

SPEECH BY MR TONG CHONG HEONG, CEO OF KEPPEL OFFSHORE & MARINE AT THE CHRISTENING CEREMONY OF ROWAN VIKING AT KEPPEL FELS ON SATURDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2010, 10AM

Our gracious Lady Sponsor, Mrs Karen Russell;
Mr David Russell, Executive Vice-President of Rowan Companies, Inc.;
Mr Michael Dowdy, Vice-President of Engineering, Rowan Companies, Inc;
Dr Lee Boon Yang, Chairman of Keppel Corporation;
Mr Choo Chiau Beng, Chairman of Keppel Offshore & Marine;
Distinguished guests from Rowan and Skeie,
Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

1 Good morning, and a warm welcome to Keppel FELS. It is a very proud day for us. We will soon witness the naming of the world's first KFELS N Class harsh environment jackup for the North Sea. It is the biggest jackup ever designed and built in Singapore. This rig also marks the third jackup that Keppel has delivered to Rowan safely, on time and budget this year.

2 Let me begin by saying how delighted I am, to host our valued customer, Rowan at our Singapore yard today. Rowan was a new customer to Keppel back in 2007. Recognising Keppel's capability and commitment to meet customer requirements on time, within budget and without incident, Rowan awarded contracts to Keppel AmFELS, our US yard, to build not just one, but four jackups, at a go. Altogether, the contracts were worth US\$780 million.

3 Since then, we have consistently delivered on our promises to Rowan. We handed over the first two Rowan EXL jackups with perfect track records earlier this year. The experience of building these jackups at Keppel AmFELS has deepened our relations, and allowed us to build a solid foundation of trust, friendship and mutual understanding with Rowan.

4 Today, the strength of this partnership of ours has grown. This is best reflected in Rowan's decision a few months ago, to purchase the three KFELS N Class jackups for US\$1.2 billion. We deeply appreciate and value the confidence that Rowan has placed in our proprietary KFELS N Class rigs, as well as in Keppel's construction expertise.

5 The KFELS N Class design is the brainchild of Keppel's R&D arm, Offshore Technology Development, or OTD. Since 1994, OTD has developed and adapted several innovative jackup designs, including the critical rig components. These jackup designs, such as the KFELS B Class, have gained widespread market acceptance, enabling us to secure repeat contracts from customers worldwide. The KFELS N Class design is targeted to repeat the same success trajectory as the KFELS B Class.

6 Around 2007, favourable opportunities arose in the Norwegian North Sea Sector, brought on by higher oil prices that made it worthwhile to tap marginal fields. The hostile operational conditions called for an innovative rig solution, which could enhance the technical and commercial viability of recovering hydrocarbons in the North Sea. Leveraging our experience in constructing rigs for the North Sea region since 1985, and OTD's tried and

tested jackup expertise, we embarked on developing the KFELS N Class. We did this in close collaboration with Mr Bjarne Skeie of the Skeie Group.

7 The result is this new-generation dual-capability jackup, capable of undertaking drilling as well as production. The rig can operate in water depths which are 40% deeper than traditional units in benign waters, and drilling depths 15% deeper compared to existing harsh environment jackups. What's more, the rig can operate in challenging environments anywhere in the world, making it exceptionally versatile and qualified for worldwide deployment.

6 This rig is indeed a showcase of our winning combination – technology forte and construction strength. The ability to offer innovative solutions from design to delivery to meet our customers' needs, has always been one of Keppel O&M's competitive advantages that fortify our leadership position in the global offshore and marine industry.

7 But we have not sat on our laurels. We continue to develop products that are commercially viable and relevant to the market's needs. As both a designer and a builder, it is crucial for us to keep pace with the industry to adapt, innovate and develop solutions to address current and future needs.

8 On this note, allow me to say something about the rig's name. I understand that the jackup will be named Rowan Viking, like the medieval Scandinavian sailors, famed for their fearless expeditions to far-flung corners of the world. This is a befitting name. We expect Rowan Viking to

be a bold and powerful addition to Rowan's fleet, leading the way into the world's most harsh offshore environments.

9 David, thank you for your faith and friendship in Keppel. We are glad to entrench our successful partnership with Rowan, and will strive to deliver the remaining Rowan rigs being built at our global yards with Keppel's quality hallmark.

10 I would also like to recognise the project teams led by Rowan's Mike Dowdy, Jeff Powell, Skeie's Tom Mikkelsen, Mark Aitken and Keppel FELS's Lam Khee Chong, for running a tight ship; Wong Kok Seng, Executive Director and Chor How Jat, General Manager of Operations of Keppel FELS, for steering this project with their strong leadership despite challenging and stringent Norwegian regulatory requirements.

11 Credit also goes to DNV classification for their verification and guiding role on the certification of this rig. We also like to pay tribute to our vendors and subcontractors for their outstanding contribution to meet the exacting requirements and stringent standards befitting of this world class rig.

12 Last but not least, I would like to thank our gracious Lady Sponsor, Mrs Karen Russell, for being the rig's Godmother. With your blessings, Rowan Viking will sail safe and excel in all her endeavours.