

WILLBROS GROUP INC

Form 424B3

January 18, 2008

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Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)  
Registration No. 333-139499

**4,280,714  
SHARES  
WILLBROS GROUP, INC.  
COMMON STOCK**

This prospectus relates to shares of common stock that may be sold by the selling stockholders identified in this prospectus. Of the 4,280,714 shares covered hereby, 3,743,789 are outstanding shares held by the selling stockholders and 536,925 are shares reserved for issuance by us in the event the selling stockholders exercise warrants to purchase shares of common stock. The shares issuable upon exercise of the warrants will become eligible for disposition by the selling stockholders under this prospectus only as the warrants are exercised. The selling stockholders acquired the shares offered by this prospectus in a private placement of our securities. We are registering the offer and sale of the shares to satisfy registration rights we have granted. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares by the selling stockholders. We will receive proceeds from any cash exercise of warrants by the selling stockholders.

The selling stockholders, or their transferees, pledgees, donees or other successors in interest, may sell their shares of common stock by the methods described under Plan of Distribution.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol WG. On January 14, 2008, the last reported sales price for our common stock was \$38.40.

**There are significant risks associated with an investment in our securities. See Risk Factors beginning on page 4.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

The date of this prospectus is January 15, 2008.

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**You should rely only on the information contained in or specifically incorporated by reference into this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. This prospectus may only be used where it is legal to sell these securities. The information in this prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus may only be accurate on the date of those documents.**

**Unless the context otherwise requires, all references in this prospectus to Willbros, the Company, we, us and our refer to Willbros Group, Inc., its consolidated subsidiaries and their predecessors.**

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**WILLBROS GROUP, INC.**

**Our Business**

We are a provider of services primarily to the high growth global energy infrastructure market. In particular, we are a leading service provider to the hydrocarbon pipeline market, having performed work in 59 countries and constructed over 200,000 kilometers of pipelines, which we believe positions us in the top tier of pipeline contractors in the world. We offer a wide range of services to our customers, including engineering, project management, construction services and specialty services, such as operations and maintenance, each of which we offer discretely or in combination as a fully integrated offering.

We offer clients full asset lifecycle services and in some cases we provide the entire scope of services for a project, from front-end engineering and design through project construction, commissioning and ongoing facility operations and maintenance. While our capabilities extend from upstream sources to downstream distribution, our primary end market is the global onshore midstream energy market. In North America, where we currently have over 90 percent of our backlog, our projects include major cross-country and intrastate pipelines that transport natural gas, crude oil and petroleum products; gas gathering systems; gas processing systems; oil and gas production facilities; and modular processing facilities. The balance of our backlog is for projects providing similar services in select overseas locations. Now in our one hundredth year, we serve major natural gas, petroleum and power companies and government entities worldwide.

On November 20, 2007, we acquired all of the outstanding equity interests of Integrated Service Company LLC ( InServ ), a Tulsa, Oklahoma based company, for approximately \$225 million. With the acquisition of InServ, we will significantly expand our service offering to the downstream market providing integrated solutions for turnaround, maintenance and capital projects for the hydrocarbon processing and petrochemical industries.

**Our Executive Offices**

We are incorporated in the Republic of Panama and maintain our headquarters at Plaza 2000 Building, 50th Street, 8th Floor, P.O. Box 0816-01098, Panama, Republic of Panama; our telephone number is +50-7-213-0947. Administrative services are provided to us by our subsidiary, Willbros USA, Inc., whose administrative headquarters are located at 4400 Post Oak Parkway, Suite 1000, Houston, Texas 77027, and whose telephone number is (713) 403-8000. Information contained on our website <http://www.willbros.com>, is not, and you must not consider such information to be, a part of this prospectus.

**Private Placement of Common Stock and Warrants**

In October 2006, we entered into a Securities Purchase Agreement for the issuance and sale of 3,722,360 shares of our common stock, and warrants to purchase an additional 558,354 shares of common stock, in a private placement exempt from registration under Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Rule 506 of Regulation D promulgated thereunder. Each warrant will be exercisable, in whole or in part, until 60 months from the date of issuance. A warrant holder may elect to exercise the warrant (1) by delivery of payment to us of the exercise price of \$19.03 per share, or (2) pursuant to a cashless exercise as defined and provided in the warrant, if a registration statement covering the warrant shares is not available for the resale of the warrant shares. The exercise price is subject to adjustment in certain circumstances, as provided in the warrants. This prospectus covers the resale by the selling stockholders of the shares of common stock previously issued and the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants that were also sold in the private placement.

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**RISK FACTORS**

*Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. In addition to the other information included and incorporated by reference in this prospectus, you should carefully consider the risks described below before purchasing our common stock. If any of the following risks actually occurs, our business, results of operations and financial condition will likely suffer. As a result, the trading price of our common stock may decline, and you might lose part or all of your investment.*

*These are not the only risks and uncertainties we face. Additional risks and uncertainties that we are presently unaware of or currently consider immaterial may also adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.*

**RISKS RELATED TO OUR BUSINESS**

**We may continue to experience losses associated with our prior activities in Nigeria.**

In February 2007, we completed the sale of our Nigerian operations. In August 2007, we and our subsidiary, Willbros International Services (Nigeria) Limited, entered into a Global Settlement Agreement with Ascot Offshore Nigeria Limited ( Ascot ), the purchaser of our Nigerian operations and Berkeley Group Plc, the purchaser's parent company. Among the other matters, the Global Settlement Agreement provided for the payment of an amount in full and final settlement of all disputes between Ascot and us related to the working capital adjustment to the closing purchase price under the February 2007 share purchase agreement. In connection with the sale of our Nigerian operations, we also entered into a transition services agreement, and Ascot delivered a promissory note in favor of us.

The Global Settlement Agreement provided for a settlement in the amount of \$25.0 million, the amount by which we and Ascot agreed to adjust the closing purchase price downward in respect of working capital (the

Settlement Amount ). Under the Global Settlement Agreement, we retained approximately \$13.9 million of the Settlement Amount and credited this amount to the account of Ascot for amounts which were due to us under the transition services agreement and promissory note. Our payment of the balance of the Settlement Amount settled any and all obligations and disputes between Ascot and us in relation to the adjustment to the closing purchase price under the share purchase agreement.

As part consideration for the parties' agreement on the Settlement Amount, Ascot secured with non-Nigerian banks supplemental backstop letters of credit totaling approximately \$20.3 million. In addition, upon the payment of the balance of the Settlement Amount, all of the parties' respective rights and obligations under the indemnification provisions of the share purchase agreement were terminated, except as provided in the Global Settlement Agreement.

We may continue to experience losses or incur expenses subsequent to the sale and disposition of our operations and the Global Settlement Agreement. In particular:

We issued parent company guarantees to our former clients in connection with the performance of our Nigeria contracts. Although the buyer will now be responsible for completing these projects, in varying degrees our guarantees will remain in force until the projects are completed. Indemnities are in place pursuant to which the buyer and its parent company are obligated to indemnify us for any losses we incur on these guarantees. However, we can provide no assurance that we will be successful in enforcing our indemnity rights against the buyer. The guarantees include five projects under which we estimate that, at December 31, 2006, there was aggregate remaining contract revenue of approximately \$374.8 million, and aggregate cost to complete of approximately \$316.0 million. At December 31, 2006, we estimated that only one of the contracts covered by the guarantees was in a loss position and have accrued for such loss in the amount of approximately \$33.2 million on our December 31, 2006 balance sheet.

Although we believe Ascot's provision of supplemental backstop letters of credit has minimized our letter of credit risk, the same difficulties which led to our leaving Nigeria continue to exist. Ascot's continued willingness and ability to perform our former projects in West Africa are important ingredients to further reducing our risk profile in Nigeria and elsewhere in West Africa. As such, it was important

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under the Global Settlement Agreement to receive additional assurances from Ascot related to ongoing projects because of our continuing parent guarantees on those projects. To date, no claims have been made against our parent guarantees. If we are required to resume operations in Nigeria under one or more of our performance guarantees, and are unable to enforce our rights under the indemnity agreement, we may experience losses. Those losses could exceed the amount accrued at December 31, 2006, including losses that we could incur in completing projects that were not considered to be in a loss position as of December 31, 2006 due to additional expenses associated with the start-up and redeployment of our equipment or personnel or a further deterioration of the already challenging operating environment in Nigeria.

Although our current activities in Nigeria are confined to providing transition services to the new owner, we may find it difficult to provide those services to the buyer if we experience high levels of employee turnover or for other reasons. If we are unable to provide adequate transition services or if the buyer is otherwise unable to perform under our contracts that were in effect as of the closing date, we may be required to perform under our parent company guarantees discussed above.

We may experience difficulty redeploying certain equipment to our continuing operations that we previously leased for our Nigeria projects and that was not conveyed to the buyer at closing.

**We have reached agreements in principle with the DOJ and the SEC to settle investigations involving possible violations of the FCPA and possible violations of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. If a final settlement is not approved, our liquidity position and financial results could be materially adversely affected.**

In late December 2004, we learned that tax authorities in Bolivia had charged our Bolivian subsidiary with failure to pay taxes owed, filing improper tax returns and the falsification of tax documents. As a result of our investigation, we determined that J. Kenneth Tillery, then President of WII and the individual principally responsible at that time for our international operations outside of the United States and Canada, was aware of the circumstances that led to the Bolivian charges. Mr. Tillery resigned from the Company on January 6, 2005. In January 2005, our Audit Committee engaged independent outside legal counsel for the purpose of conducting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the Bolivian tax assessment as well as other activities which were previously under the control of Mr. Tillery. The investigations conducted by the Audit Committee and senior management have revealed information indicating that Mr. Tillery, and others who directly or indirectly reported to him, engaged in activities that were and are specifically contrary to established Company policies and possibly the laws of several countries, including the United States. Our investigations determined that some of the actions of Mr. Tillery and other employees or consultants of WII or its subsidiaries may have caused us to violate U.S. securities laws, including the FCPA, and/or other U.S. and foreign laws.

We have voluntarily reported the results of our investigations to both the SEC and the DOJ. We have also voluntarily reported certain potentially improper facilitation and export activities to the United States Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control ( OFAC ), and to the DOJ and to the SEC. The SEC and the DOJ are each conducting their own investigations of actions taken by us and our employees and representatives that may constitute violations of U.S. law. We are cooperating fully with all such investigations.

We have reached agreements in principle to settle the DOJ and the SEC investigations. As a result of the agreements in principle, we have established aggregate reserves relating to these matters of \$32.3 million. The aggregate reserves reflect our estimate of the expected probable loss with respect to these matters, assuming the settlement is finalized. Of the \$32.3 million in aggregate reserves, \$22.0 million, representing the anticipated DOJ fines, was recorded as an operating expense for continuing operations and \$10.3 million, representing anticipated SEC disgorgement of profits and pre-judgment interest, was recorded as an operating expense for discontinued operations.

These settlements in principle are contingent upon the parties' agreement to the terms of final settlement agreements and require final approval from the DOJ and the SEC and confirmation by a federal district court. We can provide no assurance that such approvals will be obtained. If a final resolution is not concluded, we believe it is probable that the DOJ and SEC will seek civil and criminal sanctions against us as well as fines, penalties and

disgorgement. If ultimately imposed, or if agreed to by settlement, such sanctions may exceed the current amount we have estimated and reserved in connection with the settlements in principle.

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In addition, with respect to OFAC's investigation, OFAC and Willbros USA, Inc. have agreed in principle to settle the allegations pursuant to which we will pay a total of \$6,600 as a civil penalty.

**The terms of final settlements with the DOJ and SEC may negatively impact our ongoing operations.**

Upon completion of final settlements with the DOJ and SEC, we expect to be subject to ongoing review and regulation of our business operations, including the review of our operations and compliance program by a government approved independent monitor. The activities of the independent monitor will have a cost to us and may cause a change in our processes and operations, the outcome of which we are unable to predict. In addition, the settlements may impact our operations or result in legal actions against us in countries that are the subject of the settlements. The settlements could also result in third-party claims against us, which may include claims for special, indirect, derivative or consequential damages.

**Our failure to comply with the terms of settlement agreements with the DOJ and SEC would have a negative impact on our ongoing operations.**

Under the settlements in principle with the DOJ and SEC, we expect to be subject to a three-year deferred prosecution agreement and to be permanently enjoined by the federal district court against any future violations of the federal securities laws. Our failure to comply with the terms of the settlement agreements with the DOJ and SEC could result in resumed prosecution and other regulatory sanctions and could otherwise negatively affect our operations. In addition, if we fail to make timely payment of the penalty amounts due to the DOJ and/or the disgorgement amounts specified in the SEC settlement, the DOJ and/or the SEC will have the right to accelerate payment, and demand that the entire balance due be paid immediately. Our ability to comply with the terms of the settlements is dependent on the success of our ongoing compliance program, including:

our supervision, training and retention of competent employees;

the efforts of our employees to comply with applicable law and our Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Compliance Manual and Code of Business Conduct and Ethics; and

our continuing management of our agents and business partners.

**Special risks associated with doing business in highly corrupt environments may adversely affect our business.**

Although we have completed the sale of our operations in Nigeria, our international business operations may continue to include projects in countries where corruption is prevalent. Since the anti-bribery restrictions of the FCPA make it illegal for us to give anything of value to foreign officials in order to obtain or retain any business or other advantage, we may be subject to competitive disadvantages to the extent that our competitors are able to secure business, licenses or other preferential treatment by making payments to government officials and others in positions of influence.

**Our management has concluded that we did not maintain effective internal controls over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004. Moreover, on November 13, 2007 we determined that a material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting exists with respect to management's review of subcontract cost calculations for a project in Canada. We believe that the material weaknesses reported as of December 31, 2006 were eliminated in February 2007 as a result of the sale of our Nigerian assets and operations. However, our inability to remediate these material weaknesses prior to February 2007, our most recent material weakness and any other control deficiencies that we may discover in the future, could adversely affect our ability to report our financial condition and results of operations accurately and on a timely basis. As a result, our business, operating results and liquidity could be harmed.**

As disclosed in our annual reports on Form 10-K for 2006, 2005 and 2004, management's assessment of our internal controls over financial reporting identified several material weaknesses. These material weaknesses led to the restatement of our previously issued consolidated financial statements for fiscal years 2002 and 2003 and the first three quarters of 2004. Although we made progress in executing our remediation plans during 2005 and 2006, including the remediation of three material weaknesses, as of December 31, 2006, management concluded that we



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did not maintain effective internal controls over financial reporting due to the following remaining material weaknesses in internal controls:

Nigeria accounting: During the fourth quarter of 2006, we determined that a material weakness in our internal controls over financial reporting existed related to the Company's management control environment over the accounting for our Nigeria operations. This weakness in management control led to the inability to adequately perform various control functions including supervision over and consistency of inventory management, petty cash disbursements, accounts payable disbursement approvals, account reconciliations, and review of timekeeping records. This material weakness resulted primarily from our inability to maintain a consistent and stable internal control environment over our Nigeria operations in the fourth quarter of 2006.

Nigeria project controls estimate to complete: A material weakness existed related to controls over the Nigeria project reporting. This weakness existed throughout 2006 and is a continuation of a material weakness reported in our 2005 Form 10-K. The weakness primarily impacted one large Nigeria project with a total contract value of approximately \$165 million, for which cost estimates were not updated timely in the fourth quarter of 2006 due to insufficient measures being taken to independently verify and update reliable cost estimates. This material weakness specifically resulted in material changes to revenue and cost of sales during the preparation of our year-end financial statements by our accounting staff prior to their issuance.

Moreover, on November 13, 2007 we determined that a material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting exists with respect to management's review of subcontract cost calculations for a project in Canada. In connection with our efforts to remediate this material weakness, we intend to take a number of actions to strengthen the control environment over our operations in Canada, including the following:

enhance the management review process and hire additional project controllers; and

introduce system upgrades to automate certain processes, which we believe will prevent the omission of previously identified costs.

In 2006, our efforts to strengthen our control environment and correct the material weakness in company level controls over the financial statement close process included:

reviewing and monitoring our accounting department structure and organization, both in terms of size and expertise;

hiring additional senior accounting personnel at our corporate administrative offices;

increasing our supervision of accounting personnel;

recruiting candidates in order to expeditiously fill vacancies in our accounting, finance and project management functions; and

developing documentation and consistent execution of controls over our financial statement close process.

Our efforts during 2006 to improve our control environment in response to the weakness in construction contract management identified at December 31, 2005 included:

initiating efforts to expand operations and accounting supervisory controls over consistency in the project reporting process and documentation for Nigeria contracts through the addition of supervisory personnel; and

developing more standardized documentation related to project management reporting and management review processes.

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We believe that our reported material weaknesses at December 31, 2006 were eliminated in February 2007 upon the sale of our Nigeria assets and operations since those material weaknesses related solely to our operations in that country. However, our inability to remediate these material weaknesses prior to February 2007, our most recent material weakness and any other control deficiencies we identify in the future, could adversely affect our ability to report our financial results on a timely and accurate basis, which could result in a loss of investor confidence in our financial reports or have a material adverse effect on our ability to operate our business or access sources of liquidity. Furthermore, because of the inherent limitations of any system of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of human error, the circumvention or overriding of controls and fraud, even effective internal controls may not prevent or detect all misstatements.

**Our business is highly dependent upon the level of capital expenditures by oil, gas and power companies on infrastructure.**

Our revenue and cash flow are primarily dependent upon major engineering and construction projects. The availability of these types of projects is dependent upon the economic condition of the oil, gas and power industries, specifically, the level of capital expenditures of oil, gas and power companies on infrastructure. Our failure to obtain major projects, the delay in awards of major projects, the cancellation of major projects or delays in completion of contracts are factors that could result in the under-utilization of our resources, which would have an adverse impact on our revenue and cash flow. There are numerous factors beyond our control that influence the level of capital expenditures of oil, gas and power companies, including:

current and projected oil, gas and power prices;

the demand for electricity;

the abilities of oil, gas and power companies to generate, access and deploy capital;

exploration, production and transportation costs;

the discovery rate of new oil and gas reserves;

the sale and expiration dates of oil and gas leases and concessions;

regulatory restraints on the rates that power companies may charge their customers;

local and international political and economic conditions;

the ability or willingness of host country government entities to fund their budgetary commitments; and

technological advances.

**If we are not able to renegotiate our surety bond lines, our ability to operate may be significantly restricted.**

Our bonding company provides surety bonds on a case-by-case basis for projects in North America and requires that we post backstop letters of credit. We are currently negotiating with our bonding company to eliminate the requirement to provide backstop letters of credit, but we can provide no assurance that we will be successful in removing this requirement. If we are unable to obtain surety bonds, or if the cost of obtaining surety bonds is prohibitive, our ability to bid some projects may be adversely affected in the event other forms of performance guarantees such as letters of credit or parent guarantees are deemed insufficient or unacceptable. In addition, the requirement that we post backstop letters of credit reduces the capacity available to us under our credit facility.

**Our international operations are subject to political and economic risks of developing countries.**

Although we recently sold our operations in Nigeria and Venezuela, we have substantial operations in the Middle East (Oman) and anticipate that a significant portion of our contract revenue will be derived from, and a significant portion of our long-lived assets will be located in, developing countries.



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Conducting operations in developing countries presents significant commercial challenges for our business. A disruption of activities, or loss of use of equipment or installations, at any location in which we have significant assets or operations, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Accordingly, we are subject to risks that ordinarily would not be expected to exist to the same extent in the United States, Canada, Japan or Western Europe. Some of these risks include:

civil uprisings, riots and war, which can make it impractical to continue operations, adversely affect both budgets and schedules and expose us to losses;

repatriating foreign currency received in excess of local currency requirements and converting it into dollars or other fungible currency;

exchange rate fluctuations, which can reduce the purchasing power of local currencies and cause our costs to exceed our budget, reducing our operating margin in the affected country;

expropriation of assets, by either a recognized or unrecognized foreign government, which can disrupt our business activities and create delays and corresponding losses;

availability of suitable personnel and equipment, which can be affected by government policy, or changes in policy, which limit the importation of skilled craftsmen or specialized equipment in areas where local resources are insufficient;

government instability, which can cause investment in capital projects by our potential customers to be withdrawn or delayed, reducing or eliminating the viability of some markets for our services;

decrees, laws, regulations, interpretations and court decisions under legal systems, which are not always fully developed and which may be retroactively applied and cause us to incur unanticipated and/or unrecoverable costs as well as delays which may result in real or opportunity costs; and

terrorist attacks such as those which occurred on September 11, 2001 in the United States, which could impact insurance rates, insurance coverages and the level of economic activity, and produce instability in financial markets.

Our operations in developing countries may be adversely affected in the event any governmental agencies in these countries interpret laws, regulations or court decisions in a manner which might be considered inconsistent or inequitable in the United States, Canada, Japan or Western Europe. We may be subject to unanticipated taxes, including income taxes, excise duties, import taxes, export taxes, sales taxes or other governmental assessments which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations for any quarter or year.

These risks may result in a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

**We may be adversely affected by a concentration of business in a particular country.**

Due to a limited number of major projects worldwide, we expect to have a substantial portion of our resources dedicated to projects located in a few countries. Therefore, our results of operations are susceptible to adverse events beyond our control that may occur in a particular country in which our business may be concentrated at that time. Economic downturns in such countries could also have an adverse impact on our operations.

**Our backlog is subject to unexpected adjustments and cancellations and is, therefore, an uncertain indicator of our future earnings.**

We cannot guarantee that the revenue projected in our backlog will be realized or profitable. Projects may remain in our backlog for an extended period of time. In addition, project cancellations or scope adjustments may occur, from time to time, with respect to contracts reflected in our backlog and could reduce the dollar amount of our backlog and the revenue and profits that we actually earn. Many of our contracts have termination for convenience provisions in them, in some cases, without any provision for penalties or lost profits. Therefore, project terminations,

suspensions or scope adjustments may occur from time to time with respect to contracts in our backlog. Finally, poor project or contract performance could also impact our backlog and profits.

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**Our failure to recover adequately on claims against project owners for payment could have a material adverse effect on us.**

We occasionally bring claims against project owners for additional costs exceeding the contract price or for amounts not included in the original contract price. These types of claims occur due to matters such as owner-caused delays or changes from the initial project scope, which result in additional costs, both direct and indirect. Often, these claims can be the subject of lengthy arbitration or litigation proceedings, and it is often difficult to accurately predict when these claims will be fully resolved. When these types of events occur and unresolved claims are pending, we may invest significant working capital in projects to cover cost overruns pending the resolution of the relevant claims. A failure to promptly recover on these types of claims could have a material adverse impact on our liquidity and financial condition.

**Our business is dependent on a limited number of key clients.**

We operate primarily in the oil, gas and power industries, providing construction, engineering and facilities development and operations services to a limited number of clients. Much of our success depends on developing and maintaining relationships with our major clients and obtaining a share of contracts from these clients. The loss of any of our major clients could have a material adverse effect on our operations. Our three largest clients were responsible for 56.9 percent of our backlog at September 30, 2007.

**Our use of fixed-price contracts could adversely affect our operating results.**

A substantial portion of our projects is currently performed on a fixed-price basis. Under a fixed-price contract, we agree on the price that we will receive for the entire project, based upon a defined scope, which includes specific assumptions and project criteria. If our estimates of our own costs to complete the project are below the actual costs that we may incur, our margins will decrease, and we may incur a loss. The revenue, cost and gross profit realized on a fixed-price contract will often vary from the estimated amounts because of unforeseen conditions or changes in job conditions and variations in labor and equipment productivity over the term of the contract. If we are unsuccessful in mitigating these risks, we may realize gross profits that are different from those originally estimated and incur reduced profitability or losses on projects. Depending on the size of a project, these variations from estimated contract performance could have a significant effect on our operating results for any quarter or year. In general, turnkey contracts to be performed on a fixed-price basis involve an increased risk of significant variations. This is a result of the long-term nature of these contracts and the inherent difficulties in estimating costs and of the interrelationship of the integrated services to be provided under these contracts, whereby unanticipated costs or delays in performing part of the contract can have compounding effects by increasing costs of performing other parts of the contract.

**Percentage-of-completion method of accounting for contract revenue may result in material adjustments that would adversely affect our operating results.**

We recognize contract revenue using the percentage-of-completion method on long-term fixed price contracts. Under this method, estimated contract revenue is accrued based generally on the percentage that costs to date bear to total estimated costs, taking into consideration physical completion. Estimated contract losses are recognized in full when determined. Accordingly, contract revenue and total cost estimates are reviewed and revised periodically as the work progresses and as change orders are approved, and adjustments based upon the percentage-of-completion are reflected in contract revenue in the period when these estimates are revised. These estimates are based on management's reasonable assumptions and our historical experience, and are only estimates. Variation of actual results from these assumptions or our historical experience could be material. To the extent that these adjustments result in an increase, a reduction or an elimination of previously reported contract revenue, we would recognize a credit or a charge against current earnings, which could be material.

**Terrorist attacks and war or risk of war may adversely affect our results of operations, our ability to raise capital or secure insurance, or our future growth.**

The continued threat of terrorism and the impact of military and other action, including U.S. military operations in Iraq, will likely lead to continued volatility in prices for crude oil and natural gas and could affect the markets for our operations. In addition, future acts of terrorism could be directed against companies operating both

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outside and inside the United States. Further, the U.S. government has issued public warnings that indicate that pipelines and other energy assets might be specific targets of terrorist organizations. These developments have subjected our operations to increased risks and, depending on their ultimate magnitude, could have a material adverse effect on our business.

### **Our operations are subject to a number of operational risks.**

Our business operations include pipeline construction, fabrication, pipeline rehabilitation services and the operation of heavy equipment. These operations involve a high degree of operational risk. Natural disasters, adverse weather conditions, collisions and operator error could cause personal injury or loss of life, severe damage to and destruction of property, equipment and the environment, and suspension of operations. In locations where we perform work with equipment that is owned by others, our continued use of the equipment can be subject to unexpected or arbitrary interruption or termination. The occurrence of any of these events could result in work stoppage, loss of revenue, casualty loss, increased costs and significant liability to third parties.

The insurance protection we maintain may not be sufficient or effective under all circumstances or against all hazards to which we may be subject. An enforceable claim for which we are not fully insured could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Moreover, we may not be able to maintain adequate insurance in the future at rates that we consider reasonable.

### **We may become liable for the obligations of our joint ventures and our subcontractors.**

Some of our projects are performed through joint ventures with other parties. In addition to the usual liability of contractors for the completion of contracts and the warranty of our work, where work is performed through a joint venture, we also have potential liability for the work performed by our joint ventures. In these projects, even if we satisfactorily complete our project responsibilities within budget, we may incur additional unforeseen costs due to the failure of our joint ventures to perform or complete work in accordance with contract specifications.

We act as prime contractor on a majority of the construction projects we undertake. In our capacity as prime contractor and when acting as a subcontractor, we perform most of the work on our projects with our own resources and typically subcontract only such specialized activities as hazardous waste removal, nondestructive inspection, tank erection, catering and security. However, with respect to EPC and other contracts, we may choose to subcontract a substantial portion of the project. In the construction industry, the prime contractor is normally responsible for the performance of the entire contract, including subcontract work. Thus, when acting as a prime contractor, we are subject to the risk associated with the failure of one or more subcontractors to perform as anticipated.

### **Governmental regulations could adversely affect our business.**

Many aspects of our operations are subject to governmental regulations in the countries in which we operate, including those relating to currency conversion and repatriation, taxation of our earnings and earnings of our personnel, the increasing requirement in some countries to make greater use of local employees and suppliers, including, in some jurisdictions, mandates that provide for greater local participation in the ownership and control of certain local business assets. In addition, we depend on the demand for our services from the oil, gas and power industries, and, therefore, our business is affected by changing taxes, price controls, and laws and regulations relating to the oil, gas and power industries generally. The adoption of laws and regulations by the countries or the states in which we operate that are intended to curtail exploration and development drilling for oil and gas or the development of power generation facilities for economic and other policy reasons, could adversely affect our operations by limiting demand for our services.

Our operations are also subject to the risk of changes in laws and policies which may impose restrictions on our business, including trade restrictions, which could have a material adverse effect on our operations. Other types of governmental regulation which could, if enacted or implemented, adversely affect our operations include:

expropriation or nationalization decrees;

confiscatory tax systems;

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primary or secondary boycotts directed at specific countries or companies;

embargoes;

extensive import restrictions or other trade barriers;

mandatory sourcing and local participation rules;

oil, gas or power price regulation; and

unrealistically high labor rate and fuel price regulation.

Our future operations and earnings may be adversely affected by new legislation, new regulations or changes in, or new interpretations of, existing regulations, and the impact of these changes could be material.

**Our strategic plan relies in part on acquisitions to sustain our growth. Acquisitions of other companies present certain risks and uncertainties.**

Our strategic plan involves growth through, among other things, the acquisition of other companies. Such growth involves a number of risks, including:

inherent difficulties relating to combining previously separate businesses;

diversion of management's attention from ongoing day-to-day operations;

the assumption of liabilities of an acquired business, including both foreseen and unforeseen liabilities;

failure to realize anticipated benefits, such as cost savings and revenue enhancements;

potentially substantial transaction costs associated with business combinations;

difficulties relating to assimilating the personnel, services and systems of an acquired business and to integrating marketing, contracting, commercial and other operational disciplines; and

difficulties in applying and integrating our system of internal controls to an acquired business.

In addition, we cannot assure you that we will continue to locate suitable acquisition targets or that we will be able to consummate any such transactions on terms and conditions acceptable to us. Acquisitions may bring us into businesses we have not previously conducted and expose us to additional business risks that are different than those we have traditionally experienced.

**Our operations expose us to potential environmental liabilities.**

Our U.S. operations are subject to numerous environmental protection laws and regulations which are complex and stringent. We regularly perform work in and around sensitive environmental areas, such as rivers, lakes and wetlands. Significant fines and penalties may be imposed for non-compliance with environmental laws and regulations, and some environmental laws provide for joint and several strict liability for remediation of releases of hazardous substances, rendering a person liable for environmental damage, without regard to negligence or fault on the part of such person. In addition to potential liabilities that may be incurred in satisfying these requirements, we may be subject to claims alleging personal injury or property damage as a result of alleged exposure to hazardous substances. These laws and regulations may expose us to liability arising out of the conduct of operations or conditions caused by others, or for our acts which were in compliance with all applicable laws at the time these acts were performed.

We own and operate several properties in the United States that have been used for a number of years for the storage and maintenance of equipment and upon which hydrocarbons or other wastes may have been disposed or released. Any release of substances by us or by third parties who previously operated on these properties may be



subject to the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act ( CERCLA ), the Resource  
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Compensation and Recovery Act ( RCRA ), and analogous state laws. CERCLA imposes joint and several liability, without regard to fault or the legality of the original conduct, on certain classes of persons who are considered to be responsible for the release of hazardous substances into the environment, while RCRA governs the generation, storage, transfer and disposal of hazardous wastes. Under such laws, we could be required to remove or remediate previously disposed wastes and clean up contaminated property. This could have a significant impact on our future results.

Our operations outside of the United States are oftentimes potentially subject to similar governmental controls and restrictions relating to the environment.

**Our ability to increase our revenues and operating profits is partly dependent on our ability to secure additional specialized pipeline construction equipment, either through lease or purchase. The availability of such equipment in the current market is highly limited.**

Due to the substantial increase in investment in energy-related infrastructure, particularly hydrocarbon transportation, our industry is currently experiencing shortages in the availability of certain specialized equipment essential to the construction of large diameter pipelines. We expect that these shortages will persist or even worsen. If we are unsuccessful in obtaining essential construction equipment on reasonable terms, our growth may be curtailed.

**Our industry is highly competitive, which could impede our growth.**

We operate in a highly competitive environment. A substantial number of the major projects that we pursue are awarded based on bid proposals. We compete for these projects against government-owned or supported companies and other companies that have substantially greater financial and other resources than we do. In some markets, there is competition from national and regional firms against which we may not be able to compete on price. Our growth may be impacted to the extent that we are unable to successfully bid against these companies.

**Our operating results could be adversely affected if our non-U.S. operations became taxable in the United States.**

If any income earned, currently or historically, by Willbros Group, Inc. or its non-U.S. subsidiaries from operations outside the United States constituted income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, and as a result became taxable in the United States, our consolidated operating results could be materially and adversely affected.

**We are dependent upon the services of our executive management.**

Our success depends heavily on the continued services of our executive management. Our management team is the nexus of our operational experience and customer relationships. Our ability to manage business risk and satisfy the expectations of our clients, stockholders and other stakeholders is dependent upon the collective experience and relationships of our management team. In addition, we do not maintain key man life insurance for these individuals. The loss or interruption of services provided by one or more of our senior officers could adversely affect our results of operations.

**It may be difficult to enforce judgments which are predicated on the federal securities laws of the United States against us.**

We are a corporation organized under the laws of the Republic of Panama. In addition, one of our current board members is a resident of Canada. Accordingly:

it may not be possible to effect service of process on non-resident directors in the United States and to enforce judgments against them predicated on the civil liability provisions of the federal securities laws of the United States;

because a substantial amount of our assets are located outside the United States, any judgment obtained against us in the United States may not be fully collectible in the United States; and

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we have been advised that courts in the Republic of Panama will not enforce liabilities in original actions predicated solely on the U.S. federal securities laws.

These factors mean that it may be more costly and difficult for you to recover fully any alleged damages that you may claim to have suffered due to alleged violations of U.S. federal securities laws by us or our management than it would otherwise be in the case of a U.S. corporation.

**Our goodwill may become impaired.**

We have a substantial amount of goodwill following our recent acquisition of InServ. At least annually, we evaluate our goodwill for impairment based on the fair value of each operating unit. This estimated fair value could change if there were future changes in our capital structure, cost of debt, interest rates, capital expenditure levels or ability to perform at levels that were forecasted. These changes could result in an impairment that would require a material non-cash charge to our results of operations.

**RISKS RELATED TO OUR COMMON STOCK**

**Our common stock, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, has from time to time experienced significant price and volume fluctuations. These fluctuations are likely to continue in the future, and you may not be able to resell your shares of common stock at or above the purchase price paid by you.**

The market price of our common stock may change significantly in response to various factors and events beyond our control, including the following:

the risk factors described in this prospectus;

a shortfall in operating revenue or net income from that expected by securities analysts and investors;

changes in securities analysts' estimates of our financial performance or the financial performance of our competitors or companies in our industry generally;

general conditions in our customers' industries; and

general conditions in the securities markets.

**Our stockholder rights plan, articles of incorporation and by-laws may inhibit a takeover, which may adversely affect the performance of our stock.**

Our stockholder rights plan and provisions of our articles of incorporation and by-laws may discourage unsolicited takeover proposals or make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us, which may adversely affect the price that investors might be willing to pay for our common stock. For example, our articles of incorporation and by-laws:

provide for restrictions on the transfer of any shares of common stock to prevent us from becoming a controlled foreign corporation under U.S. tax law;

provide for a classified board of directors, which allows only one-third of our directors to be elected each year;

restrict the ability of stockholders to take action by written consent;

establish advance notice requirements for nominations for election to our Board of Directors; and

authorize our Board of Directors to designate the terms of and issue new series of preferred stock.

We also have a stockholder rights plan which gives holders of our common stock the right to purchase additional shares of our capital stock if a potential acquirer purchases or announces a tender or exchange offer to purchase 15 percent or more of our outstanding common stock. The rights issued under the stockholder rights plan

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would cause substantial dilution to a person or group that attempts to acquire us on terms not approved in advance by our Board of Directors.

**Future sales of our common stock may depress our stock price.**

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the public market or otherwise, either by us, a member of management or a major stockholder, or the perception that these sales could occur, may depress the market price of our common stock and impair our ability to raise capital through the sale of additional equity securities.

**In the event we issue stock as consideration for certain acquisitions, we may dilute share ownership.**

We grow our business organically as well as through acquisitions. One method of acquiring companies or otherwise funding our corporate activities is through the issuance of additional equity securities. If we do issue additional equity securities, such issuances may have the effect of diluting our earnings per share as well as our existing stockholders' individual ownership percentages in our company.

**Our prior sale of common stock, warrants and convertible notes, and our outstanding warrants and convertible notes may lead to further dilution of our issued and outstanding stock.**

On November 20, 2007, we completed an underwritten public offering of 7,906,250 shares of our common stock. In October 2006, we sold 3,722,360 shares of our common stock and warrants to purchase an additional 558,354 shares. The recent issuance of warrants and the prior issuance of \$70.0 million in aggregate principal amount of our 2.75% Convertible Senior Notes due 2024 and \$84.5 million of our 6.5% Senior Convertible Notes due 2012 (the 6.5% Notes ) may cause a significant increase in the number of shares of common stock currently outstanding. In May 2007, we induced the conversion of approximately \$52.5 million in aggregate principal amount of our outstanding 6.5% Notes into a total of 2,987,582 shares of our common stock and may elect to enter into similar transactions in the future. If we agree to induce the conversion of additional convertible notes, we may cause a significant additional increase in the number of shares of common stock currently outstanding.

In August 2006, our stockholders approved an increase in our authorized shares of common stock from 35 million to 70 million shares. The issuance of additional common stock or securities convertible into our common stock would result in further dilution of the ownership interest in us held by existing stockholders. We are authorized to issue, without stockholder approval, one million shares of Class A preferred stock, which may give other stockholders dividend, conversion, voting and liquidation rights, among other rights, which may be superior to the rights of holders of our common stock. Our Board of Directors has no present intention of issuing any such Class A preferred stock, but reserves the right to do so in the future.

**Table of Contents****USE OF PROCEEDS**

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares of our common stock in this offering. The selling stockholders will receive all of the proceeds from this offering. We will receive proceeds from any cash exercise of warrants by the selling stockholders. We will use any such proceeds for general corporate purposes, including capital expenditures and working capital.

**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK  
AND DIVIDEND POLICY**

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol WG. The following table sets forth the high and low sale prices per share for our common stock as reported by the New York Stock Exchange for the periods indicated:

	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>LOW</b>
2005:		
First Quarter	\$24.52	\$18.68
Second Quarter	20.66	10.15
Third Quarter	17.80	14.14
Fourth Quarter	17.73	14.13
2006:		
First Quarter	\$21.23	\$14.46
Second Quarter	24.53	17.38
Third Quarter	19.47	15.00
Fourth Quarter	19.93	14.00
2007:		
First Quarter	\$23.13	\$17.88
Second Quarter	30.63	21.86
Third Quarter	34.48	22.96
Fourth Quarter (through December 12, 2007)	43.53	31.81

Substantially all of our stockholders maintain their shares in street name accounts and are not, individually, stockholders of record. As of September 30, 2007, our common stock was held by 91 holders of record and an estimated 7,000 to 8,000 beneficial owners.

Since 1991, we have not paid any cash dividends on our capital stock, except dividends in 1996 on our outstanding shares of preferred stock, which were converted into shares of common stock on July 15, 1996. We anticipate that we will retain earnings to support operations and to finance the growth and development of our business. Therefore, we do not expect to pay cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Our senior secured credit facility prohibits us from paying cash dividends on our common stock.

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**CAUTIONARY NOTICE REGARDING  
FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus, including the documents that we incorporate by reference, contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus that address activities, events or developments which we expect or anticipate will or may occur in the future, including such things as future capital expenditures (including the amount and nature thereof), oil, gas, gas liquids and power prices, demand for our services, the amount and nature of future investments by governments, expansion and other development trends of the oil, gas and power industries, business strategy, expansion and growth of our business and operations, the outcome of government investigations and legal proceedings and other such matters are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based on assumptions and analyses we made in light of our experience and our perception of historical trends, current conditions and expected future developments as well as other factors we believe are appropriate under the circumstances. However, whether actual results and developments will conform to our expectations and predictions is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. As a result, actual results could differ materially from our expectations. Factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contemplated by our forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the following:

difficulties we may encounter in connection with the recently completed sale and disposition of our Nigeria assets and Nigeria based operations, including without limitation, obtaining indemnification for any losses we may experience if claims are made against any corporate guarantees we provided and which remained in place subsequent to the closing;

the consequences we may encounter if our settlements in principle with the DOJ and the SEC are finalized, including the imposition of civil or criminal fines, penalties, disgorgement of profits, monitoring arrangements, or other sanctions that might be imposed as a result of government investigations;

the consequences we may encounter if our settlements in principle with the DOJ and the SEC are not finalized, including the loss of eligibility to bid for and obtain U.S. government contracts, and other civil and criminal sanctions which may exceed the current amount we have estimated and reserved in connection with the settlements in principle;

the commencement by foreign governmental authorities of investigations into the actions of our current and former employees, and the determination that such actions constituted violations of foreign law;

the dishonesty of employees and/or other representatives or their refusal to abide by applicable laws and our established policies and rules;

adverse weather conditions not anticipated in bids and estimates;

project cost overruns, unforeseen schedule delays, and the application of liquidated damages;

cancellation of projects, in whole or in part;

failing to realize cost recoveries from projects completed or in progress within a reasonable period after completion of the relevant project;

inability to hire and retain sufficient skilled labor to execute our current work, our work in backlog and future work we have not yet been awarded;

inability to execute cost-reimbursable projects within the target cost, thus eroding contract margin but not contract income on the project;

curtailment of capital expenditures in the oil, gas and power industries;

political or social circumstances impeding the progress of our work and increasing the cost of performance;

failure to obtain the timely award of one or more projects;

inability to identify and acquire suitable acquisition targets on reasonable terms;

inability to obtain adequate financing;

inability to obtain sufficient surety bonds or letters of credit;

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loss of the services of key management personnel;

the demand for energy moderating or diminishing;

downturns in general economic, market or business conditions in our target markets;

changes in the effective tax rate in countries where our work will be performed;

changes in applicable laws or regulations, or changed interpretations thereof;

changes in the scope of our expected insurance coverage;

inability to manage insurable risk at an affordable cost;

the occurrence of the risk factors listed elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus; and

other factors, most of which are beyond our control.

Consequently, all of the forward-looking statements made or incorporated by reference in this prospectus are qualified by these cautionary statements and there can be no assurance that the actual results or developments we anticipate will be realized or, even if substantially realized, that they will have the consequences for, or effects on, our business or operations that we anticipate today. We assume no obligation to update publicly any such forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. For a more complete description of the circumstances surrounding the actions of our current and former employees, see Risk Factors beginning on page 4.

**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

**General**

We have 71 million authorized shares of capital stock, consisting of (a) 70 million shares of common stock, par value \$0.05 per share; and (b) 1 million shares of Class A preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

**Common Stock**

As of December 5, 2007 approximately 38,032,660 shares of our common stock were outstanding. All of the outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and non-assessable, and any shares issued upon exercise of the warrants will be fully paid and non-assessable. The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held on all matters voted upon by stockholders, including the election of directors. Holders of our common stock have no right to cumulate their votes in the election of directors. Subject to the rights of any then-outstanding shares of our preferred stock, the holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends as may be declared in the discretion of the board of directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends. We are subject to restrictions on the payment of dividends under the provisions of our senior secured credit facility.

The holders of our common stock are entitled to share equally and ratably in our net assets upon a liquidation or dissolution after we pay or provide for all liabilities, subject to any preferential liquidation rights of any preferred stock that at the time may be outstanding. The holders of our common stock have no preemptive, subscription, conversion or redemption rights. There are no governmental laws or regulations in the Republic of Panama affecting the remittance of dividends, interest and other payments to our nonresident stockholders so long as we continue not to engage in business in the Republic of Panama.

Our articles of incorporation contain restrictions, subject to the determination by the board of directors in good faith and in its sole discretion, on the transfer of any shares of our common stock in order to prevent us from becoming a controlled foreign corporation under United States tax law. See Anti-Takeover Effects of Provisions of our Articles of Incorporation and By-laws.

**Class A Preferred Stock**

As of the date of this prospectus, there were no outstanding shares of our Class A preferred stock; however, the board of directors has reserved for issuance pursuant to our Stockholder Rights Plan described below 35,000 shares of



Series A junior participating preferred stock. Class A preferred stock may be issued from time to time in one or more series, and the board of directors, without further approval of the stockholders, is authorized to fix the dividend rates and terms, conversion rights, voting rights, redemption rights and terms, liquidation preferences,

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sinking fund and any other rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions applicable to each series of Class A preferred stock.

The specific matters that the board of directors may determine include the following:

the designation of each series;

the number of shares of each series;

the rate of any dividends;

whether any dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative;

the terms of any redemption;

the amount payable in the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of our company;

rights and terms of any conversion or exchange;

restrictions on the issuance of shares of the same series or any other series; and

any voting rights.

The purpose of authorizing the board of directors to determine these rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions is to eliminate delays associated with a stockholder vote on specific issuances. The issuance of Class A preferred stock, while providing flexibility in connection with possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could:

decrease the amount of earnings and assets available for distribution to holders of common stock;