs of our Company. We discuss each of our directors' qualifications and characteristics under the heading “Proposal 1: Election of Directors-Director Biographies.”

### Committees of Our Board

As noted above, our Board has three standing committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. A description of each committee, its function and charter, are provided below:

#### Audit Committee

Pursuant to its charter, the Audit Committee's duties include, but are not limited to, oversight of the following: (1) our accounting and financial reporting process; (2) the integrity of our financial statements; (3) our independent auditor's qualifications and independence; (4) the performance of our internal audit function and independent auditors and (5) our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

The Audit Committee is currently comprised of Messrs. Bates, Fitzgerald (chairman) and McNease. Each member of the Audit Committee is “financially literate” as defined in the NYSE listing standards. Mr. Fitzgerald, chairman of the Audit Committee, qualifies as an “audit committee financial expert” as defined under the rules and regulations of the SEC.

Under rules implemented by the NYSE and SEC, we are required to have an audit committee comprised of at least three directors who meet the independence standards established by the NYSE and the Exchange Act. We have determined that Messrs. Bates, McNease and Fitzgerald are independent under the standards established by both the NYSE and Rule 10A-3 of the Exchange Act.

The Audit Committee met four times during 2016.

#### Compensation Committee

Pursuant to its charter, the Compensation Committee's duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) establishing salaries, incentive and other forms of compensation for our executive officers; (2) reviewing non-employee director compensation; (3) administering the Company's incentive compensation and equity plans; (4) reviewing the risks arising from the Company's compensation policies and practices; and (5) overseeing regulatory compliance with respect to compensation matters.

In connection with these purposes, the Board has delegated to the Compensation Committee the overall responsibility for establishing, implementing and monitoring compensation for our executive officers. Together with our Chief Executive Officer (with the exception of compensation matters related to our Chief Executive Officer, for which management is not involved), and any other counsel or other advisors deemed appropriate by it, the Compensation Committee reviews and makes a final determination with regard to executive compensation. For example, the Compensation Committee reviews and approves the compensation of our executive officers and makes appropriate adjustments based on Company performance, achievement of predetermined goals and changes in an officer's duties and responsibilities. The Compensation Committee is also responsible for approving all employment agreements related to our executive officers.

In addition, our Board has delegated to the Compensation Committee the responsibility for establishing, implementing and monitoring the compensation for our non-employee directors. Our Compensation Committee establishes, reviews and approves the compensation of our non-employee directors and makes appropriate adjustments based on their performance, duties and responsibilities and the competitive environment. Our Compensation Committee's primary objectives in establishing and implementing director compensation are to (1) ensure the ability to attract, motivate and retain the talent necessary to provide qualified Board leadership, and (2) use the appropriate mix of long-term and short-term compensation to ensure high Board and/or committee performance.

The Compensation Committee charter provides that the committee may, in its sole discretion, retain or obtain advice from a compensation consultant to assist in the evaluation of the director, chief executive officer or executive officer compensation. The Compensation Committee has direct responsibility for the appointment, compensation and oversight of any such compensation consultant and has sole authority to approve any such consultant's fees. The Compensation Committee has retained Pearl Meyer & Partners ("PM&P"), a national executive and director compensation strategy and governance consulting firm, to review and provide recommendations concerning components of the Company's executive compensation program. The Compensation Committee concluded that no conflict of interest existed that would prevent PM&P from independently representing the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee is currently comprised of Messrs. Bates, Crandell and McNease (chairman). Our Board has affirmatively determined that each of Messrs. Bates, Crandell and McNease meets the definition of independent director for purposes of serving on the Compensation Committee under applicable NYSE rules.

The Compensation Committee met four times during 2016.

#### Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Pursuant to its charter, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee duties include, but are not limited to:

(1) monitoring the implementation of sound corporate governance principles and practices, (2) identifying individuals believed to be qualified to become directors of the Company, (3) selecting or recommending candidates for all directorships to be filled, and (4) overseeing the evaluation of the Board.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee consists of three directors, Messrs. Crandell, Fitzgerald (chairman), and Noonan.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met once during 2016.

#### Board and Committee Self Evaluations

Our Board annually conducts a self-evaluation to assess and identify opportunities to improve its performance. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee oversees the Board's self-evaluation process.

#### Director Selection and Nomination Process

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for establishing criteria for selecting new directors, seeking individuals to become directors when necessary and recommending such individuals to our Board. In seeking candidates for our Board, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers the entirety of each candidate's credentials. Currently, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does not require director candidates to possess a specific set of minimum qualifications, as different factors may assume greater or lesser significance at particular times, and the needs of our Board may vary in light of its composition and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's perceptions about future issues and needs. However, while the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does not maintain a formal list of qualifications, in making its evaluation and recommendation of candidates, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may consider, among other factors, diversity, age, skill, experience in the context of the needs of our Board, independence qualifications and whether prospective nominees have relevant business and financial experience, have industry or other specialized expertise and have high moral character.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may consider candidates for our Board from any reasonable source, including from a search firm engaged by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee or stockholder recommendations, provided that the procedures set forth in "About the Annual Meeting-When are stockholder proposals due for next year's annual meeting?" are followed. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does not intend to alter the manner in which it evaluates candidates based on whether the candidate is recommended by a stockholder or not. However, in evaluating a candidate's relevant business experience, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may consider previous experience as a member of our Board.

#### Communications with the Board

Our Board welcomes communications from our stockholders and other interested parties. Stockholders or interested parties wishing to communicate directly with our Board, any individual director, the Chairman of the Board, any non-management director or the independent directors as a group may do so by writing to them care of Independence Contract Drilling, Inc., 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086, Attn: Corporate Secretary. Stockholders and any other interested parties should mark the envelope containing each communication as "Stockholder Communication with Directors" and clearly identify the intended recipient(s) of the communication. The Corporate Secretary will forward appropriate communications. Any concerns related to accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters will be promptly brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Audit Committee as appropriate.

## CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PERSON TRANSACTIONS

### Policies and Procedures for Identifying, Assessing and Approving Related Person Transactions

We maintain a “Related Person Transaction Policy” that provides guidelines for the review and approval of certain transactions, arrangements or relationships involving the Company and any of our directors (or nominees for director), executive officers, stockholders owning more than 5% of the Company and any immediate family members of any such person (“Related Person”). As a general matter, we discourage such “related person transactions” because they present a heightened risk of potential or actual conflicts of interest and may create the appearance that decisions are based on considerations other than the best interest of the Company and its stockholders. Such related person transactions are also subject to our Conflicts of Interest Policy and our Codes of Business Conduct and Ethics, which restrict the ability of our directors, officers and employees to engage in business or conduct or entering into any agreement or arrangement that would give rise to an actual or potential conflict of interest. See “Corporate Governance” above for additional information on each of these governance policies. Each year, we are required to disclose certain transactions between the Company and a Related Person, as well as our policies concerning related person transactions. Our Related Person Transaction Policy is intended to assist us in complying with the disclosure obligations concerning these transactions under applicable SEC rules.

Pursuant to our Related Person Transaction Policy, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is generally required to review the material facts and either approve or disapprove, those related party transactions, in which (1) the aggregate amount involved exceeds, or is expected to exceed, \$120,000 in any calendar year and (2) any Related Person has or will have a direct or indirect interest (other than solely as a result of being a director of, or holding less than a 10% beneficial ownership interest in, another entity). Thereafter, on at least an annual basis, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is required to review and assess any ongoing transaction, arrangement or relationship with the Related Person to confirm that such transaction, arrangement or relationship remains appropriate. Any member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee who is a Related Person with respect to the transaction will be recused from the review and approval process.

We annually distribute a questionnaire to our executive officers and directors requesting certain information regarding, among other things, their immediate family members, employment and beneficial ownership interests. This information is then reviewed for any conflicts of interest under the Conflicts of Interest Policy, the Codes of Business Conduct and Ethics and the Related Person Transaction Policy. Additionally, the Nominating & Governance Committee and the Board review any related person transactions involving non-employee directors as part of the annual determination of their independence.

### Related Person Transactions

Since January 1, 2016, we have not entered into any transactions with related persons requiring disclosure under Item 404 of Regulation S-K, except that the son of our former President and Chief Operating Officer, who retired from the Company effective June 30, 2016, began working in a sales capacity at, and became a minority owner of, a vendor from which we purchase oilfield equipment and related supplies. Total purchases from this vendor during 2016 were \$0.3 million. Transactions with this vendor were approved in accordance with our Related Person Transaction Policy.

## COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

No member of our Compensation Committee has served as an officer or employee of the Company. None of the members of the Compensation Committee has had any substantial business dealings with the Company. None of our executive officers are now, or at any time has been, a member of the compensation committee or board of directors of another entity, one of whose executive officers has been a member of the Compensation Committee of our Board.

## STOCK OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

## Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors, executive officers and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of our outstanding common stock to file initial reports of ownership and changes in ownership of common stock with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Reporting persons are required by the Securities and Exchange Commission to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. Based solely on our review of the copies of reports we received and the written representations from our directors and officers, we believe that all filings required to be made under Section 16(a) were timely made for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, except that Mr. Noonan reported a change in beneficial ownership associated with a distribution of shares occurring December 29, 2016, by GES to a fund managed by 4D, by amendment to a Form 4 filed on February 21, 2017.

## Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Our Equity Compensation Plan

The following sets forth certain information regarding our equity compensation plan as of December 31, 2016.

| Plan Category   | Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights | Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights | Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in Column (A)) |
|---|---|---|---|
| (A)   | (B)   | (C)   | (C)   |
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders <sup>(1)</sup> | 935,720   | \$12.74   | 1,693,651   |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders            | —   | —   | —   |
| Total   | 935,720   | \$12.74   | 1,693,651   |

<sup>(1)</sup> Represents our 2012 Omnibus Incentive Plan. For additional information, see “Executive Compensation-2012 Omnibus Incentive Plan.”

## Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management

The following table sets forth information, as of March 15, 2017, for: (1) each person known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our common stock; (2) each of our directors and director nominees; (3) each of our named executive officers (as such term is defined by the SEC); and (4) all directors and executive officers as a group.

Footnote 1 to the following table provides a brief explanation of what is meant by the term “beneficial ownership.” The number of shares beneficially owned, the shares acquirable within 60 days and the percentages of beneficial ownership are based on 37,795,257 shares of common stock outstanding as of March 15, 2017, the number of shares owned on March 15, 2017 and the number of shares acquirable within 60 days of March 15, 2017 by the named person assuming no other person exercised options, with the exception of the amounts reported in filings on Schedule 13G or 13D, which amounts are based on holdings as of December 31, 2016, or as otherwise disclosed in such filings or the footnotes below.

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To our knowledge and except as indicated in the footnotes to this table and subject to applicable community property laws, the persons named in this table have the sole voting power with respect to all shares of common stock listed as beneficially owned by them.

| Name and Address of Beneficial Owners <sup>(1)(2)</sup>       | Shares Beneficially Owned <sup>(3)</sup> | Shares Acquirable within 60 days <sup>(4)</sup> | Total     | Percent of Common Stock Beneficially Owned |   |
|---|--|---|-----------|--|---|
| <b>5% Stockholders:</b>                                       |  |   |           |  |   |
| Capital Research Global Investors <sup>(5)</sup>              | 4,611,000                                | —   | 4,611,000 | 12.2                                       | % |
| 4D Global Energy Advisors SAS <sup>(6)</sup>                  | 3,114,613                                | —   | 3,114,613 | 8.2  | % |
| Adage Capital Partners, L.P. <sup>(7)</sup>                   | 2,613,959                                | —   | 2,613,959 | 6.9  | % |
| Jennison Associates LLC <sup>(8)</sup>                        | 2,094,088                                | —   | 2,094,088 | 5.5  | % |
| Prudential Financial, Inc. <sup>(8)(9)</sup>                  | 2,096,038                                | —   | 2,096,038 | 5.5  | % |
| <b>Directors and Named Executive Officers:</b>                |  |   |           |  |   |
| Thomas R. Bates, Jr. <sup>(10)</sup>                          | 46,652                                   | —   | 46,652    | *  |   |
| Byron A. Dunn <sup>(11)</sup>                                 | 373,332                                  | 400,350   | 773,682   | 2.0  | % |
| James D. Crandell <sup>(12)</sup>                             | —  | —   | —         | *  |   |
| Matthew D. Fitzgerald <sup>(13)</sup>                         | 40,622                                   | —   | 40,622    | *  |   |
| Daniel F. McNease <sup>(14)</sup>                             | 37,622                                   | —   | 37,622    | *  |   |
| Tighe A. Noonan <sup>(6)(15)</sup>                            | 3,136,205                                | —   | 3,136,205 | 8.3  | % |
| Philip A. Choyce <sup>(16)</sup>                              | 165,852                                  | 157,000   | 322,852   | *  |   |
| Christopher K. Menefee <sup>(17)</sup>                        | 45,412                                   | —   | 45,412    | *  |   |
| Edward S. Jacob, III <sup>(18)</sup>                          | —  | 119,320   | 119,320   | *  |   |
| All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (11 persons): | 3,890,331                                | 557,350   | 4,447,681 | 11.8                                       | % |

\* Less than 1%.

“Beneficial ownership” is a term broadly defined by the SEC in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act and includes more than the typical forms of stock ownership, that is, stock held in the person’s name. The term also includes (1) what is referred to as “indirect ownership” meaning ownership of shares as to which a person has or shares investment or voting power, or a person who, through a trust or proxy, prevents the person from having beneficial ownership.

(2) The address for each Named Executive Officer and director set forth in the table, unless otherwise indicated, is c/o Independence Contract Drilling, Inc., 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, Texas 77086.

(3) Amounts shown include common stock and restricted stock awards beneficially owned as of March 15, 2017, with the exception of the amounts reported in filings on Schedule 13G or 13D, which amounts are based on holdings as of December 31, 2016, or as otherwise disclosed in such filings. Where unvested restricted stock awards have been included, a footnote has been provided to set forth the unvested amount and the vesting schedule for such shares. Performance-based restricted stock units that have been granted, but not yet earned, have been excluded from this figure.

(4) Reflects the number of shares that could be purchased upon the exercise of options, warrants or other right of conversion held by the named person as of March 15, 2017 or within 60 days of March 15, 2017.

(5) As reported on Schedule 13G/A as of December 31, 2016, and filed with the SEC on February 2, 2017, Capital Research Global Investors (“Capital Research”), a division of Capital Research and Management Company (“CRMC”), is deemed to be the beneficial owner of 4,611,000 shares as a result of CRMC acting as investment adviser to various investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Capital Research has the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale



of, more than 5% of our common stock, due to Capital Research holding more than five percent of our outstanding common stock on behalf of SMALLCAP World Fund, Inc.. Capital Research's business address is 333 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

As reported on a Schedule 13G/A as of December 31, 2016, and filed with the SEC on February 23, 2017, 4D Global Energy Advisors SAS (“4D”) has shared voting power over 3,114,613 shares and shared dispositive power of 3,114,613 shares. The shares 4D may be deemed to beneficially own and have shared voting and dispositive power over are directly held by 4D Global Energy Investments plc (2,562,000 shares) and 4D Global Energy (6) Development Capital Fund II PLC (582,113 shares), for each of which 4D is the appointed Alternative Investment Fund Advisor. In addition, one of our directors, Tighe Noonan, may be deemed a beneficial owner of these shares due to his position as the general manager of 4D. Mr. Noonan and 4D expressly disclaim beneficial ownership of these securities. 4D’s business address is 15 rue de La Baume, Paris, France 75008.

As reported on a Schedule 13G/A as of December 31, 2016, and filed with the SEC on February 9, 2017, Adage Capital Partners, L.P. ("ACP") has shared voting power over 2,613,959 shares and shares dispositive power over 2,613,959 shares. Each of (i) Adage Capital Partners GP, LLC, as general partner of ACP ("ACPGP"), Adage Capital Advisors, LLC, as managing member of ACPGP ("ACA"), (ii) Robert Atchinson as managing member of ACA, and (iii) Phillip Gross, as managing member of ACA, may be deemed to beneficially share voting and dispositive power over the shares owned by ACP. ACP's address is 200 Clarendon Street, 52nd floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

As reported on Schedule 13G/A as of December 31, 2016, and filed with the SEC on February 3, 2017, Jennison Associates LLC ("Jennison") has sole voting power over 2,094,088 shares and shared dispositive power of 2,094,088 shares. Jennison furnishes investment advice to several investment companies, insurance separate accounts and institutional clients (the "Jennison Managed Portfolios"). As a result of its role as an investment advisor of the Jennison Managed Portfolios, Jennison may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of the shares of our common stock owned by such Jennison Managed Portfolios. Prudential Financial, Inc. ("Prudential") indirectly owns 100% of the equity interests in Jennison and may, therefore, be deemed to have the power to exercise or to direct the exercise of such voting and/or dispositive power that Jennison may have with respect to our common stock owned by the Jennison Managed Portfolios. Jennison and Prudential did not file a joint Schedule 13G/A, and as such, shares reported as beneficially owned by Jennison on its Schedule 13G/A may also be reported as beneficially owned by Prudential on the 13G/A filed by Prudential. Jennison's business address is 466 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017.

As reported on Schedule 13G/A as of December 31, 2016, and filed with the SEC on January 24, 2017, Prudential has sole voting power over 1,950 shares, shared voting power over 2,094,088 shares, sole dispositive power of 1,950 shares and shared dispositive power of 2,094,088 shares. The shares Prudential may be deemed to beneficially own are held through its parent/subsidiary relationship with Jennison and Quantitative Management Associates LLC. Prudential's filing should not be construed as an admission that Prudential is, for purposes of Section 13 or 16 of the Exchange Act, the beneficial owner of the shares. Prudential's business address is 751 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey, 07102.

Includes 4,092 shares of restricted stock that will not vest within 60 days of March 15, 2017, but which provide (10) Mr. Bates with voting rights and will vest on August 20, 2017. Excludes 17,036 shares underlying restricted stock units that will not vest until February 8, 2018.

Shares acquirable within 60 days include options to purchase 400,350 shares of common stock that are exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2017. Includes 78,500 shares owned by A2L, Ltd, over which Mr. Dunn shares voting and dispositive control, 105,975 shares of common stock owned by Field Rock Partners, Limited Partnership, over which Mr. Dunn shares voting and dispositive controls and 58,218 shares of restricted stock that will not vest within 60 days of March 15, 2017, but which provide Mr. Dunn with voting rights and will vest on August 13, 2017. Excludes 160,000 shares of common stock underlying restricted stock units that will vest (11) ratably on each of February 22, 2018 and February 22, 2019, and 190,324 shares underlying restricted stock units that will vest ratably on each of February 8, 2018, February 8, 2019 and February 8, 2020. Also excludes (i) 232,872 shares of common stock underlying performance restricted stock units that may potentially vest, based upon achievement of performance metrics, on August 13, 2017, (ii) 40,335 shares of common stock underlying performance restricted stock units that may potentially vest, based upon achievement of performance metrics, on February 22, 2019, and (iii) 163,134 shares of common stock underlying performance restricted stock units that may potentially vest, based upon achievement of performance metrics, on February 8, 2020.

Excludes 15,528 shares underlying restricted stock units that vest ratably on each of January 11, 2018, January (12) 11, 2019 and January 11, 2020, as well as 17,036 shares underlying restricted stock units that will not vest until February 8, 2018.

Includes 4,092 shares of restricted stock that will not vest within 60 days of March 15, 2017, but which provide (13) Mr. Fitzgerald with voting rights and will vest ratably on August 20, 2017. Excludes 17,036 shares underlying restricted stock units that will not vest until February 8, 2018.

(14)

Includes 4,092 shares of restricted stock that will not vest within 60 days of March 15, 2017, but which provide Mr. McNease with voting rights and will vest ratably on August 20, 2017. Excludes 17,036 shares underlying restricted stock units that will not vest until February 8, 2018.

(15) Includes 3,114,613 shares that Mr. Noonan may be deemed to beneficially own through his indirect ownership and position as founding shareholder Partner of 4D. Mr. Noonan expressly disclaims beneficial ownership of these securities, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein. Includes 4,092 shares of restricted stock that will not vest within 60 days of March 15, 2017, but which provide Mr. Noonan with voting rights and will vest ratably on August 20, 2017. Excludes 17,036 shares underlying restricted stock units that will not vest until February 8, 2018.

Shares acquirable within 60 days includes options to purchase 157,000 shares of common stock that are exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2017. Includes 28,781 shares of restricted stock that will not vest within 60 days of March 15, 2017, but which provide Mr. Choyce with voting rights and will vest on August 13, 2017. Excludes 73,334 shares of common stock underlying restricted stock units that will vest ratably on each of (16) February 22, 2018 and February 22, 2019, and 79,459 shares underlying restricted stock units that will vest ratably on each of February 8, 2018, February 8, 2019 and February 8, 2020. Also excludes (i) 115,124 shares of common stock underlying performance restricted stock units that may potentially vest, based upon achievement of performance metrics, on August 13, 2017, (ii) 18,495 shares of common stock underlying performance restricted stock units that may potentially vest, based upon achievement of performance metrics, on February 22,

2019 and (iii) 68,108 shares underlying performance restricted stock units that may potentially vest, based upon achievement of performance metrics, on February 8, 2020.

- (17) Includes 12,872 shares of restricted stock that will not vest within 60 days of March 15, 2017, but which provide Mr. Menefee with voting rights and will vest on August 13, 2017. Excludes 20,000 shares of common stock underlying restricted stock units that will vest ratably on each of February 22, 2018 and February 22, 2019, and 29,317 shares underlying restricted stock units that will vest ratably on each of February 8, 2018, February 8, 2019 and February 8, 2020. Also excludes (i) 51,488 shares of common stock underlying performance restricted stock units that may potentially vest, based upon achievement of performance metrics, on August 13, 2017, (ii) 5,040 shares of common stock underlying performance restricted stock units that may potentially vest, based upon achievement of performance metrics, on February 22, 2019 and (iii) 25,042 shares underlying performance restricted stock units that may potentially vest, based upon achievement of performance metrics, on February 8, 2020.
- (18) Shares acquirable within 60 days includes options to purchase 119,320 shares of common stock that are exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2017.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Our executive officers serve at the discretion of our Board. The following table sets forth certain information as of the date of this Proxy Statement regarding our executive officers:

| Name                   | Age | Position  |
|------------------------|-----|---|
| Byron A. Dunn          | 59  | President and Chief Executive Officer                 |
| Philip A. Choyce       | 50  | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  |
| Philip A. Dalrymple    | 37  | Vice President - Operations                           |
| Michael J. Harwell     | 48  | Vice President - Finance and Chief Accounting Officer |
| Christopher K. Menefee | 39  | Vice President - Business Development                 |
| Aaron W. Mueller       | 38  | Vice President - HSE                                  |

There are no family relationships among any of our directors and executive officers.

The following biographies describe the business experience of our executive officers.

Byron A. Dunn, Director and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Dunn is one of our original founders and has served as our Chief Executive Officer and a director since our inception in 2011, as well as our President since June 2016. From 2007 to 2010, Mr. Dunn served as a Director, President and Chief Executive Officer of Global Energy Services, Inc., whose drilling group formed the rig manufacturing division of our company upon our formation. From 2010 to 2011, Mr. Dunn served as a director, President and Chief Executive Officer of Erin Energy Corp, a NYSE listed international E&P company with operations in China and Africa. Previously, Mr. Dunn served as Vice President of National Oilwell Varco, Inc. (“NOV”), President of NOV’s 3,500 employee, \$1.0 billion revenue Eastern Hemisphere Rig Solutions Group, chair of the National Oilwell/Varco integration task force and Chairman of the Board of Directors of TTS Marine ASA, an NOV investee company. Mr. Dunn has over 15 years’ experience in investment banking, last serving as Executive Director of the UBS Global Energy and Power Group. Mr. Dunn earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He also holds a CFA charter and is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the Society of Petroleum Engineers and is a Fellow of the National Association of Corporate Directors. He serves on the Board of Directors of Brace Industrial Group and as Chairman of its HSE Committee.

Philip A. Choyce, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Choyce is one of our original founders and has served as our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since August 2016, as our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from March 2012 to August 2016, and as our Senior Vice President and General Counsel from November 2011 until March 2012. From 2009 until 2011, Mr. Choyce was the owner of The Choyce Firm, which provided legal services to domestic and international oil and gas services companies. Mr. Choyce served as the Vice President, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer of Grant Prideco, Inc., one of the world’s largest suppliers of drill pipe and drill bits, from its spinoff into a new public company in 2000 until its sale to National Oilwell Varco in 2008. Prior to joining Grant Prideco, Mr. Choyce was a Senior Associate at Fulbright & Jaworski LLP. Mr. Choyce began his career as a certified public accountant at Ernst & Young LLP. Mr. Choyce graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.B.A. in Accounting, and received his law degree from the University of Texas in Austin.

Philip A. Dalrymple, Vice President-Operations. Mr. Dalrymple has served as our Vice President – Operations since August 2016. Mr. Dalrymple joined us in January 2013, and has served in increasing roles of responsibility, including Drilling Superintendent from January 2013 until October 2013 and Operations Manager from November 2013 until his promotion to Vice President - Operations. Prior to joining us, Mr. Dalrymple was employed at Rowan Companies, most recently as lead project engineer overseeing construction of offshore drilling rigs from 2010 until 2013. From 2000 until 2010, Mr. Dalrymple served in increasing roles of responsibility in Rowan’s drilling operations, including rig manager and safety specialist. Mr. Dalrymple earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technologies from Texas A&M University – College Station.

Michael J. Harwell, Vice President-Finance and Chief Accounting Officer. Mr. Harwell has served as our Vice President - Finance and Chief Accounting Officer since August 2012. Prior to joining us, Mr. Harwell served from 2005 to 2012 as the Vice President and Corporate Controller for Landry’s, Inc. (“Landry’s”), a restaurant, gaming and entertainment company. Prior to joining Landry’s, Mr. Harwell served as Vice President and Corporate Controller for

NetVersant Solutions, Inc., a Houston based start-up company specializing in high-end network infrastructure projects. Mr. Harwell also held various positions with Nabors Industries, Ltd., a publicly-traded drilling contractor, the most recent of which was Corporate Controller. After graduating from Texas A&M University with a B.B.A. in Accounting, Mr. Harwell, a certified public accountant, joined Ernst & Young LLP and remained with the accounting firm until 1994.

Christopher K. Menefee, Vice President-Business Development. Mr. Menefee has served as our Vice President - Business Development since March 2012. Mr. Menefee began his oilfield career in 1997 at Rowan Companies, Inc. In 2001, Mr. Menefee transferred from the U.S. Gulf of Mexico to Rowan's Land Division where he held field operational roles and was the Health and Safety Manager. Mr. Menefee moved to Rowan's corporate headquarters as the Director of Marketing in 2006. In this role, he was responsible for the marketing, sales and contracting of Rowan's domestic and international rig fleet. Mr. Menefee graduated from The University of Mississippi in Oxford with a B.A. in Psychology. He is a Director of the International Association of Drilling Contractors and is currently Chairman of the IADC Houston Chapter.

Aaron W. Mueller, Vice President-Health, Safety and Environmental. Mr. Mueller has served as our Vice President - Health, Safety and Environmental since February 2013, and Director of Marketing and Sales from August 2012 until February 2013. Prior to joining us, Mr. Mueller served as a driller on both land and offshore rigs with Rowan Companies, Inc., where he began his career as a college roustabout in 2001. Mr. Mueller was named Project Manager of New Builds in 2006 within LeTourneau Drilling Systems, a Rowan Company, where he managed the rig component assembly and delivery for the construction of Rowan's 2000-hp land drilling rigs project. Mr. Mueller also served as Land Drilling Division Safety Manager as well as Corporate Safety Specialist at Rowan Companies plc, where he managed all HSE aspects associated with Rowan's 25-rig land drilling fleet and 30 offshore domestic and international offshore jack-up drilling fleet. Additionally, Mr. Mueller served as the Quality Systems Manager and Global Training Manager responsible for the creation, certification and management of Rowan's global corporate management system. Mr. Mueller is a member of the IADC, the American Petroleum Institute, the Society of Petroleum Engineers and the American Association of Drilling Engineers.

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

As noted above in “About the Annual Meeting-Implications of being an ‘emerging growth company’”, we are currently considered an emerging growth company for purposes of the SEC’s executive compensation disclosure rules. In accordance with such rules, we are required to provide a Summary Compensation Table and an Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End Table, as well as limited narrative disclosures. Further, our reporting obligations extend only to the individuals serving as our chief executive officer, our two other most highly compensated executive officers, and one additional former officer who would have been considered one of our two other most highly compensated executive officers except that he retired from the Company effective June 30, 2016. For the year ended December 31, 2016, our named executive officers (“Named Executive Officers”) were:

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Name                                | Principal Position During 2016                       |
| Byron A. Dunn                       | Chief Executive Officer                              |
| Philip A. Choyce                    | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer |
| Christopher K. Menefee              | Vice President - Business Development                |
| Edward S. Jacob, III <sup>(1)</sup> | Former President and Chief Operating Officer         |

(1) Mr. Jacob retired from the Company effective June 30, 2016.

## Summary Compensation Table

The following table summarizes, with respect to our Named Executive Officers, information relating to the compensation earned for services rendered in all capacities during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014.

| Name and Principal Position   | Year | Salary<br>(\$) <sup>(1)</sup> | Bonus<br>(\$) <sup>(2)</sup> | Non-Equity   |  |   | Total<br>(\$) |
|---|------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------|
|   |      |                               |                              | Incentive<br>Plan<br>Compensation<br>(\$) <sup>(3)</sup> | Stock<br>Awards<br>(\$) <sup>(4)</sup> | Option<br>Awards<br>(\$) <sup>(5)</sup> |               |
| Byron A. Dunn<br>(Chief Executive Officer)  | 2016 | \$464,000                     | \$—                          | \$ 431,282   | \$1,071,521                            | \$ —                                    | \$1,982,403   |
|   | 2015 | \$464,000                     | \$—                          | \$ 185,211   | \$—                                    | \$ —                                    | \$669,089     |
|   | 2014 | \$363,077                     | \$407,321                    | \$ —   | \$3,536,254                            | \$ —                                    | \$4,321,002   |
| Philip A. Choyce<br>(Executive Vice President and<br>Chief Financial Officer)       | 2016 | \$319,000                     | \$—                          | \$ 193,240   | \$491,136                              | \$ —                                    | \$1,012,476   |
|   | 2015 | \$319,000                     | \$—                          | \$ 106,960   | \$—                                    | \$ —                                    | \$445,838     |
|   | 2014 | \$245,769                     | \$195,585                    | \$ —   | \$1,748,240                            | \$ —                                    | \$2,198,694   |
| Christopher K. Menefee <sup>(6)</sup><br>(Vice President - Business<br>Development) | 2016 | \$250,000                     | \$—                          | \$ 86,538  | \$133,935                              | \$ —                                    | \$488,673     |
| Edward S. Jacob, III <sup>(7)</sup><br>(President and Chief Operating<br>Officer)   | 2016 | \$190,077                     | \$—                          | \$ —   | \$38,846                               | \$ —                                    | \$1,783,723   |
|   | 2015 | \$353,000                     | \$—                          | \$ 126,814   | \$—                                    | \$ —                                    | \$479,814     |
|   | 2014 | \$301,923                     | \$297,543                    | \$ —   | \$1,742,699                            | \$ —                                    | \$2,342,165   |

(1) Amounts reflected in this column include total annual salary paid during the applicable fiscal year.

(2) Amounts reflected in this column represent bonuses earned during the applicable year.

Amounts reflected in this column represent performance-based incentive compensation earned under a plan during the applicable year, excluding discretionary components not based on performance criteria and thus reported as bonus.

Amount reflected in this column reflect the value of restricted stock and restricted stock unit awards granted during the applicable fiscal year, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Values represent the fair market value of such restricted stock on the date of grant. Assumptions used in the calculation of these amounts for 2016 are included in Note 8 to our audited financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 filed with the SEC.



(5) All other compensation includes health insurance and life insurance premiums paid by us on behalf of each of the named executive officers. For Mr. Menefee, amounts also include club dues paid by us on his behalf of \$9,100 for the fiscal year ended 2016. For Mr. Jacob, amounts also include a cash retirement payment of \$1,552,000 for the fiscal year ended 2016.

(6) Mr. Menefee was not a Named Executive Officer in 2015 and 2014.

(7) Mr. Jacob began employment with us on February 2, 2013. Mr. Jacob was appointed as our President and Chief Operating Officer in March 2014. Mr. Jacob retired from the Company effective June 30, 2016.

### Bonus Payments and Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation

For 2014, our Board implemented a bonus and incentive compensation program based partially on objective components determined at the beginning of fiscal 2014 and revised metrics determined following completion of the Company's initial public offering, as well as a discretionary component. Due to the bifurcated nature of the program and its discretionary components, all of the components were deemed to be bonus compensation for purposes of the Summary Compensation Table.

For 2015, our Board implemented a bonus and incentive compensation program tied 50% to objective performance measures at the corporate level and 50% tied to achievement of personal objectives. For our Named Executive Officers, the 2015 weighting for corporate objectives for purposes of determining the portion of bonus to be paid with respect to corporate level performance measures were as follows:

| Name                 | 2015 Weighting |                 |             |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
|                      | TRIR           | Adjusted EBITDA | Utilization |
| Byron A. Dunn        | 33%            | 33%             | 33%         |
| Philip A. Choyce     | 20%            | 40%             | 40%         |
| Edward S. Jacob, III | 33%            | 33%             | 33%         |

The entry, target and over-achievement performance objectives and actual performance for each corporate objective measure for 2015 were as follows:

| Bonus Criteria                 | 2015 Criteria |          |          |          |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                | Entry         | Target   | OA       | Actual   |
| Safety (TRIR) <sup>(1)</sup>   | 1.21          | 1.10     | 0.99     | 1.80     |
| Adjusted EBITDA (\$'000s)      | \$20,021      | \$22,246 | \$24,471 | \$25,391 |
| Rig Utilization <sup>(2)</sup> | 69.8%         | 77.6%    | 85.4%    | 76.0%    |

(1) Total Recordable Incidence Rate ("TRIR").

(2) Calculated based upon a 14-rig fleet, including decommissioned rigs and rigs undergoing conversion or upgrade. Target annual bonuses for each of Messrs. Dunn, Choyce and Jacob for the year ended December 31, 2015, were 100%, 70% and 90% of annual base salary, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2015, annual base salaries for Messrs. Dunn, Choyce and Jacob were \$464,000, \$319,000 and \$353,000 respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2015, Messrs. Dunn, Choyce and Jacob were paid cash bonuses equal to \$185,211, \$106,960 and \$126,814, respectively, based upon the Company's performance relative to established objective performance measures set forth in the table above. Although the Board of Directors determined that all or a significant portion of each Named Executive Officer's personal goals were achieved during 2015, considering the significant downturn in market conditions, no portion of the earned personal goal bonus was paid for 2015.

For 2016, our Board implemented a bonus and incentive compensation program tied 50% to objective performance measures at the corporate level and 50% tied to achievement of personal goals.

For our Named Executive Officers, the 2016 weighting for corporate objectives for purposes of determining the portion of bonus to be paid with respect to corporate level performance measures were as follows:

| Name                   | 2016 Weighting |                 | Utilization |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
|                        | TRIR           | Adjusted EBITDA |             |
| Byron A. Dunn          | 33%            | 33%             | 33%         |
| Philip A. Choyce       | 20%            | 40%             | 40%         |
| Christopher K. Menefee | 20%            | 40%             | 40%         |

The entry, target and over-achievement performance objectives and actual performance for each corporate objective measure for 2016 were as follows:

| Bonus Criteria                 | 2016 Criteria |          |          |          |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                | Entry         | Target   | OA       | Actual   |
| Safety (TRIR) <sup>(1)</sup>   | 1.54          | 1.40     | 1.26     | 1.04     |
| Adjusted EBITDA (\$'000s)      | \$16,405      | \$18,228 | \$20,051 | \$16,375 |
| Rig Utilization <sup>(2)</sup> | 58.5%         | 65.0%    | 71.5%    | 66.0%    |

(1) Total Recordable Incidence Rate (“TRIR”).

(2) Calculated based upon a 14-rig fleet, including decommissioned rigs and rigs undergoing conversion or upgrade. For 2016, Mr. Dunn’s established performance goals related to (i) optimization of executive team effectiveness, (ii) participation and development of critical investor relationships, (iii) capital market formation, (iv) review and analysis of strategic opportunities and (v) client growth, including additions of large independent or major E&P customers. For 2016, Mr. Choyce’s established performance goals related to (i) increasing financial liquidity and capital base, (ii) relaxation of bank agreement covenants and identification of additional debt providers, (iii) participation in critical investor meetings and road shows, (iv) talent development for key financial personnel and (v) continued development of internal policies and communications. For 2016, Mr. Menefee’s established personal goals related to (i) achievement of industry leading dayrates, (ii) improvements to the Company’s marketing and sales management systems, (iii) addition of new large independent or major E&P customers and (iv) identification of potential strategic opportunities.

Target annual bonuses for each of Messrs. Dunn, Choyce and Menefee for the year ended December 31, 2016, were 100%, 70%, and 40% of annual base salary, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2016, annual base salaries for Messrs. Dunn, Choyce and Menefee were \$464,000, \$319,000, and \$250,000 respectively. Mr. Jacob retired from the Company effective June 30, 2016, and therefore, was not eligible to receive a bonus for the year ended December 31, 2016.

For the year ended December 31, 2016, Messrs. Dunn, Choyce and Menefee were paid cash bonuses equal to \$431,282, \$193,240 and \$86,538, respectively, based upon the Company’s performance relative to established corporate objective performance measures set forth in the table above, as well as a determination by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors that each of Messrs. Dunn, Choyce and Menefee had satisfied the personal goals established for them by the Board of Directors.

Outstanding Equity Awards at 2016 Fiscal Year-End

The following table sets forth information for each of our Named Executive Officers regarding the number of shares subject to both exercisable and unexercisable stock options and the number of shares of restricted stock, restricted stock units and performance-based restricted stock units that had not vested as of December 31, 2016:

| Name                         | Grant Date | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Option, Exercisable (#) <sup>(1)</sup> | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Option, Unexercisable (#) | Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date | Number of shares or units that have not vested (#) <sup>(2)</sup> | Market value of shares or units of stock that have not vested (\$) <sup>(3)</sup> | Equity incentive plan awards:                                     | Equity incentive plan awards:                                     |
|------------------------------|------------|--|---|---------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|
|                              |            |  |   |                     |                        |   |   | plan market or awards: payout number of value of unearned shares, | plan market or awards: payout number of value of unearned shares, |
| Byron A. Dunn <sup>(5)</sup> | 3/2/2012   | 400,350  | —   | \$ 12.74            | 3/2/2022               | —   | \$—   | —   | \$—   |
|                              | 8/13/2014  | —  | —   | \$—                 | —                      | 58,218  | \$390,061   | 116,436   | \$780,121   |
|                              | 2/22/2016  | —  | —   | \$—                 | —                      | 240,000   | \$1,608,000   | 26,890  | \$180,163   |
| Philip A. Choyce             | 3/2/2012   | 157,000  | —   | \$ 12.74            | 3/2/2022               | —   | \$—   | —   | \$—   |
|                              | 8/13/2014  | —  | —   | \$—                 | —                      | 28,781  | \$192,833   | 57,562  | \$385,665   |
|                              | 2/22/2016  | —  | —   | \$—                 | —                      | 110,000   | \$737,000   | 12,330  | \$82,611  |
| Christopher K. Menefee       | 12/4/2012  | 58,875   | —   | \$ 12.74            | 12/4/2022              | —   | \$—   | —   | \$—   |
|                              | 8/13/2014  | —  | —   | \$—                 | —                      | 12,874  | \$86,256  | 25,744  | \$172,485   |
|                              | 2/22/2016  | —  | —   | \$—                 | —                      | 30,000  | \$201,000   | 3,360   | \$22,512  |
| Edward S. Jacob, III         | 2/1/2013   | 119,320  | —   | \$ 12.74            | 6/30/2017              | —   | \$—   | —   | \$—   |

(1) These stock options were issued under our 2012 Omnibus Incentive Plan and are fully vested.

(2) These shares represent restricted stock awards and restricted stock units issued under our 2012 Omnibus Incentive Plan. The restricted stock awards granted on August 13, 2014 vest on August 13, 2017. The restricted stock units granted on February 22, 2016 vest ratably on each of February 22, 2018 and February 22, 2019.

(3) The market value is based upon the applicable number of shares shown in the table multiplied by \$6.70, the closing market price of our stock on December 31, 2016.

(4) These units represent performance-based restricted stock units issued under our 2012 Omnibus Incentive Plan.

Such awards are subject to a performance period and a performance achievement (either earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (“EBITDA”) or Total Shareholder Return). The performance-based restricted stock units are subject to three-year cliff vesting. The disclosed number of unearned units is based upon a target level of performance achievement.

(5) The stock options attributed to Mr. Dunn are held through limited partnerships over which Mr. Dunn shares voting and dispositive control.

Certain Compensation Matters

Clawback Policy

It is the Company's policy to include in any incentive-based compensation award agreements that any such award or compensation earned thereunder from the Company or an affiliate which is subject to recovery under any law, government regulation or stock exchange listing requirement, will be subject to such deductions and clawback as may be required to be made pursuant to such law, government regulation or stock exchange listing requirement. Such clawbacks include, without limitation, the clawback requirements contained in Section 304 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act.

### Minimum Vesting Periods for Equity Awards

The Company historically has granted equity-based compensation to its executive officers in the form of stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units and performance-based restricted stock units. Awards of stock options, restricted stock and restricted stock units to executive officers vest over a three-year period, with 1/3 of each award vesting on each anniversary of the date of grant. Performance-based equity awards are subject to three-year cliff vesting requirements. Equity awards for directors are subject to one year vesting requirements, except for initial director awards, which vest over a three year period in 1/3 installments on each anniversary of the date of grant.

### Long-Term Incentives tied to Peer Group Relative Performance

Performance-based equity awards granted to the Company's executive officers include awards with performance metrics tied directly to the Company's relative total shareholder return ("TSR") compared to the total shareholder return of a peer group of companies operating in industries substantially aligned with the contract drilling industry in which the Company operations. For 2014 and 2016, the peer group of companies utilized for purposes of measuring relative TSR performance were Helmerich & Payne (HP), Nabors Industries, Ltd (NBR), Patterson-UTI, Inc. (PTEN), Precision Drilling Company (PDS), Pioneer Energy Services, Inc. (PES), Basic Industries, Inc. (BAS), Trinidad Drilling Company (TDG) and C&J Energy Services, Inc. (CJES). No performance-based equity awards were granted to executive officers in 2015.

### Use of Peer Group Benchmarking

For purposes of benchmarking cash and overall compensation for the Company's chief executive officer and other executive officers, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors utilizes compensation data from a peer group of companies compiled by the Company's independent compensation consultants, PMP, as well as survey data from private companies compiled by PMP. For 2016, the peer group of companies utilized for this purpose included the following companies: Patterson-UTI Energy (PTEN), Drill-Quip, Inc. (DRQ), Basic Energy Services, Inc. (BAS), Helix Energy Services, Inc. (HLX), Newpark Resources, Inc. (NR), Pioneer Energy Services Corp (PES), Gulf Island Fabrication Inc. (GIFI), PHX Energy Services Corp (PHX), Callon Petroleum Company (CPE) and Tesco Corporation (TESO).

### Option Exercises and Stock Vested

The following table sets forth information concerning exercises of stock options and vesting of restricted stock for each of our Named Executive Officers during fiscal year 2016:

| Name                                | Option Awards                         |                   | Stock Awards                         |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
|                                     | Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise | Value on Exercise | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting | Value               |
|                                     | (#)                                   | (\$)              | (#)                                  | (\$) <sup>(1)</sup> |
| Byron A. Dunn                       | —                                     | \$                | 58,218                               | \$ 296,912          |
| Philip A. Choyce                    | —                                     | \$                | 28,782                               | \$ 146,788          |
| Christopher K. Menefee              | —                                     | \$                | 12,873                               | \$ 65,652           |
| Edward S. Jacob, III <sup>(2)</sup> | —                                     | \$                | 123,392                              | \$ 670,019          |

(1) Value determined based upon the closing price of our common stock on the applicable vesting date.

(2) Includes shares vested in connection with Mr. Jacob's retirement on June 30, 2016.

#### Employment, Severance or Change in Control Agreements with Named Executive Officers

We have entered into employment agreements with Messrs. Dunn and Choyce. In connection with the completion of our IPO, we amended and restated our employment agreements with each of Messrs. Dunn and Choyce on August 13, 2014. Under the terms of the amended and restated employment agreements, Messrs. Dunn and Choyce are paid annual salaries of \$464,000 and \$319,000, respectively, and are eligible to receive target bonuses, payable at the discretion of the Board equal to 100% and 70%, respectively, of their annual salaries. Each employment agreement is for a term of three years; provided, however, that if neither the Company nor the employee has provided written notice of termination at least one year prior to the scheduled expiration of the then current term of the agreement (the “renewal date”), the employment term automatically extends for one additional year, so as to expire two years from such renewal date.

Mr. Dunn is subject to a non-compete agreement restricting him from competing in the U.S. land contract drilling industry for a period of 36 months following termination of employment. Mr. Choyce is subject to a non-compete agreement restricting him from competing in the U.S. land contract drilling industry for a period of 12 months following termination of employment.

Under their employment agreements, Messrs. Dunn and Choyce are entitled to receive a severance payment in the event their employment is terminated by the Company without “cause” or by the executive for “good reason.” Such severance payments will be payable in a lump sum and will be equal to the following:

- all accrued and unpaid salary and prior fiscal year bonus earned but not paid as of the date of termination;
- a pro rata portion of the executive officer’s target bonus for the fiscal year in which termination of employment occurs;
- and

two (2) times the sum of (x) the executive officer’s annual base salary in effect at the time of termination of employment and (y) the executive officer’s target annual bonus; provided however, if Mr. Dunn’s termination is in connection with a change of control, he will receive three (3) times the sum of (x) his annual base salary in effect at the time of termination of employment and (y) his target annual bonus.

Under the employment agreements, “cause” is deemed to exist if any of the following occurs:

- willful and continued failure to comply with the reasonable written directives of the Company for a period of thirty (30) days after written notice from the Company;
- willful and persistent inattention to duties for a period of thirty (30) days after written notice from the Company, or the commission of acts within employment with the Company amounting to gross negligence or willful misconduct;
- misappropriation of funds or property of the Company or committing any fraud against the Company or against any other person or entity in the course of employment with the Company;
- misappropriation of any corporate opportunity, or otherwise obtaining personal profit from any transaction which is adverse to the interests of the Company or to the benefits of which the Company is entitled;
- conviction of a felony involving moral turpitude
- willful failure to comply in any material respect with the terms of the employment agreement and such non-compliance continues uncured after thirty (30) days after written notice from the Company; or
- chronic substance abuse, including abuse of alcohol, drugs or other substances or use of illegal narcotics or substances, for which the executive officer fails to undertake treatment immediately after requested by the Company or to complete such treatment and which abuse continues or resumes after such treatment period, or possession of illegal narcotics or substances on Company premises or while performing the executive officer’s duties and responsibilities.

Under the employment agreements, “good reason” is deemed to exist if any of the following occurs:

- any action or inaction that constitutes a material breach by the Company of the employment agreement and such action or inaction continues uncured after thirty (30) days following written notice from the executive officer;
- the assignment to the executive officer of any duties inconsistent in any respect with the executive officer’s position (including status, offices, titles and reporting requirements), authority, duties or responsibilities as contemplated by the employment agreement, or any other action by the Company which results in a diminution in such position, authority, duties or responsibilities, excluding for this purpose an isolated, insubstantial and inadvertent action not taken in bad faith and which is remedied by the Company within 30 days of receipt of written notice thereof given by

the executive officer;

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any failure by the Company to comply with the payment provisions of the employment agreement, other than an isolated, insubstantial and inadvertent failure not occurring in bad faith and which is remedied by the Company as soon as reasonable possible, but no later than 30 days after receipt of written notice thereof given by the executive officer;

a change in the geographic location at which the executive officer must perform services to a location more than fifty (50) miles from Houston, Texas or the location at which the executive officer normally performs such services as of the date of the employment agreement; or

in the event a change of control has occurred, the assignment to the executive officer to any position (including status, offices, titles and reporting requirements), authority, duties or responsibilities that are not (A) as a senior executive officer with the ultimate parent company of the entity surviving or resulting from such change of control and (B) substantially identical to the executive officer's position (including status, offices, titles and reporting requirements), authority, duties and responsibilities as contemplated by the employment agreement.

We also entered into a Change of Control Agreement with Mr. Menefee, which provides that if his employment with the Company is terminated by the Company without "cause" or he terminates his employment for "good reason", and such termination is made in contemplation of a change in control, then Mr. Menefee will be entitled to receive a lump sum payment equal to:

- all accrued and unpaid salary and prior fiscal year bonus earned but not paid as of the date of termination;
- a pro rata portion of his target bonus for the fiscal year in which termination of employment occurs; and
- one (1) times the sum of (x) his annual base salary in effect at the time of termination of employment and (y) his target annual bonus.

#### 2012 Omnibus Incentive Plan

Our Board has adopted, and our stockholders have approved, the Independence Contract Drilling 2012 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the "2012 Plan"). Our 2012 Plan provides for the grant of options to purchase our common stock, both incentive options that are intended to satisfy the requirements of Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code and nonqualified options that are not intended to satisfy such requirements, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance stock, performance units, other stock-based awards and certain cash awards.

As of March 15, 2017, we had authorized and reserved for issuance under our 2012 Plan 2,960,241 shares of our common stock, including 147,368 outstanding shares under restricted stock awards, 939,485 shares under restricted stock unit awards, 937,368 shares under performance-based restricted stock unit awards assuming the maximum number of shares are awarded, and 935,720 shares under stock options to purchase our common stock. There are currently 1,693,651 additional shares of common stock available for grant under the 2012 Plan.

Our employees are eligible to receive awards under our 2012 Plan. In addition, (1) the non-employee directors of our Company and (2) the consultants, agents, representatives, advisors and independent contractors who render services to our Company and its affiliates that are not in connection with the offer and sale of our Company's securities in a capital raising transaction and do not directly or indirectly promote or maintain a market for our Company's securities are eligible to receive awards settled in shares of our common stock, other than incentive stock options, under our 2012 Plan.

Our Compensation Committee administers our 2012 Plan with respect to awards to employees, non-employee directors and other non-employee service providers. In administering awards under our 2012 Plan, our Compensation Committee, as applicable, has the power to determine the terms of the awards granted under our 2012 Plan, including the exercise price, the number of shares subject to each award and the exercisability of the awards. The Compensation Committee also has full power to determine the persons to whom and the time or times at which awards will be made and to make all other determinations and take all other actions advisable for the administration of the 2012 Plan.

### Indemnification Agreements

We have also entered into indemnification agreements with all of our directors and our Named Executive Officers. These indemnification agreements are intended to permit indemnification to the fullest extent now or hereafter permitted by the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware. It is possible that the applicable law could change the degree to which indemnification is expressly permitted.

The indemnification agreements cover expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement incurred as a result of the fact that such person, in his or her capacity as a director or officer, is made or threatened to be made a party to any suit or proceeding. The indemnification agreements generally cover claims relating to the fact that the indemnified party is or was an officer, director, employee or agent of us or any of our affiliates, or is or was serving at our request in such a position for another entity. The indemnification agreements also obligate us to promptly advance all reasonable expenses incurred in connection with any claim. The indemnitee is, in turn, obligated to reimburse us for all amounts so advanced if it is later determined that the indemnitee is not entitled to indemnification. The indemnification provided under the indemnification agreements is not exclusive of any other indemnity rights; however, double payment to the indemnitee is prohibited.

We are not obligated to indemnify the indemnitee with respect to claims brought by the indemnitee against us, except for:

- claims regarding the indemnitee's rights under the indemnification agreement;
- claims to enforce a right to indemnification under any statute or law; and
- counter-claims against us in a proceeding brought by us against the indemnitee.

We have also agreed to obtain and maintain director and officer liability insurance for the benefit of each of the above indemnitees. These policies include coverage for losses for wrongful acts and omissions and to ensure our performance under the indemnification agreements. Each of the indemnitees is named as an insured under such policies and provided with the same rights and benefits as are accorded to the most favorably insured of our directors and officers.

## DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

We currently provide independent members of our Board with an annual retainer in the amount of \$35,000 payable in quarterly installments. Each director also receives \$1,500 per Board or committee meeting attended in person and \$1,500 per board or committee meeting attended telephonically. The chairman of the Board is provided with an annual retainer of \$20,000 payable in quarterly installments and the chairman of each Board committee is provided with the following annual retainers payable in quarterly installments: \$15,000 (audit), \$10,000 (compensation) and \$10,000 (nominating and governance). We reimburse directors for travel and lodging expenses incurred in connection with their attendance at meetings.

Independent directors are eligible to receive equity compensation awards under our 2012 Plan.

The following table summarizes, with respect to our directors, information relating to the compensation earned for services rendered in all capacities during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

| Director                        | Fees Earned<br>or<br>Paid in<br>Cash | Stock Awards | Other<br>Compensation | Total      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------|
|                                 | (\$)                                 | (\$)         | (\$)                  | (\$)       |
| Thomas R. Bates, Jr.            | \$ 80,500                            | \$ 70,000    | \$                    | —\$150,500 |
| Matthew D. Fitzgerald           | \$ 71,000                            | \$ 70,000    | \$                    | —\$141,000 |
| Daniel F. McNease               | \$ 72,000                            | \$ 70,000    | \$                    | —\$142,000 |
| Tighe A. Noonan <sup>(1)</sup>  | \$ 45,500                            | \$ 70,000    | \$                    | —\$115,500 |
| Arthur Einav <sup>(1) (2)</sup> | \$ 51,750                            | \$ —         | \$                    | —\$51,750  |

<sup>(1)</sup> Cash fees due to Mr. Noonan and Mr. Einav were assigned to 4D Global Energy Investments plc and Sprott Resource Partnership, respectively.

<sup>(2)</sup> Mr. Einav resigned from the Board in August 2016 and forfeited his 2016 stock awards.

#### REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The information contained in this Audit Committee Report and references in this Proxy Statement to the independence of the Audit Committee members shall not be deemed to be “soliciting material” or to be “filed” with the SEC, nor shall such information be incorporated by reference into any future filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates such information by reference in such filing.

The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to: (1) the integrity of our financial statements, (2) our independent auditor’s qualifications and independence, (3) the performance of our internal audit function and independent auditors, (4) our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, (5) our overall risk profile and (6) such other matters set forth in the charter of the Audit Committee, which was approved by the Board.

Management is responsible for the preparation of the Company’s financial statements and its financial reporting processes, including the systems of internal controls and disclosure controls and procedures. BDO USA, LLP, the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm, is responsible for expressing opinions on the conformity of the Company’s financial statements to generally accepted accounting principles in the United States in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. The Audit Committee’s responsibility is to monitor and oversee these processes.

In connection with these responsibilities, the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed with management and the independent registered public accounting firm the audited consolidated financial statements of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2016. The Audit Committee also discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard No. 61, “Communications with Audit Committees.” In addition, the Audit Committee received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent registered public accounting firm’s communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and the Audit Committee discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm that firm’s independence.

Based on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited consolidated financial statements of the Company be included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Independence Contract Drilling, Inc.

Matthew D. Fitzgerald (Chairman)

Thomas R. Bates, Jr.

Daniel F. McNease

## PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

## General

Our directors are elected annually and serve one-year terms or until their earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal or until their successors have been duly elected and qualified. Based on the recommendations from our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, our Board has nominated Messrs. Thomas R. Bates, Jr., Byron A. Dunn, James D. Crandell, Matthew D. Fitzgerald, Daniel F. McNease and Tighe A. Noonan for election as directors to serve until the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until their successors have been elected and qualified, or until their earlier death, resignation or removal. To be elected as a director, each nominee must receive the affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting.

Each director nominee has consented to being named as a nominee in this Proxy Statement and has indicated a willingness to serve if elected. We have no reason to believe that the director nominees will be unable or unwilling to serve on our Board if elected. However, if a nominee should become unable or unwilling to serve for any reason, proxies may be voted for another person nominated as a substitute by our Board, or our Board may reduce its size. Stockholders may not cumulate their votes in the election of our directors.

Set forth below is background information with respect to our director nominees, as well as certain information regarding their individual experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that led our Board to conclude that they should serve as directors. There are no family relationships among any of our director nominees or executive officers. See “Stock Ownership Information-Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management” for information regarding our current directors’ and director nominees’ holdings of equity securities of the Company.

The following table sets forth the names and ages of our director nominees, the year they first became a director and the positions they hold with the Company as of March 15, 2017:

| Director Nominee      | Position and Offices              | Director Since | Age |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----|
| Thomas R. Bates, Jr.  | Chairman of the Board, Director   | 2011           | 67  |
| Byron A. Dunn         | Chief Executive Officer, Director | 2011           | 59  |
| James D. Crandell     | Director                          | 2017           | 63  |
| Matthew D. Fitzgerald | Director                          | 2012           | 59  |
| Daniel F. McNease     | Director                          | 2013           | 65  |
| Tighe A. Noonan       | Director                          | 2011           | 60  |

In evaluating director candidates, we assess whether a candidate possesses the integrity, judgment, knowledge, experience, skills and expertise that are likely to enhance the Board’s ability to manage and direct our affairs and business, including, when applicable, to enhance the ability of the committees of the Board to fulfill their duties. Our Board believes that each director nominee is highly qualified to serve as a member of our Board and that, through their varying backgrounds, these individuals bring a wealth of experiences and new ideas to our Board. Our directors have diverse backgrounds and talents and extensive track records of success in what we believe are highly relevant positions in major enterprises. All of our director nominees have worked for, or served on the boards of directors of, a variety of companies in a wide range of industries. Each director nominee also contributes intangible qualities such as critical thinking, industry knowledge, and historical knowledge of our business that, taken together, provide us with the variety and depth of knowledge necessary for effective oversight, direction and vision for the Company.

### Director Biographies and Qualifications

Described below are the principal occupations and positions and directorships for at least the past five years of our current directors and director nominees, as well as certain additional information regarding their individual experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that led our Board to conclude that each of our directors should serve on the Board. There are no family relationships among any of our directors or executive officers.

Thomas R. Bates, Jr., Ph.D., Chairman of the Board. Dr. Bates has served as our Chairman of the Board since November 2011. Dr. Bates has been an Adjunct Professor and Co-Chair of the Energy MBA Advisory Board in the Neeley School of Business at Texas Christian University, where he has taught courses in energy macroeconomics since January 2011. From January 2010 until December 2012, Dr. Bates was a Senior Advisor to Lime Rock Management LP and was a Managing Director at the private equity firm from October 2001 until December 2009, where he was responsible for global investing in oil service and oil service technology. Before joining Lime Rock, Dr. Bates had 25 years of experience in senior oil service management and operations with Schlumberger Ltd., Weatherford Enterra Inc. and Baker Hughes Inc. Dr. Bates presently serves on the board of directors of TETRA Technologies Inc. and Alacer Gold Corporation and previously served on the board of directors of Hercules Offshore, Inc., NATCO Group, Inc., T-3 Energy Services, Inc., and Reservoir Exploration Technology ASA. Dr. Bates graduated from the University of Michigan with a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering.

Byron A. Dunn, Director and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Dunn is one of our original founders and has served as our Chief Executive Officer and a director since our inception in 2011, as well as our President since June 2016. From 2007 to 2010, Mr. Dunn served as a Director, President and Chief Executive Officer of Global Energy Services, Inc., whose drilling group formed the rig manufacturing division of our company upon our formation. From 2010 to 2011, Mr. Dunn served as a director, President and Chief Executive Officer of Erin Energy Corp, a NYSE listed international E&P company with operations in China and Africa. Previously, Mr. Dunn served as Vice President of National Oilwell Varco, Inc. ("NOV"), President of NOV's 3,500 employee, \$1.0 billion revenue Eastern Hemisphere Rig Solutions Group, chair of the National Oilwell/Varco integration task force and Chairman of the Board of Directors of TTS Marine ASA, an NOV investee company. Mr. Dunn has over 15 years' experience in investment banking, last serving as Executive Director of the UBS Global Energy and Power Group. Mr. Dunn earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He also holds a CFA charter and is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the Society of Petroleum Engineers and is a Fellow of the National Association of Corporate Directors. He serves on the Board of Directors of Brace Industrial Group and as Chairman of its HSE Committee.

James D. Crandell, Director. Mr. Crandell was appointed to our Board of Directors effective January 4, 2017. Mr. Crandell's career includes serving as Managing Director of Cowen and Company from 2013 until 2016, and as Managing Director of Dahlman Rose from 2011 until its acquisition by Cowen and Company in 2013. Prior to that he served as Managing Director at Barclays Capital plc from 2008 until 2011, and as Managing Director for Lehman Brothers starting in 1999 until its acquisition by Barclays Capital in 2008. From 1981 until 1998, Mr. Crandell held various posts at Salomon Brothers, including managing director, senior oil services analyst, director of U.S. equity research, and global coordinator of equity research. Mr. Crandell currently is a member of the Board of Directors of NOW Inc. (NYSE: DNOW), where he serves on the nominating/corporate governance and compensation committees.

Matthew D. Fitzgerald, Director. Mr. Fitzgerald has served as a director on our Board of Directors since April 2012. Mr. Fitzgerald is now a private investor and volunteer instructor and counselor with SCORE (Service Corp of Retired Executives), an affiliate of the Small Business Administration. From 2009 until July 2013, Mr. Fitzgerald served as President of Total Choice Communications LLC, a wireless retailer in Houston, Texas. Mr. Fitzgerald retired from Grant Prideco, Inc., one of the world's largest suppliers of drill pipe and drill bits, following its acquisition by National Oilwell Varco in 2008. He had served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer beginning in January 2004 and as Treasurer beginning in February 2007. Mr. Fitzgerald held the positions of Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer of Veritas DGC from 2001 until January 2004. Mr. Fitzgerald also served as Vice President and Controller for BJ Services Company from 1989 to 2001. He previously served on the board of directors of Rosetta Resources, Inc. and Maverick Oil and Gas, Inc. Mr. Fitzgerald began his career as a certified public accountant with the accounting firm of Ernst & Whinney. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in

Accounting and a Masters in Accountancy from the University of Florida.

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Daniel F. McNease, Director. Mr. McNease has served as a director on our Board of Directors since April 2013. Mr. McNease served as the Chairman of AXON EP, Inc. from July 2009 until December 2016 and as a Member of the Advisory Board at HitecVision AS from January 2010 until December 2016. From 2007 through 2013, he served as a Director of Dockwise Ltd. From 2004 through 2008, Mr. McNease served as President, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer at Rowan Companies plc (“Rowan”), a provider of land and offshore contract drilling services and a manufacturer of rigs and drilling equipment. In total, Mr. McNease spent 34 years at Rowan, serving as Chief Executive Officer from 2003 to 2008, President from 2002 to 2008 and as Executive Vice President of Rowan and President of its drilling subsidiaries from 1999 to 2002. Mr. McNease is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and the Columbia University Executive Program. He is a member of the International Association of Drilling Contractors.

Tighe A. Noonan, Director. Mr. Noonan has served as a director on our Board of Directors since November 2011. Mr. Noonan is a founding shareholder partner and has served as a Partner of 4D Global Energy Advisors SAS since its formation in 2002, and he has been continuously involved in energy finance since 1982. After 13 years of experience in commercial and investment banking with the Barclays Group (BZW) in New York and Paris, notably in the energy sector, Mr. Noonan joined Société Générale in 1995, where he was Managing Director, Global Head of Oil and Gas Project Finance. Following studies at Swarthmore College (USA), Mr. Noonan received an advanced degree in economics and finance from the Institut d’Etudes Politiques and the University of Grenoble (France). Mr. Noonan presently serves on the board of directors of Finoil SpA, Lampogas SpA, Dulevo International SpA, Aladdin Middle East Ltd., and ORS International Ltd. and certain subsidiaries of the aforementioned. He also serves as Chairman of 4D Global Energy Investments plc, 4D Global Energy Development Capital Fund plc, and 4D Global Energy Development Capital Fund II plc.

#### Stockholder Nominations

No material changes have been made to the procedures by which stockholders may recommend nominees to our board of directors.

**OUR BOARD RECOMMENDS A VOTE “FOR” THE ELECTION  
OF EACH OF THE NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR LISTED ABOVE.**



## INFORMATION REGARDING OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

## Audit and Other Fee Information

Set forth below is a summary of certain fees paid to BDO USA, LLP, (“BDO”) for services related to each of the fiscal years ended December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015.

|                           | Year Ended   |            |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------|
|                           | December 31, |            |
|                           | 2016         | 2015       |
| Audit Fees <sup>(1)</sup> | \$ 347,908   | \$ 295,970 |
| Audit-Related Fees        | —            | —          |
| Tax Fees                  | —            | —          |
| All Other Fees            | —            | —          |
| Total                     | \$ 347,908   | \$ 295,970 |

“Audit Fees” consisted of amounts incurred for services performed in association with our annual financial statement audit, review of financial statements included in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, the filing of our registration (1) statements, including our Form S-8 registration statement, our public offering of common stock in April 2016 and other services normally provided by the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm in connection with regulatory filings or engagements for the fiscal year shown.

Set forth below is a summary of certain fees paid to PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PWC”), our auditors with respect to our 2014 financial statements, for services related to the fiscal years ended December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015.

|                           | Year Ended   |           |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------|
|                           | December 31, |           |
|                           | 2016         | 2015      |
| Audit Fees <sup>(1)</sup> | \$ 115,000   | \$ 20,000 |
| Audit-Related Fees        | —            | —         |
| Tax Fees                  | —            | —         |
| All Other Fees            | —            | —         |
| Total                     | \$ 115,000   | \$ 20,000 |

“Audit Fees” consisted of amounts incurred for services performed in association with our annual financial statement (1) audit, the filing of our registration statements, including our Form S-8 registration statement, our public offering of common stock in April 2016 and other services normally provided by the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm in connection with regulatory filings or engagements for the fiscal year shown.

## Dismissal of Previously Engaged Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

On April 1, 2015, the Company dismissed PWC as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm. This dismissal was approved by the Company’s Audit Committee. PWC’s reports on the Company’s financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 did not contain an adverse opinion or a disclaimer of opinion and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principle. During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 and from January 1, 2015 through April 1, 2015, PWC’s date of dismissal, there were no disagreements between the Company and PWC on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope and procedure, which disagreements, if not resolved to the satisfaction of PWC, would have caused PWC to make reference to the subject matter of the disagreement(s) in their report.

The Company provided PWC with a copy of the above disclosure prior to its filing with the SEC and requested that PWC furnish the Company with a letter addressed to the SEC stating whether or not PWC agrees with the above disclosure, and if not, stating the aspects with which PWC does not agree. A copy of the letter provided by PWC is attached as Exhibit 16.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed April 7, 2015.



#### Engagement of New Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

On April 6, 2015, the Company, at the direction of the Audit Committee, engaged BDO as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm. During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 and from January 1, 2015 through April 6, 2015, BDO's date of engagement, neither the Company nor anyone acting on its behalf consulted BDO with respect to either: (i) the application of accounting principles to a specified transaction, either completed or proposed, or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on the Company's financial statements, and no written report or oral advice was provided by BDO to the Company that BDO concluded was an important factor considered by the Company in reaching a decision as to the accounting, auditing, or financial reporting issue; or (ii) any matter that was the subject of either a disagreement (as defined in Item 304(a)(1)(iv) of Regulation S-K and the related instructions to such item) or a reportable event (as described in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K).

#### Policy on Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Non-Audit Services

The charter of the Audit Committee requires that the Audit Committee pre-approve all audit services and, subject to any applicable exceptions, any permissible non-audit services to be performed for the Company by BDO. The Audit Committee may delegate this authority to one or more members of the Audit Committee and such delegate(s) must present their pre-approval decisions to the Audit Committee at its next meeting. The charter of the Audit Committee also requires that the Audit Committee confirm that BDO is not engaged to perform any of the non-audit services set forth in an exhibit to the Audit Committee charter. The Audit Committee pre-approved 100% of the services described above opposite the captions "Audit Fees," "Audit-Related Fees," "Tax Fees" and "Other Fees."

#### Auditor Appointment for Fiscal 2017

The Audit Committee has appointed BDO as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.

#### Auditor Attendance at the Annual Meeting

A representative from BDO, our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal years ending December 31, 2016 and 2017, is expected to attend the Annual Meeting. The BDO representative will have an opportunity to make a statement at the Annual Meeting and will be available to respond to appropriate questions at the Annual Meeting.

#### OTHER MATTERS FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

As of the date of this Proxy Statement, our Board knows of no matters to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting other than the proposals included in the accompanying notice and described in this Proxy Statement. If any other matter requiring a vote of stockholders arises, including a question of adjourning the Annual Meeting, the persons named as proxies in the accompanying proxy card will have the discretion to vote thereon according to their best judgment of what they consider to be in the best interests of the Company. The accompanying proxy card confers discretionary authority to act with respect to any additional matters that may come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

#### 2016 ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K

A copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 (including the financial statements and the financial statement schedules, if any, but not including exhibits), accompanies this proxy statement. Except for the financial statements included in the 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K that are specifically incorporated by reference herein, the 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K is not incorporated in this proxy statement and is not to be deemed part of this proxy soliciting material.

We have filed our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 with the Securities and Exchange Commission. It is available free of charge at the Securities and Exchange Commission's web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) and our website at [http://icdrilling.investorroom.com/sec\\_filings](http://icdrilling.investorroom.com/sec_filings). Upon written request by a stockholder, we will mail, without charge, a copy of our Form 10-K, including the financial statements and financial statement schedules, if any, but excluding exhibits to the Form 10-K. Exhibits to the Form 10-K are available upon payment of a reasonable fee, which is limited to our expenses in furnishing the requested exhibit. Such requests should be directed by mail to Independence Contract Drilling, Inc., 11601 N. Galayda Street, Houston, TX 77086, Attn: Corporate Secretary or by email at [investor.relations@icdrilling.com](mailto:investor.relations@icdrilling.com).

#### STOCKHOLDER LIST

In accordance with the Delaware General Corporation Law, the Company will maintain at its corporate offices in Houston, Texas, a list of the stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. The list will be open to the examination of any stockholder, for purposes germane to the Annual Meeting, during ordinary business hours for at least ten days before the Annual Meeting.

The Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders,

Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting and the Annual Report

on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 are available at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com).



