

SUPERIOR ENERGY SERVICES INC

Form 424B5

October 15, 2004

Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration Number 333-35286

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
TO PROSPECTUS DATED APRIL 28, 2000**

9,696,627 Shares

Superior Energy Services, Inc.

Common Stock

We are selling to the underwriters 9,696,627 shares of common stock to the public at a price of \$12.25 per share.

Our common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol SPN. The last sale price of our common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on October 14, 2004, was \$12.40.

Investing in our common stock involves risk.

See Risk Factors on page S-7 of this prospectus supplement.

	<u>Per Share</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public offering price	\$ 12.25	\$ 118,783,681
Underwriting discount	\$ 0.55125	\$ 5,345,266
Proceeds, before expenses, to Superior	\$ 11.69875	\$ 113,438,415

The underwriters may also purchase for 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement up to an additional 1,454,494 shares of common stock at a price of \$11.69875 per share to cover over-allotments.

We have entered into a stock purchase agreement with First Reserve Fund VII, Limited Partnership and First Reserve Fund VIII, L.P. to use the net proceeds from the sale of 9,696,627 shares of our common stock to purchase an aggregate of 9,696,627 shares of our common stock from them at a price per share equal to the net proceeds per share that we receive from this offering, before expenses. We will use the net proceeds from any exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option for general corporate purposes.

Delivery of the common stock will be made on or about October 19, 2004.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved these securities or passed on the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Joint Lead Managers

Johnson Rice & Company L.L.C.

Book Runner

Raymond James

**Simmons & Company
International**

The date of this prospectus supplement is October 14, 2004.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Prospectus Supplement Summary</u>	S-1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-7
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-15
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-16
<u>Price Range of Common Stock</u>	S-17
<u>Dividend Policy</u>	S-17
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-18
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-19
<u>Experts</u>	S-19
<u>Notice Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-20
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	S-20

Prospectus

	<u>Page</u>
<u>About this Prospectus</u>	3
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	3
<u>Notice Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	4
<u>The Company</u>	4
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	5
<u>Risk Factors</u>	6
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	9
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	9
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	12
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	13
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	15
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	22
<u>Legal Matters</u>	23
<u>Experts</u>	23

This prospectus supplement is a supplement to the accompanying prospectus that is also a part of this document. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are part of a shelf registration statement that we filed with the SEC. Under the shelf registration process, we may offer from time to time our securities up to an aggregate amount of \$300,000,000, of which this offering is a part. In the accompanying prospectus, we provide you with a general description of the securities we may offer from time to time under our shelf registration statement. In this prospectus supplement, we provide you with specific information about the shares of our common stock that we are selling in this offering. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein include important information about us, our common stock being offered and other information you should know before investing. This prospectus supplement also adds, updates, and changes information contained in the accompanying prospectus. You should read both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as well as the additional information described under **Where You Can Find More Information** before investing in shares of our common stock.

You should rely only on information incorporated by reference or provided in this document or to which we have referred you. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information contained in this document is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of this document.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information from this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, but does not contain all of the information you need to consider in making an investment decision. To understand all of the terms of this offering and for a more complete understanding of our business, you should carefully read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, and the documents incorporated by reference, particularly the section entitled Risk Factors. You should also consult with your own legal and tax advisors. Unless otherwise indicated, this prospectus supplement assumes no exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option. References to we, us, our and similar terms refer to Superior Energy Services, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless the context requires otherwise.

The Company

We are a leading provider of specialized oilfield services and equipment focused on serving the production-related needs of oil and gas companies in the Gulf of Mexico. We believe that we are one of the few companies in the Gulf of Mexico capable of providing the services, tools and liftboats necessary to maintain, enhance and extend offshore producing wells, as well as the plug and abandonment services at the end of their life cycle. We believe that our ability to provide our customers with multiple services and to coordinate and integrate their delivery allows us to maximize efficiency, reduce lead time and provide cost-effective solutions for our customers.

Over the past several years, we have significantly expanded the geographic scope of our operations and the range of production-related services we provide through both internal growth and strategic acquisitions. We have expanded our geographic focus to select international market areas and added complementary product and service offerings to our existing business lines. Currently, we provide a full range of products and services for our customers, including well intervention services, marine services, rental tools and other oilfield services.

We have expanded our well intervention services through our subsidiary SPN Resources, L.L.C. to include acquiring mature, shallow water oil and gas properties in the Gulf of Mexico to provide our customers with a cost-effective alternative to the decommissioning process. Since December 2003, we have acquired interests in 34 offshore blocks containing 46 structures and 267 total wells, of which 143 are productive wells. Our goal in acquiring mature oil and gas properties is to provide additional opportunities for our well intervention services business and increase utilization of liftboats. By performing the work ourselves, we believe we can cost-effectively develop and produce the acquired reserves and partially offset the seasonal and cyclical nature of our business by scheduling work during slower periods. We do not intend to risk any capital by participating in exploratory drilling activities.

Our principal executive offices are located at 1105 Peters Road, Harvey, Louisiana 70058. Our telephone number is (504) 362-4321, and we maintain an Internet site at <http://www.superiorenergy.com> that contains information about our business.

Business Strategy

Our business strategy is to leverage our competitive advantages to maintain our leading position as a provider of a broad range of production services in the Gulf of Mexico, increase asset utilization, and expand our international presence. The key elements of our business strategy are as follows:

Maintain Gulf of Mexico Market Leadership in Key Businesses by Bundling Products and Services. We believe we are the leading provider in the Gulf of Mexico of mechanical wireline, liftboats and plug and abandonment services, and one of the top two providers of rental tools. In addition, we believe we own and operate more coiled tubing units than any other service provider along the Gulf Coast. We plan to maintain our leadership role by continuing to bundle production-related services and tools to existing and potential new customers. We believe that the diversification of our product and service offerings provide us a competitive advantage over other oilfield service companies.

Table of Contents

Bundling products and services affords us opportunities to maximize efficiencies and achieve higher utilization and day rates for our liftboats and assets.

Increase Asset Utilization by Acquiring, Managing and Decommissioning Mature Gulf of Mexico Oil and Gas Properties. Our main objective in acquiring mature oil and gas properties is to provide additional opportunities for our well intervention services and platform management businesses. We will use our production-related assets to maintain, enhance and extend existing production and, at the end of a property's economic life, to plug wells and decommission properties. We plan to acquire older, more mature properties since they regularly need the production-enhancement services we provide. By owning the properties, we will have greater flexibility with respect to scheduling when we perform much of the work, helping increase the utilization of our assets and services during seasonal downtime and at the times we have available assets not being utilized by our traditional customer base.

Continue International Expansion. We plan to continue our international expansion through both internal growth and possible strategic acquisitions. We have focused our efforts on other market areas that are similar to the Gulf of Mexico and provide opportunities for our rental tools and production-related services. Those markets include Mexico, West Africa and the Middle East, in addition to services performed from our existing locations in Australia, Eastern Canada, Scotland, Trinidad and Venezuela. We have increased our international revenue for the past several years primarily through our rental tools segment. During the first six months of 2004, international revenues accounted for approximately 14% of our total revenues. While we are pursuing international opportunities for our liftboats and well intervention businesses, we expect that the international revenue generated by our rental tools segment will grow more rapidly than international revenue from our other segments.

Maintain Balanced Business Mix. We intend to maintain our present balance of product and service offerings among rental tools, well intervention services and liftboats while increasing opportunities to utilize our assets through acquiring mature oil and gas properties. We believe this balance enables us to meet the needs of customers who request bundled services from more than one of our segments, thereby allowing maximum utilization of our assets and enabling us to fulfill other strategies. In addition, we believe that maintaining our strong presence in the rental tools market, which tends to be less cyclical than our other business segments, can help to offset the impact of seasonality or of a downturn in production activity on those segments.

Table of Contents

The Common Stock Offering

Common stock offered	9,696,627 shares
Common stock outstanding after this offering and the repurchase of our common stock from First Reserve Fund VII, Limited Partnership and First Reserve Fund VIII, L.P.(1)	75,087,866 shares
Use of proceeds	We will use the net proceeds of this offering to purchase 9,696,627 shares of our common stock from First Reserve Fund VII, Limited Partnership and First Reserve Fund VIII, L.P. at a price of \$11.69875 per share. We will use the net proceeds from any exercise of the underwriters over-allotment option for general corporate purposes. See Use of Proceeds.
Risk Factors	Investing in our common stock involves risks. You should carefully consider all of the information in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, and the documents we have incorporated by reference. In particular, see Risk Factors on page S-7 of this prospectus supplement.
New York Stock Exchange symbol	SPN

(1) This amount does not include 6,018,113 shares subject to options outstanding that have been granted pursuant to our stock incentive plans.

Table of Contents**Selected Financial Data**

The following table sets forth summary historical consolidated financial data as of and for each of the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, and the six-month periods ended June 30, 2004 and 2003. The data contained in the following table were derived from our audited consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, and from our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements included in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2004. The unaudited financial data includes, in our opinion, all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) that are necessary for a fair presentation of our financial position and results of operations for these periods. Operating results for the six-month period ended June 30, 2004 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2004 or any future periods.

The financial data below should be read together with, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, our historical consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes and the Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation set forth in the above-referenced Form 10-K and Form 10-Q.

	Year Ended December 31,			Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2003	2002	2001	2004	2003
	(Unaudited)				
	(In thousands, except per share data)				
Revenues	\$ 500,625	\$ 443,147	\$ 449,042	\$ 254,004	\$ 252,052
Costs and expenses:					
Cost of services	289,607	258,334	237,355	143,849	144,448
Depreciation, depletion, amortization and accretion	48,853	41,595	33,446	30,651	23,827
General and administrative	94,822	86,197	73,288	49,988	47,378
Total costs and expenses	433,282	386,126	344,089	224,488	215,653
Income from operations	67,343	57,021	104,953	29,516	36,399
Other income (expense):					
Interest expense, net of amounts capitalized	(22,477)	(21,884)	(20,087)	(11,073)	(11,174)
Interest income	209	530	1,892	898	92
Other income	2,762				
Equity in earnings (loss) of affiliates	985	(80)		304	432
Income before income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	48,822	35,587	86,758	19,645	25,749
Income taxes	18,308	13,701	35,571	7,367	9,914
Income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	30,514	21,886	51,187		
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principal, net of income tax expense of \$1,655			2,589		
Net income	\$ 30,514	\$ 21,886	\$ 53,776	\$ 12,278	\$ 15,835

Table of Contents

	Year Ended December 31,			Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2003	2002	2001	2004	2003
	(Unaudited)				
	(In thousands, except per share data)				
Basic earnings per share:					
Earnings before cumulative effect of change in accounting principal	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.74	\$	\$
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principal			0.04		
Earnings per share	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.78	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.21
Diluted earnings per share:					
Earnings before cumulative effect of change in accounting principal	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.73	\$	\$
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principal			0.04		
Earnings per share	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.77	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.21
Weighted average common shares used in computing earnings per share:					
Basic	73,970	72,912	68,545	74,342	73,882
Incremental common shares from stock options	678	960	1,047	723	960
Diluted	74,648	73,872	69,592	75,065	74,842
Other Financial Data:					
EBITDA(1)	\$ 117,181	\$ 98,536	\$ 138,399	\$ 60,471	\$ 60,658
Net cash provided by operating activities	100,240	87,283	89,349	43,799	48,265
Balance Sheet Data (at end of period):					
Property, plant and equipment net	\$427,360	\$418,047	\$345,878	\$431,914	\$415,874
Long-term debt, including current maturities	14,210	13,730	16,727	11,810	13,727
Total stockholder's equity	368,129	335,342	269,576	386,304	352,883

- (1) Earnings before interest, taxes depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) is a non-GAAP financial measurement. We use EBITDA because we believe that such a measurement is a widely accepted financial indicator used by investors and analysts to analyze and compare companies on the basis of operating performance and that this measurement may be used by some investors and others to make informed investment decisions. In addition, EBITDA is used in the financial ratios included in our credit agreement and senior notes indenture. You should not consider it in isolation from or as a substitute for net income or cash flow measures prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or as a measure of profitability or liquidity. EBITDA calculations by one company may not be comparable to EBITDA calculations made by another company. The following

Table of Contents

table provides a reconciliation of net income (a GAAP financial measure) and EBITDA (a non-GAAP financial measure):

	Year Ended December 31,			Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2003	2002	2001	2004	2003
				(Unaudited)	
Net income	\$ 30,514	\$ 21,886	\$ 53,776	\$ 12,278	\$ 15,835
Add:					
Interest, net	22,268	21,354	18,195	10,175	11,082
Income taxes	18,308	13,701	35,571	7,367	9,914
Depreciation and amortization	48,853	41,595	33,446	30,651	23,827
Less:					
Other income	(2,762)				
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle, net			(2,589)		
EBITDA	\$ 117,181	\$ 98,536	\$ 138,399	\$ 60,471	\$ 60,658

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common stock involves significant risks. You should carefully consider the following risk factors before you decide to buy any shares of our common stock. You should also carefully read and consider all of the information we have included, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus before you decide to buy our common stock.

We are subject to the cyclical nature of the oil and gas industry.

Our business depends primarily on the level of activity by the oil and gas companies in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Gulf Coast. This level of activity has traditionally been volatile as a result of fluctuations in oil and gas prices and their uncertainty in the future. The purchases of the products and services we provide are, to a substantial extent, deferrable in the event oil and gas companies reduce capital expenditures. Therefore, the willingness of our customers to make expenditures is critical to our operations. The levels of such capital expenditures are influenced by:

oil and gas prices and industry perceptions of future prices;

the cost of exploring for, producing and delivering oil and gas;

the ability of oil and gas companies to generate capital;

the sale and expiration dates of offshore leases;

the discovery rate of new oil and gas reserves; and

local and international political and economic conditions.

Although activity levels in production and development sectors of the oil and gas industry are less immediately affected by changing prices and as a result, less volatile than the exploration sector, producers generally react to declining oil and gas prices by reducing expenditures. This has in the past and may in the future, adversely affect our business. We are unable to predict future oil and gas prices or the level of oil and gas industry activity. A prolonged low level of activity in the oil and gas industry will adversely affect the demand for our products and services and our financial condition and results of operations.

Our industry is highly competitive.

We compete in highly competitive areas of the oilfield services industry. The products and services of each of our principal industry segments are sold in highly competitive markets, and our revenues and earnings may be affected by the following factors:

changes in competitive prices;

fluctuations in the level of activity in major markets;

an increased number of liftboats in the Gulf of Mexico;

general economic conditions; and

governmental regulation.

We compete with the oil and gas industry's largest integrated and independent oilfield service providers. We believe that the principal competitive factors in the market areas that we serve are price, product and service quality, availability and technical proficiency.

Our operations may be adversely affected if our current competitors or new market entrants introduce new products or services with better features, performance, prices or other characteristics than our products and services. Further, additional liftboat capacity in the Gulf of Mexico would increase competition for that service. Competitive pressures or other factors also may result in significant price competition that could

have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. Finally, competition among oilfield service and equipment providers is also affected by each provider's reputation

S-7

Table of Contents

for safety and quality. Although we believe that our reputation for safety and quality service is good, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to maintain our competitive position.

We may not be able to acquire oil and gas properties to increase our asset utilization.

Our strategy to increase our asset utilization depends on our ability to find, acquire, manage and decommission mature Gulf of Mexico oil and gas properties. Factors that may hinder our ability to acquire these properties include competition, prevailing oil and natural gas prices and the number of properties for sale. Another factor that could hinder our ability to acquire oil and gas properties is our ability to assume additional decommissioning liabilities without posting bonds or providing other financial security to the U.S. Department of Interior, Minerals Management Service, or MMS, or the sellers of these properties, the cost of which may render our proposal unattractive to us or the sellers. In addition, our ability to assume obligations relating to plugging and abandonment liability is currently limited by the terms of our credit facility to the lesser of \$160 million gross future value at any one time in the aggregate or the amount permitted by MMS. In certain instances, the sellers of these properties may have continuing obligations to us that are unsecured, and although we believe these arrangements represent minimal credit risk, we cannot assure you that any seller will not become a credit risk in the future. If we are unable to find and acquire properties meeting our criteria on acceptable terms to us, we will not be able to increase the utilization of our assets and services during seasonal downtime and when we have available equipment not being utilized by our traditional customer base. We cannot assure you that we will be able to locate and acquire such properties.

Estimates of our oil and gas reserves and potential liabilities relating to our oil and gas properties may be significantly incorrect.

We acquire mature oil and gas properties in the Gulf of Mexico on an as is basis and assume all plugging, abandonment, restoration and environmental liability with limited remedies for breaches of representations and warranties. In addition, we acquire these properties without obtaining bonds, other than as required by MMS to secure the plugging and abandonment obligations. Acquisitions of these properties require an assessment of a number of factors beyond our control, including estimates of recoverable reserves, future oil and gas prices, operating costs and potential environmental and plugging and abandonment liabilities. These assessments are complex and inherently imprecise, and, with respect to estimates of oil and gas reserves, require significant decisions and assumptions in the evaluation of available geological, geophysical, engineering and economic data for each reservoir. In addition, since these properties are typically near the end of their economic lives, our operations may be more susceptible to equipment failure or mechanical problems. In connection with these assessments, we perform due diligence reviews that we believe are generally consistent with industry practices. However, our reviews may not reveal all existing or potential problems. In addition, our reviews may not permit us to become sufficiently familiar with the properties to fully assess their deficiencies and capabilities. We may not always discover structural, subsurface, environmental or other problems that may exist or arise.

Actual future production, cash flows, development expenditures, operating and abandonment expenses and quantities of recoverable oil and gas reserves may vary substantially from those estimated by us and any significant variance in these assumptions could materially affect the estimated quantity and value of our proved reserves. Therefore, the risk is that we may overestimate the value of economically recoverable reserves and/or underestimate the cost of plugging wells and abandoning production facilities. If costs of abandonment are materially greater or actual reserves are materially lower than our estimates, they could have an adverse effect on earnings.

We are susceptible to adverse weather conditions in the Gulf of Mexico.

Our operations are directly affected by the seasonal differences in weather patterns in the Gulf of Mexico. These differences may result in increased operations in the spring, summer and fall periods and a decrease in the winter months. The seasonality of oil and gas industry activity as a whole in the Gulf Coast region also affects our operations and sales of equipment. Weather conditions generally result in

Table of Contents

higher activity in the spring, summer and fall months with the lowest activity in winter months. The rainy weather, tropical storms, hurricanes and other storms prevalent in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Gulf Coast throughout the year, such as Hurricane Ivan in September 2004, may also affect our operations. Accordingly, our operating results may vary from quarter to quarter, depending on factors outside of our control. As a result, full year results are not likely to be a direct multiple of any particular quarter or combination of quarters.

As a result of Hurricane Ivan, we sustained a significant amount of service-work downtime and production disruptions. In addition, most of our production remains shut-in due to infrastructure assessments and repairs to platforms located in the South Pass and Mobile Bay area of the Gulf of Mexico. We do not anticipate that our production will return to normal levels until final assessments are made and any necessary repairs are completed during the fourth quarter of 2004.

We depend on key personnel.

Our success depends to a great degree on the abilities of our key management personnel, particularly our Chief Executive Officer and other high-ranking executives. The loss of the services of one or more of these key employees could adversely affect us.

We depend on significant customers.

We derive a significant amount of our revenue from a small number of major and independent oil and gas companies. In 2003, 2002 and 2001, sales to ChevronTexaco accounted for approximately 11%, 12% and 12% of our total revenue, respectively, primarily in our well intervention and other oilfield service segments. Our inability to continue to perform services for a number of our large existing customers, if not offset by sales to new or other existing customers, could have a material adverse effect on our business and operations.

The dangers inherent in our operations and the limits on insurance coverage could expose us to potentially significant liability costs and materially interfere with the performance of our operations.

Our operations are subject to numerous operating risks inherent in the oil and gas industry that could result in substantial losses. These risks include:

fires;

explosions, blowouts, and cratering;

well blowouts;

mechanical problems, including pipe failure;

abnormally pressured formations; and

environmental accidents, including oil spills, gas leaks or ruptures, uncontrollable flows of oil, gas, brine or well fluids, or other discharges of toxic gases or other pollutants.

Our liftboats are also subject to operating risks such as catastrophic marine disaster, adverse weather conditions, collisions and navigation errors.

The occurrence of these risks could result in substantial losses due to personal injury, loss of life, damage to or destruction of wells, production facilities or other property or equipment, or damages to the environment. In addition, certain of our employees who perform services on offshore platforms and vessels are covered by provisions of the Jones Act, the Death on the High Seas Act and general maritime law. These laws make the liability limits established by state workers' compensation laws inapplicable to these employees and instead permit them or their representatives to pursue actions against us for damages for job-related injuries. In such actions, there is generally no limitation on our potential liability.

Table of Contents

Any litigation arising from a catastrophic occurrence involving our services, equipment or oil and gas production operations could result in large claims for damages. The frequency and severity of such incidents affect our operating costs, insurability and relationships with customers, employees and regulators. Any increase in the frequency or severity of such incidents, or the general level of compensation awards with respect to such incidents, could affect our ability to obtain projects from oil and gas companies or insurance. We maintain several types of insurance to cover liabilities arising from our services, including onshore and offshore non-marine operations, as well as marine vessel operations. These policies include primary and excess umbrella liability coverage with limits of \$50 million dollars per occurrence. For our oil and gas operations, we also maintain control of well, operators extra expense and pollution liability coverage, to include our liabilities under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, or OPA. Limits maintained for these operations range from \$20 million to \$35 million per occurrence, depending upon the property insured. We also maintain what we believe is prudent levels of property insurance on our physical assets, including marine vessels, offshore production facilities, and operating equipment. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to maintain adequate insurance in the future at rates we consider reasonable or that our insurance coverage will be adequate to cover future claims that may arise. Successful claims for which we are not fully insured may adversely affect our working capital and profitability. In addition, changes in the insurance industry have generally led to higher insurance costs and decreased availability of coverage. The availability of insurance covering risks we and our competitors typically insure against may decrease, and the insurance that we are able to obtain may have higher deductibles, higher premiums and more restrictive policy terms.

The occurrence of any of these risks could also subject us to clean-up obligations, regulatory investigation, penalties or suspension of operations. Further, our operations may be materially curtailed, delayed or canceled as a result of numerous factors, including:

- the presence of unanticipated pressure or irregularities in formations;
- equipment failures or accidents;
- weather conditions;
- compliance with governmental requirements; and
- shortages or delays in obtaining drilling rigs or in the delivery of equipment and services.

Factors beyond our control affect our ability to market oil and gas.

The availability of markets and the volatility of product prices are beyond our control and represent a significant risk. The marketability of our production depends upon the availability and capacity of gas gathering systems, pipelines and processing facilities. The unavailability or lack of capacity of these systems and facilities could result in the shut-in of producing wells or the delay or discontinuance of development plans for properties. Our ability to market oil and gas also depends on other factors beyond our control, including:

- the level of domestic production and imports of oil and gas;
- the proximity of gas production to gas pipelines;
- the availability of pipeline capacity;
- the demand for oil and natural gas by utilities and other end users;
- the availability of alternate fuel sources;
- state and federal regulation of oil and gas marketing; and
- federal regulation of gas sold or transported in interstate commerce.

If these factors were to change dramatically, our ability to market oil and gas or obtain favorable prices for our oil and gas could be adversely affected.

Table of Contents

We are vulnerable to the potential difficulties associated with rapid expansion.

We have grown rapidly over the last several years through internal growth and acquisitions of other companies. We believe that our future success depends on our ability to manage the rapid growth that we have experienced and the demands from increased responsibility on our management personnel. The following factors could present difficulties to us:

lack of sufficient executive-level personnel;

increased administrative burden; and

increased logistical problems common to large, expansive operations.

If we do not manage these potential difficulties successfully, our operating results could be adversely affected. The historical financial information incorporated herein is not necessarily indicative of the results that would have been achieved had we been operated on a fully integrated basis or the results that may be realized in the future.

Our inability to control the inherent risks of acquiring business could adversely affect our operations.

Acquisitions have been and we believe will continue to be a key element of our business strategy. We cannot assure you that we will be able to identify and acquire acceptable acquisition candidates on terms favorable to us in the future. We may be required to incur substantial indebtedness to finance future acquisitions and also may issue equity securities in connection with such acquisitions. Such additional debt service requirements may impose a significant burden on our results of operations and financial condition. The issuance of additional equity securities could result in significant dilution to our stockholders. We cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully consolidate the operations and assets of any acquired business with our own business. Acquisitions may not perform as expected when the acquisition was made and may be dilutive to our overall operating results. In addition, our management may not be able to effectively manage our increased size or operate a new line of business.

The nature of our industry subjects us to compliance with regulatory and environmental laws.

Our business is significantly affected by state and federal laws and other regulations relating to the oil and gas industry in general, and more specifically with respect to the environment, health and safety, waste management and the manufacture, storage, handling and transportation of hazardous wastes, and by changes in and the level of enforcement of such laws.

The production of oil and gas is subject to regulation under a wide range of local, state and federal statutes, rules, orders and regulations. Federal, state and local statutes and regulations require permits for drilling operations, drilling bonds and plugging and abandonment and reports concerning operations.

Our oil and gas operations are conducted on federal leases that are administered by MMS and are required to comply with the regulations and orders promulgated by MMS under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. MMS regulations also establish construction requirements for production facilities located on federal offshore leases and govern the plugging and abandonment of wells and the removal of production facilities from these leases. Under limited circumstances, MMS could require us to suspend or terminate our operations on a federal lease. MMS also establishes the basis for royalty payments due under federal oil and natural gas leases through regulations issued under applicable statutory authority.

The failure to comply with these rules and regulations can result in substantial penalties. The regulatory burden on the oil and natural gas industry increases our cost of doing business and, consequently, affects our profitability. Our competitors in the oil and natural gas industry are subject to the same regulatory requirements and restrictions that affect our operations.

Our oil and gas operations are also subject to certain requirements under OPA. Under OPA and its implementing regulations, responsible parties, including owners and operators of certain vessels and offshore facilities, are strictly liable for damages resulting from spills of oil and other related substances in

Table of Contents

United States waters, subject to certain limitations. OPA also requires a responsible party to submit proof of its financial ability to cover environmental cleanup and restoration costs that could be incurred in connection with an oil spill. Further, OPA imposes other requirements, such as the preparation of oil spill response plans. In the event of a substantial oil spill originating from one of our facilities, we could be required to expend potentially significant amounts of capital which could have a material adverse effect on our future operations and financial results.

We have potential environmental liabilities with respect to our offshore and onshore operations, including our environmental cleaning services. Certain environmental laws provide for joint and several liabilities for remediation of spills and releases of hazardous substances. These environmental statutes may impose liability without regard to negligence or fault. In addition, we may be subject to claims alleging personal injury or property damage as a result of alleged exposure to hazardous substances. We believe that our present operations substantially comply with applicable federal and state pollution control and environmental protection laws and regulations. We also believe that compliance with such laws has had no material adverse effect on our operations. However, such environmental laws are changed frequently. Sanctions for noncompliance may include revocation of permits, corrective action orders, administrative or civil penalties and criminal prosecution. We are unable to predict whether environmental laws will materially adversely affect our future operations and financial results.

Federal and state laws that require owners of non-producing wells to plug the well and remove all exposed piping and rigging before the well is permanently abandoned significantly affect the demand for our plug and abandonment services. A decrease in the level of enforcement of such laws and regulations in the future would adversely affect the demand for our services and products. In addition, demand for our services is affected by changing taxes, price controls and other laws and regulations relating to the oil and gas industry generally. The adoption of laws and regulations curtailing exploration and development drilling for oil and gas in our areas of operations for economic, environmental or other policy reasons could also adversely affect our operations by limiting demand for our services.

We are unable to predict the level of enforcement of existing laws and regulations, how such laws and regulations may be interpreted by enforcement agencies or court rulings, or whether additional laws and regulations will be adopted. We are also unable to predict the effect that any such events may have on us, our business, or our financial condition.

A terrorist attack or armed conflict could harm our business.

Terrorist activities, anti-terrorist efforts and other armed conflict involving the U.S. may adversely affect the U.S. and global economies and could prevent us from meeting our financial and other obligations. If any of these events occur, the resulting political instability and societal disruption could reduce overall demand for oil and natural gas, potentially putting downward pressure on demand for our services and causing a reduction in our revenues. Oil and gas related facilities could be direct targets of terrorist attacks, and our operations could be adversely impacted if infrastructure integral to customers' operations is destroyed or damaged. Costs for insurance and other security may increase as a result of these threats, and some insurance coverage may become more difficult to obtain, if available at all.

Our oil and gas revenues are subject to commodity price risk.

Our revenues from oil and gas production are increasing. As such, we have an increased market risk exposure in the pricing applicable to our oil and gas production. Considering the historical and continued volatility and uncertainty of prices received for oil and gas production, we have and will continue to enter into hedging arrangements to reduce our exposure to decreases in the prices of natural gas and oil.

Hedging arrangements expose us to risk of significant financial loss in some circumstances including circumstances where:

there is a change in the expected differential between the underlying price in the hedging agreement and actual prices received;

S-12

Table of Contents

our production and/or sales of natural gas are less than expected;

payments owed under derivative hedging contracts typically come due prior to receipt of the hedged month's production revenue; and
the other party to the hedging contract defaults on its contract obligations.

We cannot assure you that the hedging transactions we enter into will adequately protect us from declines in the prices of natural gas and oil. In addition, our hedging arrangements will limit the benefit we would receive from increases in the prices for natural gas and oil.

We will be subject to additional political, economic, and other uncertainties as we expand our international operations.

A key element of our business strategy is to continue our international expansion into international oil and gas producing areas such as Mexico, Trinidad, Venezuela, West Africa, the Middle East, Australia, Eastern Canada and the North Sea. Our international operations are subject to a number of risks inherent in any business operating in foreign countries including, but not limited to:

political, social and economic instability;

potential seizure or nationalization of assets;

increased operating costs;

modification or renegotiating of contracts;

import-export quotas;

currency fluctuations; and

other forms of government regulation which are beyond our control.

Our operations have not yet been affected to any significant extent by such conditions or events, but as our international operations expand, the exposure to these risks will increase. We could, at any one time, have a significant amount of our revenues generated by operating activity in a particular country. Therefore, our results of operations could be susceptible to adverse events beyond our control that could occur in the particular country in which we are conducting such operations. We anticipate that our contracts to provide services internationally will generally provide for payment in U.S. dollars and that we will not make significant investments in foreign assets. To the extent we make investments in foreign assets or receive revenues in currencies other than U.S. dollars, the value of our assets and our income could be adversely affected by fluctuations in the value of local currencies.

Additionally, our competitiveness in international market areas may be adversely affected by regulations, including, but not limited to, regulations requiring:

the awarding of contracts to local contractors;

the employment of local citizens; and

the establishment of foreign subsidiaries with significant ownership positions reserved by the foreign government for local citizens.

We cannot predict what types of the above events may occur.

We might be unable to employ a sufficient number of skilled workers.

The delivery of our products and services require personnel with specialized skills and experience. As a result, our ability to remain productive and profitable will depend upon our ability to employ and retain skilled workers. In addition, our ability to expand our operations depends in part on our ability to increase the size of our skilled labor force. The demand for skilled workers in the Gulf Coast region is high, and the supply is limited. In addition, although our employees are not covered by a collective bargaining

Table of Contents

agreement, the marine services industry has been targeted by maritime labor unions in an effort to organize Gulf of Mexico employees. A significant increase in the wages paid by competing employers or the unionization of our Gulf of Mexico employees could result in a reduction of our skilled labor force, increases in the wage rates that we must pay or both. If either of these events were to occur, our capacity and profitability could be diminished and our growth potential could be impaired.

S-14

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We expect the net proceeds from this offering to be approximately \$113,238,415, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and the estimated expenses of the offering payable by us. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering, before expenses, to purchase an aggregate of 9,696,627 shares of our common stock from First Reserve Fund VII, Limited Partnership and First Reserve Fund VIII, L.P., or the First Reserve Funds. We will use the net proceeds from any exercise of the over-allotment option for general corporate purposes.

Common Stock Ownership of First Reserve Funds

Based on a Schedule 13D/A filed by the First Reserve Funds with the SEC on September 14, 2004, and information provided to us by them, the First Reserve Funds collectively beneficially own 9,773,149 shares, or approximately 13.1%, of our outstanding common stock, assuming exercise of outstanding options. After we purchase our common stock from the First Reserve Funds immediately following the closing of this offering, they will no longer directly own any of our shares of common stock, and will beneficially own 76,522 shares, or approximately 0.1% of our outstanding common stock, underlying options and restricted stock units issued to our directors Ben A. Guill and Joseph R. Edwards, each of whom was designated by the First Reserve Funds.

Stock Purchase Agreement

We have entered into a stock purchase agreement with the First Reserve Funds concurrent with the pricing of this offering, pursuant to which we will purchase 9,696,627 shares of common stock from the First Reserve Funds at a price per share equal to the net proceeds per share that we receive from this offering, before expenses. We anticipate that we will purchase these shares from the First Reserve Funds immediately following the closing of this offering. Immediately upon our acquisition of the shares of common stock from the First Reserve Funds, we will retire the shares acquired from the First Reserve Funds pursuant to Section 243 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, and those shares will be deemed authorized and unissued.

Pursuant to the stock purchase agreement, the First Reserve Funds will terminate the registration rights agreement and stockholders agreement with us. Further, Ben A. Guill and Joseph R. Edwards will tender their resignations as directors of Superior to be effective as of the completion of the offering and the purchase of the shares of common stock from the First Reserve Funds. Our board of directors is in the process of identifying additional qualified, independent individuals to serve on our board.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our unaudited capitalization as of June 30, 2004, on an actual basis and as adjusted to give effect to (1) the sale by us of 9,696,627 shares of common stock and the expenses related to the offering, and (2) the repurchase and subsequent retirement of 9,696,627 shares of common stock from First Reserve Fund VII, Limited Partnership and First Reserve Fund VIII, L.P. as described in Use of Proceeds.

You should read this table along with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements and other financial data incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	As of June 30, 2004	
	Actual	As Adjusted
	(Unaudited) (In thousands)	
Long-term debt, including current maturities	\$ 262,621	\$ 262,621
Stockholders' Equity:		
Preferred Stock, \$.01 par value; 5,000,000 shares authorized, none issued and outstanding		
Common Stock, \$.001 par value; 125,000,000 authorized, 74,499,578 shares issued and outstanding; 74,499,578 shares as adjusted(1)	75	75
Additional paid-in capital	374,066	373,866
Accumulated other comprehensive income	2,892	2,892
Retained earnings	9,271	9,271
Total stockholders' equity	386,304	386,104
Total capitalization	\$ 648,925	\$ 648,725

- (1) This amount does not include 6,018,113 shares subject to options outstanding that have been granted pursuant to our stock incentive plans. As of October 14, 2004, there were 75,087,866 shares issued and outstanding, not including 6,018,113 shares subject to options outstanding that have been granted pursuant to our stock incentive plans.

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK**

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol SPN. The following table sets forth, on a per share basis for the period indicated, the range of high and low sales price of our common stock as reported by the New York Stock Exchange during the periods shown.

	Common Stock	
	High	Low
Fiscal Year 2002:		
First Quarter	\$ 10.88	\$ 7.88
Second Quarter	11.65	9.07
Third Quarter	10.10	5.95
Fourth Quarter	9.03	5.97
Fiscal Year 2003:		
First Quarter	\$ 9.80	\$ 6.80
Second Quarter	11.65	8.30
Third Quarter	10.97	8.40
Fourth Quarter	10.25	8.27
Fiscal Year 2004:		
First Quarter	\$ 10.95	\$ 8.98
Second Quarter	11.30	8.65
Third Quarter	12.93	9.98
Fourth Quarter (through October 14, 2004)	13.40	11.95

On October 14, 2004, the closing price of our common stock as reported by the New York Stock Exchange was \$12.40. On that date, there was approximately 123 holders of record of our common stock.

DIVIDEND POLICY

Our present or future ability to pay dividends is restricted by:

the provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law;

the indenture executed in connection with the outstanding notes of our subsidiary SESI, L.L.C., and guaranteed by us; and

our credit agreement governing our credit facility.

We have not in the past, and do not anticipate paying in the foreseeable future, cash dividends on our common stock. Any payment of cash dividends in the future will depend upon our financial condition, capital requirements and earnings as well as other factors deemed relevant by our board of directors.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

We and the underwriters named below have entered into an underwriting agreement with respect to the shares being offered. Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, the underwriters named below have severally agreed to purchase from us the number of shares of our common stock set forth opposite their names on the table below at the public offering price, less the underwriting discounts and commissions set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement as follows:

Name	Number of Shares
Johnson Rice & Company L.L.C.	4,363,483
Raymond James & Associates, Inc.	3,636,235
Simmons & Company International	1,696,909
Total	9,696,627

The underwriting agreement provides that the underwriters' obligations to purchase shares of the common stock depends on the satisfaction of the conditions contained in the underwriting agreement. The conditions contained in the underwriting agreement include the condition that the representations and warranties made by us to the underwriters are true, that there has been no material adverse change to our condition or in the financial markets and that we deliver to the underwriters customary closing documents. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all of the shares of common stock (other than those covered by the over-allotment option described below) if they purchase any of the shares.

The underwriters propose to offer the shares of common stock to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover of this prospectus supplement. The underwriters may offer the common stock to securities dealers at the price to the public less a concession not in excess of \$0.33 per share. After the shares of common stock are released for sale to the public, the underwriters may vary the offering price and other selling terms from time to time.

We have granted the underwriters an option, exercisable for 30 days from the date of this document, to purchase up to 1,454,494 additional shares at a price of \$11.69875 per share. The underwriters may exercise this option solely to cover over-allotments, if any, made in connection with this offering. If the over allotment option is exercised in full, the underwriters will purchase additional common shares from us in approximately the same proportion as shown in the table above.

The following table summarizes the compensation to be paid to the underwriters by us and the proceeds, before expenses, payable to us.

	Per Share	Total	
		Without Over-Allotment	With Over-Allotment
Public offering price	12.25	118,783,681	136,601,232
Underwriting discount	0.55125	5,345,266	6,147,055
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	11.69875	113,438,415	130,454,177

We estimate our expenses associated with the offering, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be \$200,000.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the federal securities laws, or to contribute to payments that may be required to be made in respect of these liabilities.

We and our officers and directors have agreed that, for a period of 90 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, we and they will not, without the prior written consent of Johnson Rice & Company L.L.C., offer to sell, sell, contract to sell, grant any option to sell, or otherwise dispose of any

Table of Contents

shares of common stock or enter into any derivative transaction with similar effect as a sale of common stock.

The underwriters may engage in over allotment, stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions, penalty bids and passive market making in accordance with Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Over allotment involves syndicate sales in excess of the offering size, which creates a syndicate short position. Covered short sales are sales made in an amount not greater than the number of shares available for purchase by the underwriters under the over allotment option. The underwriters may close out a covered short sale by exercising its over allotment option or purchasing shares in the open market. Naked short sales are sales made in an amount in excess of the number of shares available under the over allotment option. The underwriters must close out any naked short sale by purchasing shares in the open market. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the shares of common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. Penalty bids permit the representatives to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the shares of common stock originally sold by such syndicate member is purchased in a syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions. Penalty bids may have the effect of deterring syndicate members from selling to people who have a history of quickly selling their shares. In passive market making, market makers in the shares of common stock who are underwriters or prospective underwriters may, subject to certain limitations, make bids for or purchases of the shares of common stock until the time, if any, at which a stabilizing bid is made. These stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may cause the price of the shares of common stock to be higher than it would otherwise be in the absence of these transactions.

Johnson Rice & Company L.L.C. and Simmons & Company International have provided investment banking and financial advisory services for us from time to time for which they have received customary fees and expenses.

The indenture governing our outstanding \$200 million of 8 7/8% senior notes due 2011 restricts us from entering into any transaction with any of our affiliates in excess of \$10.0 million unless, among other things, our board of directors receives the written opinion from a nationally recognized investment banking, appraisal or accounting firm that is not our affiliate to the effect that such transaction is fair, from a financial standpoint, to us. The stock purchase agreement among us, First Reserve Fund VII, Limited Partnership and First Reserve Fund VIII, L.P. qualifies as a transaction requiring the delivery of such opinion to our board of directors. Johnson Rice & Company L.L.C. will provide the opinion to our board of directors that the transaction contemplated by such stock purchase agreement is fair, from a financial standpoint, to us.

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for us by Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre, L.L.P., New Orleans, Louisiana. Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for the underwriters by Porter & Hedges, L.L.P., Houston, Texas.

EXPERTS

Our consolidated financial statements and schedule of Superior Energy Services, Inc. and our subsidiaries as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2003, have been incorporated by reference in this registration statement in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The audit report covering the December 31, 2003 financial statements refer to a change in the method of accounting for depreciation on liftboats and the adoption of the provisions of Statement of

Table of Contents

Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 141 and certain provisions of SFAS No. 142 as of July 1, 2001. As of January 1, 2002, the Company adopted the remaining provisions of SFAS No. 142.

NOTICE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and in some of the documents that we incorporate by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are forward-looking statements about our expectations of what may happen in the future. Statements that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements. These statements are based on the beliefs and assumptions of our management and on information currently available to us. Forward-looking statements can sometimes be identified by our use of forward-looking words like anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, intend, may, plan and similar expressions.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Our future results and stockholder value may differ significantly from those expressed in or implied by the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and in the information incorporated in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Many of the factors that will determine these results and values are beyond our ability to control or predict. We caution you that a number of important factors could cause actual results to be very different from and worse than our expectations expressed in or implied by any forward-looking statement. These factors include, but are not limited to, those discussed in Risk Factors on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement.

Our management believes these forward-looking statements are reasonable. However, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which are based only on our current expectations. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and we undertake no obligation to publicly update any of them in light of new information or future events.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You can also obtain information about us at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York, 10005.

We maintain an Internet site at <http://www.superiorenergy.com> that contains information about our business. The information contained at our Internet site is not part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

We have filed a registration statement and related exhibits with the SEC to register the securities offered by this prospectus supplement. The registration statement contains additional information about us and our securities. You may inspect the registration statement and exhibits without charge at the SEC's public reference rooms, and you may obtain copies from the SEC at prescribed rates.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it, which means:

incorporated documents are considered part of the prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus;

we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents; and

information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this incorporated information.

S-20

Table of Contents

We incorporate by reference the following documents that we have filed with the SEC pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 (filed March 12, 2004);

our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended June 30, 2004 (filed August 6, 2004) and March 31, 2004 (filed May 7, 2004);

our current reports on Form 8-K filed October 6, 2004, August 4, 2004 and July 2, 2004;

our definitive proxy statement dated April 16, 2004;

the description of our common stock set forth in our registration statement on Form 8-A/A filed October 29, 1997; and

all documents filed by us with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus supplement and prior to the termination of this offering.

At your request, we will provide you with a free copy of any of these filings (except for exhibits, unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into the filing). You may request copies by writing or telephoning us at:

Superior Energy Services, Inc.

1105 Peters Road
Harvey, Louisiana 70058
Attn: Investor Relations
(504) 362-4321

S-21

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

Superior Energy Services, Inc.

\$300,000,000

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Depositary Shares

Debt Securities

Guarantees of Debt Securities

We may offer and sell from time to time:

common stock;

preferred stock;

depositary shares representing preferred stock;

debt securities; and

guarantees by one or more of our subsidiaries of the payment of debt securities we issue.

We will provide the specific terms and initial public offering prices of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you invest.

We will not use this prospectus to confirm sales of any securities unless it is attached to a prospectus supplement.

We may sell these securities to or through underwriters and also to other purchasers or through agents. The names of any underwriters or agents will be stated in an accompanying prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol SESI. Unless we state otherwise in a prospectus supplement, we will not list any of the securities on any other securities exchange.

See Risk Factors beginning on page 6 for information that you should consider before investing in the securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved these securities or passed on the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is April 28, 2000.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	3
<u>NOTICE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	4
<u>THE COMPANY</u>	4
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	5
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	6
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	9
<u>DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK</u>	9
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK</u>	12
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	13
<u>DIVIDENDS AND OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS</u>	14
<u>REDEMPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	14
<u>VOTING THE PREFERRED STOCK</u>	14
<u>AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION OF THE DEPOSITARY</u>	
<u>AGREEMENT</u>	14
<u>CHARGES OF DEPOSITARY</u>	14
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>	15
<u>RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF DEPOSITARY</u>	15
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	15
<u>SPECIFIC TERMS OF EACH SERIES OF DEBT SECURITIES IN THE</u>	
<u>PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT</u>	16
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	22
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	23
<u>EXPERTS</u>	23

You should rely only on information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of those documents.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission using a shelf registration process. This means:

we may issue any combination of securities covered by this prospectus from time to time;

we will provide a prospectus supplement each time we issue the securities; and

the prospectus supplement will provide specific information about the terms of that offering and also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus.

You should read both this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement together with additional information described below under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You can inspect and copy that information at the public reference rooms of the SEC at its offices located at 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20549, and at its regional offices located at 7 World Trade Center, Suite 1300, New York, New York 10048 and 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1400, Chicago, Illinois 60661. You can call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information about the public reference rooms. The SEC also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding registrants, like us, that file reports with the SEC electronically. The SEC's Internet address is <http://www.sec.gov>.

We maintain an Internet site at <http://www.superiorenergy.com> that contains information about our business. The information contained at our Internet site is not part of this prospectus.

We have filed a registration statement and related exhibits with the SEC to register the securities offered by this prospectus. The registration statement contains additional information about us and our securities. You may inspect the registration statement and exhibits without charge at the SEC's public reference rooms, and you may obtain copies from the SEC at prescribed rates.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it, which means:

incorporated documents are considered part of the prospectus;

we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents; and

information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this incorporated information.

We incorporate by reference the following documents that we have filed with the SEC pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

Our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999 (filed March 30, 2000);

Our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 1999 (filed August 16, 1999);

Our current reports on Form 8-K filed March 22, 2000, April 4, 2000 and April 20, 2000;

Our definitive proxy statement dated June 18, 1999;

The description of our common stock set forth in our registration statement on Form 8-A/ A filed October 29, 1997; and

All documents filed by us with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of this offering.

Table of Contents

At your request, we will provide you with a free copy of any of these filings (except for exhibits, unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into the filing). You may request copies by writing or telephoning us at:

Superior Energy Services, Inc.
1105 Peters Road
Harvey, Louisiana 70058
Attn: Investor Relations
(504) 362-4321

NOTICE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements in this prospectus and in some of the documents that we incorporate by reference in this prospectus are forward-looking statements about our expectations of what may happen in the future. Statements that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements. These statements are based on the beliefs and assumptions of our management and on information currently available to us. Forward-looking statements can sometimes be identified by our use of forward-looking words like anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, intend, may, plan and similar expressions.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Our future results and stockholder value may differ significantly from those expressed in or implied by the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus and in the information incorporated in this prospectus. Many of the factors that will determine these results and values are beyond our ability to control or predict. We caution you that a number of important factors could cause actual results to be very different from and worse than our expectations expressed in or implied by any forward-looking statement. These factors include, but are not limited to, those discussed in Risk Factors beginning on page 6.

Our management believes these forward-looking statements are reasonable. However, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which are based only on our current expectations. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and we undertake no obligation to publicly update any of them in light of new information or future events.

OUR COMPANY

We provide a broad range of specialized oilfield services and equipment to oil and gas companies in the Gulf of Mexico and throughout the Gulf Coast region. These services and equipment include:

well services, including plug and abandonment (P&A) services, coiled tubing services, well pumping and stimulation services, data acquisition services, gas lift services and electric wireline services,

mechanical wireline services,

the rental of liftboats,

the rental of specialized oilfield equipment,

environmental cleaning services,

field management services, and

the manufacture and sale of drilling instrumentation and oil spill containment equipment.

Over the past few years, we have significantly expanded our geographic scope of operations and the range of production related services we provide through both internal growth and strategic acquisitions. In July 1999, we completed the acquisition by merger of Cardinal Holding Corp., and in November 1999, we completed the acquisition of Production Management Companies, Inc., thereby making these companies two of our wholly-owned subsidiaries. These acquisitions firmly established us as a market leader in

Table of Contents

providing most offshore production related services using liftboats as work platforms and allowed us to expand our scope of operations to include offshore platform and property management services.

The decline in drilling and workover activity in the Gulf of Mexico triggered by low oil prices that began in 1998 adversely affected our results of operations for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999. Our operating results are directly tied to industry demand for our services, most of which are performed in the Gulf of Mexico. While we have focused on providing production related services where, historically, demand has not been as volatile as for exploration related services, we expect our operating results to be highly leveraged to industry activity levels in the Gulf of Mexico.

Superior is a Delaware corporation, and the mailing address of our executive offices is 1105 Peters Road, Harvey, Louisiana 70058. Our telephone number is (504) 362-4321.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges:

	Years Ended December 31,				
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	1.23	2.33	2.49	1.18	0.80(1)

(1) Earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges, and fixed charges exceeded earnings by approximately \$2.645 million. For the purpose of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings are defined as:

income from continuing operations before income taxes;

plus fixed charges; and

less capitalized interest.

Fixed charges are defined as the sum of the following:

interest, including capitalized interest, on all indebtedness;

amortization of debt issuance cost; and

that portion of rental expense which we believe to be representative of an interest factor.

On July 15, 1999, we acquired Cardinal Holding Corp. through a merger that resulted in Cardinal becoming one of our wholly owned subsidiaries. However, the merger was treated for accounting purposes as an acquisition of us by Cardinal. Because we were the company being acquired for accounting purposes, our financial information for periods prior to the merger represents the results of Cardinal's operations, and our financial information for periods following the merger represents the results of the operations of the combined companies. Financial information from prior periods is therefore not expected to be indicative of the future results of the combined operations of the companies.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves significant risks. You should carefully consider the following risk factors before you decide to buy any of our securities. You should also carefully read and consider all of the information we have included, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus before you decide to buy any of our securities.

We are in a cyclical industry.

Our business depends in large part on the level of oilfield activity in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Gulf Coast. The level of oil field activity is affected in turn by the willingness of oil and gas companies to make expenditures for the exploration, production and development of oil and natural gas. The purchases of the products and services we provide are, to a substantial extent, deferrable in the event oil and gas companies reduce capital expenditures. Therefore, the willingness of our customers to make expenditures is critical to our operations. The levels of such capital expenditures are influenced by:

oil and gas prices and industry perceptions of future prices,

the cost of exploring for, producing and delivering oil and gas,

the ability of oil and gas companies to generate capital,

the sale and expiration dates of leases in the United States,

the discovery rate of new oil and gas reserves, and

local and international political and economic conditions.

Although the production and development sectors of the oil and gas industry are less immediately affected by changing prices, and, as a result, less volatile than the exploration sector, producers generally react to declining oil and gas prices by reducing expenditures. This has, in the past, and may, in the future, adversely affect our business. We are unable to predict future oil and gas prices or the level of oil and gas industry activity. A prolonged low level of activity in the oil and gas industry will adversely affect the demand for our products and services and our financial condition and results of operations.

We are vulnerable to the potential difficulties associated with rapid expansion.

We have grown rapidly over the last several years through internal growth and acquisitions of other companies. Our future success depends on our ability to manage the rapid growth that we have experienced, and this will demand increased responsibility from our management personnel. The following factors could present difficulties to us:

the lack of sufficient executive-level personnel;

the increased administrative burdens; and

the increased logistical problems common with large, expansive operations.

If we do not manage these potential difficulties successfully, our operating results could be adversely affected. The historical financial information herein is not necessarily indicative of the results that would have been achieved had we been operated on a fully integrated basis or the results that may be realized in the future.

Our inability to control the inherent risks of acquiring businesses could adversely affect our operations.

Acquisitions have been and may continue to be a key element of our business strategy. We cannot assure you that we will be able to identify and acquire acceptable acquisition candidates on terms favorable to us in the future. We may be required to incur substantial indebtedness to finance future acquisitions and also may issue equity securities in connection with such acquisitions. Such additional debt service requirements may impose a significant burden on our results of operations and financial condition. The

Table of Contents

issuance of additional equity securities could result in significant dilution to our stockholders. We cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully consolidate the operations and assets of any acquired business with our own business. Acquisitions may not perform as expected when the acquisition was made and may be dilutive to our overall operating results. In addition, our management may not be able to effectively manage our increased size or operate a new line of business.

We are susceptible to adverse weather conditions in the Gulf of Mexico.

Our operations are directly affected by the seasonal differences in weather patterns in the Gulf of Mexico. These differences may result in increased operations in the spring, summer and fall periods and a decrease in the winter months. The seasonality of oil and gas industry activity as a whole in the Gulf Coast region also affects our operations and sales of equipment. Weather conditions generally result in higher drilling activity in the spring, summer and fall months with the lowest activity in winter months. The rainy weather, hurricanes and other storms prevalent in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Gulf Coast throughout the year may also affect our operations. Accordingly, our operating results may vary from quarter to quarter, depending on factors outside of our control. As a result, full year results are not likely to be a direct multiple of any particular quarter or combination of quarters.

We depend on significant customers.

We derive a significant amount of our revenue from a small number of major and independent oil and gas companies. Our inability to continue to perform services for a number of our large existing customers, if not offset by sales to new or other existing customers, could have a material adverse effect on our business and operations.

Our industry is highly competitive.

We compete in highly competitive areas of the oil field services industry. The products and services of each of our principal industry segments are sold in highly competitive markets, and our revenues and earnings may be affected by the following factors:

changes in competitive prices;

fluctuations in the level of activity and major markets;

an increased number of liftboats in the Gulf of Mexico;

general economic conditions; and

governmental regulation.

We compete with the oil and gas industry's largest integrated oil field services providers. We believe that the principal competitive factors in the market areas that we serve are price, product and service quality, availability and technical proficiency.

Our operations may be adversely affected if our current competitors or new market entrants introduce new products or services with better features, performance, prices or other characteristics than our products and services. Further, additional liftboat capacity in the Gulf of Mexico would increase competition for that service. Competitive pressures or other factors also may result in significant price competition that could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. Finally, competition among oil field service and equipment providers is also affected by each provider's reputation for safety and quality. Although we believe that our reputation for safety and quality service is good, you cannot be sure that we will be able to maintain our competitive position.

Table of Contents

The dangers inherent in our operations and the potential limits on insurance coverage could expose us to potentially significant liability costs.

Our operations involve the use of liftboats, heavy equipment and exposure to inherent risks, including equipment failure, blowouts, explosions and fire. In addition, our liftboats are subject to operating risks such as catastrophic marine disaster, adverse weather conditions, mechanical failure, collisions, oil and hazardous substance spills and navigation errors. The occurrence of any of these events could result in our liability for personal injury and property damage, pollution or other environmental hazards, loss of production or loss of equipment. In addition, certain of our employees who perform services on offshore platforms and vessels are covered by provisions of the Jones Act, the Death on the High Seas Act and general maritime law. These laws make the liability limits established by state workers' compensation laws inapplicable to these employees and instead permit them or their representatives to pursue actions against us for damages for job-related injuries. In such actions, there is generally no limitation on our potential liability.

Any litigation arising from a catastrophic occurrence involving our services or equipment could result in large claims for damages. The frequency and severity of such incidents affect our operating costs, insurability and relationships with customers, employees and regulators. Any increase in the frequency or severity of such incidents, or the general level of compensation awards with respect to such incidents, could affect our ability to obtain projects from oil and gas companies or insurance. This could have a material adverse effect on us. We maintain what we believe is prudent insurance protection. You cannot be sure that we will be able to maintain adequate insurance in the future at rates we consider reasonable or that our insurance coverage will be adequate to cover future claims that may arise.

The nature of our industry subjects us to compliance with regulatory and environmental laws.

Our business is significantly affected by state and federal laws and other regulations relating to the oil and gas industry and by changes in such laws and the level of enforcement of such laws. We are unable to predict the level of enforcement of existing laws and regulations, how such laws and regulations may be interpreted by enforcement agencies or court rulings, or whether additional laws and regulations will be adopted. We are also unable to predict the effect that any such events may have on us, our business, or our financial condition.

Federal and state laws that require owners of non-producing wells to plug the well and remove all exposed piping and rigging before the well is permanently abandoned significantly affect the demand for our plug and abandonment services. A decrease in the level of enforcement of such laws and regulations in the future would adversely affect the demand for our services and products. In addition, demand for our services is affected by changing taxes, price controls and other laws and regulations relating to the oil and gas industry generally. The adoption of laws and regulations curtailing exploration and development drilling for oil and gas in our areas of operations for economic, environmental or other policy reasons could also adversely affect our operations by limiting demand for our services.

We also have potential environmental liabilities with respect to our offshore and onshore operations, including our environmental cleaning services. Certain environmental laws provide for joint and several liabilities for remediation of spills and releases of hazardous substances. These environmental statutes may impose liability without regard to negligence or fault. In addition, we may be subject to claims alleging personal injury or property damage as a result of alleged exposure to hazardous substances. We believe that our present operations substantially comply with applicable federal and state pollution control and environmental protection laws and regulations. We also believe that compliance with such laws has had no material adverse effect on our operations to date. However, such environmental laws are changed frequently. Sanctions for noncompliance may include revocation of permits, corrective action orders, administrative or civil penalties and criminal prosecution. We are unable to predict whether environmental laws will in the future materially adversely affect our operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will use the net proceeds from the sale of offered securities for general corporate purposes, which may include:

repaying debt;

funding capital expenditures, including paying for acquisitions; and

providing working capital.

We may temporarily invest the net proceeds we receive from any offering of securities or use the net proceeds to repay short-term debt until we can use them for their stated purposes.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

As of the date of this prospectus, we are authorized to issue up to 125,000,000 shares of common stock. As of March 15, 2000, we had issued 59,926,289 shares of common stock. As of that date, we also had approximately 7,429,127 shares of common stock reserved for issuance upon exercise of options or in connection with other awards outstanding under various employee or director incentive, compensation and option plans. The outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and nonassessable. The holders of our common stock are not entitled to preemptive or redemption rights. Shares of common stock are not redeemable and are not convertible into shares of any other class of capital stock.

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, New York, New York, 10005.

Dividends

Subject to any preferences accorded to the holders of our preferred stock, if and when issued by the board of directors, holders of our common stock are entitled to dividends at such times and amounts as the board of directors may determine.

Voting Rights

Each holder of our common stock is entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held of record on all matters as to which stockholders are entitled to vote. Holders of our common stock are not allowed to cumulate votes for the election of directors.

Rights upon Liquidation

In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of our common stock will be entitled to share equally in any of our assets available for distribution after the payment in full of all debts and distributions and after the holders of all series of outstanding preferred stock have received their liquidation preferences in full.

Provisions of Our Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws

Our certificate of incorporation contains provisions that limit the amount of our voting stock (including our common stock) that may be owned by persons who are not U.S. citizens, which may adversely affect the liquidity of our common stock in certain situations. In addition, our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that may have an adverse effect on the ability of our stockholders to influence our corporate governance.

Summaries of the provisions described in the preceding paragraph, and certain provisions of Delaware law, are set forth below. However, you should read our certificate of incorporation and bylaws for a more complete description of the rights of holders of our common stock.

Table of Contents

Limitations on Ownership of Our Stock by Persons Who Are Not U.S. Citizens. Federal maritime laws (including the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, the Merchant Marine Act of 1936, and the Shipping Act of 1916) provide that vessels may only transport passengers and merchandise between points in the United States (referred to as operating in the coastwise trade) if they are owned by U.S. citizens. For such purposes, a corporation is considered a U.S. citizen if at least 75% of its outstanding stock is owned by persons or organizations who are U.S. citizens. Some of our subsidiaries operate in the coastwise trade, and as a result we are subject to these requirements. If we were to fail to comply with these maritime laws, such subsidiaries would not be permitted to continue to operate vessels in the coastwise trade. Therefore, to facilitate compliance, our certificate of incorporation contains provisions which are designed to enable us to regulate the ownership of our capital stock by persons who are not U.S. citizens, including the following:

any transfer of shares of our capital stock that would result in non-U.S. citizens controlling more than 23% (the permitted amount) of the total voting power of all of our capital stock will be void and not effective, except for the purpose of enabling us to effect the other remedies described below;

shares of capital stock owned by non-U.S. citizens in excess of the permitted amount are not entitled to voting rights;

dividends with respect to shares owned by Non-U.S. citizens in excess of the permitted amount are to be withheld by us until the shares are transferred to U.S. citizens or the number of shares held by non-U.S. citizens again does not exceed the permitted amount;

we are permitted (but not required) to redeem shares of capital stock in excess of the permitted amount; and

our board of directors is authorized to adopt measures that it determines are necessary or desirable to assure that it can effectively monitor the citizenship of holders of our capital stock, including requiring proof of citizenship of existing or prospective stockholders or implementing a dual stock certificate system whereby U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens would receive different stock certificates.

Amendment of By-laws. Under Delaware law, the power to adopt, amend or repeal by-laws is conferred upon stockholders. However, a corporation may in its certificate of incorporation also confer such power upon the board of directors. Our certificate of incorporation and by-laws grant such powers to our board.

Advance Notice of Stockholder Nominations and Stockholder Business. Our bylaws permit stockholders to nominate a person for election as a director or bring other matters before a stockholders meeting only if written notice of an intent to nominate or bring business before a meeting is given a specified time in advance of the meeting.

Delaware Section 203. We are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which imposes a three-year moratorium on the ability of Delaware corporations to engage in a wide range of specified transactions with any interested stockholder. An interested stockholder includes, among other things, any person other than the corporation and its majority-owned subsidiaries who owns 15% or more of any class or series of stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors. However, the moratorium will not apply if, among other things, the transaction is approved by:

the corporation's board of directors prior to the date the interested stockholder became an interested stockholder; or

the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of each class or series of stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, not including those shares owned by the interested stockholder.

Table of Contents

Special Meetings of the Stockholders. Our bylaws provide that special meetings of stockholders may be called only by either the chairman of our board of directors or by a vote of the majority of our board of directors. Our stockholders do not have the power to call a special meeting.

Limitation of Directors' Liability. Our certificate of incorporation contains provisions eliminating the personal liability of our directors to our company and our stockholders for monetary damages for breaches of their fiduciary duties as directors to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. Under Delaware law and our certificate of incorporation, our directors will not be liable for a breach of his or her duty except for liability for:

- a breach of his or her duty of loyalty to our company or our stockholders;
- acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- dividends or stock repurchases or redemptions that are unlawful under Delaware law; and
- any transaction from which he or she receives an improper personal benefit.

These provisions pertain only to breaches of duty by directors as directors and not in any other corporate capacity, such as officers. In addition, these provisions limit liability only for breaches of fiduciary duties under Delaware corporate law and not for violations of other laws such as the federal securities laws.

As a result of these provisions in our certificate of incorporation, our stockholders may be unable to recover monetary damages against directors for actions taken by them that constitute negligence or gross negligence or that are in violation of their fiduciary duties. However, our stockholders may obtain injunctive or other equitable relief for these actions. These provisions also reduce the likelihood of derivative litigation against our directors that might have benefitted us.

Registration Rights Agreements

In July 1999, in connection with our acquisition of Cardinal, we entered into two registration rights agreements with the former Cardinal shareholders. First, under an agreement entered into with the First Reserve funds, the First Reserve funds will have the right, beginning July 15, 2000, to require us to file a registration statement under the Securities Act to sell not less than 20% of our common stock owned by the First Reserve funds. We are only required to make one registration of the shares held by the First Reserve funds during any twelve month period, and no more than four registrations during the term of the agreement. Second, under an agreement with all other former Cardinal shareholders, we filed a shelf registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 registering the resale of shares of our common stock they acquired in our acquisition of Cardinal. We must keep this registration statement effective until the earlier of July 15, 2001 or when all shares of our common stock covered by the registration statement have been sold.

Under both agreements, all of the former Cardinal shareholders also have the right to include their shares of our common stock in any other registration statement filed by us involving our common stock.

Stockholders' Agreement

In July 1999, in connection with our acquisition of Cardinal, we entered into a stockholders' agreement with the First Reserve funds which provides that our board of directors will consist of six members, consisting of

- two designees of the First Reserve funds,
- two independent directors designated by the First Reserve funds that are acceptable to the other board members as evidenced by a majority vote,
- our CEO, and

Table of Contents

such number of independent directors selected by the board to complete the six man board (although in accordance with the agreement our CEO has designated, and our board has recommended for reelection at our 2000 annual meeting, one incumbent director to serve in lieu of one such independent director).

If the First Reserve funds own less than 15% of our voting power as a result of sales or other dispositions of our stock, they will lose the right to designate the two independent directors. The First Reserve funds will lose their right to designate any directors when they own less than 5% of our voting power.

The stockholders agreement will terminate on July 15, 2009 or upon a sale or other disposition of our stock by the First Reserve funds and their affiliates that reduces their collective ownership of our stock to less than 5% of our total voting power, whichever occurs first. Until the termination of the stockholders agreement, the First Reserve funds and their affiliates are prohibited from

acquiring additional shares of our stock that would result in their ownership of more than 10%, other than shares received in the Cardinal acquisition, of our voting power or of the outstanding shares of any class of our stock;

disposing of any of our securities, except in

sales or other transfers to a First Reserve fund or an affiliate who has signed the stockholders agreement,

sales pursuant to Rule 144 promulgated under the Securities Act,

sales pursuant to public offerings under the Securities Act,

sales or exchanges pursuant to a business combination or similar transaction involving us that is approved by our board, or

privately negotiated sales;

pledging or otherwise granting a security interest in any of our securities except to secure bona fide loans from lenders unaffiliated with the First Reserve funds; and

advising, assisting, or providing financing to, any person in connection with a transaction that would result in a change of our control so long as the First Reserve funds and their affiliated parties together own 15% or more of our voting power.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

Our certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors to issue up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share, in one or more series. The number of authorized shares of preferred stock may be increased or decreased by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of our outstanding stock without the separate vote of holders of preferred stock as a class.

Each series of preferred stock will have specific financial and other terms which will be described in a prospectus supplement. The description of the preferred stock that is set forth in any prospectus supplement is not complete without reference to the documents that govern the preferred stock, including our certificate of incorporation and the certificate of designation relating to the applicable series of preferred stock. These documents have been or will be included or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Our board of directors is authorized to designate, for each series of preferred stock, the preferences, qualifications, limitations, restrictions and optional or other special rights of such series, including, but not limited to:

the number of shares in the series;

the name of the series;

Table of Contents

the dividend rate or basis for determining such rate if any, on the shares of the series;

whether dividends will be cumulative and, if so, from which date or dates;

whether the shares of the series will be redeemable and if so, the dates, prices and other terms and conditions of redemption;

whether we will be obligated to purchase or redeem shares of the series pursuant to a sinking fund or otherwise, and the prices, periods and other terms and conditions upon which the shares of the series will be redeemed or purchased;

the rights, if any, of holders of the shares of the series to convert such shares into, or exchange such shares for, shares of any other class of stock;

whether the shares of the series will have voting rights, in addition to the voting rights provided by law, and, if so, the terms of those voting rights; and

the rights of the shares of the series in the event of the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Superior.

Thus, our board of directors could authorize us to issue preferred stock with voting, conversion and other rights that could adversely affect the voting power and other rights of holders of our common stock or other series of preferred stock. Also, the issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of our company.

The shares of preferred stock of any one series will be identical except for the dates from which dividends will cumulate, if at all. The shares of preferred stock will be fully paid and nonassessable.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

We may, at our option, elect to offer fractional shares of preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we exercise this option, we will issue to the public receipts for depositary shares, and each of these depositary shares will represent a fraction, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, of a share of a particular series of preferred stock.

The shares of any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited under a deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company selected by us.

Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a share of preferred stock underlying that depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock underlying that depositary share. Those rights include dividend, voting, redemption and liquidation rights.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the deposit agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares, in accordance with the terms of the offering. Copies of the deposit agreement and depositary receipt will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of specific depositary shares.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received with respect to the preferred stock to the record holders of depositary shares relating to the preferred stock in proportion to the number of depositary shares owned by those holders.

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary shares that are entitled to receive the distribution, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution. If this occurs, the depositary may, with our approval, sell the property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to the applicable holders.

Table of Contents

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares is subject to redemption, the depositary shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of that series of preferred stock held by the depositary. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share payable with respect to that series of the preferred stock.

Whenever we redeem shares of preferred stock that are held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem, as of the same redemption date, the number of depositary shares representing the shares of preferred stock so redeemed. If fewer than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary will select the depositary shares to be redeemed by lot or pro rata, as the depositary may determine.

Voting the Preferred Stock

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the information contained in the notice to the record holders of the depositary shares underlying the preferred stock. Each record holder of the depositary shares on the record date (which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock) will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the amount of the preferred stock represented by the holder's depositary shares. The depositary will then try, as far as practicable, to vote the number of shares of preferred stock underlying those depositary shares in accordance with these instructions, and we agree to take all actions deemed necessary by the depositary to enable the depositary to do so. The depositary will not vote the shares of preferred stock to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares underlying the preferred stock.

Amendment and Termination of the Depositary Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may at any time be amended by agreement between us and the depositary. However, any amendment which materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding approve the amendment. We or the depositary may terminate the deposit agreement only if (a) all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed or (b) there has been a final distribution of the underlying preferred stock in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and the preferred stock has been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts.

Charges of Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will also pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and those other charges, including a fee for the withdrawal of shares of preferred stock upon surrender of depositary receipts, as are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts.

Miscellaneous

The depositary will forward to holders of depositary receipts all reports and communications from us that we deliver to the depositary and that we are required to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock.

Neither we nor the depositary will be liable if either of us is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond our control in performing our respective obligations under the deposit agreement. Our obligations and those of the depositary will be limited to performance in good faith of our respective duties under the deposit agreement. Neither we nor they will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished.

Table of Contents

We and the depositary may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering notice to us of its election to resign. We may remove the depositary at any time. Any resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of the appointment. We must appoint the successor depositary within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

This section describes the general terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may issue under the shelf registration statement. The following description highlights the general terms and provisions of the debt securities. The summary is not complete. The prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the debt securities offered by that prospectus supplement, and may update or change some of the information below.

We may issue debt securities either separately or together with, or upon the conversion of, or in exchange for, other securities. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, any debt securities we offer will be our direct, unsecured general obligations. The debt securities will either be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. The senior debt securities will rank equally with all of our other senior and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will have a junior position to all of our senior debt securities.

We may issue the debt securities in one or more series. We will issue debt securities under an indenture to be entered into by us and a trustee qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. Senior debt securities will be issued under a senior indenture and subordinated debt securities will be issued under a subordinated indenture. (The senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are referred to together as the indentures.) The related indenture will be supplemented (each supplement referred to as a supplemental indenture) with respect to each series of debt securities we issue. The name of the trustee for each indenture will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The indentures and each supplemental indenture will be included or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. You should read the related indenture and any supplemental indenture for provisions that may be important to you. You should also read the related prospectus supplement, which will contain additional information about the particular debt securities and which may update or change the information below.

The indentures will be subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act.

Specific Terms of Each Series of Debt Securities in the Prospectus Supplement

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any debt securities being offered, including:

the designation and aggregate principal amount;

the maturity date;

the interest rate, if any, and the method for calculating the interest rate;

the interest payment dates and the record dates for the interest payments;

any mandatory or optional redemption terms or prepayment, conversion, sinking fund or exchangeability or convertibility provisions;

any subordination provisions relating to the debt securities;

Table of Contents

the places where the principal and interest will be payable;

the denominations the debt securities will be issued in;

whether the debt securities will be issued in the form of global securities or certificates;

additional provisions, if any, relating to the defeasance and covenant defeasance of the debt securities;

any applicable material federal tax consequences;

the dates on which a premium, if any, will be payable;

our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of such deferral period;

any listing on a securities exchange;

if convertible into common stock, the terms on which such debt securities are convertible;

the terms of each guarantee of the payment of principal, interest and any premium on debt securities of the series;

the terms, if any, of the transfer, mortgage, pledge, or assignment as security for the debt securities of the series of any properties, assets, moneys, proceeds, securities or other collateral, including whether certain provisions of the Trust Indenture Act are applicable, and any corresponding changes to provisions of the indenture as currently in effect;

the initial public offering price; and

other specific terms, including covenants and the events of default provided for with respect to the debt securities.

Debt securities may bear interest at a fixed rate or a floating rate, or may not bear interest. Debt securities bearing no interest or interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below the prevailing market rate may be sold at a discount (which may be significant) below their stated principal amount. We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to any discounted debt securities or to debt securities issued at par that are treated as having been issued at a discount for United States federal income tax purposes.

Covenants

With respect to each series of debt securities, we will be required to:

pay the principal, interest and any premium on the debt securities when due;

maintain a place of payment;

deliver a report to the trustee at the end of each fiscal year reviewing our obligations under the indenture; and

deposit sufficient funds with any paying agent on or before the due date for any principal, interest or any premium.

In addition, the supplemental indenture for any particular series of debt securities may contain covenants limiting:

the incurrence of additional debt (including guarantees) by us and our subsidiaries;

the making of certain payments by us and our subsidiaries;

the issuance of other securities by our subsidiaries;

a change of control;

certain mergers and consolidations involving us and our subsidiaries;

Table of Contents

our business activities and those of our subsidiaries;

asset dispositions;

the incurrence of liens; and

transactions with our subsidiaries and other affiliates.

We will describe any additional covenants in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Ranking; Subordination

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not be secured by any of our property or assets. Accordingly, your ownership of debt securities means you will be one of our unsecured creditors.

Under the subordinated indenture, payment of the principal, interest and any premium on the subordinated debt securities will generally be subordinated and junior in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our senior debt. The subordinated indenture will provide that we may not make payments of principal, interest and any premium on the subordinated debt securities in the event:

of any insolvency, bankruptcy or similar proceeding involving us or our property; or

we fail to pay the principal, interest, any premium or any other amounts on any senior debt when such amounts are due.

The subordinated indenture will not limit the amount of senior debt that we may incur.

Our senior debt for purposes of the subordinated indenture will include all notes or other unsecured evidences of indebtedness, including guarantees given by us, for money borrowed by us, not expressly subordinate or junior or right in payment to our other indebtedness.

Convertible Debt Securities

We may issue debt securities from time to time that are convertible into our common stock. If you hold convertible debt securities, you will be permitted at certain times specified in the applicable prospectus supplement to convert your debt securities into common stock for a specified price. We will describe the conversion price (or the method for determining the conversion price) and the other terms applicable to conversion in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Guarantees

One or more of our subsidiaries, as guarantors, will, jointly and severally, fully and unconditionally guarantee our obligations under the debt securities on an equal and ratable basis subject to the limitation described in the next paragraph. In addition, any supplemental indenture may require us to cause any domestic entity that becomes one of our subsidiaries after the date of any supplemental indenture to enter into a supplemental indenture pursuant to which such subsidiary shall agree to guarantee our obligations under the debt securities. If we default in payment of the principal, interest or any premium on such debt securities, the guarantors, jointly and severally, will be unconditionally obligated to duly and punctually make such payments.

Each guarantor's obligations will be limited to the maximum amount that (after giving effect to all other contingent and fixed liabilities of such guarantor any collections from, or payments made by or on behalf of, any other guarantors) will result in the obligations of such guarantor under the guarantee not constituting a fraudulent conveyance or fraudulent transfer under Federal or state law. Each guarantor that makes a payment or distribution under its guarantee shall be entitled to contribution from each other guarantor in a pro rata amount based on the net assets of each guarantor.

Guarantees of senior debt securities (including the payment of principal, interest and any premium on such debt securities) will rank pari passu in right of payment with all other unsecured and unsubordinated

Table of Contents

indebtedness of the guarantor and will rank senior in right of payment to all subordinated indebtedness of such guarantor. Guarantees of subordinated debt securities will generally be subordinated and junior in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all senior indebtedness of the guarantor.

The prospectus supplement for a particular issue of debt securities will describe the subsidiary guarantors and any additional material terms of the guarantees.

Registration, Transfer, Payment and Paying Agent

We may issue the debt securities in registered form without coupons or in the form of one or more global securities, as described below under the heading Global Securities. Unless we specify otherwise in the prospectus supplement, registered securities will be issued only in denominations of \$1,000 or any integral multiple of \$1,000. Global securities will be issued in a denomination equal to the total principal amount of outstanding debt securities of the series represented by the global security.

You may present registered securities for exchange or transfer at the corporate trust office of the trustee or at any other office or agency maintained by us for such purpose, without payment of any service charge except for any tax or governmental charge.

We will pay principal and any premium and interest on registered securities at the corporate trust office of the trustee or at any other office or agency maintained by us for such purpose. We may choose to make any interest payment on a registered security (1) by check mailed to the address of the holder as such address shall appear in the register or (2) if provided in the prospectus supplement, by wire transfer to an account maintained by the holder as specified in the register. We will make interest payments to the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the day we specify.

Global Securities

We may issue the debt securities in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities. A global security is a security, typically held by a depositary such as the Depository Trust Company, that represents the beneficial interests of a number of purchasers of such security. We may issue the global securities in either registered or bearer form and in either temporary or permanent form. We will deposit global securities with the depositary identified in the prospectus supplement. Unless it is exchanged in whole or in part for debt securities in definitive form, a global certificate may generally be transferred only as a whole unless it is being transferred to certain nominees of the depositary.

We will describe the specific terms of the depositary arrangement with respect to a series of debt securities in a prospectus supplement. We expect that the following provisions will generally apply to depositary arrangements.

After we issue a global security, the depositary will credit on its book-entry registration and transfer system the respective principal amounts of the debt securities represented by such global security to the accounts of persons that have accounts with such depositary (participants). The underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the debt securities will designate the accounts to be credited. If we offer and sell the debt securities directly or through agents, either we or our agents will designate the accounts. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to participants or persons that may hold interests through participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in the global security will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership will be effected only through, records maintained by the depositary and its participants.

We and the trustee will treat the depositary or its nominee as the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by a global security. Except as set forth below, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to have the debt securities represented by such global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of such debt securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of the debt securities. The laws of some states require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of the securities. Such laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

Table of Contents

Principal, any premium and any interest payments on debt securities represented by a global security registered in the name of a depository or its nominee will be made to such depository or its nominee as the registered owner of such global security.

We expect that the depository or its nominee, upon receipt of any payments, will immediately credit participant's accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of the global security as shown on the depository's or its nominee's records. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interest in the global security will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers registered in street names and will be the responsibility of such participants.

If the depository is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository and we do not appoint a successor depository within ninety days, we will issue individual debt securities in exchange for such global security. In addition, we may at any time in our sole discretion determine not to have any of the debt securities of a series represented by global securities and, in such event, will issue debt securities of such series in exchange for such global security.

Neither we, the trustee nor any paying agent will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in such global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests. No such person will be liable for any delay by the depository or any of its participants in identifying the owners of beneficial interests in a global security, and we, the trustee and any paying agent may conclusively rely on instructions from the depository or its nominee for all purposes.

Consolidation, Merger or Sale of Assets

The indentures will generally permit a consolidation or merger between us and another corporation or other entity. They will also permit the sale or lease by us of all or substantially all of our property and assets. If this happens, the remaining or acquiring corporation or other entity shall assume all of our responsibilities and liabilities under the indentures, including the payment of all amounts due on the debt securities and performance of the covenants in the indentures.

We are only permitted to consolidate or merge with or into any other entity or sell all or substantially all of our assets according to the terms and conditions of the indentures and any supplemental indentures. The remaining or acquiring entity will be substituted for us in the indentures and any supplemental indentures with the same effect as if it had been an original party thereto. Thereafter, the successor entity may exercise our rights and powers under the indentures, in our name or in its own name. Any act or proceeding required or permitted to be done by our board of directors or any of our officers may be done by the board of officers of the successor entity. If we consolidate or merge with or into any other entity or sell all or substantially all of our assets, we shall be released from all our liabilities and obligations under the indentures and under the debt securities.

Events of Default

Unless we state otherwise in an applicable prospectus supplement, an event of default with respect to each series of debt securities means any of the following:

failure to pay interest on any debt security of that series for 30 days;

failure to pay the principal or any premium on any debt security of that series when due;

failure to deposit any sinking fund payment when due;

failure to comply with the provisions of the related indenture or any supplemental indenture relating to consolidations, mergers and sales of assets;

failure to perform any other covenant with respect to that series in the related indenture or any supplemental indenture that continues for 60 days after being given written notice;

Table of Contents

certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of us or a significant subsidiary;

the entry of a judgment in excess of the amount specified in the related indenture or any supplemental indenture against us or such significant subsidiary which is not covered by insurance and not discharged, waived or stayed; or

any other event of default included in the related indenture or any supplemental indenture.

An event of default for a particular series of debt securities does not necessarily constitute an event of default for any other series of debt securities.

The consequences of an event of default, and the remedies available under the indentures or any supplemental indentures, will vary depending upon the type of event of default that has occurred.

If an event of default relating to certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of us or a significant subsidiary occurs and continues, the entire principal of all the debt securities of all series will be due and payable immediately.

If any other event of default for any series of debt securities occurs and continues, the trustee or the holders of a specified percentage of the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of the series may declare the entire principal of all the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately. If this happens, subject to certain conditions, the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series can void the declaration. The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any default (except in the payment of principal or interest or in the making of any sinking fund payment) if it considers such withholding of notice to be in the interests of the holders.

Other than its duties in case of a default, a trustee is not obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indentures or any supplemental indentures at the request, order or direction of any holders, unless the holders offer the trustee reasonable indemnity. If they provide this reasonable indemnification, the holders of a specified percentage of the aggregate principal amount of any series of debt securities may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding or any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any power conferred upon the trustee, for any series of debt securities.

No holder of any debt security can institute any action or proceeding with respect to an indenture or any supplemental indenture unless the holder gives written notice of an event of default to the trustee, the holders of a specified percentage of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the applicable series shall have requested the trustee to institute the action or proceeding and has appropriately indemnified the trustee, and the trustee has failed to institute the action or proceeding within a specified time period.

Discharging Our Obligations

Except as may otherwise be set forth in any prospectus supplement, we may choose to either discharge our obligations on the debt securities of any series in a legal defeasance or release ourselves from our covenant restrictions on the debt securities of any series in a covenant defeasance. We may do so at any time prior to the stated maturity or redemption of the debt securities of the series if, among other conditions:

we deposit with the trustee sufficient cash or U.S. government securities to pay the principal, interest, any premium and any other sums due to the stated maturity date or redemption date of the debt securities of the series; and

we provide an opinion of our counsel that holders of the debt securities will not be affected for U.S. federal income tax purposes by the defeasance.

If we choose the legal defeasance option, holders of the debt securities of that series will not be entitled to the benefits of the related indenture except for registration of transfer and exchange of debt securities, replacement of lost, stolen or mutilated debt securities, any required conversion or exchange of

Table of Contents

debt securities, any required sinking fund payments and receipt of principal and interest on the original stated due dates or specified redemption dates.

Modification and Waiver

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indentures and each supplemental indenture will provide that we and the trustee may enter into supplemental indentures without the consent of the holders of debt securities to

secure the debt securities;

evidence the assumption of our obligations by a successor entity;

add covenants or events of default for the protection of the holders of any debt securities;

establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series;

provide for uncertificated securities in addition to certificated securities (so long as the uncertificated securities are in registered form for tax purposes)

evidence the acceptance of appointment by a successor trustee;

in the case of subordinated debt securities, to make any change to the provisions of the subordinated indenture relating to subordination that would limit or terminate the benefits available to any holder of senior debt under such provisions;

cure any ambiguity or correct any inconsistency in the indenture or amend the indenture in any other manner which we may deem necessary or desirable, if such action will not adversely affect the interests of the holders of debt securities; or

make any change to comply with any requirement of the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to the qualification of the indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, each indenture and any supplemental indenture will also contain provisions permitting us and the trustee to modify the provisions of the indenture and any supplemental indenture or modify in any manner the rights of the holders of the debt securities of each such series if we obtain the consent of the holders of a majority in outstanding principal amount of debt securities of all affected series (voting as a single class). However, if you hold debt securities, we must get your consent to make any change that would:

extend the final maturity of your debt securities;

reduce the principal amount of your debt securities;

reduce or alter the method of computation of any amount payable in respect of interest on your debt securities;

extend the time for payment of interest on your debt securities;

reduce or alter the method of computation of any amount payable on redemption of your debt securities;

extend the time for any redemption payment on your debt securities;

reduce the amount payable upon acceleration of your debt securities;

in the case of subordinated debt securities, make any change in the subordination provisions of the subordinated indenture that adversely affects your rights under such provisions;

impair your right to institute suit for the enforcement of any conversion or any payment on any of your debt securities when due or materially and adversely affect any of your conversion rights;

Table of Contents

reduce the percentage in principal amount of debt securities of a series required to make other modifications to the indenture.

The Trustee

The Trust Indenture Act contains limitations on the rights of the trustee under an indenture, should it become a creditor of ours, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases or to realize on certain property received by it in respect of any such claims, as security or otherwise. The trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions with us and our subsidiaries from time to time, provided that if the trustee acquires any conflicting interest it must eliminate such conflict upon the occurrence of an event of default under the related indenture, or else resign.

Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities offered by this prospectus directly to one or more purchasers or to or through agents, underwriters or dealers.

In the accompanying prospectus supplement we will identify or describe:

any underwriters, dealers or agents;

their compensation;

the net proceeds to be received by us;

the purchase price of the securities;

the initial public offering price of the securities; and

any exchange on which the securities are listed.

Agents. We may designate agents who agree to use their reasonable efforts to solicit purchases for the period of their appointment to sell securities on a continuing basis.

Underwriters. If we use underwriters for a sale of securities, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

Direct Sales. We may also sell securities directly to one or more purchasers without using underwriters or agents.

Underwriters, dealers, and agents that participate in the distribution of the securities may be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act of 1933, and any discounts or commissions they receive from us and any profit on their resale of the debt securities may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. We may have agreements with the underwriters, dealers and agents to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of their businesses.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre, L.L.P., New Orleans, Louisiana and for any underwriters, dealers or agents by counsel which we will name in the applicable prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and schedule of Superior Energy Services, Inc. and subsidiaries as of and for the year ended December 31, 1999, have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent certified public accountants, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements of Superior Energy Services, Inc. and subsidiaries (formerly Cardinal Holding Corp.) as of December 31, 1998, and for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 1998 appearing in Superior's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1999 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors, as set forth in their report thereon included therein and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

9,696,627 Shares

Superior Energy Services, Inc.

Common Stock

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

Joint Lead Managers

Johnson Rice & Company L.L.C.

Book Runner

Raymond James

**Simmons & Company
International**

October 14, 2004