

GENERAL GEOPHYSICS CO

Form F-4

October 17, 2006

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 16, 2006
Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
Form F-4
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933
Compagnie Générale de Géophysique
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)
General Geophysics Company
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Republic of France
*(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)*

1382
*(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)*

Not Applicable
*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)*

Tour Maine-Montparnasse
33, avenue de Maine
BP 191
75755 Paris Cedex 15
France
+33 1 64 47 45 00
*(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)*

CT Corporation System
111 Eighth Avenue
New York, New York 10011
(212) 894-8400
*(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of agent for service)*

With copies to:

Thierry Le Roux
**Group President and Chief Financial
Officer**
Compagnie Générale de Géophysique
Tour Maine-Montparnasse
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BP 191
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+33 1 64 47 45 00

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after this registration statement becomes effective.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act), check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered(1)	Amount to be Registered(2)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(3)	Amount of Registration Fee(4)
Ordinary shares, nominal value 2 per share	9,965,226	N/A	\$1,250,898,146	\$133,846

- (1) The securities being offered hereby will be issued in the form of American Depositary Shares of the registrant, referred to as CGG ADSs, evidenced by American Depositary Receipts. Each CGG ADS represents one-fifth of one ordinary share, nominal value 2 per share, of the registrant, referred to as a CGG ordinary share. The CGG ADSs will be issuable upon deposit of CGG ordinary shares and will be registered under a registration statement on Form F-6.
- (2) Based on the maximum number of CGG ordinary shares issuable upon completion of the merger described in this proxy statement/ prospectus, assuming exercise of all outstanding options to purchase shares of Veritas common stock and conversion of all Veritas convertible senior bonds due 2024 into shares of Veritas common stock, in each case prior to the merger.
- (3) Computed pursuant to Rule 457(c), (f)(1) and (f)(3) under the Securities Act, and estimated solely for purposes of calculating the registration fee, the proposed maximum aggregate offering price is (1) the product of (a) the market value of \$65.62 per Veritas share, which was the average of the high and low prices for Veritas common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on October 10, 2006 and (b) the maximum total number of shares of Veritas common stock to be cancelled (which is 43,707,133), less (2) the maximum amount of cash to be paid by the registrant in exchange for shares of Veritas common stock (which equals \$1,617,163,921).
- (4) Computed in accordance with Rule 457(f) under the Securities Act by multiplying the proposed maximum aggregate offering price by 0.000107.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act, or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to Section 8(a), may determine.

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The information contained herein is subject to completion or amendment. No securities may be sold until a registration statement filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This preliminary proxy statement/ prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities, nor shall there be any sale of these securities, in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale is not permitted or would be unlawful.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED OCTOBER 16, 2006

To the Stockholders of Veritas DGC Inc.:

You are cordially invited to attend a special meeting of stockholders of Veritas DGC Inc. scheduled for [] at [] Houston time, at []. At the special meeting, you will be asked to adopt our agreement and plan of merger, dated as of September 4, 2006, with Compagnie Générale de Géophysique and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Volnay Acquisition Co. I and Volnay Acquisition Co. II, as this agreement may be amended from time to time, which is referred to as the merger agreement. In the merger, Volnay Acquisition Co. I will merge with and into Veritas, with Veritas surviving the merger as a wholly-owned subsidiary of CGG, immediately followed by Veritas merging with and into Volnay Acquisition Co. II, with Volnay Acquisition Co. II surviving the merger and continuing its corporate existence as a wholly-owned subsidiary of CGG. Immediately after the merger is effective, the combined company will be renamed CGG-Veritas.

Pursuant to the merger agreement, CGG will issue to Veritas stockholders up to approximately 49.8 million CGG ADSs, representing approximately 10.0 million CGG ordinary shares, and will pay to Veritas stockholders approximately \$1.6 billion in cash (based on the outstanding shares of Veritas common stock on July 31, 2006 and the maximum number of additional shares of Veritas common stock that may be issued in accordance with the merger agreement pursuant to the exercise of outstanding Veritas stock options or the conversion of Veritas convertible senior bonds due 2024 or otherwise). Because the value of the per share merger consideration is determined in part based on the average of the closing prices of CGG ADSs on the New York Stock Exchange during a trading period that ends just prior to the effective time of the merger, the actual amount of cash or number of CGG ADSs that you will be entitled to receive for each share of Veritas common stock cannot be determined until the effective time of the merger and will not be known at the time of the Veritas special meeting to vote upon the merger agreement. The formula that will determine the amount of per share merger consideration that you will be entitled to receive is described on page 75 of this proxy statement/ prospectus. The tables on pages 3 and 77 of this proxy statement/ prospectus give calculations of the merger consideration that you will be entitled to receive over a hypothetical range of values for the CGG ADSs.

You may elect to receive either cash or CGG ADSs with respect to each share of Veritas common stock you hold, subject in each case to proration as set forth in the merger agreement and described in this proxy statement/ prospectus. **Regardless of whether you elect to receive cash, CGG ADSs or a combination of cash and CGG ADSs, or make no election, the merger agreement contains provisions designed to cause the value of the per share consideration you receive to be substantially equivalent.**

Each CGG ADS represents one-fifth of one CGG ordinary share, nominal value \$2 per share. CGG ADSs trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol the GGY. We estimate that immediately after the effective time of the merger, former Veritas stockholders will hold CGG ADSs representing approximately 36% of the then-outstanding CGG ordinary shares (based on the outstanding shares of Veritas common stock on July 31, 2006 and the maximum number of additional shares of Veritas common stock that may be issued in accordance with the merger agreement pursuant to the exercise of outstanding Veritas stock options or the conversion of Veritas convertible senior bonds due 2024 or otherwise).

The merger cannot be completed unless Veritas stockholders adopt the merger agreement by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the shares of Veritas common stock outstanding on [], 2006 the record date for the special meeting.

The Veritas board of directors has unanimously approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, which is described in detail in this proxy statement/ prospectus.

The accompanying proxy statement/ prospectus contains detailed information about the merger, the merger agreement and the Veritas special meeting. This document is also a prospectus for the CGG ordinary shares underlying the CGG ADSs that will be issued pursuant to the merger. **We encourage you to read this proxy statement/ prospectus carefully before voting, including the section entitled Risk Factors beginning on page 23. Your vote is very important.** Whether or not you plan to attend the Veritas special meeting, please take the time to submit your proxy by completing and mailing the enclosed proxy card or, if the option is available to you, by granting your proxy electronically over the Internet or by telephone. If your shares of Veritas common stock are held in street name, you must instruct your broker how to vote such shares.

Sincerely,

Thierry Pilenko
Chairman of the Board of Directors and
Chief Executive Officer
Veritas DGC Inc.

Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission nor any non-U.S. or state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the securities to be issued under this proxy statement/ prospectus or has passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of the disclosure in this proxy statement/ prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This proxy statement/ prospectus is dated [], 2006, and is first being mailed to Veritas stockholders on or about [], 2006.

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**Veritas DGC Inc.
10300 Town Park Drive
Houston, Texas 77072
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON []**

To the Stockholders of Veritas DGC Inc.:

We will hold a special meeting of stockholders of Veritas on [] at [] Houston time, at [], for the following purposes:

1. to consider and vote on the proposal to adopt the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of September 4, 2006 (which we refer to as the merger agreement), by and among Veritas, CGG, Volnay Acquisition Co. I and Volnay Acquisition Co. II, as this agreement may be amended from time to time; and

2. to transact any other business that may properly come before the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting.

Only Veritas stockholders of record at the close of business on [], 2006, the record date for the Veritas special meeting, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Veritas special meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the Veritas special meeting.

The Veritas board of directors has unanimously approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, which is described in detail in this proxy statement/ prospectus.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, please submit a proxy as soon as possible. To submit a proxy, call the toll-free telephone number listed on your proxy card, use the Internet as described in the instructions on the enclosed proxy card, or complete, sign, date and mail your proxy card. Submitting a proxy will assure that your vote is counted at the meeting if you do not attend in person. If your shares of Veritas common stock are held in street name by your broker or other nominee, only that holder can vote your shares of Veritas common stock and the vote cannot be cast unless you provide instructions to your broker. You should follow the directions provided by your broker regarding how to instruct your broker to vote your shares of Veritas common stock. You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted. Please review the proxy statement/ prospectus accompanying this notice for more complete information regarding the merger and the special meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors of
Veritas DGC Inc.,

Larry L. Worden
Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Houston, Texas, [], 2006

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This proxy statement/ prospectus incorporates by reference important business and financial information about CGG and Veritas from documents that are not included or delivered with this proxy statement/ prospectus. See Additional Information Where You Can Find More Information beginning on page 180.

Documents incorporated by reference are available to you without charge upon your written or oral request, excluding any exhibits to those documents, unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference as an exhibit in this proxy statement/ prospectus. You can obtain any of these documents by requesting them in writing or by telephone from the appropriate company.

Compagnie Générale de Géophysique
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33, avenue du Maine
BP 191
75755 Paris Cedex 15, France
+33 1 64 47 45 00
Attention: Investor Relations
www.cgg.com

Veritas DGC Inc.
10300 Town Park Drive
Houston, Texas 77072
(832) 351-8300
Attention: Investor Relations
www.veritasdgc.com

In order for you to receive timely delivery of the documents in advance of the Veritas special meeting, CGG or Veritas, as applicable, should receive your request by no later than [].

You also may obtain these documents at the website of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, which is referred to as the SEC, www.sec.gov, and you may obtain certain of these documents at CGG's website, www.cgg.com, by selecting Investors and then selecting Financial Reports, and at Veritas' website, www.veritasdgc.com, by selecting Investors, then selecting Financials and then selecting SEC Filings.

CGG and Veritas are expressly not incorporating by reference the contents of the websites of the SEC, CGG, Veritas or any other person into this proxy statement/ prospectus. CGG and Veritas are providing for your convenience only the information about how you can obtain certain documents that are incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/ prospectus at these websites.

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document, which forms part of a registration statement on Form F-4 filed with the SEC by CGG (File No. 333-[]), constitutes a prospectus of CGG under Section 5 of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, which is referred to as the Securities Act, with respect to the CGG ordinary shares underlying the CGG ADSs to be issued to Veritas stockholders pursuant to the merger. This document also constitutes a notice of meeting and a proxy statement under Section 14(a) of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which is referred to as the Exchange Act, with respect to the special meeting of Veritas stockholders, at which Veritas stockholders will be asked to consider and vote upon a proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

CURRENCIES

In this proxy statement/ prospectus, unless otherwise specified or the context otherwise requires:

\$ and U.S. dollar each refer to the United States dollar;

and euro each refer to the euro, the single currency established for members of the European Economic and Monetary Union since January 1, 1999; and

NOK are to Norwegian Kroner.

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**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE MERGER AND THE
VERITAS SPECIAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING**

The following are some questions that you may have regarding the proposed merger being considered at the Veritas special meeting and brief answers to those questions. Veritas and CGG urge you to read carefully the remainder of this proxy statement/prospectus because the information in this section does not provide all the information that might be important to you. Additional important information is also contained in the annexes to, and the documents incorporated by reference in, this proxy statement/prospectus. Unless stated otherwise, all references in this proxy statement/prospectus to CGG are to Compagnie Générale de Géophysique, a société anonyme organized under the laws of the Republic of France; all references to Veritas are to Veritas DGC Inc., a Delaware corporation; all references to CGG-Veritas are to the combined company; and all references to the merger agreement are to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of September 4, 2006, by and among Veritas, CGG, Volnay Acquisition Co. I and Volnay Acquisition Co. II, a copy of which is attached as Annex A to this proxy statement/prospectus and is incorporated by reference herein.

Q: What is the proposed transaction?

A: CGG and Veritas have entered into a merger agreement, pursuant to which Volnay Acquisition Co. I will merge with and into Veritas, with Veritas surviving the merger as a wholly-owned subsidiary of CGG, immediately followed by Veritas merging with and into Volnay Acquisition Co. II, with Volnay Acquisition Co. II surviving the merger and continuing its corporate existence as a wholly-owned subsidiary of CGG (together, these transactions are referred to in this proxy statement/prospectus as the merger). The combined company will be renamed CGG-Veritas immediately after the effective time of the merger.

Q: Why are CGG and Veritas proposing the merger?

A: The boards of directors of CGG and Veritas believe that the combination of CGG and Veritas will provide substantial strategic and financial benefits to the shareholders of both companies and will allow shareholders the opportunity to participate in a strong, pure-play seismic company offering a broad range of seismic services and, through Sercel, geophysical equipment, to the industry across all markets. To review the reasons for the merger in greater detail, see *The Merger Recommendation of the Veritas Board of Directors and Its Reasons for the Merger* and *The Merger CGG's Reasons for the Merger*.

Q: Why am I receiving this proxy statement/prospectus?

A: Veritas stockholders are being asked to adopt the merger agreement. Under the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, which governs Veritas, adoption of the merger agreement requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Veritas common stock entitled to vote. Accordingly, if a Veritas stockholder fails to vote, or if a Veritas stockholder abstains, that will have the same effect as a vote against adoption of the merger agreement. Your broker will **not** be able to vote shares of Veritas common stock held in street name unless you instruct your broker how to vote.

This proxy statement/prospectus contains important information about the proposed merger, the merger agreement and the Veritas special meeting, which you should read carefully before voting. The enclosed voting materials allow you to cause your shares of Veritas common stock to be voted without attending the Veritas special meeting in person.

Your vote is very important. You are encouraged to submit a proxy as soon as possible.

Q:

What is the amount of cash and/or the number of CGG ADSs that I will be entitled to receive for my shares of Veritas common stock?

A: Under the merger agreement, the actual amount of cash or number of CGG ADSs that you will be entitled to receive for each share of Veritas common stock you hold cannot be determined until the effective time of the merger. Those amounts will be determined based on a formula set forth in the merger agreement and described in this proxy statement/ prospectus. The per share consideration will be equal to the aggregate value of all CGG ADSs and cash being issued pursuant to the merger divided by the total number of shares of Veritas common stock outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the merger. The value of the CGG ADSs for these purposes, or average CGG ADS value, as it is referred to in this proxy statement/ prospectus, will be the average of the closing prices of CGG ADSs on the New York Stock Exchange, referred to as the NYSE, as reported by *The Wall Street Journal* during the

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20 consecutive trading day period during which the CGG ADSs are traded on the NYSE ending three calendar days before the effective time of the merger or, if such calendar day is not a trading day, then ending on the trading day immediately preceding such calendar day. There are tables on pages 3 and 77 of this proxy statement/prospectus that set forth the per share cash consideration and the per ADS consideration that would be received by Veritas stockholders based on a range of hypothetical average CGG ADS values.

For a more complete description of what Veritas stockholders will be entitled to receive pursuant to the merger, see The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration.

Q: If I am a Veritas stockholder, when must I elect the type of merger consideration that I prefer to receive?

A: Holders of Veritas common stock who wish to elect the type of merger consideration they prefer to receive pursuant to the merger should carefully review and follow the instructions set forth in the election form provided to Veritas stockholders together with this proxy statement/prospectus. These instructions require that a properly completed and signed election form along with your shares of Veritas common stock be received by the exchange agent by the election deadline, which is 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on []. If a Veritas stockholder does not submit a properly completed and signed election form to the exchange agent by the election deadline, then such stockholder will have no control over the type of merger consideration such stockholder will receive, and, consequently, will receive only cash, only CGG ADSs, or a combination of cash and CGG ADSs pursuant to the merger.

For a more complete description of what Veritas stockholders will be entitled to receive pursuant to the merger, see The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration.

Q: What is a CGG ADS?

A: An American Depositary Share, or ADS, is a security that allows shareholders in the United States to more easily hold and trade interests in foreign-based companies. ADSs are often evidenced by certificates known as American Depositary Receipts, or ADRs. CGG is a French company that issues ordinary shares that are similar in many respects to common stock of a U.S. company. Each CGG ADS represents one-fifth of one CGG ordinary share. CGG ordinary shares are quoted in euros on the Euronext Paris SA, which is the French national stock exchange. CGG ADSs represent certain rights with respect to the underlying CGG ordinary shares. See Description of the CGG American Depositary Shares.

Q: Are CGG ADSs publicly traded in the United States?

A: Yes. CGG ADSs are publicly traded in the United States and are listed on the NYSE under the trading symbol GGY.

Q: What are the implications of CGG being a foreign private issuer ?

A: CGG is subject to the reporting requirements under the Exchange Act applicable to foreign private issuers. CGG is required to file its annual report on Form 20-F with the SEC within six months after the end of each fiscal year. In addition, CGG must furnish reports on Form 6-K to the SEC regarding certain information required to be publicly disclosed by CGG in France or filed with Euronext Paris SA, or regarding information distributed or required to be distributed by CGG to its shareholders. CGG is exempt from certain rules under the Exchange Act, including the proxy rules which impose certain disclosure and procedural requirements for proxy solicitations under Section 14 of the Exchange Act. Moreover, CGG is not required to file periodic reports and financial statements with the SEC as frequently or as promptly as U.S. companies whose securities are registered under the

Exchange Act; is not required to file financial statements prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP (although it is required to reconcile its annual financial statements to U.S. GAAP); and is not required to comply with Regulation FD, which addresses certain restrictions on the selective disclosure of material information. In addition, among other matters, CGG's officers, directors and principal shareholders are exempt from the reporting and short-swing profit recovery provisions of Section 16 of the Exchange Act and the rules under the Exchange Act with respect to their purchases and sales of CGG ordinary shares. If CGG or the combined company loses its status as a foreign private issuer, it will no longer be exempt from such rules and, among other things, will be required to file periodic reports and financial statements as if it were a company incorporated in the United States.

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The covenants contained in CGG's outstanding 7 1/2% senior notes due 2015, referred to as the CGG senior notes, however, require CGG to furnish to the SEC a greater level of financial and non-financial information than the Exchange Act requires of foreign private issuers for so long as such notes remain outstanding. Specifically, CGG's current practice is to prepare financial statements on a quarterly basis and to furnish them under the Exchange Act on Form 6-K. CGG's current practice is also to prepare and furnish under the Exchange Act, together with such financial statements, disclosure with respect to its Operating and Financial Review and Prospects of the type described in Item 5 of SEC Form 20-F.

Q: What will happen in the proposed merger to stock options to purchase Veritas common stock and other stock-based awards that have been granted to employees, directors and consultants of Veritas or its affiliates?

A: Each option to purchase shares of Veritas common stock pursuant to any stock option plan, program or arrangement of Veritas which is outstanding and unexercised immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, whether or not vested, will be cancelled and converted into a right to receive an amount in cash equal to the excess, if any, of the per share cash consideration in the merger over the exercise price per share under such option immediately prior to such cancellation and conversion (less any applicable withholding taxes).

All Veritas option plans and the provisions in the Veritas 2001 Key Employee Restricted Stock Plan or any other plan providing for the issuance, transfer or grant of any capital stock of Veritas or any interest in respect of any capital stock of Veritas will be terminated as of the effective time of the merger.

Q: What will happen to Veritas convertible bonds in the merger?

A: Veritas floating rate convertible senior bonds due 2024 (referred to in this proxy statement/ prospectus as the convertible bonds) that are not converted by their holders into Veritas common stock prior to the merger will remain outstanding following the merger. After the effective time of the merger, the convertible bonds will become convertible for the merger consideration that a holder of shares of Veritas common stock that made no election would receive, which will not be determinable until after the election deadline.

A holder of the convertible bonds who converts into Veritas common stock prior to the election deadline may elect to receive cash or CGG ADSs or a combination of cash and CGG ADSs in the same manner as other Veritas stockholders, subject to the election procedures and proration mechanisms described in this proxy statement/ prospectus.

A holder of Veritas convertible bonds that wishes to have the right to make an election should tender his convertible bonds for conversion sufficiently in advance of the election deadline and return a properly completed election form prior to the election deadline of 5:00 p.m. New York City time on [] with respect to the shares of Veritas common stock issued on conversion.

Q: What conditions are required to be fulfilled to complete the merger?

A: CGG and Veritas are not required to complete the merger unless certain specified conditions are satisfied or waived. These conditions include adoption by Veritas stockholders of the merger agreement, the approval by CGG shareholders of the issuance of CGG ordinary shares underlying the CGG ADSs to be issued pursuant to the merger and related matters and receipt of approval and/or clearance from regulatory agencies in the United States and certain European and other countries. There can be no assurance that such conditions will be satisfied. For a more complete summary of the conditions that must be satisfied or waived prior to the effective time of the merger, see The Merger Agreement Conditions to Completion of the Merger beginning on page 97.

Q: How will CGG finance the cash component of the merger?

A: CGG has entered into a commitment letter with Credit Suisse International contemplating a senior secured bridge loan facility of up to \$1.6 billion to be made available to CGG for the purposes of, among other things, financing the cash component of the merger consideration. The bridge loan facility may be drawn only in a single borrowing on the date of the merger and is payable in full by a single payment 18 months from the initial funding date, subject to a six-month extension at the sole option of a majority of lenders under the facility.

Under the bridge loan facility, CGG-Veritas will be required to maintain certain financial covenants and will be subject to affirmative and negative covenants that will affect its ability, among other things, to

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borrow money, incur liens, dispose of assets and make acquisitions as further described under **CGG Recent Developments** **Bridge Loan Facility** beginning on page 39. In addition, drawing under the bridge loan facility is conditioned upon certain conditions which, if not met and not waived by Credit Suisse International, will result in CGG being unable to draw funds under the bridge loan agreement and having to seek other financing to complete the merger. See **Risk Factors** **Risks Related to the Combined Company's Indebtedness**. If CGG is unable to draw funds under the commitment letter, it will have to seek other financing to complete the merger, which could be on terms that are less favorable to CGG.

Q: When do CGG and Veritas expect the merger to be completed?

A: CGG and Veritas are working to complete the merger as quickly as practicable. They currently expect the merger to be completed during the first quarter of 2007. However, neither CGG nor Veritas can predict the exact timing of the effective time of the merger because it is subject to governmental approvals and other conditions both within and beyond each of their control. See **The Merger Agreement** **Conditions to the Completion of the Merger** beginning on page 97.

Q: Are Veritas stockholders entitled to appraisal rights?

A: If the merger is completed and any holder of Veritas common stock is required to receive cash (other than cash in lieu of fractional CGG ADSs) as consideration pursuant to the merger, holders of shares of Veritas common stock who do not vote in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement will have the right to seek appraisal of the fair value of their shares, but only if they submit a written demand for such an appraisal prior to the vote on adoption of the merger agreement and they comply with the other Delaware law procedures and requirements explained in this proxy statement/ prospectus. See **Appraisal Rights** beginning on page 117.

Q: How does the Veritas board of directors recommend that Veritas stockholders vote?

A: The Veritas board of directors has determined that the execution and delivery of the merger agreement was advisable and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement are in the best interests of the Veritas stockholders and unanimously recommends that Veritas stockholders vote **FOR** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement. For a more complete description of the recommendation of the Veritas board of directors, see **The Merger** **Recommendation of the Veritas Board of Directors and Its Reasons for the Merger** beginning on page 51.

Q: When and where will the Veritas special meeting be held?

A: The Veritas special meeting will be held on [] at [] Houston time, at [].

Q: Who can attend and vote at the Veritas special meeting?

A: All Veritas stockholders of record as of the close of business on [], 2006, the record date for the Veritas special meeting, are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Veritas special meeting.

Q: What do I need to do now?

A: After you have carefully read this proxy statement/ prospectus, please respond by completing, signing and dating your proxy card and returning it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope or, if available, by submitting your proxy by telephone or through the Internet as soon as possible so that your shares of Veritas common stock will be represented and voted at the special meeting.

Please refer to your proxy card or the information forwarded by your broker or other nominee to see which options are available to you.

The Internet and telephone proxy submission procedures are designed to authenticate stockholders and to allow you to confirm that your instructions have been properly recorded.

The method by which you submit a proxy will in no way limit your right to vote at the Veritas special meeting if you later decide to attend the meeting in person. If your shares of Veritas common stock are held in the name of a broker or other nominee, you must obtain a proxy, executed in your favor, from the holder of record, to be able to vote at our special meeting.

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If you acquired shares of Veritas stock under any equity compensation or other employee benefit plan of Veritas, the trustee or administrator of such plan will instruct you as to how to exercise your voting rights with respect to such shares.

All shares of Veritas common stock entitled to vote and represented by properly completed proxies received prior to the Veritas special meeting, and not revoked, will be voted at the Veritas special meeting as instructed on the proxies. **If you do not indicate how your shares of Veritas common stock should be voted on a matter, the shares of Veritas common stock represented by your properly completed proxy will be voted as the Veritas board of directors recommends and therefore FOR the adoption of the merger agreement.**

Q: If I am a Veritas stockholder, should I send in my stock certificates with my proxy card?

A: No. Please **DO NOT** send your Veritas stock certificates with your proxy card. Rather, prior to the election deadline, which is 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on [] you should send your Veritas common stock certificates to the exchange agent, together with your completed, signed election form. If your shares of Veritas common stock are held in street name by your broker or other nominee you should follow your broker's or other nominee's instructions for making an election with respect to your shares of Veritas common stock.

Q: Can I change my vote after I have delivered my proxy?

A: Yes. You may change your vote at any time before your proxy is voted at the Veritas special meeting. You can do this in any of the three following ways:

by sending a written notice to the Secretary of Veritas in time to be received before the Veritas special meeting stating that you would like to revoke your proxy;

by completing, signing and dating another proxy card and returning it by mail in time to be received before the Veritas special meeting or, if you submitted your proxy through the Internet or by telephone, by submitting a proxy card at a later date, in which case your later-submitted proxy will be recorded and your earlier proxy revoked; or

if you are a holder of record, by attending the special meeting and voting in person. Simply attending the Veritas special meeting without voting will not revoke your proxy or change your vote.

If your shares of Veritas common stock are held in an account at a broker or other nominee and you desire to change your vote, you should contact your broker or other nominee.

Q: What should I do if I receive more than one set of voting materials for the Veritas special meeting?

A: You may receive more than one set of voting materials for the Veritas special meeting, including multiple copies of this proxy statement/ prospectus and multiple proxy cards or voting instruction cards. For example, if you hold your shares of Veritas common stock in more than one brokerage account, you will receive a separate voting instruction card for each brokerage account in which you hold shares of Veritas common stock. If you are a holder of record and your shares of Veritas common stock are registered in more than one name, you will receive more than one proxy card. Please complete, sign, date and return each proxy card and voting instruction card that you receive.

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Q: If my shares of Veritas common stock are held in street name by my broker or other nominee, will my broker or other nominee vote my shares of Veritas common stock for me?

A: Your broker will NOT vote your shares of Veritas common stock held in street name unless you instruct your broker how to vote. Such failure to vote will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST adoption of the merger agreement. You should therefore provide your broker or other nominee with instructions as to how to vote your shares of Veritas common stock.

Q: Who can answer my questions?

A: If you have any questions about the merger or how to submit your proxy, or if you need additional copies of this proxy statement/ prospectus, the enclosed proxy card, voting instructions or the election form, you should contact:

[Information Agent]

[Address]

E-mail: []

Stockholders, call toll-free: (800) []

Brokerage Firms and Other Nominees, call []

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SUMMARY

*The following is a summary that highlights information contained in this proxy statement/prospectus. This summary may not contain all of the information that is important to you. For a more complete description of the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, CGG and Veritas encourage you to carefully read this entire proxy statement/prospectus, including the attached annexes. In addition, CGG and Veritas encourage you to read the information incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus, which includes important business and financial information about CGG and Veritas that has been filed with the SEC. You may obtain the information incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus without charge by following the instructions in the section entitled *Additional Information Where You Can Find More Information* on page 180.*

The Companies

Compagnie Générale de Géophysique. CGG is a leading manufacturer of geophysical equipment and international provider of geophysical services. Founded in France in 1931, it sells its geophysical equipment primarily to other geophysical service companies and provides geophysical services principally to oil and gas companies that use seismic imaging to help explore for, develop and manage oil and gas reserves by (i) identifying new areas where subsurface conditions are favorable for the accumulation of oil and gas; (ii) determining the size and structure of previously identified oil and gas fields and (iii) optimizing development and production of oil and gas reserves (reservoir management).

CGG ADSs are traded on the NYSE under the trading symbol *GGY*. Each CGG ADS represents one-fifth of one CGG ordinary share. CGG ordinary shares are quoted on Euronext Paris SA under the trading symbol *GLE*.

CGG's principal executive offices are located at Tour Maine-Montparnasse, 33, avenue du Maine, BP 191, 75755 Paris, Cedex 15 France.

Veritas DGC Inc. Veritas is a leading provider of integrated geophysical information services to the petroleum industry worldwide. Its customers include major national and independent oil and gas companies that utilize geophysical technologies to: (i) identify new areas where subsurface conditions are favorable for the production of hydrocarbons; (ii) determine the size and structure of previously identified oil and gas fields and (iii) optimize development and production of hydrocarbon reserves. Veritas and its predecessors have been in operation for more than 36 years.

Veritas common stock is traded on the NYSE under the symbol *VTS*.

Veritas's principal executive offices are located at 10300 Town Park Drive, Houston, Texas 77072.

Volnay Acquisition Co. I and Volnay Acquisition Co. II. Volnay Acquisition Co. I and Volnay Acquisition Co. II, are each wholly-owned subsidiaries of CGG and are each organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. Volnay Acquisition Co. I and Volnay Acquisition Co. II were formed on September 5, 2006 solely for the purpose of effecting the merger. Volnay Acquisition Co. I and Volnay Acquisition Co. II have not conducted any business operations other than activities incidental to their formation and in connection with the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

The principal executive offices of Volnay Acquisition Co. I and Volnay Acquisition Co. II are c/o Compagnie Générale de Géophysique, Tour Maine-Montparnasse, 33, avenue du Maine, BP 191, 75755, Paris, Cedex 15 France.

The Merger (see page 44)

CGG and Veritas have agreed to combine their businesses pursuant to the merger agreement described in this proxy statement/prospectus. Under the terms of the merger agreement, Volnay Acquisition Co. I will merge with and into Veritas, with Veritas surviving the merger as a wholly-owned subsidiary of CGG, immediately followed by Veritas merging with and into Volnay Acquisition Co. II, with Volnay Acquisition

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Co. II surviving the merger and continuing its corporate existence as a wholly-owned subsidiary of CGG. The combined company will be renamed CGG-Veritas immediately after the effective time of the merger.

The merger agreement is attached as Annex A to this proxy statement/ prospectus and is incorporated by reference herein. CGG and Veritas encourage you to read the merger agreement in its entirety because it is the legal document that governs the merger.

Merger Consideration (see page 85)

The merger agreement provides that at the effective time of the merger, each outstanding share of Veritas common stock will be converted into the right to receive either a number of CGG ADSs or an amount of cash, subject to the election and proration procedures described in this proxy statement/ prospectus. The actual amount of cash or number of CGG ADSs that you will be entitled to receive for each share of Veritas common stock you hold cannot be determined until the effective time of the merger. Those amounts will be determined based on the formula set forth in the merger agreement and described in The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration beginning on page 85 of this proxy statement/ prospectus. The formula is designed to substantially equalize the value of the consideration to be received for each share of Veritas common stock, at the time the calculation is made, regardless of whether you elect to receive cash, CGG ADSs or a combination of cash and CGG ADSs, or make no election. CGG and Veritas deemed this equalization mechanism to be desirable because the value of the CGG ADSs will fluctuate between September 4, 2006, the date the merger agreement was entered into, and the effective time of the merger. The value of the merger consideration to be received with respect to each share of Veritas common stock will be equal to \$37.00 plus approximately \$1.14 per \$1.00 of average CGG ADS value.

The aggregate amount of cash and the total number of CGG ADSs to be paid and issued, respectively, pursuant to the merger are fixed (in each case subject to upward adjustment in the event that any shares of Veritas common stock are issued in accordance with the merger agreement pursuant to the exercise of outstanding Veritas stock options or conversion of Veritas convertible bonds or otherwise). Because the amount of cash and the number of CGG ADSs to be paid and issued, respectively, pursuant to the merger are fixed, the percentage of shares of Veritas common stock that will be exchanged for CGG ADSs and the percentage that will be exchanged for cash will depend upon the average CGG ADS value. The higher the average CGG ADS value is, the greater the percentage of shares of Veritas common stock that will be exchanged for CGG ADSs and the lower the average CGG ADS value is, the greater the percentage of shares of Veritas common stock that will be exchanged for cash.

For example, if the average CGG ADS value is \$30.00, a Veritas stockholder receiving CGG ADSs in exchange for shares of Veritas common stock would receive 2.373 CGG ADSs per share of Veritas common stock, with a value of \$71.20 per share based on that average CGG ADS value, and a Veritas stockholder receiving cash in exchange for shares of Veritas common stock would receive \$71.20 in cash per share of Veritas common stock. The exact proration of CGG ADSs and cash each Veritas stockholder will receive in exchange for such holder's shares of Veritas common stock is subject to the proration procedures described below. Based on an average CGG ADS value of \$30.00, approximately 48.03% of the outstanding shares of Veritas common stock would be exchanged for CGG ADSs, and approximately 51.97% would be exchanged for cash.

Assuming a hypothetical average CGG ADS value of \$33.33, which was the closing price of CGG ADSs on August 29, 2006, the merger would have a value of approximately \$75.00 per share of Veritas common stock. Assuming a hypothetical average CGG ADS value of \$29.76, which was the closing price of CGG ADSs on October 13, 2006, the last business day prior to the filing of this proxy statement/ prospectus, the merger would have a value of approximately \$70.93 per share of Veritas common stock. Assuming a hypothetical average CGG ADS value of \$[] based on the average of the per share closing prices of CGG ADSs as reported in *The Wall Street Journal* during the 20 consecutive trading day period ended on [] (which is three calendar days prior to the date of mailing of this proxy statement/ prospectus), the merger would have a value of approximately \$[] per share of Veritas common stock.

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The following table sets forth, based on various hypothetical average CGG ADS values, the per share cash consideration and the per share CGG ADS consideration, as well as the value of such CGG ADS consideration based on the hypothetical average CGG ADS values. The table also shows the percentage of outstanding shares of Veritas common stock that would be converted into CGG ADSs and cash based on such average CGG ADS values.

Average CGG ADS Value	Per Share Cash Consideration	Per Share CGG ADS Consideration	Value of per Share CGG ADS Consideration(1)	Approximate Percentage of Merger Consideration	
				In ADSs	In Cash
\$25.00	\$65.50	2.6201	\$65.50	43.51%	56.49%
\$26.00	\$66.64	2.5631	\$66.64	44.48%	55.52%
\$27.00	\$67.78	2.5104	\$67.78	45.41%	54.59%
\$28.00	\$68.92	2.4615	\$68.92	46.31%	53.69%
\$29.00	\$70.06	2.4159	\$70.06	47.19%	52.81%
\$30.00	\$71.20	2.3734	\$71.20	48.03%	51.97%
\$31.00	\$72.34	2.3336	\$72.34	48.85%	51.15%
\$32.00	\$73.48	2.2963	\$73.48	49.64%	50.36%
\$33.00	\$74.62	2.2613	\$74.62	50.41%	49.59%
\$34.00	\$75.76	2.2283	\$75.76	51.16%	48.84%
\$35.00	\$76.90	2.1972	\$76.90	51.88%	48.12%
\$36.00	\$78.04	2.1678	\$78.04	52.59%	47.41%
\$37.00	\$79.18	2.1400	\$79.18	53.27%	46.73%
\$38.00	\$80.32	2.1137	\$80.32	53.93%	46.07%
\$39.00	\$81.46	2.0888	\$81.46	54.58%	45.42%
\$40.00	\$82.60	2.0650	\$82.60	55.20%	44.80%

Note:

(1) Based on the CGG ADS value.

The actual value of the cash consideration or number of CGG ADSs that you will be entitled to receive for each share of Veritas common stock you hold may differ from the hypothetical amounts shown in these examples because the actual amounts can only be determined at the effective time of the merger based on a formula set forth in the merger agreement and described in this proxy statement/ prospectus.

Following the effective time of the merger, Veritas stockholders are expected to own approximately 36% of CGG-Veritas on a fully diluted basis based on the outstanding shares of Veritas common stock on July 31, 2006 and the maximum number of additional shares of Veritas common stock that may be issued in accordance with the merger agreement pursuant to the exercise of outstanding Veritas stock options or the conversion of the Veritas convertible bonds or otherwise.

No assurance can be given that the average value of CGG ADSs will be equivalent to the fair market value of CGG ADSs on the date that the merger consideration is received by a Veritas stockholder or at any other time. The actual fair market value of the CGG ADSs received by Veritas stockholders will depend upon the market price of CGG ADSs upon receipt, which may be higher or lower than the average CGG ADS value or the market price of CGG ADSs on the date the merger was announced, on the date this proxy statement/ prospectus is mailed to Veritas stockholders, on the date a Veritas stockholder makes an election with respect to the merger consideration, or on the date of the special meeting of Veritas stockholders.

Election of Merger Consideration (Page 89)

You may elect to receive cash or, CGG ADSs in exchange for each of your shares of Veritas common stock. However, since CGG is delivering a fixed number of CGG ADSs and paying a fixed amount of cash (in each case subject to upward adjustment in the event that any shares of Veritas common stock are issued in

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accordance with the merger agreement pursuant to the exercise of outstanding Veritas stock options, the conversion of Veritas convertible bonds or otherwise), you cannot be certain of receiving the form of consideration that you elect with respect to all of your shares of Veritas common stock. If the elections result in an oversubscription of the pool of cash or CGG ADSs, certain procedures for allocating cash and CGG ADSs among Veritas stockholders will be followed by the exchange agent. See The Merger Agreement Conversion of Shares; Exchange of Certificates; Elections as to Form of Consideration; Proration Proration beginning on page 93 of this proxy statement/ prospectus.

Completion and Delivery of the Election Form (Page 92)

You have received together with this proxy statement/ prospectus an election form with instructions for making cash and CGG ADS elections. You should properly complete and deliver to the exchange agent your election form along with your stock certificates (or a properly completed notice of guaranteed delivery in lieu of the stock certificates). Do not send your stock certificates or election form with your proxy card.

Election forms and stock certificates (or a properly completed notice of guaranteed delivery in lieu of the stock certificates) must be received by the exchange agent by the election deadline, which is 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on []. Once you tender your stock certificates to the exchange agent, you may not transfer your shares of Veritas common stock until the merger is completed, unless you revoke your election by written notice to the exchange agent that is received prior to the election deadline.

If you fail to submit a properly completed election form, together with your stock certificates (or a properly completed notice of guaranteed delivery), prior to the election deadline, you will be deemed not to have made an election. As a holder making no election, you will be paid a value per share equivalent to the amount paid per share to holders making elections, but you may be paid in all cash, all CGG ADSs, or part cash and part CGG ADSs, depending on the remaining pool of cash and CGG ADSs available for paying merger consideration after honoring the elections that other Veritas stockholders have made.

If you own shares of Veritas common stock in street name through a broker or other nominee and you wish to make an election, you should seek instructions from the broker or other nominee holding your shares of Veritas common stock concerning how to make your election.

If the merger agreement is not adopted by Veritas stockholders, or the issuance of CGG ordinary shares underlying the CGG ADSs is not approved by CGG shareholders, stock certificates will be returned by the exchange agent by first class mail or through book-entry transfer (in the case of shares of Veritas common stock delivered in book-entry form to the exchange agent).

Treatment of Stock Options (see page 94)

Veritas intends to take such actions as are necessary to cause all stock options to purchase shares of Veritas common stock pursuant to any stock option plan, program or arrangement of Veritas outstanding and unexercised at the effective time of the merger, whether or not vested, to be cancelled and converted into a right to receive an amount in cash equal to the excess, if any, of the per share cash consideration over the exercise price per share under such stock option immediately prior to such cancellation and conversion (less any applicable withholding taxes).

All Veritas stock option plans and restricted stock plans will be terminated as of the effective time of the merger.

Treatment of Convertible Bonds (see page 95)

The outstanding Veritas floating rate convertible senior bonds due 2024 will be entitled, following the effective time of the merger, to receive upon conversion the merger consideration that a holder of shares of Veritas common stock that made no election would receive, which will not be determinable until the effective time. A holder of the convertible bonds who converts into shares of Veritas common stock prior to the election deadline may elect to receive cash or CGG ADSs or a combination of cash and CGG ADSs in the same

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manner as other Veritas stockholders, subject to the election procedures and proration mechanisms described in this proxy statement/prospectus.

Recommendation of the Veritas Board of Directors (see page 51)

The Veritas board of directors has determined unanimously that the execution and delivery of the merger agreement is advisable and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement are in the best interests of the Veritas stockholders, and has unanimously approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. The Veritas board of directors unanimously recommends that Veritas stockholders vote FOR the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

Stockholders Entitled to Vote; Vote Required (see page 42)

You can vote at the Veritas special meeting if you owned shares of Veritas common stock at the close of business on [], 2006, which is referred to as the record date. On the record date, there were [] shares of Veritas common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the Veritas special meeting, held by approximately [] holders of record. You may cast one vote for each share of Veritas common stock that you owned on the record date.

Abstentions will be counted in determining whether a quorum is present at the Veritas special meeting. However, an abstention will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

Your vote is very important. You are encouraged to vote as soon as possible. If you do not indicate how your shares of Veritas common stock should be voted on a matter, the shares of Veritas common stock represented by your properly completed proxy will be voted as the Veritas board of directors recommends and therefore FOR the adoption of the merger agreement.

Opinions of Financial Advisors (see pages 57 and 63)***Opinion of Veritas Financial Advisor***

Goldman, Sachs & Co., which is referred to as Goldman Sachs, delivered its written opinion to the Veritas board of directors that, as of September 4, 2006 and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth therein, the per share ADS consideration and the per share cash consideration to be received by holders of the shares of Veritas common stock, taken in the aggregate, pursuant to the merger agreement was fair from a financial point of view to such holders.

The full text of the written opinion of Goldman Sachs, dated September 4, 2006, which sets forth assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken in connection with the opinion, is attached to this proxy statement/prospectus as Annex B. **Goldman Sachs advisory services and opinion were provided for the information and assistance of the Veritas board of directors in connection with its consideration of the merger and such opinion does not constitute a recommendation as to how any holder of shares of Veritas common stock should vote or make any election with respect to such merger.** Pursuant to an engagement letter between Veritas and Goldman Sachs, Veritas has agreed to pay Goldman Sachs a transaction fee that is contingent upon consummation of the merger and will be calculated based upon the final value of the merger consideration per share of Veritas common stock, subject to a minimum fee that will be paid only if the merger is consummated. Veritas currently estimates that the aggregate amount of the transaction fee will be approximately \$17.0 million.

Opinion of CGG's Financial Advisors

Credit Suisse. In connection with the merger, Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, which is referred to as Credit Suisse, delivered a written opinion, dated September 4, 2006, to the CGG board of directors as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to CGG of the aggregate consideration to be paid by CGG in the merger. The full text of Credit Suisse's written opinion is attached to this proxy statement/prospectus as Annex C. You are encouraged to read this opinion carefully in its entirety for a description of the procedures

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followed, assumptions made, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken. **Credit Suisse's opinion was provided to the CGG board of directors in connection with its evaluation of the aggregate consideration payable by CGG in the merger, does not address any other aspect of the proposed merger and does not constitute a recommendation to any security holder as to how such security holder should vote or act on any matter relating to the merger.**

Rothschild. In connection with the merger, Rothschild, Inc., which is referred to as Rothschild, delivered a written opinion, dated as of September 4, 2006, to the CGG board of directors as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to CGG of the aggregate consideration to be paid by CGG in the merger. The full text of Rothschild's written opinion is attached to this proxy statement/prospectus as Annex D. You are encouraged to read this opinion carefully in its entirety for a description of the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken. **Rothschild's opinion was provided to the CGG board of directors in connection with its evaluation of the aggregate consideration payable by CGG in the merger, does not address any other aspect of the proposed merger and does not constitute a recommendation to any security holder as to how such security holder should vote or act on any matter relating to the merger.**

Board of Directors After the Merger (see page 95)

At the meeting of its shareholders for the purpose of obtaining approval for the issuance of CGG ordinary shares underlying the CGG ADSs to be issued pursuant to the merger agreement, CGG will nominate up to five members of the Veritas board of directors (including Thierry Pilenko, chairman and CEO of Veritas) to the board of directors of the combined company effective as of, and conditioned upon, the occurrence of the effective time of the merger. Each nominee, if elected, will serve for a term of six years. After the effective time of the merger, the newly elected directors will serve on the board of the combined company together with the 10 current members of CGG's board of directors.

Name and Executive Offices of the Combined Company

New Corporate Name

Immediately after the effective time of the merger, CGG will be renamed CGG-Veritas.

Executive Offices

After the effective time of the merger, the executive offices of the combined company will be located in Paris, France, and the previous corporate headquarters of Veritas, located in Houston, Texas, will become the western hemisphere operating headquarters of the combined company.

Ownership of the Combined Company After the Merger

CGG will issue a maximum of approximately 49.8 million CGG ADSs pursuant to the merger, assuming exercise of all outstanding options to purchase shares of Veritas common stock and conversion of all Veritas convertible bonds into shares of Veritas common stock. After the effective time of the merger and based on the assumptions in the preceding sentence, Veritas stockholders will own approximately 36% of CGG-Veritas on a fully diluted basis based on the outstanding shares of Veritas common stock on July 31, 2006 and the maximum number of additional shares of Veritas common stock that may be issued in accordance with the merger agreement pursuant to the exercise of outstanding Veritas stock options or the conversion of the Veritas convertible bonds or otherwise. Consequently, Veritas stockholders, as a general matter, will have less influence over the management and policies of CGG-Veritas than they currently exercise over the management and policies of Veritas.

Share Ownership of Directors and Executive Officers

At the close of business on [], 2006, the directors and executive officers of Veritas and their affiliates beneficially owned and were entitled to vote approximately [] shares of Veritas common stock, collectively

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representing approximately []% of the shares of Veritas common stock outstanding on that date. The directors and executive officers of Veritas have each indicated that they expect to vote FOR the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

Interests of the Directors and Executive Officers of Veritas in the Merger (see page 73)

In considering the recommendation of the Veritas board of directors with respect to the merger agreement, you should be aware that certain members of the Veritas board of directors and certain of Veritas executive officers have interests in the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement that may be different than, or in addition to, the interests of Veritas stockholders generally. These interests include, among other things, the following:

up to four directors from Veritas current board of directors in addition to Thierry Pilenko, Chairman and CEO of Veritas, will be invited by CGG to serve on the board of directors of the combined company after the effective time of the merger;

certain executive officers whose employment is terminated under certain circumstances after the effective time of the merger will be entitled to severance benefits;

certain executive officers and directors hold stock options and other stock-based awards granted under Veritas equity compensation plans which in some cases will vest upon adoption of the merger agreement by Veritas stockholders and in other cases will vest if their employment is terminated under certain circumstances after the effective time of the merger;

in any event, such stock options outstanding at the effective time of the merger will be cancelled and converted into a right to receive an amount in cash equal to the excess, if any, of the per share cash consideration over the exercise price per share under such stock option immediately prior to such cancellation and conversion (less any applicable withholding taxes);

certain of Veritas current executive officers will be offered continued employment with the combined company after the effective time of the merger; and

directors and officers will be indemnified by the combined company with respect to acts or omissions by them in their capacities as such prior to the effective time of the merger.

The Veritas board of directors was aware of these interests and considered them, among other matters, in making its recommendation. See The Merger Recommendation of the Veritas Board of Directors and Its Reasons for the Merger beginning on page 51.

Listing of CGG Ordinary Shares and CGG ADSs; Delisting and Deregistration of Shares of Veritas Common Stock (see page 83)

CGG will use its reasonable best efforts to cause the CGG ADSs to be issued in connection with the merger (and underlying CGG ordinary shares to be issued in connection with the merger) and to be approved for listing on the NYSE upon the effective time of the merger. Approval of the listing on the NYSE of the CGG ADSs to be issued pursuant to the merger is a condition to each party's obligation to complete the merger. If the merger is completed, shares of Veritas common stock and preferred stock rights associated with the common stock will be delisted from the NYSE and deregistered under the Exchange Act.

Appraisal Rights in the Merger (see pages 89 and 117)

In the event any holder of Veritas common stock is required to receive cash (other than cash in lieu of fractional CGG ADSs) as consideration pursuant to the merger, the shares of Veritas common stock outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the merger and held by a holder who has not voted in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement and who has delivered a written demand for appraisal of such shares in accordance with Section 262 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, will not be converted into the right to receive the merger consideration, unless and until the dissenting holder fails to perfect or effectively withdraws or otherwise loses his or her right to appraisal and payment under the General

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Corporation Law of the State of Delaware. The holders of such shares will be entitled to seek an appraisal of such shares under Section 262 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware. If, after the effective time of the merger, a dissenting stockholder fails to perfect or effectively withdraws or loses his or her right to appraisal, his or her shares of Veritas common stock will be treated as non-electing shares and be treated as if they had been converted as of the effective time of the merger into the right to receive the merger consideration without interest or dividends thereon.

Conditions to Completion of the Merger (see page 97)

A number of conditions must be satisfied or waived, where legally permissible, before the proposed merger can be consummated. These include, among others:

adoption of the merger agreement by Veritas stockholders;

approval by CGG shareholders of the issuance of CGG ordinary shares underlying the CGG ADSs to be issued pursuant to the merger and certain related items;

the waiting period (and any extension thereof) applicable to the consummation of the merger under the Hart Scott Rodino Act, referred to as the HSR Act, having expired or been terminated and all required approvals by the European Commission applicable to the merger under applicable competition laws, including the EC Merger Regulation, having been obtained or any applicable waiting period thereunder having been terminated or having expired (although CGG and Veritas do not expect any such approvals by the European Commission will be required);

the receipt of certain other authorizations, consents, waiting periods and approvals of governmental entities in certain jurisdictions required to be obtained prior to consummation of the merger;

the effectiveness of the Form F-4 registration statement, of which this proxy statement/ prospectus constitutes a part, and of the Form F-6 registration statement, and no proceedings for such purpose pending before or threatened by the SEC, and the approval (*visa*) of the *note d information* by the French *Autorité des marchés financiers*, referred to herein as the AMF, relating to the CGG ordinary shares underlying the CGG ADSs to be issued in connection with the merger;

CGG ADSs issuable to the stockholders of Veritas pursuant to the merger and to the holders of the Veritas convertible debt (and, if required, the underlying CGG ordinary shares) will have been authorized for listing on the NYSE, subject to official notice of issuance, and the AMF and the Euronext Paris SA will have approved the listing of CGG ordinary shares to be issued in connection with the merger; and

the receipt of notification in writing by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, which is referred to as the CFIUS, to CGG and Veritas that the CFIUS has determined not to investigate the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement or, in the event that the CFIUS has undertaken such an investigation, termination by the CFIUS of such investigation, or determination by the President of the United States not to take any action to prohibit or restrain the merger or to seek a divestiture of any shares of Veritas common stock or the shares of the combined company or to limit the ownership rights of CGG over the shares of the combined company that would reasonably be expected to constitute a Burdensome Condition (as defined in the merger agreement).

Neither CGG nor Veritas can give any assurance when or if all of the conditions to the merger will be either satisfied or waived or that the merger will occur as intended.

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger (see page 76)

The merger is subject to review by the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, which is referred to as the Antitrust Division, and the Federal Trade Commission, which is referred to as the FTC, under the HSR Act. In addition, the merger is subject to the approval of the antitrust authorities in Brazil and Norway, and CGG and Veritas

have decided to make a voluntary filing in the United Kingdom. CGG and Veritas have submitted a notice of the merger to the CFIUS, in accordance with the regulations implementing

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the Exon-Florio Amendment to the Defense Production Act of 1950, which is referred to as the Exon-Florio Amendment.

The merger may also be subject to the regulatory requirements of other municipal, state, federal and foreign governmental agencies and authorities, including those relating to the offer and sale of securities.

No Solicitation (see page 109)

Under the merger agreement, neither CGG nor Veritas is permitted:
to solicit, initiate, or knowingly encourage or facilitate the making of any inquiries regarding any other acquisition proposal; or

subject to certain exceptions, to disclose or provide any non-public information to any third party with respect to any such acquisition proposal, afford access to its properties, books or records to any third party that has made or is considering making such an acquisition proposal, or approve or recommend, or propose to approve or recommend, or enter into any agreement relating to such an acquisition proposal.

However, before receipt of the requisite approval by its stockholders, CGG or Veritas may engage in negotiations with a third party making an unsolicited, bona fide written acquisition proposal, provided that:

the board of directors of the party receiving the acquisition proposal has determined that such acquisition proposal constitutes, or is reasonably likely to result in, a superior proposal; and

the party receiving such acquisition proposal has complied with the terms of the merger agreement relating to acquisition proposals.

In addition, before receipt of the requisite approval by their respective stockholders, the board of directors of either CGG or Veritas may withdraw its recommendation or declaration of advisability of the merger agreement or recommend, adopt or approve another acquisition proposal if:

CGG or Veritas, as the case may be, receives a superior proposal; or

the board of directors determines in good faith that a failure to change its recommendation would reasonably be expected to be inconsistent with its fiduciary duties to CGG shareholders or Veritas stockholders, respectively.

Termination of the Merger Agreement (see page 113)

The merger agreement may be terminated and the merger may be abandoned at any time prior to the effective time of the merger by mutual written consent of CGG and Veritas. Either party will also have the right to terminate the merger agreement upon the occurrence of any of the following:

the failure to consummate the merger by April 15, 2007, provided that a party may not terminate upon occurrence of this event if such party's failure to fulfill its obligations has caused or resulted in the merger not occurring before such time;

the failure to obtain the necessary Veritas stockholder approval or CGG shareholder approval;

the existence of a law or regulation prohibiting the merger, or the entry of a final and non-appealable injunction or government order which prohibits or restricts the merger;

a material breach of the other party's representations, warranties or covenants that gives rise to a failure of certain conditions to closing (subject to a 45 day cure period, if the breach is capable of being cured);

if the other party's board of directors has failed to recommend the merger, or has withdrawn or modified in a manner adverse to the other party its recommendation of the merger, or has recommended or entered into an agreement with a person making an acquisition proposal; or

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by CGG, if CGG is responding to an unsolicited hostile acquisition proposal to acquire at least 40% of the stock or assets of CGG.

Termination Fee (see page 114)

Under the merger agreement, Veritas or CGG may be required to pay to the other a termination fee of \$85 million or an expense reimbursement of \$20 million if the merger agreement is terminated under certain circumstances. See [The Merger Agreement Termination of the Merger Agreement](#) and [The Merger Agreement Termination of the Merger Agreement Termination Fees and Expenses](#).

Certain Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger (see page 78)

The merger is intended to qualify as a tax-free reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In addition, the obligation of Veritas to consummate the merger is conditioned upon the receipt by Veritas of a tax opinion of its legal counsel or a ruling by the IRS (a request for which was filed with the IRS on October 6, 2006) that the merger will not be subject to Section 367(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code. As a result, we expect that the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger to Veritas stockholders will be as follows:

If you exchange Veritas common stock solely for cash in the merger, you generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount of cash received and your tax basis in the stock surrendered.

If you exchange Veritas common stock solely for CGG ADSs in the merger, you will not recognize any gain or loss, except to the extent of the cash you receive in lieu of a fractional CGG ADS.

If you exchange Veritas common stock for a combination of cash and CGG ADSs in the merger, you generally will recognize gain (but not loss). The gain you recognize generally will equal the lesser of (1) the excess of the sum of the cash and the fair market value of the CGG ADSs received over your tax basis in the Veritas common stock surrendered, or (2) the amount of cash received.

Your holding period for the CGG ADSs received in the merger generally will include your holding period for the Veritas common stock exchanged in the merger.

Please refer to [The Merger Certain Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences](#) beginning on page 78 of this proxy statement/prospectus for a more complete discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger. Determining the actual tax consequences of the merger to you may be complex and will depend on your specific situation. You should consult your tax advisor for a full understanding of the tax consequences of the merger to you.

Accounting Treatment (see page 82)

CGG will account for the merger using the purchase method under International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union, referred to as IFRS.

Payment of Dividend (see page 153)

CGG

CGG does not currently pay dividends on its ordinary shares. Dividend payments by CGG may be limited by the terms of the CGG senior notes.

Veritas

Veritas does not currently pay cash dividends on its common stock. The merger agreement generally provides that Veritas may not declare, set aside or pay any dividend prior to the effective time of the merger or the termination of the merger agreement.

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Comparison of Rights of Veritas Stockholders and CGG Shareholders (see page 160)

As a result of the merger, some or all of your shares of Veritas common stock may be all or partly converted into the right to receive cash or CGG ADSs representing CGG ordinary shares. Because Veritas is a corporation organized under the laws of Delaware and CGG is a *société anonyme* organized under the laws of the Republic of France, there are material differences between the rights of Veritas stockholders and the rights of holders of CGG ordinary shares. These differences are described in detail under Comparison of Rights of Veritas Stockholders and CGG Shareholders. The rights of holders of CGG ADSs differ from the rights of holders of CGG ordinary shares and are described under Description of the CGG American Depositary Shares.

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SELECTED HISTORICAL FINANCIAL AND OPERATING INFORMATION OF CGG

In accordance with regulation adopted by the European Union in July 2002, all companies incorporated under the laws of one of the member states of the European Union and whose securities are publicly traded within the European Union are required to prepare their consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year that started on or after January 1, 2005, on the basis of accounting standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. Therefore, in accordance with these requirements, CGG converted from using French generally accepted accounting principles to IFRS, as adopted by the European Union. As a first-time adopter of IFRS at January 1, 2005, CGG has followed the specific requirements described in IFRS 1, *First Time Adoption of IFRS*. The options selected for the purpose of the transition to IFRS are described in the notes to CGG's 2005 audited consolidated financial statements appearing in CGG's 2005 Form 20-F, which is incorporated into this proxy statement/ prospectus by reference. Effects of the transition on the balance sheet at January 1, 2004, the statement of income for the year ended December 31, 2004 and the balance sheet at December 31, 2004 are presented and discussed in Note 30 to CGG's 2005 audited consolidated financial statements appearing in CGG's 2005 Form 20-F.

The tables below set forth CGG's selected consolidated financial and operating data:

as of and for each of the six-month periods ended June 30, 2006 and 2005 in accordance with both IFRS and U.S. GAAP;

as of and for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2005 in accordance with IFRS; and

as of and for each of the five years in the period ended December 31, 2005 in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

The tables should be read in conjunction with, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, CGG's consolidated annual financial statements and Operating and Financial Review and Prospects in CGG's 2005 Form 20-F and CGG's consolidated interim financial statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in the CGG current report on Form 6-K submitted to the SEC on September 5, 2006, both incorporated by reference in this proxy statement/ prospectus. All interim financial data are unaudited.

The differences between IFRS and U.S. GAAP as they relate to CGG, and the reconciliation of net income and shareholders' equity to U.S. GAAP for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 and for the six month periods ended June 30, 2006 and 2005 are described in Note 31 to CGG's audited consolidated financial statements included in the CGG 2005 Form 20-F and Note 17 to CGG's unaudited interim consolidated financial statements as of and for the six month period ended June 30, 2006 included in CGG's current report on Form 6-K submitted to the SEC on September 9, 2006, respectively, both of which are incorporated by reference in this proxy statement/ prospectus.

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	As of and for the Six Months Ended June 30,		As of and for the Year Ended December 31,	
	2006	2005	2005	2004
(In millions except for per share and ratio data)				
<i>Amounts in accordance with IFRS:</i>				
Statement of Operations Data:				
Operating revenues	634.5	387.0	869.9	687.4
Other revenues from ordinary activities	0.9	0.8	1.9	0.4
Cost of operations	(420.4)	(298.2)	(670.0)	(554.0)
Gross profit	215.0	89.6	201.8	133.8
Research and development expenses, net	(18.4)	(14.8)	(31.1)	(28.8)
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(60.3)	(41.9)	(91.2)	(78.6)
Other revenues (expenses)	9.8	(0.8)	(4.4)	19.3
Operating income	146.1	32.1	75.1	45.7
Cost of financial debt, net	(13.1)	(19.6)	(42.3)	(27.8)
Derivative and other expenses on convertible bonds	(23.0)	(14.7)	(11.5)	(23.5)
Other financial income (loss)	(6.6)	0.7	(14.5)	0.8
Income taxes	(33.0)	(14.8)	(26.6)	(10.9)
Equity in income of affiliates	5.8	6.7	13.0	10.3
Net income (loss)	76.2	(9.6)	(6.8)	(5.4)
Attributable to minority interests	0.9		(1.0)	(1.0)
Attributable to shareholders	75.3	(9.6)	(7.8)	(6.4)
Net income (loss) per share:				
Basic(1)	4.37	(0.82)	(0.64)	(0.55)
Diluted(2)	4.28	(0.82)	(0.64)	(0.55)
Balance sheet:				
Cash and cash equivalents	206.4	113.1	112.4	130.6
Working capital(3)	219.8	130.2	154.1	116.4
Property, plant & equipment, net	484.8	232.6	480.1	204.1
Multi-client surveys	79.4	113.8	93.6	124.5
Total assets	1,673.6	1,036.1	1,565.1	971.2
Financial debt(4)	431.7	246.6	400.3	249.6
Shareholders' equity	802.6	407.5	698.5	393.2
Other financial historical data and other ratios:				
ORBDA(5)	237.6	99.6	229.5	172.8
Capital expenditures (Property, plant & equipment)(6)	94.5	49.7	125.1	49.8
Capital expenditures for multi-client surveys	26.5	15.0	32.0	51.1
Net financial debt(7)	242.5	142.3	297.2	121.8
Financial debt(4)/ ORBDA (5)	1.8x	2.5x	1.7x	1.4x
Net indebtedness(7)/ ORBDA (5)	1.0x	1.4x	1.3x	0.7x
ORBDA (5)/ Net financial expenses	18.1x	5.1x	5.4x	6.2x

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	As of and for the Six Months Ended June 30,		As of and for the Year Ended December 31,				
	2006	2005	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
(In millions except for per share and ratio data)							
Amounts in accordance with U.S. GAAP:							
Statement of Operations Data:							
Operating revenues	642.0	398.8	860.8	709.5	645.6	719.0	795.0
Operating income	144.2	28.5	61.9	55.0	42.7	81.9	48.6
Net income (loss)	42.6	7.3	8.3	(20.2)	3.1	15.1	9.3
Per share amounts:							
Basic common stock holder(1)	2.47	0.62	0.69	(1.73)	0.27	1.29	0.80
Diluted common stock holder(8)	2.42	0.55	0.67	(1.73)	0.26	1.29	0.80
Balance sheet:							
Total assets	1,677.7	1,047.9	1,573.8	975.8	924.2	1,036.8	1,008.0
Financial debt(4)	438.4	254.0	416.7	266.5	232.4	307.8	279.5
Stockholders equity	759.7	399.6	689.5	372.2	413.4	431.0	456.4
Operational data (end of period):							
Land teams in operations	11	11	11	8	12	14	12
Operational streamers(9)	52	40	46	39	42	42	48
Data processing centers	29	26	27	26	26	26	26

Notes:

- (1) Basic per share amounts under IFRS and U.S. GAAP have been calculated on the basis of 17,219,465 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in the six month period ended June 30, 2006, 11,736,024 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in the six month period ended June 30, 2005, 12,095,925 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in 2005 and 11,681,406 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in 2004. Basic per share amounts under U.S. GAAP have been calculated on the basis of 11,680,718 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in 2003 and 2002 and 11,609,393 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in 2001.
- (2) Diluted per share amount under IFRS has been calculated on the basis of 17,583,926 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in the six month period ended June 30, 2006, 11,736,024 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in the six month period ended June 30, 2005, 12,095,925 issued and outstanding shares in 2005 and 11,681,406 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in 2004. For the six-month period ended June 30, 2005, the effect of convertible bonds was anti-dilutive.
- (3) Consists of trade accounts and notes receivable, inventories and work-in-progress, tax assets, other current assets and assets held for sale less trade accounts and notes payable, accrued payroll costs, income tax payable, advance billings to customers, current provisions and other current liabilities.
- (4) Financial debt means total financial debt including current maturities, capital leases and accrued interest but excluding bank overdrafts.
- (5)

A discussion of ORBDA (Operating Result Before Depreciation and Amortization, previously denominated Adjusted EBITDA), including a reconciliation to net cash provided by operating activities, is found in Item 5 Operating and Financial Review and Prospects Liquidity and Capital Resources included in the CGG 2005 Form 20-F incorporated herein by reference.

- (6) Capital expenditures is defined as purchases of property, plant and equipment plus equipment acquired under lease.

The following table presents a reconciliation of capital expenditures to purchases of property, plant and equipment and equipment acquired under capital lease for the periods indicated:

	For the Six Months Ended June 30,		For the Year Ended December 31,	
	2006	2005	2005	2004
	(In millions)			
<i>Purchase of property, plant and equipment</i>	94.3	36.5	107.7	41.1
Equipment acquired under capital lease	0.2	13.2	17.4	8.7
Capital expenditures	94.5	49.7	125.1	49.8

- (7) Net financial debt means bank overdrafts, financial debt including current portion (including capital lease debt) net of cash and cash equivalents.
- (8) Diluted per share amounts under U.S. GAAP have been calculated on the basis of 17,583,926 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in the six month period ended June 30, 2006, 13,325,731 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in the six month period ended June 30, 2005, 12,378,209 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in 2005, 11,681,406 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in 2004, 11,760,630 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in 2003, 11,680,718 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in 2002 and 11,609,393 issued and outstanding CGG ordinary shares in 2001. In 2002 and 2001, the effects of stock options were not dilutive (as a result of applying the treasury stock method).
- (9) Data includes Exploration Resources ASA's streamers (from and including December 31, 2005) and excludes streamers of vessels in transit or dry-dock.

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The table below sets forth selected consolidated financial data for Veritas for the fiscal years ended July 31, 2002 through July 31, 2006 in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The selected consolidated financial data are qualified by reference to, and should be read in conjunction with, the consolidated financial statements of Veritas and its subsidiaries as of July 31, 2006 and 2005, and for each of the three years in the period ended July 31, 2006, and report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of July 31, 2006, which are incorporated into this proxy statement/ prospectus by reference to Item 8 Consolidated Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of Veritas annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended July 31, 2006, which is referred to as the Veritas 2006 Form 10-K.

	For the Year Ended July 31,				
	2006(1)	2005(2)	2004(3)	2003(4)	2002(5)
	(In \$ thousands, except per share amount)				
Statement of Operations Data:					
Revenues	\$ 822,188	\$ 634,026	\$ 564,469	\$ 501,821	\$ 452,183
Operating income (loss)	132,879	64,241	27,770	(12,112)	(833)
Net income (loss)	82,231	83,001	5,221	(59,097)	(24,051)
Net income (loss) per common share basic	2.33	2.45	0.16	(1.77)	(0.74)
Net income (loss) per common share diluted	2.08	2.37	0.15	(1.77)	(0.74)
Balance Sheet Data (at period end):					
Total assets	\$ 1,158,030	\$ 966,598	\$ 776,246	\$ 790,945	\$ 781,403
Long-term debt (including current maturities)	155,000	155,000	155,000	194,225	140,000

Notes:

- (1) Includes a gain on involuntary conversion of assets of \$2.0 million.
- (2) Includes a gain on involuntary conversion of assets of \$9.9 million and a release of deferred tax valuation allowances of \$36.9 million.
- (3) Includes charges of \$22.1 million related to a change in multi-client accounting policies and \$7.4 million related to debt refinancing. The change in multi-client accounting policies may affect the comparability between periods and is more fully described in Note 1 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in the Veritas 2006 10-K, which is incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/ prospectus.
- (4) Includes charges of \$39.3 million for goodwill impairment, \$4.9 million for impairment of a multi-client survey, \$7.6 million loss related to the sale of Veritas (RC) software operations and \$21.0 million related to deferred tax asset valuation allowances.
- (5) Includes charges of \$55.3 million for impairment of multi-client surveys, \$14.6 million for costs of a terminated merger and \$6.5 million valuation allowance for deferred tax assets.

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SELECTED UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following selected unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information, which gives effect to the merger, is presented in millions of euros and reflects pro forma financial results of the merger of CGG and Veritas using the purchase method of accounting under IFRS and U.S. GAAP.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is presented for illustrative purposes only and is not indicative of the income (loss) from operating activities or the financial condition of the combined company that would have been achieved had the merger been completed during the periods presented, nor is the unaudited pro forma condensed combined selected financial information indicative of the future operating results or financial position of CGG-Veritas. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information does not reflect any cost savings or other synergies that may result from the merger. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information does not reflect any special items such as payments pursuant to contractual change-of-control provisions or restructuring and integration costs that may be incurred as a result of the merger. In addition, the financial effects of any actions described in the sections entitled *The Merger*, *CGG's Reasons for the Merger* and *The Merger Recommendation of the Veritas Board of Directors and Its Reasons for the Merger*, such as synergies or the effect of asset dispositions, if any, that may be required by regulatory authorities, cannot currently be determined and therefore are not reflected in the selected unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information.

CGG reports its financial results in euros and in conformity with IFRS, with a reconciliation to U.S. GAAP. Veritas reports its financial results in U.S. dollars and in conformity with U.S. GAAP. IFRS differs from U.S. GAAP in certain significant respects. For a discussion of significant differences between U.S. GAAP and IFRS as they relate to CGG's consolidated financial statements and a reconciliation to U.S. GAAP of CGG's net income and shareholders equity for 2005 and 2004, see Note 31 to CGG's audited consolidated financial statements included in CGG's 2005 Form 20-F, which is incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus.

The selected unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been derived from and should be read in conjunction with the unaudited proforma condensed combined financial information and the related notes included elsewhere in this proxy statement/prospectus, and the respective consolidated financial statements of CGG as at and for the year ended December 31, 2005 and at and for the six-month period ended June 30, 2006 and the consolidated financial statements of Veritas at and for the year ended July 31, 2006, each of which is incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus, and the consolidated financial statements of Veritas as of and for the six-months periods ended January 31, 2005 and 2006.

The selected unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is based on preliminary estimates and assumptions, which CGG believes to be reasonable. In the selected unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information, the cash to be paid and CGG ADSs to be issued as merger consideration for Veritas shares of common stock have been allocated to the Veritas assets and liabilities based upon preliminary estimates by the management of CGG of their respective fair values as at the date of the merger. Any difference between the fair value of the merger consideration and the fair value of the Veritas assets and liabilities has been recorded as goodwill. Definitive allocations will be performed after the effective time of the merger. Accordingly, the purchase price allocation pro forma adjustments are preliminary and have been made solely for the purpose of preparing the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial

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information and are subject to revision based on the final determination of fair value after the effective time of the merger.

	At and for the Six Months Ended June 30, 2006		At and for the Year Ended December 31, 2005	
	(US\$) ⁽¹⁾	()	(US\$) ⁽¹⁾	()

(in millions, except per share data)

IFRS**Statement of Income Data in accordance with IFRS**

Combined pro forma operating revenues	1,239.0	969.6	1,763.4	1,489.1
Combined pro forma gross profit	361.0	282.5	346.0	292.2
Combined pro forma operating income (loss)	239.2	187.1	148.9	125.7
Combined pro forma net income attributable to shareholders	81.3	63.5	(38.6)	(32.6)
Earnings per share basic	3.08	2.41	(1.81)	(1.53)
Earnings per share diluted	3.03	2.37	(1.81)	(1.53)

Balance sheet Data in accordance with IFRS

Total assets	5,503.5	4,306.7	5,125.9	4,328.6
Shareholders equity attributable to shareholders	2,526.2	1,976.8	2,325.7	1,963.9
Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities	407.9	319.2	138.1	116.6
Current portion of long-term debt	46.1	36.1	183.9	155.3
Bonds and Notes issued and long-term debt	1,990.9	1,558.0	1,773.2	1,497.4

U.S. GAAP**Statement of Income Data in accordance with U.S. GAAP**

Combined pro forma operating revenues	1,245.4	974.6	1,746.0	1,474.4
Combined pro forma gross profit	366.9	287.1	341.4	288.3
Combined pro forma operating income (loss)	229.8	179.8	125.3	105.8
Combined pro forma net income attributable to shareholders	34.9	27.2	(17.8)	(15.0)
Earnings per share basic	1.32	1.03	(0.83)	(0.70)
Earnings per share diluted	1.30	1.02	(0.83)	(0.70)

Balance sheet Data in accordance with U.S. GAAP

Total assets	5,536.6	4,332.5	5,158.5	4,356.1
Shareholders equity attributable to shareholders	2,476.8	1,938.2	2,320.6	1,959.7
Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities	407.9	319.2	138.1	116.6
Current portion of long-term debt	50.0	39.1	190.3	160.7
Bonds and Notes issued and long-term debt	2,019.1	1,580.0	1,798.6	1,518.8

Note:

(1) The period-end rate is the noon buying rate on the last business day of the applicable period.

Table of Contents**UNAUDITED COMPARATIVE PER SHARE DATA**

The following table summarizes unaudited per share data for CGG and Veritas on a historical basis, on an equivalent pro forma combined basis for Veritas and on a pro forma combined basis for the combined company. It has been assumed for purposes of the pro forma financial information provided below that the merger was completed on January 1, 2005 for statement of income purposes, and on December 31, 2005 for balance sheet purposes. The following information should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements of CGG and Veritas as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and July 31, 2006, respectively, and the unaudited consolidated financial statements of CGG for the six months ended June 30, 2006, each of which is incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/ prospectus, and with the information under Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information and related notes included elsewhere in this proxy statement/ prospectus. The pro forma information presented below is for illustrative purposes only and is not necessarily indicative of the operating results or financial position that would have been achieved if the merger had been completed as of the beginning of the period presented, nor is it necessarily indicative of the future operating results or financial position of the combined company.

	CGG Historical IFRS	CGG Historical U.S. GAAP	Veritas Historical U.S. GAAP(2)(5)	Veritas Pro Forma Equivalents U.S. GAAP(4)	CGG and Veritas Pro Forma IFRS(3)	CGG and Veritas Pro Forma U.S. GAAP(3)
(in euros)						
For the six months ended June 30, 2006 (per share)						
Income (loss) from continuing operations						
Basic	4.37	2.47	0.86	0.46	2.41	1.03
Diluted	4.28	2.42	0.78	0.46	2.37	1.02
Dividends declared						
Book value at period end(1)	46.61	44.12	15.59	33.00	74.81	73.35
For the year ended December 31, 2005 (per share)						
Income (loss) from continuing operations						
Basic	(0.64)	0.69	2.45	(0.32)	(1.53)	(0.70)
Diluted	(0.64)	0.67	2.31	(0.32)	(1.53)	(0.70)
Dividends declared						
Book value at period end(1)	57.74	57.0	14.89	41.4	92.20	92.00

Notes:

(1) Book value per share is calculated by dividing shareholders' equity by the weighted average number of shares outstanding over the period.

(2) Translated at the noon buying rate on June 30, 2006 of \$1.2779 per 1.00.

- (3) The pro forma combined income (loss) from continuing operations per share is calculated by dividing the pro forma income (loss) from continuing operations before non-recurring items by the pro forma weighted average number of shares outstanding over the period.
- (4) Veritas equivalent pro forma combined per share amounts are calculated by multiplying the pro forma combined per share amounts by an assumed exchange ratio of 2.25, the number of CGG ADSs that would be exchanged for each share of Veritas common stock pursuant to the merger, based on the price per CGG ADS of \$33.33, which was the closing price on August 29, 2006, and dividing the result by five, the number of CGG ADSs per CGG ordinary share.
- (5) Periods used for Veritas historical information consist of the six months ended July 31, 2006 and the twelve months ended January 31, 2006.

Table of Contents**COMPARATIVE CGG AND VERITAS MARKET PRICE DATA AND DIVIDEND INFORMATION**

CGG ordinary shares are listed on the Eurolist of Euronext Paris SA under the symbol GLE and CGG ADSs are listed on the NYSE under the symbol GGY. Shares of Veritas common stock are listed on the NYSE under the symbol VTS. The following table presents closing prices for CGG ADSs and Veritas common stock on September 1, 2006, the last trading day before the public announcement of the execution of the merger agreement by CGG and Veritas, and October 13, 2006, the latest practicable trading day before the date of this proxy statement/prospectus. For illustrative purposes, the following table also provides Veritas equivalent per share information on those dates, as determined by multiplying the closing prices of CGG ADSs on those dates by 2.522 and 2.3633, each representing the number of CGG ADSs that Veritas stockholders electing to receive CGG ADSs would receive pursuant to the merger for each share of Veritas common stock, based on (1) a hypothetical average CGG ADS value of \$33.27, which was the closing price of CGG ADSs on September 1, 2006, and (2) a hypothetical average CGG ADS value of \$30.25 based on the volume-weighted average of the trading sale prices per CGG ADS during the 20 consecutive trading days ending on October 13, 2006, respectively, and assuming no adjustment for oversubscriptions. The merger consideration will be based on a formula designed to substantially equalize the value of the consideration to be received for each share of Veritas common stock, at the time the calculation is made, regardless of whether you elect to receive cash, CGG ADSs or a combination of cash and CGG ADSs, or make no election. See The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration beginning on page 85 of this proxy statement/prospectus.

	CGG ADSs	Veritas Common Stock	Veritas Equivalent Per Share Common Stock
September 1, 2006	\$ 33.27	\$ 62.18	\$ 74.93
October 13, 2006	\$ 29.76	\$ 66.30	\$ 70.33

The table below sets forth, for the calendar quarters indicated, the high and low sale prices per CGG ADS and per share of Veritas common stock on the NYSE. No dividends have been declared on CGG ADSs and on Veritas common stock for the calendar quarters indicated.

Calendar Year	CGG ADSs		Veritas Common Stock	
	High	Low	High	Low
2004				
First Quarter	\$ 10.10	\$ 7.85	\$ 20.70	\$ 10.60
Second Quarter	12.41	8.80	23.15	17.85
Third Quarter	13.82	9.40	24.68	19.88
Fourth Quarter	14.03	11.38	23.64	19.89
2005				
First Quarter	\$ 18.96	\$ 13.35	\$ 29.96	\$ 20.26
Second Quarter	17.91	15.10	31.51	24.44
Third Quarter	20.90	16.52	37.05	27.75
Fourth Quarter	21.05	16.57	39.00	29.48
2006				
First Quarter	\$ 29.24	\$ 18.60	\$ 46.26	38.07
Second Quarter	40.50	28.35	53.90	43.81

Third Quarter	35.65	29.25	70.07	49.39
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CGG and Veritas urge you to obtain current market quotations for CGG ADSs and Veritas common stock before making any decision regarding the merger.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION AND INDEBTEDNESS**

The tables contained in this section are provided in accordance with French law and regulations applicable to prospectuses relating to the offering of securities. Since these tables are being made available in the French prospectus (*note d'opération*) relating to the CGG ordinary shares to be issued in connection with the merger, a translation of these tables is included in this proxy statement/ prospectus. The tables were prepared solely to comply with French regulations in connection with the information to be contained in prospectuses.

The following tables set forth the unaudited consolidated capitalization and indebtedness of CGG, as derived from CGG's unaudited consolidated financial statements as of June 30, 2006 under IFRS, which are incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/ prospectus.

	CGG June 30, 2006 (IFRS) (unaudited)
	(in millions)
Short-term debt and current portion of long-term debt	35.7
guaranteed	
secured	31.0
unguaranteed / unsecured	4.7
Bonds and other long-term debt	393.3
guaranteed	
secured	134.7
unguaranteed / unsecured	258.6
Financial debt, gross (A)	429.0
guaranteed	
secured	165.7
unguaranteed / unsecured	263.3
Shareholders' equity (B)	802.6
Common stock	35.0
Additional paid-in capital	389.5
Accumulated earnings	314.7
Treasury stock	2.4
Net income (loss) for the period attributable to the Group	75.3
Income and expense recognized directly in equity	6.4
Cumulative translation adjustment	(20.7)
TOTAL (A) + (B)	1,231.6

	CGG June 30, 2006 (IFRS) (unaudited)
	(in millions)
Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities (A)	206.4
Cash and cash equivalents	119.6
Marketable securities	86.8
Current portion of financial debt (B)	(38.3)

Bank loans	current portion	(25.9)
Capital leases	current portion	(9.7)
Bonds	current portion	
Accrued interest		(2.7)
Financial debt (C)		(393.3)
Bank loans	long-term portion	(80.5)
Capital leases	long-term portion	(58.5)
Bonds	long-term portion	(254.3)
TOTAL (A) + (B) + (C)		(225.2)

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The following tables set forth the unaudited consolidated capitalization and indebtedness of Veritas, as derived from Veritas consolidated annual financial statements as of July 31, 2006 under U.S. GAAP, which are incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus.

	Veritas July 31, 2006 (US GAAP) (unaudited)
	(in millions of dollars)
Financial debt, gross (A)	155.0
Financial debt current portion	155.0
guaranteed	
secured	
unguaranteed / unsecured	155.0
Financial debt long-term portion	
- guaranteed	
- secured	
- unguaranteed / unsecured	
Shareholders equity (B)	710.5
Common stock	0.4
Additional paid-in capital	492.4
Accumulated earnings	228.3
Treasury stock	(23.0)
Minimum pension liability	(9.4)
Cumulative translation adjustment	21.8
TOTAL (A) + (B)	865.5

	Veritas July 31, 2006 (US GAAP) (unaudited)
	(in millions of dollars)
Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities (A)	401.9
Cash and cash equivalents	401.9
Marketable securities	
Financial debt, gross (B)	(155.0)
TOTAL (A) + (B)	246.9

Table of Contents**EXCHANGE RATE INFORMATION**

The following table shows, for the periods indicated, information concerning the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the euro. This information is provided solely for your information, and CGG and Veritas do not represent that euros could be converted into U.S. dollars at these rates or at any other rate. These rates are not the rates used by CGG in the preparation of its consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/ prospectus.

The data provided in the following table is expressed in U.S. dollars per euro and is based on noon buying rates published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for the euro. On September 1, 2006, the last trading day before the public disclosure of the execution of the merger agreement by CGG and Veritas, the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the euro expressed in U.S. dollars per euro was 1.00 = \$1.2833. On October 13, 2006, the most recent practicable day prior to the date of this proxy statement/ prospectus, the exchange rate was 1.00 = \$1.2502.

	Period-End Rate(1)	Average Rate(2)	High	Low
Recent Monthly Data				
October 2006 (through October 13, 2006)	\$ 1.2502	\$ 1.2619	\$ 1.2744	\$ 1.2502
September 2006	1.2687	1.2722	1.2833	1.2648
August 2006	1.2793	1.2810	1.2914	1.2735
July 2006	1.2764	1.2681	1.2822	1.2529
June 2006	1.2779	1.2661	1.2953	1.2522
May 2006	1.2833	1.2767	1.2888	1.2607
April 2006	1.2624	1.2273	1.2624	1.2091
Interim Period Data				
Six months ended June 30, 2006	1.2779	1.2399	1.2953	1.1860
Annual Data (Year Ended December 31,)				
2005	1.1842	1.2400	1.3476	1.1667
2004	1.3538	1.2478	1.3625	1.1801
2003	1.2597	1.1411	1.2597	1.0361
2002	1.0485	0.9495	1.0485	0.8594
2001	0.8901	0.8909	0.9535	0.8370

Notes:

- (1) The period-end rate is the noon buying rate on the last business day of the applicable period.
- (2) The average rate for each monthly period was calculated by taking the simple average of the daily noon buying rates, as published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The average rate for each interim period and annual period was calculated by taking the simple average of the noon buying rates on the last business day of each month during the relevant period.

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RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information included or incorporated by reference in this proxy statement/prospectus, including the matters addressed under Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements, you should carefully consider the following risks before deciding whether to vote for adoption of the merger agreement. In addition, you should read and consider the risks associated with the businesses of each of CGG and Veritas in deciding whether to vote to adopt the merger agreement because these risks will relate to CGG-Veritas after the merger. Certain of these risks can be found in CGG's 2005 Form 20-F, which is incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus, and in Veritas' 2006 Form 10-K, which is incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus. You should also consider the other information in this proxy statement/prospectus and the other documents incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus. See Additional Information Where You Can Find More Information.

Risk Factors Relating to the Merger

Because the market price of CGG ADSs will fluctuate, Veritas stockholders cannot be sure of the value of the merger consideration they will receive.

Upon the effective time of the merger, each share of Veritas common stock will be converted into the right to receive merger consideration consisting of CGG ADSs or cash pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement, meaning that each Veritas stockholder may elect to receive his or her merger consideration entirely in cash, entirely in CGG ADSs, or a combination of cash and CGG ADSs, subject to the proration procedures described herein and in the merger agreement. The value of the merger consideration to be received by Veritas stockholders will be based in part on the average of the per share closing sales price of CGG ADSs on the NYSE during the 20 consecutive trading day valuation period ending on the third calendar day prior to the effective time of the merger. This average price may vary from the market price of CGG ADSs on the date the merger was announced, on the date that this proxy statement/prospectus is mailed to Veritas stockholders, on the date of closing, on the date you make an election with respect to the merger consideration or on the date of the special meeting of Veritas stockholders.

Because CGG is issuing a fixed number of CGG ADSs and a fixed amount of cash as part of the merger consideration (in each case subject to upward adjustment in the event that any shares of Veritas common stock are issued in accordance with the merger agreement pursuant to the exercise of Veritas outstanding stock options or conversion of Veritas convertible bonds or otherwise), and because the provisions of the merger agreement operate to substantially equalize the value of the consideration to be received for each share of Veritas common stock at the time the calculation is made, any change in the price of CGG ADSs prior to the effective time of the merger will affect the value of the merger consideration that you will be entitled to receive upon the effective time of the merger, regardless of whether you elect to receive cash, CGG ADSs or a combination of cash and CGG ADSs, or do not make an election.

Changes in the price of CGG ADSs may result from a variety of factors, including:

market reaction to the announcement of the merger and market assessment of its likelihood to be consummated;

changes in oil and natural gas prices;

changes in the respective businesses, operations and prospects of CGG and Veritas, including CGG's and Veritas ability to meet earnings estimates;

governmental or litigation developments or regulatory considerations affecting CGG or Veritas or the industry generally; and

general business, market or economic conditions.

Many of these factors are beyond the control of CGG and Veritas.

Table of Contents***Veritas stockholders may receive a form or combination of consideration different from what they elect.***

While each Veritas stockholder may elect to receive all cash, all CGG ADSs or a combination of cash and CGG ADSs pursuant to the merger, the pools of cash and CGG ADSs available for all Veritas stockholders will be fixed amounts (in each case subject to upward adjustment in the event that any shares of Veritas common stock are issued in accordance with the merger agreement pursuant to the exercise of Veritas outstanding stock options or conversion of Veritas convertible bonds or otherwise). Accordingly, depending on the elections made by other Veritas stockholders and the average of the per share closing sales price of CGG ADSs on the NYSE during the 20 consecutive trading day valuation period ending on the third calendar day prior to the effective time of the merger, you may receive a proportion of cash and/or CGG ADSs that is different from what you elected. If a Veritas stockholder does not submit a properly completed and signed election form to the exchange agent by the election deadline of 5:00 p.m. New York City time on [] then such stockholder will have no control over the type of merger consideration such stockholder may receive, and, consequently, may receive only cash, only CGG ADSs, or a combination of cash and CGG ADSs pursuant to the merger.

If you tender shares of Veritas common stock to make an election, you will not be able to sell those shares unless you revoke your election prior to the election deadline.

If you want to make an election with respect to the type of merger consideration you receive, you must deliver your stock certificates (or follow the procedures for guaranteed delivery) and a properly completed and signed election form to the exchange agent no later than the election deadline of 5:00 p.m. New York City time on []. You will not be able to sell any shares of Veritas common stock that you have delivered until you receive cash or CGG ADSs pursuant to the merger unless you revoke your election before the deadline by providing written notice to the exchange agent. In the time between delivery of your shares of Veritas common stock and the closing of the merger, the market price of Veritas common stock or CGG ADSs may decrease, and you might otherwise want to sell your shares of Veritas common stock to gain access to cash, make other investments, or reduce the potential for a decrease in the value of your investment.

The merger is subject to the receipt of consents and approvals from government entities that may delay or prevent the closing of the merger, have a material adverse effect on Veritas or CGG, or result in additional transaction costs.

The merger is conditioned upon, among other things, the expiration or termination of the applicable waiting period under the HSR Act and all authorizations, consents, waiting periods and approvals from certain relevant governmental entities in applicable jurisdictions required to be obtained under law prior to the effective time of the merger being obtained or satisfied, including from the CFIUS. Certain of these authorizations, consents, waiting periods and approvals will involve the relevant governmental entity's consideration of the effect of the merger on competition in various jurisdictions.

As a result, stockholders face several risks, including:

the required consents and approvals could delay the closing of the merger for a significant period of time after Veritas and CGG shareholder approvals have been obtained;

the merger may not be completed if the required approvals are not obtained; and

certain conditions or restrictions that governmental authorities may require in order to grant regulatory approval could materially adversely affect the business or financial condition of the combined company following the effective time of the merger. Governmental authorities may require divestitures relating to operations or assets of CGG or Veritas, or commitments from CGG or Veritas that may have a negative impact on the businesses and operations of the companies, or may reduce the anticipated benefits of the merger. Pursuant to the merger agreement, under certain circumstances, CGG or Veritas must continue with the merger despite the imposition of conditions and restrictions as long as such conditions and restrictions would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to be a Burdensome Condition under the terms of the merger agreement. See The Merger Agreement Conditions to the Completion of the Merger.

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There can be no assurance that Veritas and CGG will obtain the necessary authorizations, consents, waiting periods and approvals or that any such required divestitures or other conditions will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition, business or results of operations of the combined company following the effective time of the merger or cause the abandonment of the merger by Veritas and CGG. See The Merger Agreement Other Regulatory Procedures and The Merger Agreement Conditions to the Completion of the Merger.

Any delay in completing the merger may substantially reduce the benefits expected to be obtained from the merger.

In addition to obtaining the required regulatory clearances and approvals, the merger is subject to a number of other conditions beyond the control of Veritas and CGG that may prevent, delay or otherwise materially adversely affect its completion. See The Merger Agreement Conditions to Completion of the Merger. CGG and Veritas cannot predict whether and when these other conditions will be satisfied. Further, the requirements for obtaining the required clearances and approvals could delay the effective time of the merger for a significant period of time or prevent it from occurring. Any delay in completing the merger may materially adversely affect the synergies and other benefits that CGG and Veritas expect to achieve if the merger and the integration of their respective businesses is completed within the expected timeframe.

CGG and Veritas will incur substantial transaction and merger-related costs in connection with the merger.

CGG and Veritas expect to incur a number of non-recurring transaction fees and other costs associated with completing the merger, combining the operations of the two companies and achieving desired synergies. These fees and costs will be substantial. Additional unanticipated costs may be incurred in the integration of the businesses of CGG and Veritas. Although CGG and Veritas expect that the elimination of duplicative costs, as well as the realization of other efficiencies related to the integration of their businesses will offset the incremental transaction and merger-related costs over time, this net benefit may not be achieved in the near term, or at all.

The businesses and technologies of CGG and Veritas, as well as other businesses or technologies that the combined company may acquire, may be difficult to integrate, disrupt the combined company's business, dilute shareholder value or divert management attention.

Risks the combined company could face with respect to the combination between CGG and Veritas, as well as other recent and future acquisitions include:

difficulties in the integration of the operations, technologies, products and personnel of the acquired company;

diversion of management's attention away from other business concerns; and

the assumption of any undisclosed or other potential liabilities of the acquired company.

In addition to the proposed merger with Veritas, CGG has undertaken several recent acquisitions, including the purchase of several manufacturers of seismic products in 2004 that expanded Sercel's product line, the acquisition of Exploration Resources ASA, a Norwegian company, in September 2005 and the acquisition by Sercel of Vibration Technologies Limited, a Scottish company, on September 28, 2006. The risks associated with acquisitions could have a material adverse effect upon the combined company's business, financial condition and results of operations.

The pendency of the merger could materially adversely affect the future business and operations of Veritas or CGG.

In connection with the pending merger, some customers and strategic partners of each of Veritas and CGG may delay or defer decisions relating to their ongoing and future relationships with Veritas or CGG,

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which could negatively affect revenues, earnings and cash flows of Veritas or CGG, as well as the market prices of shares of Veritas common stock or CGG ADSs, regardless of whether the merger is completed.

Directors and executive officers of Veritas may have potential conflicts of interest in recommending that you vote to adopt the merger agreement.

Executive officers of Veritas negotiated the terms of the merger agreement and the Veritas board of directors unanimously approved the merger agreement and unanimously recommends that you vote in favor of the proposal to adopt the merger agreement. These directors and executive officers may have interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to or in conflict with, yours. You should take into account such interests when you consider the Veritas board of directors' recommendation that you vote for adoption of the merger agreement.

These interests include:

the continued employment of certain executive officers of Veritas by CGG-Veritas;

the continued positions of certain directors of Veritas as directors of CGG-Veritas;

employment agreements with certain executive officers of Veritas, which may require lump sum payments within two years after a change of control of Veritas;

the accelerated vesting of, and payment in the merger with respect to, certain restricted stock units and stock options and lapse of restrictions on restricted shares for certain directors and executive officers; and

the indemnification of former Veritas directors and officers by the combined company described under "The Merger - Interests of the Directors and Executive Officers of Veritas in the Merger - Indemnification and Insurance."

As a result of these interests, these directors and executive officers may be more likely to support and to vote to adopt the merger agreement than if they did not have these interests. For a discussion of the interests of directors and executive officers in the merger, see "The Merger - Interests of the Directors and Executive Officers of Veritas in the Merger."

In certain circumstances, the merger agreement requires payment of a termination fee of \$85 million by Veritas to CGG and, under certain circumstances, Veritas must allow CGG three business days to match any alternative acquisition proposal prior to any change in the Veritas board's recommendation. These terms could affect the decisions of a third party proposing an alternative transaction to the merger.

Under the merger agreement, Veritas may be required to pay to CGG a termination fee of \$85 million if the merger agreement is terminated under certain circumstances. Should the merger agreement be terminated in circumstances under which such a termination fee is payable, the payment of this fee could have material and adverse consequences to Veritas' financial condition and operations after such time. Additionally, under the merger agreement, in the event of a superior acquisition proposal being made to Veritas by another party, Veritas must allow CGG a three business day period to make a revised proposal in response to the superior acquisition proposal, prior to which the Veritas board of directors may not change its recommendation with respect to the merger agreement. Even if the Veritas board of directors changes its recommendation of the merger, Veritas is required under the merger agreement to submit the merger agreement to its stockholders for adoption unless CGG decides to terminate the merger agreement. These terms could affect the structure, pricing and terms proposed by other parties seeking to acquire or merge with Veritas, and could make it more difficult for another party to make a superior acquisition proposal for Veritas. For a description of the termination rights of each party and the termination fee payable by Veritas under the merger agreement, see "The Merger Agreement - Termination of the Merger Agreement."

Table of Contents**Risk Factors Relating to CGG-Veritas Following the Merger**

The combined company may fail to realize the anticipated synergies and other benefits expected from the merger, which may materially adversely affect the value of CGG ordinary shares and CGG ADSs after the effective time of the merger.

The merger involves the integration of CGG and Veritas, two companies that have previously operated independently and as competitors. CGG and Veritas entered into the merger agreement with the expectation that, among other things, the merger would enable the combined company to achieve expected cost synergies from having one rather than two public companies as well as the redeployment of support resources towards operations and premises rationalization.

Delays encountered by the combined company in the transition process could have a material adverse effect on the revenues, expenses, operating results and financial condition of the combined company. Although CGG and Veritas expect to realize significant benefits from the merger, there can be no assurance that CGG-Veritas will actually achieve these anticipated benefits.

The value of the CGG ordinary shares and the CGG ADSs following the effective time of the merger may be affected by the ability of the combined company to achieve the benefits expected to result from the effective time of the merger. Achieving the benefits of the merger will depend in part upon meeting the challenges inherent in the successful combination and integration of global business enterprises of the size and scope of CGG and Veritas and the possible resulting diversion of management attention for an extended period of time. There can be no assurance that the combined company will meet these challenges and that such diversion will not negatively affect the operations of the combined company following the merger.

Uncertainties associated with the merger may cause a loss of employees and may otherwise materially adversely affect the future business and operations of CGG-Veritas.

CGG-Veritas' future results of operations will depend in part upon its ability to retain existing highly skilled and qualified employees of CGG and Veritas and to attract new employees. A number of CGG's and Veritas' employees are highly skilled scientists and highly trained technicians, and failure by the combined company to continue to attract and retain such individuals could materially adversely affect its ability to compete in the geophysical services industry. In addition, current and prospective employees of CGG and Veritas may experience uncertainty about their post-merger roles with CGG-Veritas following the effective time of the merger. This uncertainty may materially adversely affect the ability of each of CGG and Veritas to attract and retain key management, sales, marketing, technical and other personnel. In addition, key employees may depart because of issues relating to the uncertainty and difficulty of integration or a desire not to remain with CGG-Veritas following the merger. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that CGG-Veritas will be able to attract or retain key employees of CGG and Veritas to the same extent that CGG and Veritas have been able to attract or retain their own employees in the past.

CGG and Veritas compete with other seismic products and services companies and, to a lesser extent, companies in the oil industry for skilled geophysical and seismic personnel, particularly in times, such as the present, when demand for seismic services is relatively high. A limited number of such skilled personnel is available, and demand from other companies may limit the combined company's ability to fill its human resources needs. Any inability of CGG-Veritas following the effective time of the merger to hire, train and retain a sufficient number of qualified employees could impair its ability to manage and maintain its business and to develop and protect its know-how. In addition, CGG-Veritas' success will depend to a significant extent upon the abilities and efforts of members of its senior management, the loss of whom could materially adversely affect its business.

The trading price of CGG ADSs may be affected by factors different from those affecting the price of shares of Veritas common stock.

At the effective time of the merger, holders of shares of Veritas common stock may become holders of CGG ADSs. The results of operations of the combined company, as well as the trading price of CGG ADSs

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after the effective time of the merger, may be affected by factors different from those currently affecting Veritas results of operations and the trading price of shares of Veritas common stock. For a discussion of the businesses of CGG and Veritas and of certain factors to consider in connection with those businesses, see the documents incorporated by reference in this proxy statement/ prospectus and referred to under **Additional Information Where You Can Find More Information**.

Because some existing holders of CGG ordinary shares are entitled to two votes for every share they hold, the percentage of the voting rights of the combined company that you will own immediately after the effective time of the merger will be less than the percentage of the outstanding share capital of the combined company that you will own.

Under CGG's articles of association and bylaws (*statuts*), holders of CGG ordinary shares who have held their shares in the same registered name for at least two consecutive years have the right to two votes for every share so held. In general, the CGG ordinary shares underlying CGG ADSs will be held in bearer form unless the holder thereof notifies the depositary in writing that the CGG ordinary shares should be held in registered form. As a result, new holders of CGG ordinary shares (including CGG ordinary shares represented by CGG ADSs), including former holders of shares of Veritas common stock who receive CGG ADSs pursuant to the merger, will qualify to obtain double-voting rights only after holding those CGG ADSs in the same registered name for two years after giving such notice. As of September 30, 2006, 1,412,798 CGG ordinary shares carried double-voting rights, representing approximately 8% of CGG's outstanding share capital and approximately 15% of CGG's voting rights. If the merger is consummated, immediately after the effective time of the merger, former holders of shares of Veritas common stock are expected to own approximately 36% of the combined company's outstanding share capital and approximately 35% of the combined company's voting rights (based on the outstanding shares of Veritas common stock on July 31, 2006 and the maximum number of additional shares of Veritas common stock that may be issued in accordance with the merger agreement pursuant to the exercise of outstanding Veritas stock options or the conversion of the Veritas convertible bonds or otherwise). Therefore, because some existing holders of CGG ordinary shares currently have double voting rights and you will not be eligible for double voting rights under CGG's articles of association until a later time (if at all), the percentage of the combined company's voting rights that you will have immediately after the effective time of the merger will be less than the percentage of the combined company's outstanding share capital that you own immediately after the effective time of the merger.

CGG is a foreign private issuer under the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations of the SEC and, thus, is exempt from certain rules and requirements under the Exchange Act and is permitted to file less information with the SEC than a company incorporated in the United States or a non-foreign private issuer.

As a foreign private issuer under the Exchange Act, CGG is exempt from certain rules and requirements under the Exchange Act, including the proxy rules, which impose certain disclosure and procedural requirements for proxy solicitations. Moreover, CGG is not required to file periodic reports and financial statements with the SEC as frequently or as promptly as U.S. companies with securities registered under the Exchange Act; is not required to file financial statements prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP (although it is required to reconcile its financial statements to U.S. GAAP); and is not required to comply with Regulation FD, which imposes certain restrictions on the selective disclosure of material information. In addition, CGG's officers, directors and principal shareholders are exempt from the reporting and short-swing profit recovery provisions of Section 16 of the Exchange Act and the rules under the Exchange Act with respect to their purchases and sales of CGG ordinary shares. Accordingly, although the covenants contained in CGG's senior notes require CGG to furnish to the SEC a greater level of financial and non-financial information than the Exchange Act requires of foreign private issuers for so long as such senior notes remain outstanding, after the effective time of the merger, if you continue to hold CGG ADSs and for so long as the combined company remains a foreign private issuer, you may receive less information about the combined company than you currently receive about Veritas, and be afforded less protection under the U.S. federal securities laws than you are currently afforded. See **Questions and Answers About the Merger and the Veritas Special Stockholders Meeting** What are the implications of CGG being a foreign private

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issuer? . If the combined company loses its status as a foreign private issuer, it will no longer be exempt from such rules and, among other things, will be required to file periodic reports and financial statements as if it were a company incorporated in the United States. The costs incurred in fulfilling these additional regulatory requirements could be substantial.

The combined company s results of operations may be significantly affected by currency fluctuations.

The combined company will derive a substantial amount of its revenues from sales internationally, subjecting it to risks relating to fluctuations in currency exchange rates. The combined company s revenues and expenses will be denominated in currencies including the euro, the U.S. dollar and, to a significantly lesser extent, other non-euro Western European currencies, principally the British pound and the Norwegian kroner. Historically, a significant portion of CGG s revenues that were invoiced in euros related to contracts that were effectively priced in U.S. dollars, as the U.S. dollar often serves as the reference currency when bidding for contracts to provide geophysical services. CGG s exposure to fluctuations in the euro/ U.S. dollar exchange rate has increased considerably over the last few years due to increased sales outside of Europe.

Fluctuations in the exchange rate of the euro against such other currencies, particularly the U.S. dollar, can be expected in future periods to have a significant effect upon the combined company s results of operations, which will be reported in euros. Since the combined company will participate in competitive bids for data acquisition contracts that are denominated in U.S. dollars, a depreciation of the U.S. dollar against the euro harms its competitive position against companies whose costs and expenses are denominated in U.S. dollars. For financial reporting purposes, such depreciation will negatively affect the combined company s reported results of operations since U.S. dollar-denominated earnings that are converted to euros are stated at a decreased value. While CGG has in the past attempted to reduce the risks associated with such exchange rate fluctuations through its hedging policy, neither CGG nor Veritas can assure you that the combined company will be effective or that fluctuations in the values of the currencies in which it operates will not materially adversely affect its future results of operations.

CGG and Veritas have had losses in the past and cannot assure that the combined company will be profitable in the future.

CGG recorded net losses in 2004 and 2005 (attributable to shareholders) of 6.4 million and 7.8 million, respectively, although excluding the accounting impact under IFRS of its 7.75% subordinated convertible bonds due 2012 denominated in U.S. dollars, its net income would have been positive. Veritas recorded a net loss of \$59.1 million in its fiscal year 2003. Neither CGG nor Veritas can assure you that the combined company will be profitable in the future.

The combined company will be subject to risks related to its international operations that could harm its business and results of operations.

With operations worldwide, and with a majority of its revenues likely to be derived outside of the United States and Western Europe, including in emerging markets, CGG-Veritas business and results of operations will be subject to various risks inherent in international operations. These risks include:

instability of foreign economies and governments;

risks of war, terrorism, civil disturbance, seizure, renegotiation or nullification of existing contracts; and

foreign exchange restrictions, sanctions and other laws and policies affecting taxation, trade and investment.

The combined company will be exposed to these risks in all of its foreign operations to some degree, and its exposure could be material to its financial condition and results of operations in emerging markets where the political and legal environment is less stable.

While the combined company expects to carry insurance against political risks associated with such operations in amounts they consider appropriate in accordance with industry practices, neither CGG nor

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Veritas can assure you that the combined company will not be subject to material adverse developments with respect to its international operations or that its coverage will be adequate to cover it for any losses arising from such risks.

Revenue generating activities in certain foreign countries may require prior United States government approval in the form of an export license and may otherwise be subject to tariffs and import/export restrictions. These laws can change over time and may result in limitations on the combined company's ability to compete globally. In addition, non-U.S. persons employed by the combined company's separately incorporated non-U.S. entities will conduct business in some foreign jurisdictions that have been subject to U.S. trade embargoes and sanctions by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control. CGG and Veritas have typically generated revenue in these countries through the performance of data processing, reservoir consulting services and the sale of software licenses and software maintenance. CGG and Veritas have relations with customers in these countries which are current and ongoing. CGG and Veritas do, and the combined company will, have procedures in place to conduct these operations in compliance with applicable U.S. laws. However, failure to comply with U.S. laws on foreign operations could result in material fines and penalties, damage to the combined company's reputation, and a reduction in the value of CGG ordinary shares and CGG ADSs. In addition, the combined company's activities in these countries could reduce demand for its securities among certain investors.

CGG, Veritas and certain of their respective subsidiaries and affiliated entities also conduct business in countries which experience government corruption and in countries subject to U.S. government sanctions. They are committed, and they expect the combined company to be committed, to doing business in accordance with all applicable laws and their codes of ethics, but there is a risk that the combined company, its subsidiaries or affiliated entities or its respective officers, directors, employees and agents may take action in violation of applicable laws, including the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 or laws administered by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control. Any such violations could result in substantial civil and/or criminal penalties and might materially adversely affect the combined company's business and results of operations or financial condition.

CGG-Veritas will invest significant amounts of money in acquiring and processing seismic data for multi-client surveys and for its data library without knowing precisely how much of the data it will be able to sell or when and at what price it will be able to sell the data.

CGG-Veritas will invest significant amounts of money in acquiring and processing seismic data that it will own.

By making such investments, the combined company exposes itself to risks that:

may not fully recover the costs of acquiring and processing the data through future sales. The amounts of these data sales are uncertain and depend on a variety of factors, many of which are beyond its control. In addition, the timing of these sales is unpredictable and sales can vary greatly from period to period. Technological or regulatory changes or other developments could also materially adversely affect the value of the data;

value of its multi-client data could be significantly adversely affected if any material adverse change occurred in the general prospects for oil and gas exploration, development and production activities in the areas where it acquires multi-client data; and

reduction in the market value of such data will require the combined company to write down its recorded value, which could have a significant material adverse effect on its results of operations.

For example, in its fiscal years 2003 and 2002, Veritas incurred \$4.9 million and \$55.3 million, respectively, in impairment charges related to surveys which generated relatively low levels of sales in its multi-client library. These surveys were found to be impaired for various reasons, including slow acreage turnover in the case of U.S. land surveys, a border dispute in the case of a Shetland-Faroes survey and excessive acquisition cost in the case of a Gulf of Mexico survey. In addition, a decision by the Norwegian government on March 31, 2006 not to award exploration-production licenses in the area where one of CGG's surveys is located (Moere) changed CGG's previous estimate of future sales, and caused this \$4.6 million

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survey to be fully depreciated at March 31, 2006. Additionally, each of the individual surveys of CGG-Veritas will have a minimum book life based on its location, so particular surveys may be subject to significant amortization even though sales of licenses associated with that survey are weak or non-existent, thus reducing profits of the combined company.

CGG-Veritas working capital needs are difficult to forecast and may vary significantly, which could result in additional financing requirements that it may not be able to meet on satisfactory terms, or at all.

It will be difficult for the combined company to predict with certainty its working capital needs. This difficulty is due primarily to working capital requirements related to the marine seismic acquisition business and related to the development and introduction of new lines of geophysical equipment products. For example, under specific circumstances, the combined company may extend the length of payment terms it grants to customers or increase its inventories substantially. The combined company may therefore be subject to significant and rapid increases in its working capital needs that it may have difficulty financing on satisfactory terms, or at all, due to limitations in its debt agreements.

Technological changes and new products and services are frequently introduced in the market, and the combined company's technology could be rendered obsolete by these introductions or it may not be able to develop and produce new and enhanced products on a cost-effective and timely basis.

Technology changes rapidly in the seismic industry, and new and enhanced products are frequently introduced in the market for CGG's and Veritas' products and services, particularly in CGG's equipment manufacturing and data processing and geosciences sectors. The combined company's success will depend to a significant extent upon its ability to develop and produce new and enhanced products and services on a cost-effective and timely basis in accordance with industry demands. While the combined company will commit substantial resources to research and development, neither CGG nor Veritas can assure you that the combined company will not encounter resource constraints or technical or other difficulties that could delay the introduction of new and enhanced products and services in the future. In addition, the continuing development of new products inherently carries the risk of obsolescence with respect to the combined company's older products. Neither CGG nor Veritas can assure you that new and enhanced products and services, if introduced, will gain market acceptance or will not be materially adversely affected by technological changes or product or service introductions by one of the combined company's competitors.

The combined company will depend on proprietary technology and will be exposed to risks associated with the misappropriation or infringement of that technology.

The results of operations of CGG-Veritas will depend in part upon its proprietary technology. The combined company will rely on a combination of patents, trademarks and trade secret laws to establish and protect its proprietary technology. CGG currently holds or has applied for 118 patents and Veritas currently holds or has applied for 15 patents in various countries for products and processes. These patents last between four and twenty years, depending on the date of filing and the protection accorded by each country. In addition, the combined company will enter into confidentiality and license agreements with its employees, customers and potential customers and limit access to and distribution of its technology. However, neither CGG nor Veritas can assure you that actions the combined company takes to protect its proprietary rights will be adequate to protect this technology or to deter the misappropriation or independent third-party development of its technology. Although neither CGG nor Veritas has been involved in any material litigation regarding its intellectual property rights or the possible infringement of intellectual property rights of others, it cannot assure you that such litigation will not be brought in the future. In addition, the laws of certain foreign countries do not protect proprietary rights to the same extent as either the laws of France or the laws of the United States, which may limit the combined company's ability to pursue third parties that misappropriate its proprietary technology.

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The combined company will rely on significant customers, so the loss of a single customer or a few customers could have a material adverse effect on its operating revenues and business.

A relatively small number of clients will account for a significant percentage of the combined company's revenues. The loss of a significant amount of the business of any of these clients could have a material adverse effect on the combined company's operating revenues and business.

The nature of the combined company's business will subject it to significant ongoing operating risks for which it may not have adequate insurance or for which it may not be able to procure adequate insurance on economical terms, if at all.

The combined company's seismic data acquisition activities, particularly in deepwater marine areas, are often conducted under harsh weather and other hazardous conditions. These operations are subject to risks of loss to property and injury to personnel from fires, accidental explosions, ice floes and high seas. These types of events could result in loss from business interruption, delay, equipment destruction or liability. CGG and Veritas expect that the combined company will carry insurance against the destruction of or damage to its seismic equipment and against business interruption for its data processing activities in amounts it considers appropriate in accordance with industry practice. However, neither CGG nor Veritas can assure you that CGG-Veritas' insurance coverage will be adequate in all circumstances or against all hazards, or that the combined company will be able to maintain adequate insurance coverage in the future at commercially reasonable rates or on acceptable terms.

Compliance with internal controls procedures and evaluations and attestation requirements will require significant efforts and resources and may result in the identification of significant deficiencies or material weaknesses of CGG.

Pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, CGG will be required, for 2006, as a foreign private issuer, to perform an evaluation of its internal controls over financial reporting and have its independent auditors publicly disclose their conclusions regarding such evaluation. CGG began in 2006 to establish procedures in order to comply with Section 404 in the timeframe permitted under the regulations of the SEC, although as of the date of this proxy statement/ prospectus, CGG has not yet finalized these procedures. CGG and Veritas expect that establishing procedures and ensuring compliance with these requirements will be a substantial and time-consuming process. If CGG fails to complete these procedures and the required evaluation in a timely manner, or if its independent auditors cannot attest to its evaluation in a timely manner, it could be subject to regulatory review and penalties that may result in a loss of public confidence in its internal controls. In addition, CGG may uncover significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in its internal controls. Measures taken by it to remedy these issues may require significant efforts, dedicated time and expenses, as well as the commitment of significant managerial resources. Each of these circumstances may have a material adverse effect on the combined company's business, ability to raise financing for its business, financial condition and results of operations or the market price of the CGG ADSs.

Risks Related to the Industry

The combined company will depend on capital expenditures by the oil and gas industry, and reductions in such expenditures in the future may have a material adverse effect on its business.

Demand for the products and services of CGG and Veritas has historically been dependent upon the level of capital expenditures by oil and gas companies for exploration, production and development activities. These expenditures are significantly influenced by oil and gas prices and by expectations regarding future oil and gas prices. Oil and gas prices may fluctuate based on relatively minor changes in the supply of and demand for oil and gas, expectations regarding future supply of and demand for oil and gas and certain other factors beyond the combined company's control. Lower or volatile oil and gas prices tend to limit the demand for seismic services and products.

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Factors affecting the prices of oil and gas include:

demand for oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids;

worldwide political, military and economic conditions, including political developments in the Middle East, economic growth levels and the ability of OPEC to set and maintain production levels and prices for oil;

levels of oil and gas production;

the price and availability of alternative fuels;

policies of governments regarding the exploration for and production and development of oil and gas reserves in their territories; and

global weather conditions.

Although oil and gas prices are currently at or near historical highs, which generally increases demand for seismic products and services, the markets for oil and gas historically hav