

NATIONAL OILWELL VARCO INC

Form DEF 14A

April 01, 2010

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549  
SCHEDULE 14A  
SCHEDULE 14A  
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.    )**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party Other than the Registrant

Check the Appropriate Box

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential for Use of the Commission only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2)).

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12.

**National Oilwell Varco, Inc.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14-a6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which the transaction applies;

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined.)

4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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3) Filing Party:

4) Date Filed:

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**NATIONAL OILWELL VARCO, INC.  
7909 Parkwood Circle Drive  
Houston, Texas 77036  
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
To Be Held May 12, 2010**

DATE: Wednesday, May 12, 2010  
TIME: 10:00 a.m. (Houston time)  
PLACE: National Oilwell Varco  
7909 Parkwood Circle Dr.  
Houston, Texas 77036

**The 2010 annual meeting of stockholders of National Oilwell Varco, Inc. will be held at the Company's corporate headquarters located at 7909 Parkwood Circle Drive, Houston, Texas on Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. local time, for the following purposes:**

1. To elect three directors to hold office for a three-year term;
2. To consider and act upon a proposal to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors of the company for 2010; and
3. To consider and act upon any other matters that may properly come before the annual meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE THREE NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR AND FOR THE PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP AS INDEPENDENT AUDITORS OF THE COMPANY FOR 2010.**

The Board of Directors has set March 23, 2010 as the record date for the annual meeting of the stockholders ( Annual Meeting ). If you were a stockholder of record at the close of business on March 23, 2010, you are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. A complete list of these stockholders will be available for examination at the Annual Meeting and during ordinary business hours at our offices at 7909 Parkwood Circle Drive, Houston, Texas for a period of ten days prior to the Annual Meeting.

You are cordially invited to join us at the Annual Meeting. However, to ensure your representation, we request that you return your signed proxy card at your earliest convenience, whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting. You may revoke your proxy at any time if you wish to attend and vote in person.

By Order of the Board of Directors

*/s/ Dwight W. Rettig*

Dwight W. Rettig  
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary  
Houston, Texas  
April 1, 2010

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**NATIONAL OILWELL VARCO, INC.  
7909 Parkwood Circle Drive  
Houston, Texas 77036  
PROXY STATEMENT**

Except as otherwise specifically noted in this Proxy Statement, the Company, we, our, us, and similar words in this Proxy Statement refer to National Oilwell Varco, Inc.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2010  
Time: 10:00 a.m. (Houston time)  
Place: National Oilwell Varco  
7909 Parkwood Circle Dr.  
Houston, Texas 77036

**AGENDA:** Proposal 1: For the election of three nominees as directors of the Company for a term of three years.  
  
Proposal 2: For the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors of the Company.

**RECORD DATE/WHO CAN VOTE:** All stockholders of record at the close of business on March 23, 2010 are entitled to vote. The only class of securities entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting is National Oilwell Varco common stock. Holders of National Oilwell Varco common stock are entitled to one vote per share at the Annual Meeting.

**PROXIES SOLICITED BY:** Your vote and proxy is being solicited by the Board of Directors for use at the Annual Meeting. This Proxy Statement and enclosed proxy card is being sent on behalf of the Board of Directors to all stockholders beginning on or about April 1, 2010. By completing, signing and returning your proxy card, you will authorize the persons named on the proxy card to vote your shares according to your instructions.

**PROXIES:** If your properly executed proxy does not indicate how you wish to vote your common stock, the persons named on the proxy card will vote FOR election of the three nominees for director (Proposal 1) and FOR the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors (Proposal 2).

**REVOKING YOUR PROXY:** You can revoke your proxy at any time prior to the time that the vote is taken at the meeting by: (i) filing a written notice revoking your proxy; (ii) filing another proxy bearing a later date; or (iii) casting your vote in person at the Annual Meeting. Your last vote will be the vote that is counted.

**QUORUM:** As of March 23, 2010, there were 419,026,271 shares of National Oilwell Varco common stock issued and outstanding.

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The holders of these shares have the right to cast one vote for each share held by them. The presence, in person or by proxy, of stockholders entitled to cast at least 209,513,136 votes constitutes a quorum for adopting the proposals at the Annual Meeting. Abstentions will be included in determining the number of shares present at the meeting for the purpose of determining a quorum, as will broker non-votes. A broker non-vote occurs when a broker is not permitted to vote on a matter without instructions from the beneficial owner of the shares and no instruction is given. If you have properly signed and returned your proxy card by mail, you will be considered part of the quorum, and the persons named on the proxy card will vote your shares as you have instructed them.

**VOTE REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL:** For the proposal to elect the three director nominees (Proposal 1), our bylaws require that each director nominee be elected by the majority of votes cast with respect to such nominee (i.e., the number of shares voted for a director nominee must exceed the number of shares voted against that nominee). For additional information regarding our majority voting policy, see page 5 of the proxy statement. You cannot abstain in the election of directors and broker non-votes are not counted. **Please note that starting this year the rules that determine how your broker can vote your shares have changed. Brokers may no longer vote your shares on the election of directors in the absence of your specific instructions as to how to vote. Please provide your broker with voting instructions so that your vote can be counted.**

Approval of the proposal to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors (Proposal 2) will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of our common stock entitled to vote and present in person or by proxy. An abstention will have the same effect as a vote against such proposal.

**MULTIPLE PROXY CARDS:** If you receive multiple proxy cards, this indicates that your shares are held in more than one account, such as two brokerage accounts, and are registered in different names. You should vote each of the proxy cards to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

**HOUSEHOLDING:** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, has adopted rules that permit companies and intermediaries, such as brokers, to satisfy the delivery requirements for proxy statements with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a copy of these materials, other than the Proxy Card, to those stockholders. This process, which is commonly referred to as householding, can mean extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for the Company.

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Beneficial stockholders can request information about householding from their banks, brokers, or other holders of record. Through householding, stockholders of record who have the same address and last name will receive only one copy of our Proxy Statement and Annual Report, unless one or more of these stockholders notifies us that they wish to continue receiving individual copies. This procedure will reduce printing costs and postage fees.

Stockholders who participate in householding will continue to receive separate Proxy Cards. If you are eligible for householding, but you and other stockholders of record with whom you share an address currently receive multiple copies of Proxy Statements and Annual Reports, or if you hold stock in more than one account and wish to receive only a single copy of the Proxy Statement or Annual Report for your household, please contact Broadridge Household Department, in writing, at 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, New York 11717, or by phone at (800) 542-1061. If, at any time, you no longer wish to participate in householding and would prefer to receive a separate Proxy Statement and Annual Report, please notify your broker if you are a beneficial stockholder.

**COST OF PROXY SOLICITATION:**

We have retained InvestorCom, Inc. to solicit proxies from our stockholders at an estimated fee of \$4,500, plus expenses. This fee does not include the costs of preparing, printing, assembling, delivering and mailing the Proxy Statement. The Company will pay for the cost of soliciting proxies. Some of our directors, officers and employees may also solicit proxies personally, without any additional compensation, by telephone or mail. Proxy materials also will be furnished without cost to brokers and other nominees to forward to the beneficial owners of shares held in their names.

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting to Be Held on Wednesday, May 12, 2010.**

**The Company's 2010 Proxy Statement and the Annual Report to Stockholders for the year ended 2009 are also available at:**

**<http://www.proxyvote.com>**

For directions to the Annual Meeting, please contact investor relations at 713-346-7500.

**PLEASE VOTE YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT**



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**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS  
PROPOSAL NO. 1 ON THE PROXY CARD**

The Board of Directors of National Oilwell Varco (the Board) is divided into three classes, each class serving a term of three years. Directors whose terms expire this year include: Ben A. Guill, Roger L. Jarvis and Eric L. Mattson. Ben A. Guill, Roger L. Jarvis and Eric L. Mattson are nominees for directors for a three-year term expiring at the Annual Meeting in 2013, or when their successors are elected and qualified. We believe each of the nominees will be able to serve if elected. However, if any nominee is unable to serve, the remaining members of the Board have authority to nominate another person, elect a substitute, or reduce the size of the Board. Directors whose terms expire in 2011 and 2012 will continue to serve in accordance with their prior election or appointment. Proxies cannot be voted for a greater number of persons than the number of nominees named.

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**Table of Contents****Vote Required for Approval**

National Oilwell Varco's Bylaws require that each director be elected by the majority of votes cast with respect to such director in uncontested elections (the number of shares voted for a director nominee must exceed the number of votes cast against that nominee). In a contested election (a situation in which the number of nominees exceeds the number of directors to be elected), the standard for election of directors would be a plurality of the shares represented in person or by proxy at any such meeting and entitled to vote on the election of directors. Whether an election is contested or not is determined as of a date that is fourteen days in advance of when we file our definitive proxy statement with the SEC; this year's election was determined to be an uncontested election, and the majority vote standard will apply. If a nominee who is serving as a director is not elected at the annual meeting, Delaware law provides that the director would continue to serve on the Board as a holdover director. However, under our Bylaws and Corporate Governance Guidelines, each director must submit an advance, contingent, irrevocable resignation that the Board may accept if the director fails to be elected through a majority vote. In that situation, the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee would make a recommendation to the Board about whether to accept or reject the resignation, or whether to take other action. The Board will act on the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee's recommendation and publicly disclose its decision and the rationale behind it within ninety days from the date the election results are certified. If a nominee who was not already serving as a director fails to receive a majority of votes cast at the annual meeting, Delaware law provides that the nominee does not serve on the Board as a holdover director. In 2010, all director nominees are currently serving on the Board.

**Please note that starting this year the rules that determine how your broker can vote your shares have changed. Brokers may no longer vote your shares on the election of directors in the absence of your specific instructions as to how to vote. Please provide your broker with voting instructions so that your vote can be counted.**

**Information Regarding Nominees for Director for Terms Expiring in 2013:**

| <b>Name</b>  | <b>Age</b> | <b>Expiration<br/>Date of<br/>Current<br/>Term</b> | <b>Biography</b>  | <b>Year<br/>First<br/>Became<br/>Director</b> |
|--------------|------------|--|---|---|
| Ben A. Guill | 59         | 2010   | Mr. Guill has served as a Director of the Company since 1999. He is a Managing Partner of White Deer Energy, a middle market private equity fund focused on energy investments. Until April 2007, he was President of First Reserve Corporation, a corporate manager of private investments focusing on the energy and energy-related sectors, which he joined in September 1998. Prior to joining First Reserve, Mr. Guill was the Managing Director and Co-head of Investment Banking of Simmons & Company International, an investment-banking firm specializing in the oil service industry. Mr. Guill also serves as a director of Trico Marine Services, Inc. | 1999  |

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| <b>Name</b>     | <b>Age</b> | <b>Expiration<br/>Date of<br/>Current<br/>Term</b> | <b>Biography</b>   | <b>Year<br/>First<br/>Became<br/>Director</b> |
|-----------------|------------|--|--|---|
| Roger L. Jarvis | 56         | 2010   | Mr. Jarvis has been a Director of the Company since February 2002. Since 2007, he has served as Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Common Resources LLC, a privately held company engaged in the business of exploration for and production of hydrocarbons in the United States. He served as President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Spinnaker Exploration Company, a natural gas and oil exploration and production company, from 1996 and as its Chairman of the Board from 1998, until its acquisition by Norsk Hydro ASA in December 2005.  | 2002  |
| Eric L. Mattson | 58         | 2010   | Mr. Mattson has been a Director of the Company since March 2005. Mr. Mattson served as a Director of Varco (and its predecessor, Tuboscope Inc.) from January 1994 until its merger with the Company on March 11, 2005. Mr. Mattson is currently an investor in and serves as the Chief Financial Officer of Select Energy Services, LLC, a privately held oil service company located in Gainesville, Texas. Prior to that, Mr. Mattson served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of VeriCenter, Inc., a private provider of managed hosting services, since 2003, until its acquisition in August 2007. From November 2002 until October 2003, Mr. Mattson worked as an independent consultant. Mr. Mattson was the Chief Financial Officer of Netrail, Inc., a private Internet backbone and broadband service provider, from September 1999 until November 2002. Netrail filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protection in the Northern Georgia district of the United States Bankruptcy Court in July 2001. In November 2002, the Bankruptcy Court approved Netrail's plan of liquidation and appointed a Trustee to effect the plan. At that time, Mr. Mattson ceased to be the Chief Financial Officer of Netrail. From July 1993 until May 1999, Mr. Mattson served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Baker Hughes Incorporated, a provider of products and services to the oil, gas and process industries. | 2005  |

**YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE ELECTION OF THE THREE NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR.**

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| <b>Name</b>            | <b>Age</b> | <b>Expiration<br/>Date of<br/>Current<br/>Term</b> | <b>Biography</b>  | <b>Year<br/>First<br/>Became<br/>Director</b> |
|------------------------|------------|--|---|---|
| Merrill A. Miller, Jr. | 59         | 2012   | Mr. Miller has been a Director of the Company since May 2001 and Chairman of the Board since July 22, 2005. He also served as Chairman of the Board from May 2002 through March 11, 2005. He served as the Company's Chief Operating Officer from November 2000 through March 11, 2005. He has served as President since November 2000 and as Chief Executive Officer since May 2001. He has served in various senior executive positions with National Oilwell since February 1996. Mr. Miller also serves as a director of Chesapeake Energy Corporation, a company engaged in the development, acquisition, production, exploration, and marketing of onshore oil and natural gas properties in the United States. | 2001  |
| Greg L. Armstrong      | 51         | 2012   | Mr. Armstrong has been a Director of the Company since March 2005. Mr. Armstrong served as a Director of Varco from May 20, 2004 until its merger with the Company on March 11, 2005. Since 1998, he has been the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Plains All American GP LLC, the general partner and controlling entity of Plains All American Pipeline, L.P., a publicly traded master limited partnership engaged in the business of marketing, gathering, transporting, terminalling and storing crude oil. Mr. Armstrong is a member of the National Petroleum Council.   | 2005  |

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| <b>Name</b>         | <b>Age</b> | <b>Expiration<br/>Date of<br/>Current<br/>Term</b> | <b>Biography</b>   | <b>Year<br/>First<br/>Became<br/>Director</b> |
|---------------------|------------|--|--|---|
| Robert E. Beauchamp | 50         | 2011   | Mr. Beauchamp has been a Director of the Company since August 2002. Since 1988, he has served in various capacities at BMC Software, Inc., a leading provider of enterprise management solutions, most recently as President and Chief Executive Officer and as Chairman of the Board. During his career with BMC, he also served as senior vice president of research & development, vice president of strategic marketing and corporate development, and director of strategic marketing.  | 2002  |
| David D. Harrison   | 62         | 2012   | Mr. Harrison has been a Director of the Company since August 2003. He has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Pentair, Inc., a diversified manufacturer in water technologies and enclosures businesses, since February 2000 until his retirement in February 2007. He also served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Pentair, Inc. from 1994 to 1996. From 1972 through 1994, Mr. Harrison held various domestic and international finance positions with a combination of General Electric and Borg-Warner Chemicals. Mr. Harrison serves as a director of Navistar International Corporation, a holding company whose wholly owned subsidiaries produce International® brand commercial trucks, MaxxForce brand diesel engines, IC brand school buses, and Workhorse brand chassis for motor homes and step vans. Mr. Harrison also serves as a director of James Hardie Industries, a leading fibre cement technology company. | 2003  |
| Jeffery A. Smisek   | 55         | 2011   | Mr. Smisek has been a Director of the Company since March 2005. Mr. Smisek served as a Director of Varco (and its predecessor, Tuboscope Inc.) from February 1998 until its merger with the Company on March 11, 2005. Mr. Smisek has served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Continental Airlines, Inc. since January 2010. Mr. Smisek previously served Continental Airlines, Inc. as: President and Chief Operating Officer from September 2008 until December 2009; President and a director from December 2004; Executive Vice President from March 2003 until December 2004; and Executive Vice President Corporate from May 2001 until March 2003.   | 2005  |

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**COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS OF THE BOARD**

**Committees**

The Board of Directors had the following standing committees: Audit, Compensation, and Nominating/Corporate Governance.

**Number of Meetings Held in 2009**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Board of Directors                        | 5 |
| Audit Committee                           | 8 |
| Compensation Committee                    | 3 |
| Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee | 2 |

**Attendance at Meetings**

Each incumbent director attended at least 75% of the meetings of the Board and committees of which that director was a member.

**Audit Committee**

Messrs. Harrison (Chairman), Armstrong, Guill and Mattson are the current members of the Audit Committee. All members of this committee are independent within the meaning of the rules governing audit committees by the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE.

The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. The Committee's primary duties and responsibilities are to:

- § monitor the integrity of the Company's financial statements, financial reporting processes, systems of internal controls regarding finance, and disclosure controls and procedures;
- § select and appoint the Company's independent auditors, pre-approve all audit and non-audit services to be provided, consistent with all applicable laws, to the Company by the Company's independent auditors, and establish the fees and other compensation to be paid to the independent auditors;
- § monitor the independence and performance of the Company's independent auditors and internal audit function;
- § establish procedures for the receipt, retention, response to and treatment of complaints, including confidential, anonymous submissions by the Company's employees, regarding accounting, internal controls, disclosure or auditing matters, and provide an avenue of communication among the independent auditors, management, the internal audit function and the Board of Directors;
- § prepare an audit committee report as required by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement; and
- § monitor the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

A copy of the Audit Committee Charter is available on the Company's website, [www.nov.com](http://www.nov.com), under the Investor Relations/Corporate Governance section.

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***Audit Committee Financial Expert***

The Board of Directors has determined that all members of the Audit Committee meet the NYSE standard of having accounting or related financial management expertise and meet the SEC's criteria of an Audit Committee Financial Expert.

***Compensation Committee***

Messrs. Smisek (Chairman), Beauchamp and Jarvis are the current members of the Compensation Committee. All members of the Compensation Committee are independent as defined by the applicable NYSE listing standards. The Compensation Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. The Committee's primary duties and responsibilities are to:

- § discharge the Board's responsibilities relating to compensation of the Company's directors and executive officers;
- § approve and evaluate all compensation of directors and executive officers, including salaries, bonuses, and compensation plans, policies and programs of the Company; and
- § administer all plans of the Company under which shares of common stock may be acquired by directors or executive officers of the Company.

A copy of the Compensation Committee Charter is available on the Company's website, [www.nov.com](http://www.nov.com), under the Investor Relations/Corporate Governance section.

***Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation.*** Messrs. Smisek, Beauchamp, Guill and Jarvis served on the Compensation Committee during 2009. In February 2009, Mr. Beauchamp replaced Mr. Guill on the Compensation Committee. None of these members is a former or current officer or employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, is involved in a relationship requiring disclosure as an interlocking executive officer/director, or had any relationship requiring disclosure under Item 404 of Regulation S-K.

***Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee***

Messrs. Beauchamp (Chairman), Jarvis and Smisek are the current members of the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee. All members of the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee are independent as defined by the applicable NYSE listing standards.

The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. The Committee's primary duties and responsibilities are to:

- § ensure that the Board and its committees are appropriately constituted so that the Board and directors may effectively meet their fiduciary obligations to stockholders and the Company;
- § identify individuals qualified to become Board members and recommend to the Board director nominees for each annual meeting of stockholders and candidates to fill vacancies in the Board;
- § recommend to the Board annually the directors to be appointed to Board committees;
- § monitor, review, and recommend, when necessary, any changes to the Corporate Governance Guidelines; and

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§ monitor and evaluate annually the effectiveness of the Board and management of the Company, including their effectiveness in implementing the policies and principles of the Corporate Governance Guidelines. A copy of the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee Charter is available on the Company's website, [www.nov.com](http://www.nov.com), under the Investor Relations/Corporate Governance section.

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Director Nomination Process and Diversity Considerations**

The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee has the responsibility of identifying candidates for election as directors, reviewing background information relating to candidates for director, and recommending to the Board of Directors nominees for directors to be submitted to stockholders for election. It is the policy of the committee to consider director candidates recommended by stockholders. Nominees to be evaluated by the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee are selected by the committee from candidates recommended by multiple sources, including other directors, management, stockholders, and candidates identified by independent search firms (which firms may be paid by the Company for their services), all of whom will be evaluated based on the same criteria. As of March 23, 2010, we had not received any recommendations from stockholders for potential director candidates. All of the current nominees for director are standing members of the Board that are proposed by the entire Board for re-election. Written suggestions for nominees should be sent to the Secretary of the Company at the address listed below.

The Board of Directors believes that nominees should reflect the following characteristics:

- § have a reputation for integrity, honesty, candor, fairness and discretion;
- § be knowledgeable, or willing to become so quickly, in the critical aspects of the Company's businesses and operations;
- § be experienced and skillful in serving as a competent overseer of, and trusted advisor to, the senior management of at least one substantial enterprise; and
- § have a range of talent, skill and expertise sufficient to provide sound and prudent guidance with respect to the full scope of the Company's operations and interests.

The Board considers diversity in identifying nominees for director. The Board considers diversity in a variety of different ways and in a fairly expansive manner. The Board not only considers diversity concepts such as race and gender, but also diversity in the sense of differences in viewpoint, professional experience, education, skill and other qualities and attributes that contribute to board heterogeneity. Also considered as part of the diversity analysis is whether the individual has work experience in the Company's industry, or in the broader oil and gas industry. The Company believes the Board benefits from different viewpoints and experiences by having a mix of members of the Board who have experience in the oil and gas industry and those who do not have such experience. There are currently no directorship vacancies to be filled on the Board. If and when the need arises for the Company to add a new director to the Board, the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee plans to take into consideration diversity in identifying such a nominee for director.

Any stockholder of record who is entitled to vote for the election of directors may nominate persons for election as directors if timely written notice in proper form of the intent to make a nomination at the Annual Meeting is received by the Company at National Oilwell Varco, Inc., 7909 Parkwood Circle Drive 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Houston, TX 77036, Attention: Dwight W. Rettig, Secretary. The notice must be received no later than April 11, 2010 10 days after the first public notice of the Annual Meeting is first sent to stockholders. To be in proper form, the notice must contain prescribed information about the proponent and each nominee, including such information about each nominee as would have been required to be included in a proxy statement filed pursuant to the rules of the SEC had such nominee been nominated by the Board of Directors.

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**Director Qualifications**

The Company believes that each member of its Board of Directors possess the basic attributes of being a director of the Company, namely having a reputation for integrity, honesty, candor, fairness and discretion. Each director has also become knowledgeable in major aspects of the Company's business and operations, which has allowed the Board to provide better oversight functions to the Company. In addition to the experience, qualifications and skills of each director set forth in their biographies starting on page 5 of this proxy statement, the Company also considered the following factors in determining that the board member should serve on the Board:

Mr. Armstrong provides valuable service and experience to the Audit Committee, due to his experience serving as an auditor for a major accounting firm, 29 years of being a certified public accountant and seven years of experience serving as a chief financial officer. Mr. Armstrong has been an officer of a publicly traded energy company since 1981, occupying positions of increasing importance ranging from controller, to CFO, to COO and CEO. Through service in these roles, he gained extensive experience in assessing the risks associated with various energy industry cycles. He also gained valuable outside board experience from his previous tenure as a director of BreitBurn Energy Partners.

Mr. Beauchamp has served as the chief executive officer and chairman of the board of a publicly traded company for the past nine years. Mr. Beauchamp has extensive business experience in the information technology sector, including occupying positions in the areas of sales, marketing, research and development and corporate development.

Mr. Beauchamp's experience outside the energy industry helps provide a different perspective for the Company. He has a bachelor's degree in finance, as well as a masters degree in management.

Mr. Guill provides valuable service and experience to the Audit Committee, due to his MBA degree, 18 years of experience in investment banking and nine years of experience in private equity. Mr. Guill also served as president of a private investment firm focused on the energy sector. Mr. Guill has 28 years of experience in the energy industry as an investment banker and private equity investor. Mr. Guill also gained valuable outside board experience from his previous tenures as a director of: Dresser, Inc., Quanta Services, Inc., T-3 Energy Services, Inc., Chart Industries, Inc. and the general partner of Cheniere Energy Partners, L.P.

Mr. Harrison provides valuable service and experience to the Audit Committee, due to his MBA degree, 24 years of being a certified management accountant and 13 years of experience serving as a chief financial officer and chief accounting officer of publicly traded companies. Mr. Harrison has 39 years of continuous experience in major domestic and foreign companies in a variety of different industries. Mr. Harrison's experience outside the energy industry helps provide a different perspective for the Company. He has a bachelor's degree in accounting. He has also gained valuable outside board experience from his tenure as a director of Navistar International Corporation and James Hardie Industries.

Mr. Jarvis served as the chief executive officer and chairman of the board of a publicly traded company in the oil and gas industry for ten years. Mr. Jarvis has extensive experience in the oil and gas exploration business involving the drilling, completion and production of oil and gas wells, both offshore and onshore. As a result of this extensive experience, Mr. Jarvis is very familiar with the strategic and project planning processes that impact the Company's business. He also gained valuable outside board experience from his previous tenure as a director of the Bill Barret Corporation.

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Mr. Mattson provides valuable service and experience to the Audit Committee, due to his MBA degree and 36 years of financial experience, including 17 years as a chief financial officer of four different companies. Mr. Mattson has extensive experience in the oil service business, having worked in that industry for 30 years. He also has extensive mergers and acquisitions experience of over 30 years on a global basis. Mr. Mattson has dealt with all facets of potential risk areas for a global energy service company, as a former chief financial officer of Baker Hughes, and brings that experience and perspective to the Company.

Mr. Miller has been an officer of a publicly traded company since 1996, occupying positions of increasing importance from business group president, to COO, to CEO. Mr. Miller has extensive experience with the Company and the oil service industry. Mr. Miller has an MBA degree, and is a graduate of the US Military Academy, West Point.

Mr. Miller has also gained valuable outside board experience from his previous tenure as a director of Penn Virginia Corporation and his current tenure as a director of Chesapeake Energy Corporation.

Mr. Smisek has been an officer of a publicly traded company since 1995, occupying positions of increasing importance ranging from General Counsel, to President and COO, to CEO. Mr. Smisek has extensive business experience in the airline industry, which helps provide a different perspective for the Company. Mr. Smisek has a law degree and has prior experience practicing law for a major law firm, which provides him with extensive experience in assessing and dealing with different types of risks. He has also gained valuable outside board experience from his tenure as a director and chairman of the board of Continental Airlines.

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**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The responsibilities of the Audit Committee, which are set forth in the Audit Committee Charter adopted by the Board of Directors, include providing oversight to the Company's financial reporting process through periodic combined and separate meetings with the Company's independent auditors and management to review accounting, auditing, internal controls and financial reporting matters. The management of the Company is responsible for the preparation and integrity of the financial reporting information and related systems of internal controls. The Audit Committee, in carrying out its role, relies on the Company's senior management, including senior financial management, and its independent auditors.

The Board of Directors has determined that all of the members of the Audit Committee are independent based on the guidelines set forth by the NYSE and SEC rules for the independence of Audit Committee members. The Audit Committee held eight (8) meetings in 2009, and at each regularly scheduled quarterly meeting met in executive session with both the internal audit director and the independent audit partner, without management being present. In addition to these official meetings, the Audit Committee held quarterly meetings to review with management and the independent auditors the Company's quarterly earnings releases and financial statements prior to filing or release. The Audit Committee reviewed and discussed with senior management the audited financial statements included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K. Management has confirmed to the Audit Committee that such financial statements have been prepared with integrity and objectivity and in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

The Audit Committee discussed with Ernst & Young LLP, the Company's independent auditors, the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) No. 61 (Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards, AU Sec. 380), as may be modified or supplemented. SAS No. 61 requires independent auditors to communicate certain matters related to the conduct of an audit to those who have responsibility for oversight of the financial reporting process, specifically the audit committee. Among the matters to be communicated to the audit committee are: (1) methods used to account for significant unusual transactions; (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus; (3) the process used by management in formulating particularly sensitive accounting estimates and the basis for the auditor's conclusions regarding the reasonableness of those estimates; and (4) disagreements with management over the application of accounting principles, the basis for management's accounting estimates, and the disclosures in the financial statements. In addition, the Audit Committee reviewed with Ernst & Young their judgment as to the quality, not just the acceptability, of the Company's accounting principles.

The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from Ernst & Young required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding Ernst & Young's communication with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed Ernst & Young's independence with Ernst & Young. Based on the review of the financial statements, the discussion with Ernst & Young regarding SAS No. 61, the discussion with Ernst & Young of the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board concerning independence, and receipt from them of the required written disclosures, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that

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the audited financial statements be included in the Company's 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Audit Committee's charter clarifies that it is not the Audit Committee's duty to conduct audits or to determine that the Company's financial statements are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ( GAAP ). Management is responsible for the Company's financial reporting process, including its system of internal controls, and for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Management is also responsible for assuring compliance with laws and regulations and the Company's corporate policies, subject to the Audit Committee's oversight in the areas covered by the Audit Committee's charter. The independent auditors are responsible for expressing opinions on those financial statements and on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

**Members of the Audit Committee**

David D. Harrison, Committee Chairman

Greg L. Armstrong

Ben A. Guill

Eric L. Mattson

**Table of Contents****RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS  
PROPOSAL NO. 2 ON THE PROXY CARD****Information Regarding our Independent Auditors**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has reappointed Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors for 2010. Stockholders are being asked to vote upon the ratification of the appointment. Representatives of Ernst & Young will attend the Annual Meeting, where they will be available to respond to appropriate questions and have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire.

**Vote Required for Approval**

The proposal to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors will require approval of a majority of the shares of our common stock entitled to vote and present in person or by proxy. In accordance with NYSE rules, a proposal to ratify independent auditors is considered to be a discretionary item. This means that brokerage firms may vote in their discretion on this matter on behalf of beneficial owners who have not furnished voting instructions within the time period specified in the voting instructions submitted by such brokerage firms. Abstentions, which will be counted as votes present for the purpose of determining a quorum, will have the effect of a vote against the proposal. Your shares will be voted as you specify on your proxy. If your properly executed proxy does not specify how you want your shares voted, we will vote them for the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors.

**Audit Fees**

The Audit Committee pre-approves all services provided by the Company's independent auditors to the Company and its subsidiaries. Consideration and approval of such services generally occurs in the regularly scheduled quarterly meetings of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has delegated the Chairman of the Audit Committee to pre-approve allowed non-audit services, subject to review by the full committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The Audit Committee has considered whether the provision of all services other than those rendered for the audit of the Company's financial statements is compatible with maintaining Ernst & Young's independence and has concluded that their independence is not compromised.

The following table sets forth Ernst & Young LLP's fees for services rendered during 2008 and 2009. All services provided by Ernst & Young LLP were pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

|                                   | 2009                  | 2008         |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
|                                   | <i>(in thousands)</i> |              |
| Audit Fees                        | \$ 6,001              | \$ 6,816     |
| Audit Related Fees <sup>(1)</sup> | 653                   | 237          |
| Tax Fees <sup>(2)</sup>           | 3,212                 | 1,814        |
| All Other Fees                    |                       |              |
| <br>                              |                       |              |
| Total                             | <br>\$ 9,866          | <br>\$ 8,867 |

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- (1) Consists primarily of fees for audits of employee benefit plans, due diligence related to acquisition transactions, and international accounting consultations.
- (2) Consists primarily of fees for compliance, planning and advice with respect to various domestic and foreign corporate tax matters.

**YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP.**

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**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

National Oilwell Varco's Board of Directors is committed to promoting transparency in reporting information about the Company, complying with the spirit as well as the literal requirements of applicable laws, rules and regulations, and corporate behavior that conforms to corporate governance standards that substantially exceed the consensus view of minimum acceptable corporate governance standards. The Board of Directors adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines which established provisions for the Board's composition and function, Board committees and committee membership, evaluation of director independence, the roles of the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer and the Lead Director, the evaluation of the Chief Executive Officer, regular meetings of non-management directors, board conduct and review, selection and orientation of directors, director compensation, access to management and independent advisors, and annual review of the Corporate Governance Guidelines. A copy of the Corporate Governance Guidelines is available on the Company's website, [www.nov.com](http://www.nov.com), under the Investor Relations/Corporate Governance section. The Company will furnish print copies of the Corporate Governance Guidelines, as well as its Committee charters, to interested stockholders without charge, upon request. Written requests for such copies should be addressed to: Dwight W. Rettig, Secretary, National Oilwell Varco, Inc., 7909 Parkwood Circle Drive, Houston, Texas 77036.

**Director Independence**

The Corporate Governance Guidelines address, among other things, standards for evaluating the independence of the Company's directors. The Board undertakes an annual review of director independence and considers transactions and relationships during the prior year between each director or any member of his or her immediate family and the Company and its affiliates, including those reported under "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" in this Proxy Statement. In February 2010, as a result of this annual review, the Board affirmatively determined that a majority of the members of the Board of Directors are independent of the Company and its management under the standards set forth in the Corporate Governance Guidelines. The following directors were affirmed as independent: Greg L. Armstrong, Robert E. Beauchamp, Ben A. Guill, David D. Harrison, Roger L. Jarvis, Eric L. Mattson, and Jeffery A. Smisek.

**Board Leadership**

Currently, the roles of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer are combined at the Company. The Company believes that effective corporate governance, including the independent oversight of management, does not require that the Chairman of the Board be an independent director or that the offices of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer be separated. The Company believes that its stockholders are best served by a Board that has the flexibility to establish a leadership structure that fits the needs of the Company at a particular point in time.

The Board believes that our current Chief Executive Officer is best situated to serve as Chairman because he is the director most familiar with our business and most capable of effectively identifying strategic priorities and leading the discussion and execution of our strategy. The Board also believes that the combined role of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer facilitates information flow between management and the Board.



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To assist with providing independent oversight of management and the Company's strategy, the non-management members of the Board of Directors have appointed Greg L. Armstrong, an independent director, as Lead Director. The Lead Director is responsible for: (1) developing the agenda for, and presiding over the executive sessions of, the Board's non-management directors, (2) facilitating communications between the Chairman of the Board and other members of the Board, (3) coordinating, with the Chairman, the assessment of the committee structure, organization, and charters, and evaluating the need for any changes, (4) acting as principal liaison between the non-management directors and the Chief Executive Officer on matters dealt with in executive session, and (5) assuming such further tasks as the independent directors may determine.

The Board also holds executive sessions on a quarterly basis at which only non-employee directors are present. In addition, the committees of the Board provide independent oversight of management. Each of the committees of the Board is composed entirely of independent directors.

The Board has concluded that the combined role of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, together with an independent Lead Director having the duties described above, is in the best interest of stockholders because it provides an appropriate balance between our Chairman's ability to lead the Board and the Company and the ability of our independent directors, under the leadership of our Lead Director, to provide independent objective oversight of our management.

**Board Role in Risk Oversight**

The Board of Directors and its committees help conduct certain risk oversight functions for the Company. The Board is periodically advised on the status of various factors that could impact the business and operating results of the Company, including oil and gas prices and the Company's backlog for drilling equipment. The full Board is also responsible for reviewing the Company's strategy, business plan, and capital expenditure budget at least annually. Through these various functions, the Board is able to monitor these risks and assist the Company in determining whether certain mitigating actions, if any, need to be taken.

The Audit Committee serves an important role in providing risk oversight, as further detailed in its charter. One of the Audit Committee's primary duties and responsibilities is to monitor the integrity of the Company's financial statements, financial reporting processes, systems of internal controls regarding finance, and disclosure controls and procedures. The Audit Committee is also responsible for establishing procedures for the receipt, retention, response to and treatment of complaints, including confidential, anonymous submissions by the Company's employees, regarding accounting, internal controls, disclosure or auditing matters, and providing an avenue of communication among the independent auditors, management, the internal audit function and the Board. In addition, the Audit Committee monitors the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. The Company considers the Audit Committee an important part of the risk management process, and senior management works closely with the Audit Committee on these matters in managing material risks to the Company.

The other committees of the Board also assist in the risk oversight function. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for ensuring that the Board and its committees are appropriately constituted so that the Board and its directors may effectively meet their fiduciary obligations to stockholders and the Company. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee is also responsible for monitoring and evaluating on an annual basis the effectiveness of the Board and management of the Company, including their effectiveness in implementing the policies and principles of the Corporate Governance Guidelines. The Compensation Committee is responsible for compensation of the Company's directors and

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executive officers. These various responsibilities of these committees allow them to work with the Company to make sure these areas do not pose undue risks to the Company.

**Policies on Business Ethics and Conduct**

The Company has a long-standing Business Ethics Policy. In April 2003, the Board adopted the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics For Members of the Board of Directors and Executive Officers and the Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers. These codes are designed to focus the Board and management on areas of ethical risk, provide guidance to personnel to help them recognize and deal with ethical issues, provide mechanisms to report unethical conduct and help to foster a culture of honesty and accountability. As set forth in the Corporate Governance Guidelines, the Board may not waive the application of the Company's policies on business ethics and conduct for any Director or Executive Officer. Copies of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics For Members of the Board of Directors and Executive Officers and the Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers, as well as the code of ethics applicable to employees of the Company, are available on the Company's website, [www.nov.com](http://www.nov.com), under the Investor Relations/Corporate Governance section. The Company will furnish print copies of these Codes to interested stockholders without charge, upon request. Written requests for such copies should be addressed to: Dwight W. Rettig, Secretary, National Oilwell Varco, Inc., 7909 Parkwood Circle Drive, Houston, Texas 77036.

**Communications with Directors**

The Board has provided a process for interested parties to communicate with our non-management directors. Parties wishing to communicate confidentially with our non-management directors may do so by calling 1-800-372-3956. This procedure is described on the Company's website, [www.nov.com](http://www.nov.com), in the Investor Relations/Corporate Governance section. Calls to this number will be answered by an independent, automated system 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. A transcript of the call will be delivered to a member of the Audit Committee. Parties wishing to send written communications to the Board, other than sales-related communications, should send a letter addressed to the member or members of the Board to whom the communication is directed, care of the Secretary, National Oilwell Varco, Inc., 7909 Parkwood Circle Drive, Houston, Texas, 77036. All such communications will be forwarded to the Board member or members specified.

**Director Attendance at Annual Meetings**

The Company does not have a formal policy with respect to director attendance at annual stockholder meetings. In 2009, all members of the Board were in attendance at the annual meeting.

**NYSE Corporate Governance Matters**

As a listed company with the NYSE, our Chief Executive Officer, as required under Section 303A.12(a) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual, must certify to the NYSE each year whether or not he is aware of any violation by the company of NYSE Corporate Governance listing standards as of the date of the certification. On May 26, 2009, the Company's Chief Executive

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Officer submitted such a certification to the NYSE which stated that he was not aware of any violation by the Company of the NYSE Corporate Governance listing standards.

On February 26, 2010, the Company filed its 2009 Form 10-K with the SEC, which included as Exhibits 31.1 and 31.2 the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer certifications required under Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

**Table of Contents****EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The following persons are our current executive officers. The executive officers of the Company serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors and are subject to annual appointment by the Board of Directors. None of the executive officers, directors, or nominees for director has any family relationships with each other.

| <b>Name</b>            | <b>Age</b> | <b>Position</b>   | <b>Biography</b>   |
|------------------------|------------|---|--|
| Merrill A. Miller, Jr. | 59         | President and Chief Executive Officer                             | Mr. Miller has served as the Company's President since November 2000, Chief Executive Officer since May 2001 and Chairman of the Board since July 22, 2005. Mr. Miller also served as Chairman of the Board from May 2002 through March 11, 2005. He served as the Company's Chief Operating Officer from November 2000 through March 11, 2005. He has served in various senior executive positions with the Company since February 1996. Mr. Miller also serves as a director of Chesapeake Energy Corporation, a company engaged in the development, acquisition, production, exploration, and marketing of onshore oil and natural gas properties in the United States. |
| Robert W. Blanchard    | 48         | Vice President, Corporate Controller and Chief Accounting Officer | Mr. Blanchard has served as the Company's Vice President, Corporate Controller and Chief Accounting Officer since May, 2005. Mr. Blanchard served as Controller of Varco from 1999 and as its Vice President from 2002 until its merger with the Company on March 11, 2005.  |
| Mark A. Reese          | 51         | President - Rig Technology  | Mr. Reese has served as President - Rig Technology since August 2007. Mr. Reese served as President - Expendable Products from January 2004 to August 2007. He served as President of the Company's Mission Products Group from August 2000 to January 2004. From May 1997 to August 2000 he was Vice President of Operations for the Company's Distribution Services Group.   |
| Dwight W. Rettig       | 49         | Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary              | Mr. Rettig has served as the Company's Senior Vice President since February 2009, as the Company's Vice President and General Counsel since February 1999, and from February 1998 to February 1999 as General Counsel of the Company's   |



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| <b>Name</b>      | <b>Age</b> | <b>Position</b>                                      | <b>Biography</b>  |
|------------------|------------|--|---|
| Clay C. Williams | 47         | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | <p>Mr. Williams has served as the Company's Executive Vice President since February 2009, and as the Company's Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since March 2005. He served as Varco's Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from January 2003 until its merger with the Company on March 11, 2005. From May 2002 until January 2003, Mr. Williams served as Varco's Vice President Finance and Corporate Development. From February 2001 until May 2002, and from February 1997 until February 2000, he served as Varco's Vice President Corporate Development. Mr. Williams serves as a director of Benchmark Electronics, Inc., a company engaged in providing electronic manufacturing services in the United States and internationally.</p> |

