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CNOOC LTD
Form 6-K
December 09, 2005

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For December 9, 2005

CNOOC Limited

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

65th Floor
Bank of China Tower
One Garden Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Address of principal executive offices)

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F)

Form 20-F X Form 40-F

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.)

Yes No X

(If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant)

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in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): N/A.)

Company Announcement

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[LOGO OMITTED]
CNOOC Limited
[Company Name in Chinese Characters]
(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability under the Companies Ordinance)
(Stock Code: 883)

AMENDMENT TO EXISTING NON-COMPETE UNDERTAKING, REVISED CAP FOR EXISTING CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTION AND NEW CATEGORISATION FOR CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTIONS

----- AMENDMENT TO EXISTING NON-COMPETE UNDERTAKING

The Company entered into the Supplemental Agreement with CNOOC on 8 December 2005 to amend the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking, whereby provided that it obtains the Company's prior written consent, CNOOC and/or its subsidiaries will be able to engage in the Businesses that are otherwise subject to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking as described below. No consideration is payable by either party for entering into the Supplemental Agreement.

In addition, under the Supplemental Agreement, CNOOC has also irrevocably granted an option to the Company to acquire the relevant Business from CNOOC and/or its subsidiaries that are the subject of the consent. Such call option will be granted to the Company for no consideration, for an indefinite period, and will be exercisable by the Company at any time in the future. Therefore, even after such consent is given, the Company may at any time in the future acquire the relevant Businesses back from CNOOC and/or its subsidiaries.

The Board considers that the terms of the amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking are on normal commercial terms, fair and reasonable and are in the interests of the Company and the Shareholders as a whole.

REVISED CAP FOR EXISTING CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTION

Reference is made to 2002 Circular in relation to certain continuing connected transactions between the Group and CNOOC and/or its associates. These continuing connected transactions include the provision of technical services by CNOOC and/or its associates to the Group as described below.

CNOOC, which indirectly owns approximately 70.64% of the issued share capital of the Company, is the controlling shareholder of the Company. Accordingly, CNOOC is a connected person of the Company and transactions between CNOOC and/or its associates and the Group constitute connected transactions for the Company for the purpose of the Listing Rules. The Independent Shareholders had approved the continuing connected transactions at an extraordinary general meeting of the Company held on 23 December 2002.

The value of the categories of continuing connected transactions involving the

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provision of technical services by associates of CNOOC is subject to an annual cap. It is also a condition of the waiver that if any of the annual cap is exceeded, the Company will comply with the provisions of the then Chapter 14 (currently Chapter 14A) of the Listing Rules relating to connected transactions, unless it applies for and obtains a waiver from the Stock Exchange.

The Directors had also been monitoring the Company's continuing connected transactions and with the continued development of the Group and based on internal estimates of the demand and the operating conditions of the continuing connected transactions, the Directors note that the existing cap for 2005

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for one of the continuing connected transactions category under the Existing Waiver, namely, the provision of technical services, will not be sufficient for the Group's requirement, and therefore propose that the existing cap for the continuing connected transaction involving the provision of technical services be revised.

NEW CATEGORISATION FOR CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTIONS

The Independent Shareholders had approved the continuing connected transactions between the Group and CNOOC and/or its associates using the Existing Categorisation at an extraordinary general meeting of the Company held on 23 December 2002 and the Existing Waiver was granted to the Company in relation to these continuing connected transactions. The Existing Waiver will expire on 31 December 2005 and the Company will, in accordance with the requirements of the Listing Rules, seek Independent Shareholders' approval for the Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions and the respective Proposed Caps, as described below.

The Company has undertaken an extensive review of the categorization of the continuing connected transactions using the Existing Categorisation with a view to presenting a more coherent, logical and understandable picture to shareholders, and also to enable the Company to monitor the status of transactions following each category more effectively going forward. New Categories of continuing connected transactions have now been identified which achieve this purpose, further details of the New Categories of the continuing connected transactions are set out in paragraphs headed "New Categories of Continuing Connected Transactions under the Comprehensive Framework Agreements" of this announcement.

The Company proposes to enter into the following continuing connected transaction with CNOOC and/or its associates, as set out in the Comprehensive Framework Agreements, which are categorised using the New Categories. The Directors expect that the Company will continuously enter into transactions with CNOOC and/or its associates as described below, which will constitute continuing connected transactions for the Company under the Listing Rules.

An Independent Board Committee has been formed to advise the Independent Shareholders in connection with the terms of the amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking, the Revised Cap for the "technical services" category of continuing connected transaction and the Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions (including the Proposed Caps), and Dao Heng Securities Limited has been appointed as the Independent Financial Adviser to advise the

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Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders on the same.

A circular containing, amongst other things, further information on the terms of the amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking, the Revised Cap for the "technical services" category of continuing connected transaction and the New Categories of continuing connected transactions, a letter from the Independent Board Committee, an opinion of Dao Heng Securities Limited, the Independent Financial Advisor, together with a notice to convene an extraordinary general meeting to approve, among other things, the amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking, the Revised Cap for the "technical services" category of continuing connected transaction and the Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions (including the Proposed Caps), is expected to be issued to the Shareholders on or around 10 December 2005.

AMENDMENT TO EXISTING NON-COMPETE UNDERTAKING

Background to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking

Before the Company's listing in 2001, the Company's controlling shareholder, CNOOC, gave various undertakings to the Company, which includes, amongst others:

- (i) that the Group will enjoy the exclusive right to exercise all of CNOOC's commercial and operational rights under PRC law and regulations relating to the exploration, development, production and sales of the PRC offshore oil and natural gas; and
- (ii) that neither it nor any of its subsidiaries will engage or be interested, directly or indirectly, in oil and natural gas exploration, development, production and sales in or outside the PRC.

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The Supplemental Agreement

Amendment to Existing Non-Compete Undertaking

The Company entered into the Supplemental Agreement with CNOOC on 8 December 2005 to amend the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking, whereby provided that it obtains the Company's prior written consent, CNOOC and/or its subsidiaries will be able to engage in the Businesses that are otherwise subject to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking. No consideration is payable by either party for entering into the Supplemental Agreement.

The decision as to whether to give consent to CNOOC to engage in such Businesses will be made by the Board. The independent non-executive Directors will participate in making such decision and the reasons of the Board (including those of the independent non-executive Directors) for giving the written consent will be set out in an announcement, if such consent is given and CNOOC engages in such Business.

Call option to acquire back the Business

In addition, under the Supplemental Agreement, CNOOC has also irrevocably granted an option to the Company to acquire the relevant Business from CNOOC and/or its subsidiaries that are the subject of the consent. Such call option will be granted to the Company for no consideration, for an indefinite period, and will be exercisable by the Company at any time in the future. Therefore,

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even after such consent is given, the Company may at any time in the future acquire the relevant Business back from CNOOC and/or its subsidiaries. The consideration for the acquisition of the relevant Businesses will be negotiated on arms-length negotiation and on normal commercial terms, and the parties will enter into formal sale and purchase agreement in relation to such acquisition. The exercise of the call option and the acquisition of the relevant Businesses will constitute a connected transaction and the Company will comply with the requirements of Chapter 14 and 14A of the Listing Rules (as appropriate) upon the exercise of the call option.

Conditions

The Supplemental Agreement is conditional upon the approval by the Independent Shareholders of the terms of the amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking as required under the Listing Rules.

Reasons for and Benefits of the Amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking

The Existing Non-Compete Undertaking does not currently provide for any mechanism by which CNOOC may take up opportunities even if the Company decides that it is not in its best interest to pursue them. The Board believes that the amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking will give flexibility to the Company and CNOOC in handling transactions, and will also improve the relationship between the Company and CNOOC and CNOOC's continued support to the Company. The Board also believes that the existence of a call option will adequately protect the Company and ensure that the Company can share in the opportunity if the Board considers at a later stage that it would be in the interests of the Company to undertake such Businesses.

The Board considers that the terms of the amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking are on normal commercial terms, fair and reasonable and are in the interests of the Company and the Shareholders as a whole.

REVISED CAP FOR EXISTING CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTION

Background

Reference is made to the 2002 Circular in relation to certain continuing connected transactions between the Group and CNOOC and/or its associates. These continuing connected transactions include the provision of technical services by CNOOC and/or its associates to the Group as described below.

CNOOC, which indirectly owns approximately 70.64% of the issued share capital of the Company, is the controlling shareholder of the Company. Accordingly, CNOOC is a connected person of the Company and transactions between CNOOC and/or its associates and the Group constitute connected transactions for the Company for the purpose of the Listing Rules. The Independent Shareholders had approved the continuing connected transactions at an extraordinary general meeting of the Company held on 23 December 2002.

The value of the categories of continuing connected transactions involving the provision of technical services by associates of CNOOC is subject to an annual cap. It is also a condition of the waiver that if any of the annual cap is exceeded, the Company will comply with the provisions of the then Chapter 14 (currently Chapter 14A) of the Listing Rules relating to connected transactions, unless it applies for and obtains a waiver from the Stock

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Exchange.

The Directors had also been monitoring the Company's continuing connected transactions and with the continued development and expansion of the business of the Group and based on internal estimates of the demand and the operating conditions of the continuing connected transactions, the Directors note that the existing cap for 2005 for one of the continuing connected transactions under the Existing Categorisation, namely, the provision of technical services, will not be sufficient for the Group's requirement, and therefore propose that the existing cap for the continuing connected transaction involving the provision of technical services be revised.

Technical Services

Since the establishment of CNOOC, a number of specialised companies have been formed by CNOOC to provide sub-contracting services for CNOOC's offshore oil and gas production activities. These specialised companies have provided services to the Group through bidding process.

In connection with the restructuring of the Company in preparation for its initial public offering, CNOOC's associates transferred to the Group the existing technical services agreements with the specialized companies. In 2002, the specialised companies novated these agreements to COSL, who has since assumed the rights and obligations of the specialised companies thereunder, except in relation to the provision of engineering and construction services. The Group may terminate any of these agreements by giving 30 days' written notice to COSL or the specialised companies, as the case may be. The Group will continue to use the technical and labour services provided by COSL and the specialised companies, including:

- o offshore drilling;
- o ship tugging, oil tanker transportation and security services;
- o well survey, well logging, well cementation and other related technical services;
- o collection of geophysical data, ocean geological prospecting, and data processing;
- o platform fabrication service and maintenance; and
- o design, construction, installation and test of offshore and onshore production facilities.

For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, the charges for such technical services payable to COSL (or its predecessors, as the case may be) and the specialised companies, as the case may be, were approximately RMB3,828 million, RMB6,362 million and RMB3,038 million, respectively. These costs are based on arm's length negotiations with COSL and specialized companies on normal commercial terms or on terms no less favourable than those available to independent third parties, under prevailing local market conditions, including considerations such as volume of sales, length of contracts, package of services, overall customer relationship and other market factors and, in the case of the specialised companies, are based on a bidding process.

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Revised Cap and rationale

The Board has considered and proposed that the following Revised Cap in respect of the "technical services" category of continuing connected transactions using the Existing Categorisation be set as the maximum annual value of such transaction for the year ended 31 December 2005:

The continuing connected transactions	Historical amount	Annual limit in the Existing Waiver	Revised Cap for the financial year ended 31 December 2005	Basis of amount
Technical services	For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, RMB3,828 million, RMB6,362 million and RMB3,038 million, respectively	For the three years ended 31 December 2005, RMB5,853 million, RMB7,338 million and RMB4,880 million, respectively	RMB7,218 million	The annual technical associate with reference conducted of the pr CNOOC and the rapid operation expansion and new p successful and raw m which had addition, initial d certain o being pos These dev the time determine Directors amount fo to RMB7,2 ending on

Reasons for and benefits of the "technical services" category of continuing connected transactions

Prior to the restructuring of CNOOC and establishment of the Company, CNOOC and/or its associates and the Group operated as an integrated organisation which undertook numerous intra-group transactions each year. As a consequence of the restructuring and upon the listing of the Company's shares on the Stock Exchange, a number of transactions which have been entered into and which are to be entered into between the Group and CNOOC and/or its associates will constitute continuing connected transactions for the Company under the Listing Rules.

The provision of technical services under the Existing Categorisation of continuing connected transaction are and will be conducted in the ordinary and usual course of business of the Company. This category of transaction will continue to be agreed on an arm's length basis with terms that are fair and reasonable to the Company. Due to the long-term relationship between the Group and the CNOOC Group, the Board considers it to be beneficial to the Company to continue to enter into the continuing connected transactions as these transactions have facilitated and will continue to facilitate the operation and growth of the Company's business.

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The Board considers that the "technical services" category of continuing connected transactions under the Existing Waiver have been conducted on normal commercial terms or on terms no less favourable than those available to independent third parties, under prevailing local market conditions, and were entered into in the ordinary and usual course of business of the Group, are fair and reasonable and in the interests of the Company and our shareholders as a whole, and that the Revised Cap for the "technical services" category of continuing connected transactions are fair and reasonable.

Disclosure and Independent Shareholders' approval requirements

Under the Listing Rules, the above "technical services" category of continuing connected transactions

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is subject to the reporting, announcement and Independent Shareholders' approval requirements. The Company will seek the Independent Shareholders' approval at the Extraordinary General Meeting for the Revised Cap on the condition that:

1. the annual amount of the "technical services" category of continuing connected transactions under the Existing Waiver shall not exceed the Revised Cap;
2. (i) the above continuing connected transaction will be entered into in the usual and ordinary course of businesses of the Group and either (A) on normal commercial terms or (B) if there is no available comparison, on terms no less favourable to the Group than terms available from independent third parties; and

(ii) the above continuing connected transaction will be entered into in accordance with the relevant agreements and on terms that are fair and reasonable and in the interests of the Shareholders as a whole.

The Company will comply with relevant provisions of the Listing Rules in relation to the above continuing connected transaction.

NEW CATEGORISATION FOR CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTIONS

Background

The Independent Shareholders had approved certain continuing connected transactions between the Group and CNOOC and/or its associates using the Existing Categorisation at an extraordinary general meeting of the Company held on 23 December 2002 and the Existing Waiver was granted to the Company in relation to these continuing connected transactions. The Existing Waiver will expire on 31 December 2005 and the Company will, in accordance with the requirements of the Listing Rules, seek Independent Shareholders' approval for the Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions and the respective Proposed Caps, as described below.

The Company has undertaken an extensive review of the categorization of the continuing connected transactions using the Existing Categorisation with a view to presenting a more coherent, logical and understandable picture to shareholders, and also to enable the Company to monitor the status of transactions following each category more effectively going forward. New Categories of continuing connected transactions have now been identified which

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achieve this purpose, further details of the New Categories of the continuing connected transactions are set out in paragraphs headed "New Categories of continuing connected transactions under the Comprehensive Framework Agreements" below.

The Group proposes to enter into the following continuing connected transactions with CNOOC and/or its associates, as set out in the Comprehensive Framework Agreements, which are categorised using the New Categories. The Directors expect that the Group will continuously enter into such transactions with CNOOC and/or its associates as described below, which will constitute continuing connected transactions for the Company under the Listing Rules.

New Categories of continuing connected transactions under the Comprehensive Framework Agreements

The Company entered into a Comprehensive Framework Agreement on 8 December 2005 with each of CNOOC, COSL and OOECL for the provision (1) by the Group to CNOOC and/or its associates and (2) by CNOOC and/or its associates to the Group, of a range of products and services which may be required and requested from time to time by either party and/or its associates in respect of the New Categories of continuing connected transactions, the details of which are set out below. The term of each of the Comprehensive Framework Agreements is for a period of two years from 1 January 2006, and is conditional upon Independent Shareholders' approval.

- o Provision of exploration, oil and gas development, oil and gas production as well as marketing, management and ancillary services by CNOOC and/or its associates to the Group

- (a) Exploration and support services;

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- (b) Oil and gas field development and support services;

- (c) Oil and gas field production and support services;

- (d) Marketing, management and ancillary services;

- (e) FPSO vessel leases;

- o Provision of management, technical, facilities and ancillary services, including the supply of materials from the Group to CNOOC and/or its associates;
- o Sales of petroleum and natural gas products by the Group to CNOOC and/or its associates

- (a) Sales of petroleum and natural gas products;

- (b) Long term Sales of natural gas and liquefied natural gas.

Since the establishment of CNOOC, certain associates of CNOOC specialising in exploration, oil and gas development, oil and gas production, as well as marketing, management and ancillary services provided these services to the Group through bidding process. The Group will continue to use these services provided by associates of CNOOC, including but not limited to COSL, OOECL and COBGL. CNOOC also provide certain of these services from time to time. The services provided by CNOOC and/or its associates are set out below.

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Provision of exploration, oil and gas development, oil and gas production as well as marketing, management and ancillary services by CNOOC and/or its associates to the Group

(a) Provision of exploration and support services to the Group

The services provided by CNOOC and/or its associates to the Group on exploration operations include:

- o well site survey;
- o seismic data acquisition and processing;
- o integrated exploration research services;
- o exploration well operation;
- o related technical services on exploration well;
- o tow-boat, transportation and safety services; and
- o other related technical and supporting services.

For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, the charges for such exploration and payable to CNOOC and/or its associates were approximately RMB854 million, RMB1,330 million and RMB428 million respectively.

(b) Provision of oil and gas development and support services to the Group

The services provided by CNOOC and/or its associates to the Group on oil and gas development operations include:

- o platform survey;
- o drilling and completion well operation;

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- o related technical services on drilling and completion;
- o design, construction, installation and tuning of production facilities;
- o shipping transportation;
- o provision of materials;
- o integrated research on development techniques; and
- o other related technical and supporting services.

For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, the charges for such oil and gas development services payable to CNOOC and/or its associates were approximately RMB2,765 million, RMB4,681 million and RMB2,513 million respectively.

(c) Provision of oil and gas production and support services to the Group

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The services provided by CNOOC and/or its associates to the Group on oil and gas production operations are set out below. In addition, the scope of business of these companies also include various facilities and ancillary services, such as provision of different types of materials, medical and employee welfare services, maintenance and repair of major equipments and supply of water, electricity and heat to the Group, some of which may not be available from independent third parties or available on comparable terms.

- o integrated research on production techniques;
- o well workover;
- o shipping transportation;
- o oil tanker transportation;
- o provision of materials;
- o maintenance of platform;
- o repair of equipment and pipeline;
- o production operations;
- o oil and gas production labour services;
- o warehousing and storage;
- o lease of equipment and building;
- o road transportation services;
- o telecommunication and network services;
- o wharf services;
- o construction services, including roads, wharf, buildings, factories and water barrier;
- o maintenance and repair of major equipment;

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- o medical, childcare and social services;
- o provision of water, electricity and heat;
- o security and fire services;
- o technical training;
- o accommodation;
- o maintenance and repair of buildings;
- o catering services; and
- o other related technical and supporting services.

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For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, the charges for such oil and gas production services payable to CNOOC and/or its associates were approximately RMB1,177 million, RMB1,354 million and RMB575 million respectively.

(d) Provision of marketing, management and ancillary services to the Group

CNOOC and/or its associates provide marketing, administration and management, management of oil and gas operations and integrated research services to the Group, as well as other ancillary services relating to the exploration, development, production and research activities of the Group. Details of these services are set out below:

- o marketing services;
- o management;
- o staff recruitment;
- o publishing;
- o telecommunications;
- o leases of properties;
- o property management;
- o water, electricity and heat supply;
- o car rental;
- o integrated services such as record keeping, filing, repair of computer, catering and photocopying; and
- o integrated research.

For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, the charges for other marketing, management and ancillary services excluding leases of properties and property management payable to CNOOC and/or its associates were approximately RMB134 million, RMB249 million and RMB81 million respectively.

In addition, as part of providing administration and management services to the Group, CNOOC and/or its associates leased certain premises covering an aggregate area of approximately 50,000 square meters, located throughout the PRC and in Singapore, to the Group for use as office premises and staff

quarters. In addition to leasing these properties, CNOOC and/or its associates also provided management services in respect of certain properties leased to the Group. CNOOC and/or its associates which own one or more of the leased buildings have entered into individual lease and/or management agreements with the Company. Each agreement is in writing and for a term of less than three years.

CNOOC has also recently completed construction of a new office building in the Dongcheng District in Beijing, PRC which the Group may lease certain parts of

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as its new headquarter from January 2006. As its business continues to expand, the Group may, subject to the annual caps below, also enter into additional leases and management agreements with CNOOC and/or its associates from time to time.

For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, the aggregate rentals and management fees payable by the Group were approximately RMB56.87 million, RMB76.72 million and RMB23.78 million, respectively. Sallmanns (Far East) Limited, an independent property valuer, has confirmed that the payments due under each of the lease agreements and the management agreement reflect the fair and reasonable commercial market rent and management fee, respectively.

For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, the aggregate charges for marketing, management and ancillary services (including leasing and management of properties) payable to CNOOC and/or its associates were approximately RMB191 million, RMB326 million and RMB105 million respectively.

Pricing of transactions relating to services provided by CNOOC and/or its associates to the Group under paragraphs (a) to (d) above

The continuing connected transactions referred to in paragraphs (a) to (d) above relate to services provided by CNOOC and/or its associates to the Group. In general, the services provided by CNOOC and/or its associates to the Group are based on arm's length negotiations with CNOOC and/or its associates on normal commercial terms, or on terms no less favourable than those available to independent third parties, under prevailing local market conditions, including considerations such as volume of sales, length of contracts, package of services, overall customer relationship and other market factors.

If, for any reason, the above pricing principle for a particular product or service ceases to be applicable or there is no open market for such services, whether due to a change in circumstances or otherwise, such product or service must then be provided in accordance with the following general pricing principles:

- (i) state-prescribed prices; or
- (ii) where there is no state-prescribed price, market prices, including the local, national or international market prices; or
- (iii) when neither (i) nor (ii) is applicable, the cost to CNOOC and/or its associates for providing the relevant product or services (including the cost of sourcing or purchasing from third parties) plus a margin of not more than 10%, before any applicable taxes.

The Company expects that the costs relating to any future contract with CNOOC and/or its associates will be on a similar basis.

It is envisaged that from time to time and as required, individual agreements will be entered into between CNOOC and/or its associates and the Group, providing the relevant products or services and the relevant members of the Group requiring such products or services.

Each agreement will set out the specific products and services requested by the relevant party and any detailed technical and other specifications which may be relevant to those products or services. The agreements may only contain provisions which are in all material respects consistent with the guidelines and terms and conditions as set out above.

(e) FPSO vessel lease agreements

The Group leases floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel from COBGL for use in oil and gas production operations at market prices on normal commercial terms which are calculated on a daily basis. FPSO vessels are usually located next to the offshore oil platforms and are an integrated facility used by the Group during its offshore oil and gas production for processing, storage and channelling of crude oil. The terms of FPSO vessel leases are usually determined based on the expected term of oil and gas exploration, development and production. The Company currently leases a FPSO vessel for a term of 20 years from an associate of CNOOC, with such term being determined based on the expected term of oil and gas exploration, development and production. The Directors expects that the Group may enter into other FPSO leases with CNOOC and/or its associates from time to time as the operations of the Group expands. The Comprehensive Framework Agreements provide that if the Company fails to obtain approval of the annual caps for this category of continuing connected transactions after 31 December 2007, then the agreements falling under this category will terminate on that date. For the year ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, the aggregate rentals payable by the Group were approximately RMB51.97 million and RMB74.07 million, respectively. There were no such transactions for the year ended 31 December 2003.

Provision of management, technical, facilities and ancillary services, including the supply of materials to CNOOC and/or its associates

In addition to providing various services to the Group, CNOOC and/or its associates may also utilise various types of management, facilities and ancillary services, including the supply of materials provided by the Group from time to time. The pricing for such services will be determined based on the same pricing principles applicable to transactions relating to services provided by CNOOC and/or its associates to the Group under paragraph (a) and (d) above, which will be negotiated and agreed on normal commercial terms between the parties. The services that may be provided by the Group to CNOOC and/or its associates include:

- o technical consulting;
- o technology transfer;
- o management;
- o technical research services; and
- o other supporting services.

There have been no such transactions for the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005. However, the development of CNOOC towards a world-class integrated energy company requires it to continue to optimize its industrial chain. To facilitate such development, it is anticipated that CNOOC requires the provisions of technical consulting, technical transfer, management services, technical research services and other related services from the Group and the Group may provide certain of these services to CNOOC and/or its associates in the near future.

Sales of petroleum and natural gas products by the Group to CNOOC and/or its associates

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(a) Sales of petroleum and natural gas products

The Group may sell petroleum and natural gas products, including crude oil, condensate oil, liquefied petroleum gas, natural gas and liquefied natural gas, to CNOOC and/or its associates which engage in downstream petroleum business at state-prescribed prices or local, national or international market prices and on normal commercial terms. It is envisaged that individual sales contract will be entered into from time to time between the Group and CNOOC and/or its associates in relation to such sales. Although most of the natural gas and liquefied natural gas will be sold under the long term sales contracts as described below, the Group also sells certain volume of the natural gas and liquefied natural gas to CNOOC and/or its associates on short-term basis for the purpose of peak adjustment and to reap higher profits.

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For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, sales of petroleum and natural gas products to CNOOC and/or its associates were approximately RMB8,324 million, RMB13,630 million and RMB11,837 million respectively.

(b) Long term sales of natural gas and liquefied natural gas

The Group sells natural gas to CNOOC and/or its associates which engage in the downstream petroleum business at state-prescribed prices or local, national or international market prices and on normal commercial terms, which is subject to adjustment in accordance with movements in international oil prices as well as other factors such as the term of the sales agreement and length of the relevant pipeline. Due to the size of investment and the fact that sales are usually made to markets proximate to the exploration site, and that purchasers tend to utilize the natural gas products in areas close to the exploration site, and in order to ensure the return on investment from exploration of natural gas, the Group will usually enter into long term sales contracts with a term of 15 to 20 years. It is market practice for the term of the sales contract to be determined based on the estimated reserves and production profile of the relevant gas fields.

The Group has also invested and acquired interests in liquefied natural gas related upstream projects in Tangguh, Indonesia and the North West Shelf of Australia. It is envisaged that from time to time the Group may sell liquefied natural gas explored from these gas reserves mentioned above and other gas reserves in which the Group may invest in the future to CNOOC and/or its associates. In order to ensure the return on investment and to achieve the requirement of the lenders, it is anticipated that the terms of sales contracts in relation to the liquefied natural gas will be around 25 years. The Group may sell liquefied natural gas to CNOOC and/or its associates which engage in the downstream petroleum business at state-prescribed prices or local, national or international market prices and on normal commercial terms taking into account the term of the sales contract.

It is envisaged that individual sales contracts will be entered into from time to time between the Group and CNOOC and/or its associates in relation to such sales, with a term not exceeding 25 years. The Comprehensive Framework Agreements provide that if the Company fails to obtain approval of the annual caps for this category of continuing connected transactions after 31 December 2007, then the agreements falling under this category will terminate on that date.

For the year ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005,

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long term sales of natural gas to CNOOC and/or its associates were approximately RMB315 million and RMB272 million respectively. There were no such transactions for the year ended 31 December 2003. For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, there have been no sales of liquefied natural gas to CNOOC and/or its associates.

Reasons for and benefits of the New Categories of continuing connected transactions

Prior to the restructuring of CNOOC and establishment of the Company, CNOOC and/or its associates and the Group operated as an integrated organisation which undertook numerous intra-group transactions each year. As a consequence of the restructuring and upon the listing of the Company's shares on the Stock Exchange, a number of transactions which have been entered into and which are to be entered into between the Group and CNOOC and/or its associates will constitute continuing connected transactions for the Company under the Listing Rules.

The New Categories of continuing connected transactions as referred to in this announcement are and will be conducted in the ordinary and usual course of business of the Company. These transactions will continue to be agreed on an arm's length basis with terms that are fair and reasonable to the Company. Due to the long-term relationship between the Group and the CNOOC Group, the Board considers it to be beneficial to the Company to continue to enter into the continuing connected transactions as these transactions have facilitated and will continue to facilitate the operation and growth of the Company's business.

The Board considers that all the above New Categories of continuing connected transactions have been conducted on normal commercial terms, or on terms no less favourable than those available to independent third parties, under prevailing local market conditions, and were entered into in the ordinary and usual course of business of the Group, are fair and reasonable and in the interests of the

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Company and our shareholders as a whole, and that the annual cap for each of the above New Categories of continuing connected transactions are fair and reasonable.

Proposed Caps and rationale

The Board has considered and proposed that the following Proposed Caps in respect of the New Categories of continuing connected transactions set as the maximum annual value of the relevant transactions above for the period from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2007:

The continuing connected transactions	Historical amount/ Estimate for 2005	Proposed Caps	Basis of determination of Caps
Provision of exploration, oil and gas development, oil and gas production as well as marketing, and support services by CNOOC and/or its associates to the Group			
(a) Exploration and support services	For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the	For the two years ending 31 December 2007,	The annual proposed caps for exploration and

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	<p>six months ended 30 June 2005, RMB854 million, RMB1,330 million and RMB428 million, respectively</p> <p>Estimated to be RMB1,538 million for the year ended 31 December 2005</p>	<p>RMB2,117 million and RMB2,293, respectively</p>	<p>been determined previous transa transaction amo exploration and provided by CNO to the Group; t the level of ex the Group withi expansion of ov Directors are o proposed caps p increment for t Group's future plan.</p>
(b) Oil and gas field development and support services	<p>For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, RMB2,765 million, RMB4,681 million and RMB2,513 million, respectively</p> <p>Estimated to be RMB4,789 million for the year ended 31 December 2005</p>	<p>For the two years ending 31 December 2007, RMB7,628 million and RMB10,458 million respectively</p>	<p>The annual propo gas field develo services have b reference to pr conducted and t respect of the development and provided by CNO to the Group; a expansion of ex development of oilfields offsh are of the view provide sufficii Group to captur anticipated exp</p>
(c) Oil and gas field production and support services	<p>For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, RMB1,177 million, RMB1,354 million and RMB575 million, respectively</p> <p>Estimated to be RMB2,068 million for the year ended 31 December 2005</p>	<p>For the two years ending 31 December 2007, RMB3,935 million and RMB4,132, respectively</p>	<p>The annual propo gas field produ services have b reference to pr conducted and t respect of the production and by CNOOC and/or Group; and the Group's busines estimated expan oilfields and t newly discovere China. The Dire that the propos sufficient incr capture the Gro expansion plan.</p>
(d) Marketing, management and ancillary services	<p>For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, RMB191 million, RMB326 million and RMB105 million, respectively</p>	<p>For the two years ending 31 December 2007, RMB478 million and RMB504 million, respectively</p>	<p>The annual propo management and been determined previous transa transaction amo marketing, mana services provid associates to t</p>

Estimated to be RMB443 million for the year ended 31 December 2005

expansion of the sales of oil and an increase in scale of the view that provide sufficient Group to capture anticipated expansion

(e) FPSO vessel leases

For the year ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, RMB51.97 million and RMB74.07 million, respectively

For the two years ending 31 December 2007, RMB453 million and RMB463 million, respectively

Estimated to be RMB149 million for the year ended 31 December 2005

The annual provision of FPSO vessel leases have been reference to previous conducted and the respect of the CNOOC and/or its Group; and the number of oil field vessels. The Directors that the proposed sufficient increase capture the Group expansion plan.

Provision of management, technical, facilities and ancillary services, including the supply of materials and/or its associates

Provision of management, technical, facilities and ancillary services, including the supply of materials to CNOOC and/or its associates

There have been no such transactions for the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005

For the two years ending 31 December 2007, RMB50 million and RMB100 million, respectively

It is expected those will be no such transactions for the year ended 31 December 2005

The annual provision of management, technical, facilities and ancillary services, including the supply of materials to CNOOC and/or its associates determined with anticipated need associates for services as a result optimize its income facilitate its world-class international The Directors a proposed caps p flexibility for anticipated business

Sales of petroleum and natural gas products by the Group to CNOOC and/or its associates

(a) Sales of petroleum and natural gas products

For the two years ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, RMB8,324 million, RMB13,630 million and RMB11,837 million, respectively

For the two years ending 31 December 2007, RMB33,469 million and RMB44,199 million, respectively

Estimated to be RMB28,320 million for the year ended 31 December 2005

The annual provision of petroleum and natural gas products by the Group to CNOOC and/or its associates have been determined historical transaction amounts in respect petroleum and natural gas the Group to CNOOC and/or its associates; the existing oilfield of several new the estimated revenue sales; and the

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expansion plan.

(b) Long term sales of natural gas and liquefied natural gas	For the year ended 31 December 2004 and the six months ended 30 June 2005, RMB315 million and RMB272 million, respectively	For the two years ending 31 December 2007, RMB1,960 million and RMB3,599 million, respectively
	Estimated to be RMB563	

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Disclosure and/or Independent Shareholders' approval requirements

Under the Listing Rules, the following categories amongst the New Categories of continuing connected transactions are exempted from the Independent Shareholders' approval requirement but are subject to the reporting and announcement requirements set out in Rules 14A.45 to 14A.47 of the Listing Rules, as each of the percentage ratios (other than the profits ratio), where applicable, in relation of each of these categories is, on a an annual basis, expected to be less than 2.5% under Rule 14A.34(1) of the Listing Rules:

- o Marketing, management and ancillary services;
- o FPSO vessel leases; and
- o Provision of management, technical, facilities and ancillary services, including the supply of materials from the Group to CNOOC and/or its associates.

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Under the Listing Rules, the Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions are subject to the reporting, announcement and Independent Shareholders' approval requirements. The Company will seek the Independent Shareholders' approval at the Extraordinary General Meeting for the Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions and the applicable Proposed Caps on the condition that:

1. The annual amount of each category of the Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions shall not exceed the applicable Proposed Cap;
2. (i) The Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions will be entered into in the usual and ordinary course of businesses of the Group and either (A) on normal commercial terms or (B) if there is no available comparison, on terms no less favourable to the Group than terms available from independent third parties; and

(ii) The Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions will be entered into in accordance with the relevant Comprehensive Framework Agreements and on terms that are fair and reasonable and in the interests of the Shareholders as a whole.

The Company will comply with relevant provisions of the Listing Rules in relation to each category of the Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions.

APPROVAL BY INDEPENDENT SHAREHOLDERS

As CNOOC indirectly owns an aggregate of approximately 70.64% of the issued share capital of the Company, the amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking, the Revised Cap for the "technical services" category of continuing connected transaction and the Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions (including the Proposed Caps) are subject to approval from the Independent Shareholders under the Listing Rules. In view of the interests of CNOOC held indirectly through OOGC and CNOOC BVI, OOGC, CNOOC BVI and their respective associates will abstain from voting in relation to the resolutions approving the amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking, the Revised Cap for the "technical services" category of continuing connected transaction and the Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions (including the Proposed Caps).

An Independent Board Committee has been formed to advise the Independent Shareholders in connection with the terms of the amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking, the Revised

Cap for the "technical services" category of continuing connected transaction and the Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions (including the Proposed Caps), and Dao Heng Securities Limited has been appointed as the Independent Financial Adviser to advise the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders on the same.

GENERAL

The principal business activity of the Company is investment holding. The Group principally engages in the exploration, development, production and sales of crude oil and natural gas and other petroleum products.

The CNOOC Group principally engages in the provision of technical services, logistic services, chemicals and fertilizer production, natural gas and power generation, and financial services.

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A circular containing, amongst other things, further information on the terms of the amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking, the Revised Cap for the "technical services" category of continuing connected transaction and the New Categories of continuing connected transactions, a letter from the Independent Board Committee, an opinion of Dao Heng Securities Limited, the Independent Financial Advisor, together with a notice to convene an extraordinary general meeting to approve, among other things, the amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking, the Revised Cap for the "technical services" category of continuing connected transaction and the Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions (including the Proposed Caps), is expected to be issued to the Shareholders on or around 10 December 2005.

DEFINITIONS

"2002 Circular"	the circular issued by the Company to its shareholders in respect of the Existing Waiver for the Ongoing Connected Transaction dated 9 December 2002
"associate"	has the meaning ascribed thereto under the Listing Rules
"Board"	the board of Directors of the Company
"Business"	exploration, development, production and sales of crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids deposited underground in and outside the PRC
"Company"	CNOOC Limited, a company incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability, the shares of which are listed on the Stock Exchange
"CNOOC"	China National Offshore Oil Corporation [CHINESE CHARACTERS OMITTED], the controlling shareholder of the Company indirectly holding approximately 70.64% of all of the Shares in issue as at the date hereof
"CNOOC BVI"	CNOOC (BVI) Limited, a company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands with limited liability, a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of CNOOC and the controlling shareholder of the Company
"CNOOC Group"	CNOOC and its subsidiaries (excluding the Group)
"COBGL"	CNOOC Oil Base Group Limited [CHINESE CHARACTERS OMITTED], a company incorporated in the PRC and a subsidiary of CNOOC
"Comprehensive Framework Agreement(s)"	the Comprehensive Framework Agreements dated 8 December 2005 entered into between the Company and each of CNOOC, COSL and OOECL in relation to the New Categories of continuing connected transactions
"COSL"	China Oilfield Services Limited [CHINESE CHARACTERS OMITTED], a company listed on the main board of the Stock Exchange and incorporated in the PRC, and a subsidiary of CNOOC
"Director(s)"	director(s) of the Company
"Extraordinary General Meeting"	the extraordinary general meeting of the Company to be held to approve, among other things, the amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking, the Revised Cap

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for the "technical services" category of continuing connected

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transaction and the Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions (including the Proposed Caps)

"Existing Non-Compete Undertaking"	The undertaking agreement dated 6 April 2000 between the Company and CNOOC, as supplemented by a supplemental agreement dated 21 December 2000, in relation to the non-compete undertakings given by CNOOC for the purposes of the Company's listing on the Stock Exchange
"Existing Categorisation"	the existing categorisation for continuing connected transactions between the Company and CNOOC and/or its associates as set out in the 2002 Circular
"Existing Waiver"	the waiver granted by the Stock Exchange in respect of the existing categorisation of continuing connected transactions between the Group and CNOOC and/or its associates, subject to the conditions set out in the 2002 Circular
"Group"	the Company and its subsidiaries from time to time
"Hong Kong"	the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the PRC
"Independent Board Committee"	an independent committee of the Board comprising of Mr. Sung Hong Chiu, Mr. Kenneth S. Courtis, Mr. Evert Henkes, Mr. Tse Hau Yin, Aloysius and Mr. Lawrence J. Lau, the independent non-executive Directors, formed for the purpose of advising the Independent Shareholders in relation to the terms of the amendment to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking, the Revised Cap for the "technical services" category of continuing connected transaction and the Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions (including the Proposed Caps)
"Independent Financial Adviser"	Dao Heng Securities Limited, a corporation licensed to carry out type 1 (dealings in securities), type 4 (advising on securities) and type 6 (advising on corporate finance) regulated activities under the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong), is the independent financial adviser to the Independent Board Committee and the Independent Shareholders
"Independent Shareholders"	shareholders of the Company other than CNOOC and its associates
"Listing Rules"	The Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange (as amended from time to time)
"New Categories"	the new categories of continuing connected transactions between the Company and CNOOC and/or its associates as set out in the section headed "New Categories of continuing connected transactions under

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the Comprehensive Framework Agreements" in this announcement

"Non-Exempt Continuing Connected Transactions"	the New Categories of continuing connected transactions other than the categories "Marketing, management and ancillary services", "FPSO vessel leases", and "Provision of management, technical, facilities and ancillary services, including the supply of materials from the Group to CNOOC and/or its associates", as set out in the section headed "New Categories of continuing connected transactions under the Comprehensive Framework Agreements" in this announcement
"OOECL"	Offshore Oil Engineering Co., Ltd. [CHINESE CHARACTERS OMITTED], a company incorporated in the PRC and listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange, and a subsidiary of CNOOC
"OOGC"	Overseas Oil and Gas Corporation, Ltd, a company incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability and a wholly-owned subsidiary of CNOOC.
"PRC"	The People's Republic of China, excluding for the purpose of this announcement, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan
"Proposed Cap(s) "	the proposed maximum annual aggregate values for each of the New Categories of continuing connected transactions of the Company as set out in the paragraph headed "Proposed Caps and Rationale" of this announcement
"Revised Cap"	the proposed maximum annual cap for the "technical services" category of continuing connected transactions of the Company using the Existing Categorisation, as set out in the paragraph headed "Revised Cap and Rationale" of this announcement
"Shares"	share(s) of HK\$0.02 each in the share capital of the Company
"Shareholders"	registered holder(s) of the Shares
"Stock Exchange"	The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited
"Supplemental Agreement "	the supplemental agreement dated 8 December 2005 between the Company and CNOOC in relation to certain amendments to the Existing Non-Compete Undertaking

As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises of:

Executive Directors
Fu Chengyu (Chairman)
Luo Han
Zhou Shouwei
Cao Xinghe
Wu Zhenfang
Wu Guangqi
Yang Hua

Independent non-executive Directors

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Sung Hong Chiu
Kenneth S. Curtis
Evert Henkes
Tse Hau Yin, Aloysius
Lawrence J. Lau

By Order of the Board
CNOOC Limited
Yunshi Cao
Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 8 December 2005

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the registrant has duly caused this report on Form 6-K to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

CNOOC Limited

By: /s/ Cao Yunshi

Name: Cao Yunshi
Title: Company Secretary

Dated: December 9, 2005

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