
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): June 25, 2008

Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Minnesota (State or other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	001-32936 (Commission File Number)	95-3409686 (IRS Employer Identification No.)
400 North Sam Houston Parkway East, Suite 400 Houston, Texas (Address of Principal Executive Offices)		77060 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **281-618-0400**

(Former name or former address if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

The Company previously announced in the Company's Current Report dated June 11, 2008, that its Board of Directors has appointed Anthony Tripodo as its new Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer effective June 25, 2008. In connection with Mr. Tripodo's appointment as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, the Company has entered into an Employment Agreement with him dated June 25, 2008. The Company hereby incorporates by reference the disclosure made in Item 5.02 below.

As also previously disclosed in the Company's Current Report dated June 11, 2008, A. Wade Pursell resigned as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company effective June 25, 2008. In connection with Mr. Pursell's resignation, the Company has entered into a Separation Agreement with Mr. Pursell dated June 25, 2008. Mr. Pursell will remain an employee of the Company until July 4, 2008. The Company hereby incorporates by reference the disclosure made in Item 5.02 below.

Item 1.02 Termination of a Material Definitive Agreement.

In connection with Mr. Pursell's execution of the Separation Agreement, Mr. Pursell's existing Employment Agreement with the Company will be terminated as of July 4, 2008. The Company hereby incorporates by reference the disclosure made in Item 5.02 below.

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.*Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Appointed*

The Company previously announced that its Board of Directors has appointed Anthony Tripodo as its Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, effective June 25, 2008. In connection with Mr. Tripodo's appointment as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, the Company has entered into an Employment Agreement with him dated June 25, 2008. The following is a brief summary of the material terms of the Employment Agreement:

- An initial base salary equal to \$365,000,
 - A signing bonus equal to \$75,000,
 - Annual incentive compensation in an amount not less than the greater of \$450,000 or 100% of Mr. Tripodo's base salary,
 - An initial restricted stock grant of 70,500 shares which shall vest 20% per year beginning on the first anniversary of the grant, and
 - Other standard benefits.
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In addition, certain shares of restricted stock previously granted to Mr. Tripodo as a director of the Company in lieu of his quarterly director fees shall continue to vest in accordance with their respective vesting schedules based on his service as an officer of the Company. All other shares of restricted stock granted to Mr. Tripodo as a director shall be forfeited.

In the event Mr. Tripodo's employment is terminated without cause or Mr. Tripodo terminates his employment for "good reason," as such terms are defined in the Employment Agreement, the Company shall pay Mr. Tripodo an amount equal to two times his base annual salary, any unpaid amount with respect to the previous year's bonus, and the target bonus opportunity for the year of termination (to be paid at the time such bonuses are paid to the other participants). In the event of such a termination, Mr. Tripodo's rights under any equity based award will be determined in accordance with the terms of the award agreement or the plan, as applicable; provided, however that in the event such termination occurs at a time when less than 20,000 shares of his 70,500 share initial grant of restricted stock have vested, then an amount of shares of restricted stock shall vest at the time of such termination such that the total number of vested shares of such restricted stock grant shall equal 20,000. In the event of a change in control, as such term is defined in the Employment Agreement, then the Company shall pay Mr. Tripodo an amount equal to two times his base annual salary and bonus opportunity, an amount equal to any unpaid bonus from the previous year, and all equity based awards shall vest. In addition, the Company shall pay Mr. Tripodo an amount equal to the cost of continuation of group health coverage for 18 months.

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Resigns

As previously disclosed in the Company's Current Report dated June 11, 2008, A. Wade Pursell resigned as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company effective June 25, 2008.

In connection with Mr. Pursell's resignation and consistent with the terms of his Employment Agreement, the Company has entered into a Separation Agreement dated June 25, 2008. The following is a brief summary of the material terms of the Separation Agreement:

- A \$179,508 payment to Mr. Pursell 6 months after the termination of his employment.
 - A \$655,491 payment to Mr. Pursell on January 15, 2009.
 - Payment of his medical benefits for one year from the termination of his employment.
 - A payment to Mr. Pursell for accrued but unused vacation.
 - 20,734 shares of previously issued but unvested restricted stock awarded to Mr. Pursell shall vest on July 4, 2008.
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- Nonqualified stock options to purchase 5,360 shares of the Company's stock that were previously awarded but unvested shall vest on July 4, 2008 and the period of exercisability of such options shall be extended until September 4, 2009.
- A general release of claims by Mr. Pursell.
- Termination of Mr. Pursell's existing employment agreement and all rights and obligations thereunder effective July 4, 2008.

The Company also entered into an eighteen-month consulting agreement with Mr. Pursell for transition and advisory consulting services pursuant to which Mr. Pursell will receive monthly consulting fees equal to \$30,415.

Member of the Board of Directors Resigns

In connection with his appointment as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Tripodo resigned from the Board of Directors effective as of June 25, 2008. In connection with Mr. Tripodo's resignation from the Audit Committee and the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, John Lovoi was appointed to the Audit Committee and William L. Transier will serve as the Chairman of the Audit Committee. In addition, Mr. Lovoi will serve as Chairman of the Compensation Committee, a position previously held by Mr. Transier. James Watt was appointed to succeed Mr. Tripodo on the Company's Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee.

The descriptions of the provisions of the Separation Agreement and the Employment Agreement are qualified in their entirety by reference to the full and complete terms of such agreements which are attached hereto as Exhibit 10.1 and Exhibit 10.3 and are incorporated by reference herein.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) *Exhibits.*

Number	Description
10.1	Separation Agreement by and between Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc. and A. Wade Pursell effective June 25, 2008.
10.2	Employment Agreement by and between Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc. and Anthony Tripodo dated June 25, 2008.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: June 27, 2008

HELIX ENERGY SOLUTIONS GROUP, INC.

By: /s/ Alisa B. Johnson _____

Alisa B. Johnson

Senior Vice President and General Counsel

Index to Exhibits

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
10.1	Separation Agreement by and between Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc. and A. Wade Pursell effective June 25, 2008.
10.2	Employment Agreement by and between Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc. and Anthony Tripodo dated June 25, 2008.

June 25, 2008

Mr. Alan Wade Pursell
8614 Lanell
Houston, TX 77055

Dear Wade:

You have tendered your resignation as an officer of Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Company") to be effective, and have elected to terminate your employment with the Company on July 4, 2008. The purpose of this letter (the "Agreement") is to set forth certain agreements and understandings regarding, among other things:

- Your employment separation;
- Certain benefits the Company has agreed to provide to you upon your separation from employment;
- Your agreement to certain obligations of confidentiality, non-solicitation and cooperation; and
- Your release of any and all claims against the Company.

When you and the Company have signed this Agreement, it will constitute a complete agreement on all of these issues.

1. **EFFECTIVE DATE:**

Your employment with the Company will terminate on July 4, 2008 (the "Effective Date").

2. **SEPARATION:**

The Company will provide you with two kinds of separation benefits at the time of your termination. First, you will receive regular separation benefits as described in Section 2(a) below. Second, in recognition of your specialized knowledge, and of your position as an officer of the Company, the Company is offering you the benefits described in Section 2(b) below. You will receive the separation benefits described in Section 2(a) below even if you decline to sign this Agreement and execute the release of claims.

Initials: _____

(a) Terms of Separation

Health and Welfare Benefits — If you are participating in medical, dental, and/or vision coverage for yourself and any eligible dependent(s), all active coverage will end as of the last day of July, 2008. The Company will send you a packet regarding continuation of benefits under the Consolidated Omnibus Benefits Reconciliation Act (“COBRA”), and you and/or your eligible dependent(s) may elect to continue coverage for an additional 18 months, provided you timely enroll for coverage and, subject to the provision entitled “COBRA Premiums” in Section 2(b) below, make the required premium payments.

All other welfare benefits end as of the Effective Date.

401(k) Plan — You have the option of leaving your money in the Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc. Employee Retirement Savings Plan (the “Savings Plan”), or you may request a distribution of your account balance at any time after the Effective Date.

Stock Options — Except as provided below, your rights with respect to any Company stock option and restricted stock grants will be determined by the written agreements governing those grants and the 1995 Long Term Incentive Plan (the “1995 LTIP”) of Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc. and the Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc. 2005 Long Term Incentive Plan (the “2005 LTIP”), as applicable.

You are not eligible for any future equity awards.

Final Expenses — The Company agrees to reimburse you for all outstanding business expenses in accordance with Company policy. You will prepare and submit a final expense account reimbursement request for expenses incurred prior to the Effective Date. Such an expense account reimbursement request will be reviewed and paid in accordance with Company policy.

Perquisites — All perquisites terminate as of the Effective Date and you will receive no perquisite payments for any period after the Effective Date.

Vacation — You will be paid \$55,074 for 39.25 accrued but unused vacation days (based on your 2008 salary), less applicable tax withholdings, on or before July 10, 2008. You will not accrue further vacation.

(b) Separation Benefits

You acknowledge that the benefits set forth below include valuable new consideration justifying your agreement to provide the releases set forth in Section 4 of this Agreement. The following separation benefits shall be provided if you sign, deliver, and do not revoke this Agreement.

Initials: _____

Separation Payment — On the date that is six months following the date of your separation from service the Company shall pay you the sum of \$179,508.19, less applicable tax withholdings. On January 15, 2009, the Company shall pay you the sum of - \$655,491.81, less applicable tax withholdings.

Restricted Stock — You have been awarded 78,031 shares of restricted stock under the 2005 LTIP that are scheduled to vest after the Effective Date. The Company agrees that a total of 20,734 restricted shares that would otherwise vest within the one-year period after the Effective Date (specifically, 4,090 shares of restricted stock granted pursuant to a restricted stock award agreement between you and the Company dated January 3, 2005; 2,990 shares of restricted stock granted pursuant to a restricted stock award agreement between you and the Company dated January 3, 2006; 7,389 shares of restricted stock granted pursuant to a restricted stock award agreement between you and the Company dated January 2, 2007; and 6,265 shares of stock granted pursuant to a restricted stock award agreement between you and the Company dated January 2, 2008), will vest on July 4, 2008. Unless you elect otherwise by remitting to the Company cash in an amount necessary to satisfy the Company's tax withholding obligations arising with respect to the vesting of your restricted stock, the Company shall satisfy its tax withholding obligations by withholding shares with a fair market value equal to the withholding obligation. The parties agree that the terms of the above-referenced restricted stock award agreements shall be amended to reflect such accelerated vesting.

Stock Options — You have been awarded nonqualified stock options ("NSOs") under the 1995 LTIP with respect to 5,360 shares of the Company's Common Stock (the "Stock") that are scheduled to vest after the Effective Date. The Company agrees that such NSOs with respect such 5,360 shares of Stock (specifically, NSOs with respect to 5,360 shares of Stock awarded pursuant to a nonqualified stock option agreement dated February 25, 2004 between you and the Company) that would otherwise vest within the one year period after the Effective Date, will vest on July 4, 2008. The period of exercisability of your NSOs granted February 25, 2004 shall be extended until September 4, 2009. The parties agree that the terms of the above-referenced nonqualified stock option agreement shall be amended to reflect such accelerated vesting and continued exercisability on the terms specified herein.

COBRA Premiums — If you elect to continue your medical, dental, and/or vision coverage for yourself and your eligible dependents, your COBRA premiums for the first 12 months of COBRA coverage will be paid by the Company.

Initials: _____

3. **COVENANTS:**

(a) Non-Solicitation

Following the Effective Date, you shall not, directly or indirectly:

(1) for a period of eighteen (18) months thereafter, interfere with the relationship of the Company or any affiliate with, or attempt to entice away from the Company or any affiliate, or attempt to induce to cease doing business with the Company or any affiliate, any individual or entity who was or is a material customer or material supplier of, or who has maintained a material business relationship with, the Company or its affiliates; or

(2) for a period of eighteen (18) months thereafter, employ, engage as a consultant or adviser, or solicit the employment, engagement as a consultant or adviser, of any employee or agent of the Company or any of its affiliates, or cause or attempt to cause any individual or entity to do any of the foregoing.

(b) Cooperation and Assistance

Definition of Cooperation — As used in this Agreement, “cooperate” and “cooperation” includes making yourself available in response to all reasonable requests for information by the Company, the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) or any other governmental authority with jurisdiction over the matter at hand, whether the request is informal or formal (e.g., in response to a subpoena in a legal proceeding), and includes fully, completely, and truthfully answering questions, assisting the Company in its prosecution or defense of any proceeding, civil or criminal, or providing testimony in any related proceeding, civil or criminal.

Agreement to Cooperate — You agree, acknowledge, represent and warrant that:

(1) you have (i) not engaged in, nor encouraged any individual, in any way, to engage in the destruction or secretion of any information, in any form, including but not limited to documents and emails (“documentation”), that might be relevant to any investigation; (ii) turned over all documentation in response to prior requests; and (iii) responded, fully and truthfully, to all questions related to or arising from the subject matter of any such investigation that have been posed to you by employees, representatives of the Company, or any government agency;

(2) for a period of two (2) years after the Effective Date, upon reasonable request, you will cooperate fully with the Company and its affiliates, past or present, in connection with any internal investigation initiated by the Company, its affiliates, and any successors in interest, as well as with any external investigation initiated by any government or agency or instrumentality thereof in accordance with the Company’s directives;

(3) for a period of two (2) years after the Effective Date, upon reasonable request of the Company, any subsidiary of the Company, or any successor-in-interest, you will provide all documentation and information in your possession, custody, or control that is related to any internal or external investigation of the Company and its affiliates; and

Initials: _____

(4) after two (2) years after the Effective Date, you agree upon request to provide continuing reasonable cooperation with the Company or any of its affiliates in responding to internal or governmental investigations.

All reasonable expenses you incur in rendering cooperation under this subsection 3(b) will be reimbursed by the Company.

(c) Confidentiality

Confidential Information — During the course of your employment with the Company, you have had access and received confidential information. You are obligated to keep confidential all such confidential information for a period of not less than eighteen (18) months following the Effective Date of this Agreement. Moreover, you understand and acknowledge that your obligation to maintain the confidentiality of trade secrets and other intellectual property is unending. As an exception to this confidentiality obligation you may disclose the confidential information (i) in connection with enforcing your rights under any plan or agreement related to this Agreement, or if compelled by law, and in either case, you shall provide written notice to the Company prior to the disclosure or (ii) if the Company provides written consent prior to the disclosure.

(d) Property

Agreement to Return Company Property. — Immediately prior to the Effective Date, or such earlier date as the Company may reasonably determine appropriate, you will return to the Company all Company property in your possession, including but not limited to, computers, BlackBerry, credit cards and all files, documents and records of the Company, in whatever medium and of whatever kind or type. You agree and hereby certify that you have returned, or will return prior to the Effective Date, all proprietary or confidential information or documents relating to the business and affairs of the Company and its affiliates. You further agree that should it subsequently be determined by the Company that, notwithstanding the foregoing certification, you have inadvertently failed to return all proprietary or confidential information and documents in your possession or control relating to the business and affairs of the Company and its affiliates, you will be obligated to promptly return to the Company such proprietary or confidential information and documents in your possession or control relating to the business and affairs of the Company and its affiliates.

4. RELEASE OF CLAIMS:

In consideration for the separation benefits described in Section 2 of this Agreement, you hereby provide the Company with an irrevocable and unconditional release and discharge of claims. For purposes of this Section 4, the term “Company” means the released parties identified in this Section 4.

Initials: _____

This release and discharge of claims applies to (i) the Company each and all of its subsidiaries and affiliated companies; (ii) the Company's shareholders, officers, agents, employees, directors, supervisors, representatives (including without limitation, Owen E. Kratz), and their successors and assigns, whether or not acting in the course and scope of employment, and (iii) all persons acting by, through, under, or in concert with any of the foregoing persons or entities.

The claims subject to this release include, without limitation, any and all claims related or in any manner incidental to your employment with the Company or the termination of that employment relationship. The parties understand the word "claims" to include all actions, claims, and grievances, whether actual or potential, known or unknown, and specifically but not exclusively all claims arising out of your employment with the Company and the termination of your employment. All such claims (including related attorneys' fees and costs) are forever barred by this Agreement and without regard to whether those claims are based on any alleged breach of a duty arising in a statute, contract, or tort; any alleged unlawful act, including, without limitation, age discrimination; any other claim or cause or cause of action; and regardless of the forum in which it might be brought. This release applies to any claims brought by any person or agency on behalf of you or any class action pursuant to which you may have any right or benefit.

You promise never to file a lawsuit asserting any claims that are released by you and further promise not to accept any recoveries or benefits which may be obtained on your behalf by any other person or agency or in any class action for any claims released by you and do hereby assign any such recovery or benefit to the Company. If you sue the Company in violation of this Agreement, you shall be liable to the Company for its reasonable attorneys' fees and other litigation costs incurred in defending against such a suit. Additionally, if you sue the Company in violation of this Agreement, the Company can require you to return all monies and other benefits paid to you pursuant to this Agreement.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the release contained herein shall not apply to (i) any rights that you may have under the Savings Plan, (ii) any rights you may have under this Agreement, (iii) your rights under applicable law (i.e., the COBRA law) to continued medical insurance coverage at your expense, and (iv) your statutory right to file a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") or the Texas Workforce Commission/Civil Rights Division ("TWCCRD"), to participate in an EEOC or TWCCRD investigation or proceeding, or to challenge the validity of the release, consistent with the requirements of 29 U.S.C. § 626(f)(4).

In connection with this release, you understand and agree that:

(1) You have a period of 21 days within which to consider whether you execute this Agreement, that no one hurried you into executing this Agreement during that 21 day period, and that no one coerced you into executing this Agreement;

(2) You have carefully read and fully understand all the provisions of the release set forth in Section 4 of this Agreement, and declare that the Agreement is written in a manner that you understand;

Initials: _____

(3) You are, through this Agreement, releasing the Company from any and all claims you may have against the Company and the other parties specified above, as provided above, and that this Agreement constitutes a release and discharge of claims arising under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), 29 U.S.C. § 621-634, including the Older Workers' Benefit Protection Act, 29 U.S.C. § 626(f);

(4) You declare that your agreement to all of the terms set forth in this Agreement is knowing and voluntary;

(5) You knowingly and voluntarily intend to be legally bound by the terms of this Agreement;

(6) You acknowledge that the Company is hereby advising you in writing to consult with an attorney of your choice prior to executing this Agreement; and

(7) You understand that rights or claims that may arise after the date this Agreement is executed are not waived. You understand that you have a period of seven days to revoke your agreement to give the Company a complete release in exchange for separation benefits, and that you may deliver notification of revocation by letter or facsimile addressed to the Company's General Counsel. You understand that this will not become effective and binding, and that none of the separation benefits described above in Section 2 of this Agreement will be provided to you until after the expiration of the revocation period. The revocation period commences when you execute this Agreement and ends at 11:59 p.m. on the seventh calendar day after execution, not counting the date on which you execute this Agreement. You understand that if you do not deliver a written notice of revocation to the Company's General Counsel before the end of the seven-day period described above, this Agreement will become final, binding and enforceable.

The Company's decision to offer separation benefits in exchange for a release of claims shall not be construed as an admission by the Company of (i) any liability whatsoever, (ii) any violation of any of your rights or those of any person, or (iii) any violation of any order, law, statute, duty, or contract. The Company specifically disclaims any liability to you or to any other person for any alleged violation of any rights possessed by you or any other person, or for any alleged violation of any order, law, statute, duty, or contract on the part of the Company, its employees or agents or related companies or their employees or agents.

You represent and acknowledge that in executing this Agreement you do not rely and have not relied upon any representation or statement made by the Company, or by any of the Company's agents, attorneys, or representatives with regard to the subject matter, basis, or effect of the release set forth in this Agreement, other than those specifically stated in this Agreement.

Initials: _____

The release set forth in this Section 4 of this Agreement shall be binding upon you, and your heirs, administrators, representatives, executors, successors, and assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of the Released Parties . You expressly warrant that you have not assigned, transferred or sold to any person or entity any rights, causes of action, or claims released in this Agreement.

5. **MISCELLANEOUS:**

Exclusive Rights and Benefits — Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, the benefits described in this Agreement supersede, negate and replace any other benefits owed to or offered by the Company to you, including, without limitation, any rights under the Amended and Restated Employment Agreement dated January 1, 2002 between you and the Company (the “Employment Agreement”), which is hereby superseded and negated by the execution of this Agreement.

Entire Agreement — This Agreement sets forth the entire agreement between you and the Company with respect to each and every issue addressed in this Agreement, and, except for any of the Company’s benefit plans and related agreements in which you have participated as an employee and officer of the Company, this entire, integrated Agreement fully supersedes any and all prior agreements or understandings, oral or written, between you and the Company pertaining to the subject matter of this Agreement, including, without limitation, the Employment Agreement. Notwithstanding anything contained herein, nothing in this Agreement shall affect, limit or negate any provision of the Company’s By-Laws or Articles of Incorporation with respect to indemnification of current or former officers and/or directors of the Company.

Exclusive Choice of Law and Arbitration Agreement — This Agreement constitutes an agreement that has been executed and delivered in the State of Texas, and the validity, interpretation, performance, and enforcement of that agreement shall be governed by the laws of that State.

In the event of any dispute or controversy arising out of or under this Agreement, or concerning the substance, interpretation, performance, or enforcement of this Agreement, or in any way relating to this Agreement (including issues relating to the formation of the agreement and the validity of this arbitration clause), the parties agree to resolve that dispute or controversy, fully and completely, through the use of final, binding arbitration. This arbitration agreement applies to any disputes arising under (i) the common law, (ii) federal or state statutes, laws or regulations, and also to (iii) any dispute about the arbitrability of any claim or controversy. The parties further agree to hold knowledge of the existence of any dispute or controversy subject to this Agreement to arbitrate, completely confidential. You understand and agree that this confidentiality obligation extends to information concerning the fact of any request for arbitration, any ongoing arbitration, as well as all matters discussed, discovered, or divulged (whether voluntarily or by compulsion) during the course of such arbitration proceeding. Any arbitration conducted pursuant to this arbitration provision will be conducted in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association in accordance with its rules then in effect

Initials: _____

governing employment disputes and the arbitrator shall have full authority to award or grant all remedies provided by law. The arbitrator will have the discretion to permit discovery that the arbitrator deems appropriate for a full and fair hearing. The arbitrator will issue a reasoned award, and the award of the arbitrator shall be final and binding. A judgment upon the award may be entered and enforced by any court having jurisdiction. Any arbitration proceeding resulting hereunder will be conducted in Houston, Texas before an arbitrator selected by you and the Company by mutual agreement, or through the American Arbitration Association. This arbitration agreement does not limit or affect the right of the Company to seek an injunction to maintain the status quo in the event that the Company believes that you have violated any provision of Section 3 of this Agreement. This arbitration agreement does not limit your right to file an administrative charge concerning the validity of the release set forth in Section 4 of this Agreement, with any appropriate state or federal agency.

Multiple Counterparts/Electronic Copies — This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original, but all of such counterparts together shall constitute a single instrument. An electronic copy (including in .pdf format) or facsimile of a signature hereto will be binding upon the signatory as if it were an original signature.

Meaning of Separation From Service — For the purposes of this Agreement, “separation from service” has the meaning ascribed to that term in section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and the rules and regulations issued thereunder by the Department of Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service. It is intended that the date of your separation from service will be the Effective Date.

Severability and Headings — The invalidity or unenforceability of a term or provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other term or provision of this Agreement, which shall remain in full force and effect. Any titles or headings in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall have no bearing on any interpretation of this Agreement.

Binding Nature — This Agreement shall be binding on the Company, its successors and assigns, and in the event of your death prior to the payment of benefits hereunder, the cash payments described in Section 2(b) hereof would be made to your estate.

Initials: _____

Please initial each page and sign below.

ENTERED INTO in Houston, Texas as of the 25th day of June, 2008.

HELIX ENERGY SOLUTIONS GROUP, INC.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

ENTERED INTO in Houston, Texas as of the 25th day of June, 2008.

Alan Wade Pursell

Initials: _____

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

This Employment Agreement (the "Agreement") is made effective June 25, 2008, by and between **Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc.**, a Minnesota corporation (the "Company"), and **Anthony Tripodo** ("Executive"), an individual residing in Houston, Texas. The Company and Executive are collectively referred to herein as the "Parties," and individually referred to as a "Party."

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, prior to the effective date of this Agreement, Executive is a non-employee, independent member of the Board of the Company; and

WHEREAS, the Company desires to employ Executive as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company; and

WHEREAS, Executive desires to resign from the Board of the Company and to be employed by the Company as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company pursuant to all of the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, it is AGREED as follows:

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth the terms and conditions of Executive's employment with the Company. This Agreement represents both Parties' intentions with respect to the terms and conditions of Executive's employment with the Company.
 2. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this Agreement, the following words shall have the following meanings:
 - (a) "**Affiliate**" means any Person that, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls or is controlled by, or is under common control with, another Person. The term "control" includes, without limitation, the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct the management and policies of a Person, whether through ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise. With respect to any amount under this Agreement that is deferred compensation subject to Code Section 409A, for the purposes of Code Section 409A only, Affiliate shall mean all Persons with whom the Company would be considered a single employer under Code Section 414(b) or 414(c) and for the purposes of a Separation from Service (as defined in Section 2(o)) and determining the controlled group but using fifty percent (50%) instead of eighty percent (80%) pursuant to Treasury Regulation § 1.409A-1(h)(3).
 - (b) "**AICP**" or "**Annual Incentive Compensation Plan**" means any Company annual incentive compensation cash bonus plan in which Executive participates, as in effect from time to time.
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- (c) “Annual Cash Compensation” means, with respect to a Change in Control, the sum of (i) the amount of Executive’s Base Annual Salary for the year in which the Change in Control occurs and (ii) the amount of maximum AICP bonus which could be payable to Executive under the AICP for the calendar year in which the Change in Control occurs calculated on the basis of the Company and Executive having fully met all performance criteria (financial, personal or otherwise) and annualized for the purpose of this calculation; *provided, however*, that if the maximum bonus opportunity or the performance criteria for an AICP bonus has not been established for the year of the Change in Control, the AICP amount under this definition shall be calculated using the maximum bonus opportunity from the immediately preceding calendar year.
- (d) “Base Annual Salary” means only the amount specified in Section 5(a) hereof.
- (e) “Board” means the board of directors of the Company.
- (f) “Cause” means in connection with a termination of Executive’s employment by the Company: (i) embezzlement or theft by Executive of any property of the Company or its Affiliates; (ii) any breach by Executive of any material provision of this Agreement; (iii) any act by Executive constituting a felony or otherwise involving theft, fraud, gross dishonesty, or moral turpitude; (iv) negligence or willful misconduct on the part of Executive in the performance of his duties as an employee, officer, or director of the Company or its Affiliates; (v) Executive’s breach of his fiduciary obligations to the Company or its Affiliates; (vi) Executive’s material violation or breach of the policies or procedures of the Company and its Affiliates (including but not limited to blackout periods for trading Common Stock); or (vii) any chemical dependence of Executive which adversely affects the performance of his duties and responsibilities to the Company or its Affiliates.
- (g) “Change in Control” means a “Change in Control Event” within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.409A-3(i)(5) and described in paragraphs (i), (ii) or (iii) below or any combination thereof as permitted in the Treasury Regulations with respect to the Company:
- (i) A change in ownership that occurs when one person or a group (as determined for the purposes of Code Section 409A) acquires stock that, combined with stock previously owned, controls more than fifty percent (50%) of the value or voting power of the stock of the Company (incremental increases in ownership by a person or group that already owns fifty percent (50%) of the Company prior to such increase do not result in a change in ownership);
 - (ii) A change in effective control that occurs on the date that, during any 12-month period, either (x) any person or group acquires stock possessing forty-five percent (45%) or more of the voting power of the Company, or (y) the majority of the Board (or, if applicable, the board of directors of the Company’s ultimate parent) is replaced by persons whose appointment or election is not endorsed by a majority of the Board (or, if applicable, the board of directors of such ultimate parent) prior to the date of the appointment or election; or

(iii) A change in ownership of a substantial portion of the assets that occurs on the date that a person or a group acquires, during any 12-month period, assets of the Company having a total gross fair market value equal to eighty-five percent (85%) or more of the total gross fair market value of all of the Company's assets; *provided, however,* that there is no change in control event under this paragraph (iii) when there is a transfer to: (w) a shareholder of the Company (immediately before the asset transfer) in exchange for or with respect to its stock; (x) an entity, fifty percent (50%) or more of the total value or voting power of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by the Company immediately after the asset transfer; (y) a person, or more than one person acting as a group, that owns immediately after the asset transfer, directly or indirectly, fifty percent (50%) or more of the total value or voting power of all the outstanding stock of the Company; or (z) an entity, at least fifty percent (50%) of the total value or voting power of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by a person described in item (y) within the meaning of Code Section 409A. For the purposes of this paragraph (iii), "gross fair market value" shall have the meaning as provided in Code Section 409A.

(h) "Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

(i) "Common Stock" means common stock, no par value, of the Company, or any successor security issued in lieu thereof.

(j) "Compensation Committee" means the compensation committee of the Board.

(k) "Confidential Information" means information (i) disclosed to or known by Executive as a consequence of or through his employment with the Company; (ii) not generally known outside the Company; and (iii) which relates to any aspect of the Company, its Affiliates or their business, research, or development. "Confidential Information" includes, but is not limited to, the Company's and its Affiliate's trade secrets, proprietary information, business plans, marketing plans, financial information, compensation and benefit information, cost and pricing information, customer contacts, suppliers, vendors, and information provided to the Company or its Affiliates by a third party under restrictions against disclosure or use by the Company, its Affiliates or others.

(l) "Conflict of Interest" means any activity which might adversely affect the Company or its Affiliates, including ownership of a material interest in any supplier, contractor, distributor, subcontractor, customer, or other entity with which the Company or its Affiliates does business.

- (m) "Copyright Works" means materials for which copyright protection may be obtained including, but not limited to: literary works (including all written material), computer programs, artistic and graphic works (including designs, graphs, drawings, blueprints, and other works), recordings, models, photographs, slides, motion pictures, and audio-visual works, regardless of the form or manner in which documented or recorded.
- (n) "Company." means Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc., a Minnesota corporation.
- (o) "Date of Termination" means the date of termination of Executive's employment by the Company and that is a "Separation from Service" within the meaning of Code Section 409A, which means a termination of Executive's employment with the Company (and its controlled group within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.409A-1(h)(3)) in accordance with the Company's policies and procedures; *provided, however*, that the Company and Executive reasonably anticipate that no further services will be performed after the termination date or that the level of bona fide services Executive will perform after such date (whether as an employee or an independent contractor) would permanently decrease to no more than twenty percent (20%) of the average level of bona fide services performed (whether as an employee or an independent contractor) over the immediately preceding 36-month period or the full period of service to the Company if Executive has been providing services to the Company for less than 36 months.
- (p) "Disability" or "Disabled" means any physical or mental incapacity, disease or affliction, as determined by a legally qualified medical practitioner selected by the Company which prevents Executive to a substantial degree from performing his obligations after reasonable accommodation from the Company.
- (q) "Effective Date" means June 25, 2008.
- (r) "Equity-Based Awards" means stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance vesting stock, performance stock units, and any other award granted by the Company, which derives its value based upon the Common Stock, regardless whether such award is ultimately intended to be settled in stock or cash.
- (s) "Good Reason" means, in connection with a termination of employment by Executive, the occurrence of any of the following without Executive's written consent (except in connection with the termination of employment of Executive by the Company for Cause or Disability):
- (i) a material diminution in Executive's Base Annual Salary;
 - (ii) a material diminution in Executive's authority, duties, or responsibilities;
 - (iii) a material change in geographic location at which Executive must perform the services; or

- (iv) any other action or inaction that constitutes a material breach by the Company of the terms of this Agreement.
- (t) “**Inventions**” means inventions (whether patentable or not), discoveries, improvements, designs, and ideas (whether or not shown or described in writing or reduced to practice) including, and in addition to any such Confidential Information or Copyright Works.
- (u) “**LTIP**” or “**Long Term Incentive Plan**” means the Company’s 2005 Long-Term Incentive Plan or other long-term incentive plan of the Company pursuant to which Executive receives Equity Based Awards, as in effect from time to time.
- (v) “**Person**” means, for the purposes of the term Affiliate in Section 2(a) hereof, any partnership, corporation, limited liability company, group, trust or other legal entity.
- (w) “**Retirement**” means a termination of Executive’s employment under circumstances as shall constitute retirement from the Company based on age and/or years of employment, as determined by the Board, in its sole discretion, in accordance with written policies adopted by the Board from time to time; in absence of the adoption of such policy, Executive’s resignation on or after attainment of age 65 shall be deemed to be “Retirement” for purposes of this Agreement.
3. **Duration.** This Agreement shall become effective on the Effective Date and shall end on the second (2nd) anniversary of the Effective Date, unless earlier terminated as hereinafter provided.
4. **Duties and Responsibilities.** Commencing on the Effective Date of this Agreement, Executive shall diligently render his services to the Company as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in a manner customary for such officers or equivalent positions and in accordance with the Company’s directives, and shall use his best efforts and good faith in fulfilling such responsibilities and in accomplishing such directives. Executive agrees to devote his full-time efforts, abilities, and attention to the business of the Company, and shall not engage in any activities which will interfere with such efforts. Executive shall well and faithfully serve the Company during the continuance of his employment hereunder and shall use his best efforts to promote the interests of the Company. Executive’s principal place of employment will be at the Company’s corporate headquarters in Houston, Texas. Executive hereby acknowledges that he is a fiduciary with respect to the Company and its Affiliates and shall act in accordance and otherwise comply with his fiduciary obligation to the Company and its Affiliates. Effective as of the Effective Date, Executive shall resign as a member of the Board.
5. **Compensation and Benefits.** In return for the services to be provided by Executive pursuant to this Agreement, the Company agrees to pay Executive as follows:

- (a) Base Annual Salary. Executive shall receive a Base Annual Salary annually of three hundred sixty-five thousand dollars (\$365,000.00) payable in semi-monthly pay periods, subject to deduction of statutorily required amounts, including but not limited to, withholding for federal, state and local income taxes, and amounts payable by employees of the Company for employee benefits. The annual salary to be paid by the Company to Executive shall be reviewed at least annually and may from time to time be increased (but may not be decreased) as approved by the Company (any such increased amount shall then be referred to as “Base Annual Salary” for the purposes of this Agreement).
- (b) Annual Incentive Compensation Plan. Executive shall be eligible to receive an Annual Incentive Compensation Plan bonus, with the components, target and maximum amounts based on a percentage of Executive’s Base Annual Salary, each as determined by the Board or Compensation Committee, in its sole discretion, subject to the terms of the AICP; *provided, however*, that in no event shall Executive’s target annual AICP bonus for any year be less (but may be more) than the greater of (i) four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000.00) or (ii) one hundred percent (100%) of Executive’s Base Annual Salary for the applicable year (and the foregoing shall not preclude Executive from being eligible to receive a greater maximum AICP bonus for any year). Such AICP bonus shall be prorated for the period of Executive’s participation in the AICP during the 2008 calendar year. Subject to the foregoing, a portion of the annual AICP bonus may be based upon the Company’s financial performance and a portion of the AICP may be based upon achievement of Executive’s individual performance objectives, all as may be determined by the Board or Compensation Committee, in its sole discretion. AICP bonuses for each calendar year shall be payable in the following calendar year as determined by the Board or Compensation Committee; *provided, however*, that payment, if any, shall be made no later than March 15th of such following year.
- (c) Signing Bonus. Executive shall be paid a one-time cash signing bonus in the amount of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00), not later than 10 days after the Effective Date.
- (d) Long Term Incentive Plan. As a senior management executive of the Company, Executive shall participate annually in the Long Term Incentive Plan as determined by and on such terms approved by the Company, the Board or the Compensation Committee, in its sole discretion. The LTIP may include stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units and/or other types of compensation.
- (e) Restricted Stock Award. The Company shall grant to Executive seventy thousand five hundred (70,500) restricted shares of Common Stock (“Restricted Stock”) under the LTIP as of the Effective Date. The shares of Restricted Stock shall vest (and no longer be restricted) in equal installments of twenty percent (20%) of such shares on each of the first (1st) through fifth (5th) anniversaries of the Effective Date, subject to Executive’s continuous employment with the Company through the applicable vesting dates described herein or, if earlier, as otherwise provided in the award agreement (which shall be in the form of an employee Restricted Stock award agreement in effect for senior executives of the Company as of the Effective Date).

- (f) Director Restricted Stock. Except as specified below, with respect to Executive's shares of Restricted Stock granted to him under the LTIP prior to the Effective Date due to his position as a director of the Company, the Company shall cause all such shares that are unvested as of the Effective Date to continue to vest in accordance with the applicable vesting schedules based on Executive's employment service with the Company (in addition to Executive's service as a director prior to the Effective Date). Executive agrees that the award of restricted stock that was granted to Executive by the Company on February 28, 2008 shall be forfeited.
- (g) Benefits. Executive shall be entitled to participate in the Company's various employee benefit plans as the same may be constituted from time to time, including without limitation, the Company's 401(k) plan, in the same manner as other senior management executives of the Company, subject to the terms and conditions of the plans, as same may be amended or terminated pursuant to their terms from time to time as determined by the Company in its sole discretion.
- (h) Expenses. Executive shall be reimbursed by the Company for all reasonable business expenses incurred by Executive in performance of his duties hereunder upon the submission of appropriate vouchers, bills or receipts for such expenses in accordance with the Company's policy, and upon Executive's reasonable documentation of such expenses, the expenses shall be paid in a cash lump sum payment as soon as reasonably practicable, but in no event later than March 15th of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the expenses are incurred.
- (i) Vacation. Executive will be provided four (4) weeks' paid vacation in each calendar year, to be accrued at a prorata monthly rate, and additional paid holidays and similar rights and privileges as are enjoyed generally by Company's senior management executives. Vacation shall be subject to the Company's policy and vacation days must be taken in accordance with the Company's policy for senior management executives, as may be amended from time to time.
- (j) Legal Expenses. The Company shall pay Executive's reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses incurred in negotiating and finalizing this Agreement up to a maximum of nine thousand nine hundred ninety-nine dollars (\$9,999.00). Upon reasonable documentation, as determined by the Company, such expenses shall be paid in a cash lump sum payment as soon as administratively feasible but no later than March 15th of the calendar year following the calendar year in which such fees and expenses are incurred.

6. Termination.

- (a) Death, Disability or Retirement. The Company may terminate Executive's employment if he is Disabled for six (6) consecutive months or for a total of six (6) months during any 12-month period. Executive's employment will be automatically terminated upon his death or Retirement.
- (b) Termination for Cause. The Company may terminate Executive's employment immediately for Cause by written notice to Executive.
- (c) Termination Without Cause. The Company may terminate Executive's employment without Cause and for any reason upon written notice to Executive.
- (d) Termination by Executive Without Good Reason. Executive may terminate his employment upon 30 days' written notice to the Company. In the event Executive terminates his employment in this manner, he shall remain in the Company's employ subject to all terms and conditions of this Agreement for the entire 30-day period unless instructed otherwise by the Company in writing.
- (e) Termination by Executive for Good Reason. Executive may terminate his employment for "Good Reason" by giving the Company advance written notice of such intent and the grounds thereof within a period not to exceed 30 days after the existence of the event constituting Good Reason. After Executive gives such notice, the Company shall have 30 days to correct the Good Reason event, and if the Company does not correct the Good Reason event within the prescribed time, Executive must terminate his employment within 61 days of the date of the event constituting Good Reason in order to be entitled to any benefits under Section 7(d) of this Agreement. In addition, once an event constitutes Good Reason, if the Company does not correct the event and if Executive does not give notice (as described above) and terminate his employment within 61 days of the event, such specific instance of the event shall no longer constitute Good Reason under this Agreement.
- (f) Resignation of All Positions. Executive agrees that after any termination of his employment, he will tender his resignation from any position he may hold as an officer or director of the Company or any Affiliate or otherwise associated companies.

7. Severance and Changes in Control Payments and Benefits. Executive shall be entitled to the following compensation under the following circumstances:

- (a) Death, Disability or Retirement. In the event Executive's employment is terminated as a result of his death, Disability or Retirement, Executive's rights under any Equity-Based Awards or other compensation rights or awards shall be determined in accordance with the controlling plan documents and award agreements and his unpaid Base Annual Salary shall be paid through the Date of Termination in accordance with the Company's normal payroll practices. Any unpaid AICP bonus for a calendar year preceding the calendar year of Executive's Date of Termination shall be paid when the AICP bonus for other participants is

paid but in no event later than March 15th of the calendar year following the end of the calendar year of the applicable AICP bonus. Executive's award under any AICP to which he would otherwise be entitled in the calendar year of his Date of Termination shall be prorated for the period of his participation in the AICP during the relevant calendar year, and payable at the same time other participants in the AICP receive payment but in no event later than March 15th of the calendar year following the calendar year of the Date of Termination. Executive shall be reimbursed for all expenses incurred and in accordance with Section 5(h); Executive shall be paid all accrued unused vacation in accordance with the Company's vacation policy, as amended from time to time, and Executive shall be entitled to all benefits under Section 5(g) subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable plan documents and arrangements, as amended from time to time.

- (b) Termination for Cause or Resignation of Executive Without Good Reason. If Executive is terminated by the Company for Cause or if Executive resigns or otherwise terminates without Good Reason, no AICP bonus for the calendar year of his Date of Termination will be paid, all other benefits and rights, including Equity-Based Awards shall be determined under the then governing plans and award agreements, and his unpaid Base Annual Salary shall be paid through to the Date of Termination in accordance with the Company's normal payroll practices. Any unpaid AICP bonus for a calendar year preceding the calendar year of Executive's Date of Termination shall be paid in accordance with the terms of the applicable AICP and when the AICP bonus for other participants is paid but in no event later than March 15th of the calendar year following the end of the calendar year of the applicable AICP bonus. Executive shall be reimbursed for all expenses incurred and in accordance with Section 5(h); Executive shall be paid all accrued unused vacation in accordance with the Company's vacation policy, as amended from time to time, and Executive shall be entitled to all benefits under Section 5(g) subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable plan documents and arrangements, as amended from time to time.
- (c) Termination Without Cause. In the event Executive's employment with the Company is terminated by the Company without Cause, the Company shall pay Executive an amount equal to two (2) times his Base Annual Salary in a lump sum cash payment as soon as administratively feasible following the Date of Termination but no later than 70 days after the Date of Termination (subject to Section 7(h)). Executive's rights under any Equity-Based Awards or other compensation rights or awards shall be determined according to the controlling plan documents and award agreements and his unpaid Base Annual Salary shall be paid through his Date of Termination in accordance with the Company's normal payroll practices. The foregoing notwithstanding, if a minimum of twenty thousand (20,000) shares of the Restricted Stock granted under Section 5(e) shall not be vested prior to the Date of Termination, an amount of those shares of the Restricted Stock granted under Section 5(e) shall vest as of the Date of Termination such that Executive shall possess at least twenty thousand (20,000) vested shares of Restricted Stock granted to Executive under Section 5(e). Any unpaid AICP bonus for a year preceding the calendar year of Executive's Date of

Termination shall be paid when the AICP bonus for other participants is paid but in no event later than March 15th of the calendar year following the end of the calendar year of the applicable AICP bonus. In addition, the Company shall pay Executive his award under any AICP for the calendar year of his Date of Termination (a) calculated on the basis of the Company and Executive having fully met all performance criteria (financial, personal or otherwise) for a target bonus (which will not include any multiplier that may be applicable to result in a maximum bonus), (b) paid on the basis of a deemed 12-month calendar year participation in the plan, and (c) payable at the same time other participants in the plan receive payment but no later than March 15th of the calendar year following the end of the calendar year of the Date of Termination. Executive shall be reimbursed for all expenses incurred and in accordance with Section 5(h); Executive shall be paid all accrued unused vacation in accordance with the Company's vacation policy, as amended from time to time, and Executive shall be entitled to all benefits under Section 5(g) subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable plan documents and arrangements, as amended from time to time.

- (d) Termination by Executive for Good Reason. In the event that Executive terminates his employment with the Company for Good Reason, the Company shall pay Executive an amount equal to two (2) times his Base Annual Salary in cash lump sum as soon as administratively feasible following the Date of Termination but no later than 70 days after the Date of Termination (subject to Section 7(h)). Executive's rights under any Equity-Based Awards or other compensation rights or awards or benefits shall be determined according to the controlling plan documents and award agreements and his unpaid Base Annual Salary shall be paid through his Date of Termination in accordance with the Company's normal payroll practices. The foregoing notwithstanding, if a minimum of twenty thousand (20,000) shares of the Restricted Stock granted under Section 5(e) shall not be vested prior to the Date of Termination, an amount of those shares of the Restricted Stock granted under Section 5(e) shall vest as of the Date of Termination such that Executive shall possess at least twenty thousand (20,000) vested shares of Restricted Stock granted to Executive under Section 5(e). Any unpaid AICP bonus for a year preceding the calendar year of Executive's Date of Termination shall be paid when the AICP bonus for other participants is paid but in no event later than March 15th of the calendar year following the end of the calendar year of the applicable AICP bonus. In addition, the Company shall pay Executive his award under any AICP for the calendar year of his Date of Termination (a) calculated on the basis of the Company and Executive having fully met all performance criteria (financial, personal or otherwise) for a target bonus (which will not include any multiplier that may be applicable to result in a maximum bonus), (b) paid on the basis of a deemed 12-month calendar year participation in the plan, and (c) payable at the same time other participants in the plan receive payment but no later than March 15th of the calendar year following the end of the calendar year of the Date of Termination. Executive shall be reimbursed for all expenses incurred and in accordance with Section 5(h); Executive shall be paid all accrued unused vacation in accordance with the Company's vacation policy, as amended from time to time, and Executive shall be entitled to all benefits under Section 5(g) subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable plan documents and arrangements, as amended from time to time.

- (e) Change in Control. Notwithstanding the foregoing subsections (a) — (d) of this Section 7 and in lieu thereof, in the event of a Change in Control, and if Executive is employed by the Company on the date of the Change in Control, then:
- (i) The Company shall pay Executive as soon as administratively feasible after the date of the Change in Control but no later than 70 days following the date of the Change in Control a lump sum cash amount equal to two (2) times Executive's Annual Cash Compensation;
 - (ii) Executive's rights under any Equity-Based Awards or other compensation rights, benefits or awards shall be as provided in the governing plan and/or award agreements (subject to paragraph (iv) below);
 - (iii) Any unpaid AICP bonus for a calendar year preceding the calendar year of the Change in Control shall be paid when the AICP bonus for other participants is paid but in no event later than March 15th of the calendar year following the end of the calendar year of the applicable AICP bonus;
 - (iv) Notwithstanding the provision of any agreement to the contrary, the Company shall cause all of Executive's existing unvested Equity-Based Awards (including, but not limited to, any unvested shares of Restricted Stock in Sections 5(e) and 5(f)) to be accelerated and vested immediately as of the date of the Change in Control and payment or issuance of shares of Common Stock shall be made pursuant to the applicable plans and/or award agreements;
 - (v) Executive shall be promptly reimbursed all reasonable business expenses incurred by him upon reasonable documentation and in accordance with Company policy prior to the date of the Change in Control to be paid no later than March 15th following the end of the calendar year in which the expenses were incurred;
 - (vi) Company shall pay a lump sum amount equal to the cost of continuation of group health coverage under COBRA for a period of 18 months based upon the rates of such COBRA coverage for the coverage as in effect for Executive (and his dependents, if applicable) on the date of the Change in Control to be paid in a cash lump sum payment at the same time payment under Section 7(e)(i) is made;
 - (vii) If any payments are payable under this Section 7(e), in no event will any amounts be paid or payable under Section 7(a)-(d).

- (f) Release of All Claims. In order to receive any payments (other than any unpaid Base Annual Salary and accrued vacation through to his Date of Termination, if applicable) pursuant to Section 7(c) or (d), Executive shall first be required to execute and return a release in a form and substance satisfactory to the Company which releases the Company and its Affiliates, and their officers, employees, and directors and any employee benefit plan (and any other Company related person as specified in the release) (the "Company Group") of any claims which Executive may have as against the Company Group and such release must be effective and not revoked within the time prescribed in the release and the release must be returned and effective within the time period specified by the Company in the release but in no event later than 60 days after Executive's Date of Termination if payments are made pursuant to Section 7(c) or (d).
- (g) No Duty to Mitigate. Executive shall not be required to mitigate the amount of any payment or other benefit required to be paid to Executive pursuant to this Agreement, whether by seeking other employment or otherwise, nor shall the amount of any such payment or other benefit be reduced on account of any compensation earned by Executive as a result of employment. The Company's obligation to make the payments provided for in this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the payments under Section 7(c), (d) or (e)) and otherwise perform its obligations hereunder shall not be affected by any counterclaim, recoupment, defense or other claim, right or action which the Company may have against Executive or others, exclusive of payroll withholdings required by law.
- (h) Specified Employees. Notwithstanding any other provision herein, if Executive is a "Specified Employee" (as that term is defined in Code Section 409A) as of his Date of Termination, then any amounts under this Agreement which are payable upon his "Separation from Service" (within the meaning of Code Section 409A) and subject to the provisions of Code Section 409A and not otherwise excluded under Code Section 409A, shall not be paid until the first (1st) business day that is at least six (6) months after the date after Executive's Date of Termination (the "Waiting Period"). Any payments that would have been made to Executive during the Waiting Period but for this Section 7(h) shall instead be made to Executive in the form of a lump sum payment on the date that payments commence pursuant to the preceding sentence with interest (calculated at the short-term applicable federal rate compounded semi-annually) on the amount not paid during the Waiting Period from the Date of Termination through the date of payment.
- (i) Certain Additional Payments by the Company. Anything in this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding, in the event it shall be determined that any payment or distribution to or for the benefit of Executive (whether paid or payable or distributed or distributable pursuant to the terms of this Agreement or otherwise, but determined without regard to any additional payments required under this section) (a "Payment") would be subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Code or any interest or penalties are incurred by Executive with respect to such excise tax (such excise tax, together with any such interest and penalties, hereinafter referred to as the "Excise Tax"), then Executive shall be entitled to receive an additional payment (a "Gross Up Payment") in an amount

such that after payment by Executive of all taxes (including any interest or penalties imposed with respect to such taxes), including, without limitation, any income taxes (and any interest and penalties imposed with respect thereto) and Excise Tax imposed upon the Gross Up Payment, Executive retains an amount of the Gross Up Payment equal to the Excise Tax imposed upon the Payments. Executive acknowledges that the Gross Up Payment can be withheld from Executive by the Company and, instead, paid to the Internal Revenue Service on behalf of Executive.

All determinations required to be made under this Section 7(i) with respect to the Excise Tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Code, including whether and when the Gross Up Payment is required and the amount of such Gross Up Payment and the assumptions to be utilized in arriving at such determination, shall be made by an accounting firm selected by the Company. All fees and expenses of the accounting firm shall be borne solely by the Company. Any determination by the accounting firm shall be binding upon the Company and Executive. As a result of the uncertainty in the application of Section 4999 of the Code at the time of the initial determination by the accounting firm hereunder, it is possible that Gross Up Payments which will not have been made by the Company should have been made ("Underpayment"), consistent with the calculations required to be made hereunder. In the event that it is ultimately determined in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Section 7(i) that Executive is required to make a payment of any Code Section 4999 Excise Tax, the accounting firm shall determine the amount of the Underpayment that has occurred and any such Underpayment shall be paid by the Company to or for the benefit of Executive within five days of the receipt of the accounting firm's determination of the amount of the Underpayment.

Executive shall notify the Company in writing of any claims by the Internal Revenue Service that, if successful, would require the payment by the Company of the Gross Up Payment. Such notification shall be given as soon as practicable but no later than 30 days after Executive actually receives notice in writing of such claim. Executive shall not pay such claim prior to the expiration of the 30-day period following the date on which he gives such notice to the Company (or such shorter period ending on the date that any payment of taxes with respect to such claim is due). If the Company notifies Executive in writing prior to the expiration of such period that it desires to contest such claim, Executive shall:

- (i) give the Company any information reasonably requested relating to such claim;
- (ii) take such action in connection with contesting such claim as the Company shall reasonably request in writing from time to time;
- (iii) cooperate with the Company in good faith in order effectively to contest such claim; and

- (iv) if the Company elects not to assume and control the defense of such claim, permit the Company to participate in any proceedings relating to such claim; *provided, however*, that the Company shall bear and pay directly all costs and expenses (including additional interest and penalties) incurred in connection with such contest and shall indemnify and hold Executive harmless, on an after tax basis, for any Excise Tax or income tax (including interest and penalties with respect thereto) imposed as a result of such representation and payment of costs and expenses. Without limitation on the foregoing provisions of this section, the Company shall have the right, at its sole option, to assume the defense of and control all proceedings in connection with such contest, in which case it may pursue or forego any and all administrative appeals, proceedings, hearings and conferences with the taxing authority in respect of such claim and may either direct Executive to pay the tax claimed and sue for a refund or contest the claim in any permissible manner, and Executive agrees to prosecute such contest to a determination before any administrative tribunal, in a court of initial jurisdiction and in one or more appellate courts, as the Company shall determine.
- (v) Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, unless an earlier payment date is specified above, the Company shall, in accordance with Treasury Regulation § 1.409A-3(i)(1)(v), pay Executive (or pay on Executive's behalf) all amounts to which Executive is entitled under this section no later than the end of Executive's taxable year next following Executive's taxable year in which Executive remits the Excise Tax or tax to the Internal Revenue Service (or in the case of costs and expenses payable under this section, no later than the end of Executive's taxable year next following Executive's taxable year in which the taxes that are the subject of the audit or litigation are remitted to the Internal Revenue Service, or where as a result of such audit or litigation no taxes are remitted, the end of Executive's taxable year next following Executive's taxable year in which the audit is completed or there is a final and nonappealable settlement or other resolution of the litigation).

8. Inventions, Confidential Information, Patents, and Copyright Works.

- (a) Notification of Company. Upon conception, all Inventions, Confidential Information, and Copyright Works shall become the property of the Company (or the United States Government where required by law) whether or not patent or copyright registration applications are filed for such subject matter. Executive will communicate to the Company promptly and fully all Inventions, or suggestions (whether or not patentable), all Confidential Information or Copyright Works made, designed, created, or conceived by Executive (whether made, designed, created, or conceived solely by Executive or jointly with others) during the period of his employment with the Company: (a) which relate to the actual or anticipated business, research, activities, or development of the Company at the time of the conception; or (b) which result from or are suggested by any work which Executive has done or may do for or on behalf of the Company; or (c) which are developed, tested, improved, or investigated either in part or entirely on time for which Executive was paid by the Company, or using any resources of the Company.

- (b) Transfer of Rights. Executive agrees, during his employment with the Company, to assign and transfer to and does hereby assign and transfer to the Company Executive's entire right, title, and interest in all Inventions, Confidential Information, Copyright Works and patents prepared, made or conceived by or in behalf of Executive (solely or jointly with others): (a) which relate in any way to the actual or anticipated business of the Company, or (b) which relate in any way to the actual or anticipated research or development of the Company, or (c) which are suggested by or result, directly or indirectly, from any task assigned to Executive or in which Executive otherwise engages in behalf of the Company. Executive also agrees to do all things necessary to transfer to the Company Executive's entire right, title, and interest in and to all such Inventions, Confidential Information, Copyright Works or patents as the Company may request, on such forms as the Company may provide, at any time during or after Executive's employment. Executive will promptly and fully assist the Company during and subsequent to his employment in every lawful way to obtain, protect, and enforce the Company's patent, copyrights, trade secret or other proprietary rights for Inventions, Confidential Information, Copyright Works or patents in any and all countries.
- (c) Notice of Rights Under State Statutes. No provision in this Agreement is intended to require assignment of any of Executive's rights in an Invention for which no equipment, supplies, facilities, Confidential Information, Copyright Works, Inventions, patents or information of the Company was used, and which was (1) developed entirely on Executive's own time; (2) does not relate directly or indirectly to the business of the Company or to the actual or demonstrably anticipated research or development of the Company; and (3) does not result from any work performed by Executive for the Company or assigned to Executive by the Company.
- (d) Rights in Copyrights. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Company, all Copyright Works prepared wholly or partially by Executive (alone or jointly with others) within the scope of his employment with the Company, shall be deemed a "work made for hire" under the copyright laws and shall be owned by the Company. Executive understands that any assignment or release of such works can only be made by the Company. Executive will do everything reasonably necessary to enable the Company or its nominee to protect its rights in such works. Executive agrees to execute all documents and to do all things necessary to vest in the Company Executive's right and title to copyrights in such works. Executive shall not assist or work with any third party that is not an employee of the Company to create or prepare any Copyright Works without the prior written consent of the Company.

- (e) Assistance in Preparation of Applications. During and after employment Executive will promptly and fully assist, if requested by the Company, in the preparation and filing of patents and Copyright Works registrations in any and all countries selected by the Company and will assign to the Company Executive's entire right, title, and interest in and to such patents and Copyright Works registrations, as well as all Inventions or Copyright Works to which such patents and Copyright Works registrations pertain, to enable any such properties to be prosecuted under the direction of the Company and to ensure that any patent or Copyright Works registration obtained will validly issue to the Company.
- (f) Execute Documents. During and after employment Executive will promptly sign any and all lawful papers, take all lawful oaths, and do all lawful acts, including testifying, at the request of the Company, in connection with the procurement, grant, enforcement, maintenance, exploitation, or defense against assertion of any patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret or related rights, including applications for protection or registration thereof. Such lawful papers include, but are not limited to, any and all powers, assignments, affidavits, declarations and other papers deemed by the Company to be necessary or advisable.
- (g) Keep Records. Executive will keep and regularly maintain adequate and current written records of all Inventions, Confidential Information, and Copyright Works he participates in creating, conceiving, developing, and manufacturing. Such records shall be kept and maintained in the form of notes, sketches, drawings, reports, or other documents relating thereto, bearing at least the date of preparation and the signatures or name of each employee contributing to the subject matter reflected in the record. Such records shall be and shall remain the exclusive property of the Company and shall be available to the Company at all times.
- (h) Return of Documents, Equipment, Etc. All writings, records, and other documents and things comprising, containing, describing, discussing, explaining, or evidencing any Inventions, Confidential Information, or Copyright Works and all equipment, components, parts, tools, and the like in Executive's custody or possession that have been obtained or prepared in the course of Executive's employment with the Company shall be the exclusive property of the Company, shall not be copied and/or removed from the premises of the Company, except in pursuit of the business of the Company, and shall be delivered to the Company, without Executive retaining any copies, upon notification of the termination of Executive's employment or at any other time requested by the Company. The Company shall have the right to retain, access, and inspect all property of Executive of any kind in the office, work area, and on the premises of the Company upon termination of Executive's employment and at any time during employment by the Company, to ensure compliance with the terms of this Agreement.
- (i) Other Contracts. Executive represents and warrants that he is not a Party to any existing contract relating to the granting or assignment to others of any interest in Inventions, Confidential Information, Copyright Works or patents hereafter made by Executive except insofar as copies of such contracts, if any, are attached to this Agreement.

- (j) Assignment After Termination. Executive recognizes that ideas, Inventions, Confidential Information, Copyright Works, Copyright Works registrations or patents relating to his activities while working for the Company that are conceived or made by Executive, alone or with others, within one (1) year after termination of his employment may have been conceived in significant part while Executive was employed by the Company. Accordingly, Executive agrees that such ideas, Inventions, Confidential Information, Copyright Works, Copyright Works registrations or patents shall be presumed to have been conceived and made during his employment with the Company and are to be assigned to the Company in accordance with this Section 8.
- (k) Prior Conceptions. At the end of this Section 8(k), Executive has set forth, if any, what he represents and warrants to be a complete list of all Inventions, if any, patented or unpatented, or Copyright Works, including a brief description thereof (without revealing any confidential or proprietary information of any other Party) which Executive participated in the conception, creation, development, or making of prior to his employment with the Company and for which Executive claims full or partial ownership or other interest, or which are in the physical possession of a former employer and which are therefore excluded from the scope of this Agreement.

Prior Conceptions: None.

9. Non-Competition, Non-Solicitation, and Confidentiality. The Company and Executive acknowledge and agree that while Executive is employed pursuant to this Agreement, the Company will give Executive access to Confidential Information of the Company and its Affiliates to which Executive did not have access prior to signing this Agreement and which Executive may need and use during such employment, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by Executive; Executive will be provided under this Agreement (i) specialized training on how to perform his duties and (ii) contact with the Company's and its Affiliates' customers and potential customers. In consideration of all of the foregoing, the Company and Executive agree as follows:

- (a) Non-Competition During Employment. Executive agrees that for the duration of this Agreement, he will not compete with the Company by engaging in (i) the conception, design, development, production, marketing, or servicing in the offshore energy construction services industry in the Gulf of Mexico; or (ii) the oil and gas exploration and production business in the Gulf of Mexico or other fields in which the Company owns interests (for purposes of this Section 9, the "Services"), and that he will not work for, in any capacity, assist, or become affiliated with as an owner, partner, employee, contractor, joint venture or otherwise, either directly or indirectly, any individual or business which performs the Services. The foregoing notwithstanding, it shall not be a violation of this

Section 9(a) or Section 9(b) for Executive to serve on, and be a member of, the board of directors of TXCO Resources Inc. as long as the business operations, including geographic location thereof, of TXCO Resources are not directly competitive with the Company's business operations after the Effective Date of this Agreement (with such determination to be made by the Company in reasonable good faith with notice provided to Executive).

- (b) Non-Competition After Employment. Executive agrees that for a period of one (1) year after termination of his employment with the Company for any reason he will not compete with the Company by engaging in the conception, design, development, production, marketing, or servicing in the Services, and that he will not work for, in any capacity, assist, or become affiliated with as an owner, partner, employee, contractor, joint venture or otherwise, either directly or indirectly, any individual or business which performs the Services; *provided, however*, that Executive may accept employment with a business which performs the Services if Executive is employed by a division, affiliate, or subsidiary that does not perform the Services and Executive understands and agrees that he cannot perform any services for the division, subsidiary, or affiliate which does compete with the Company in the provision of the Services.
- (c) Conflicts of Interest. Executive agrees that for the duration of this Agreement, he will not engage, either directly or indirectly, in any Conflict of Interest, and that Executive will promptly inform a corporate officer of the Company as to each offer received by Executive to engage in any such activity. Executive further agrees to disclose to the Company any other facts of which Executive becomes aware which might involve or give rise to a Conflict of Interest or potential Conflict of Interest.
- (d) Non-Solicitation of Customers. Executive further agrees that, for the duration of this Agreement, and for a period of one (1) year after the termination of his employment with the Company for any reason, he will not solicit or accept any business for the provision of the Services from any customer or client or prospective customer or client with whom Executive dealt, had contact with or during the time Executive was employed by the Company.
- (e) Non-Solicitation of Employees. Executive agrees that for the duration of this Agreement, and for a period of one (1) year after the termination of his employment with the Company for any reason, he will not either directly or indirectly, on his own behalf or on behalf of others, solicit, attempt to hire, or hire any person employed by the Company to work for Executive or for any other entity, firm, corporation, or individual; *provided, however*, that nothing in this Section 9(e) shall prohibit a future employer of Executive from soliciting, attempting to hire, or hiring any person employed by the Company so long as Executive is not directly or indirectly involved in the process including, but not limited to providing or suggesting (directly or indirectly) names of such employees to anyone for purposes of possible employment and/or directing such employees to contact anyone for purposes of possible employment.

- (f) Confidential Information. Executive further agrees that he will not, except as the Company may otherwise consent or direct in writing, reveal or disclose, sell, use, lecture upon, publish, or otherwise disclose to any third party any Confidential Information or proprietary information of the Company, or authorize anyone else to do these things at any time either during or subsequent to his employment with the Company. This Section 9(f) shall continue in full force and effect after termination of Executive's employment and after the termination of this Agreement for any reason. Executive's obligations under this Section 9(f) of this Agreement with respect to any specific Confidential Information and proprietary information shall cease when that specific portion of Confidential Information and proprietary information becomes publicly known, in its entirety and without combining portions of such information obtained separately. It is understood that such Confidential Information and proprietary information of the Company include matters that Executive conceives or develops, as well as matters Executive learns from other employees of the Company.
 - (g) Confidential Information of Prior Employer. Executive will not disclose or use during the period of his employment with the Company any proprietary or confidential information or copyright works, which Executive may have acquired because of employment with an employer other than the Company.
 - (h) Time Period Tolled. The time periods referenced in this Section 9 during which Executive is restrained from competing against the Company shall not include any period of time during which Executive is in breach of this Agreement. Said time periods referenced in this Section 9 will be tolled, such that the Company will receive the full benefit of the time period in the event Executive breaches this Agreement.
 - (i) Breach. Executive agrees that any breach of Sections 9(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) above cannot be remedied solely by money damages, and that in addition to any other remedies the Company may have, the Company is entitled to obtain injunctive relief against Executive. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed as limiting the Company's right to pursue any other available remedy at law or in equity, including recovery of damages and termination of this Agreement.
 - (j) Independent Covenants. All covenants contained in this Section 9 shall be construed as agreements independent of any other provision of this Agreement, and the existence of any claim or cause of action by Executive against the Company, whether predicated on this Agreement or otherwise, shall not constitute a defense to the enforcement by the Company of such covenants.
10. Return of Company Property. Executive agrees to execute and deliver such documents and take all other actions as the Company may request from time to time in order to effect the transfer and delivery to the Company of any of the Company's or its Affiliate's assets in the possession or subject to the control of Executive including, without limitation, the Company's or its Affiliate's computers, printers, books, records, files, databases, software, Confidential Information, and other documents in whatever form or medium and wherever located, and the Company's or its Affiliate's credit cards, travel authority cards, parking and identification badges.

16. **Severability.** If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be void, invalid, unenforceable, or against public policy, such provisions shall be deemed severable from the Agreement, and the remaining provisions of the Agreement will remain unaffected and in full force and effect. Furthermore, any breach by the Company of any provision of this Agreement shall not excuse Executive's compliance with the requirements of Sections 8 or 9, to the extent they are otherwise enforceable.
17. **Arbitration.** Except with respect to injunctive relief which may be sought by the Company or Executive from a court in Harris County, Texas, to which the Parties hereby submit to personal jurisdiction, the Parties agree to resolve any and all claims or controversies past, present, or future arising out of or relating to this Agreement, Executive's employment and/or termination of employment with the Company, including but not limited to claims for wrongful termination of employment, and claims under the Civil Rights Act of 1866, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Family Medical Leave Act, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the Equal Pay Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, Chapter 21 of the Texas Labor Code, formerly known as the Texas Commission on Human Rights Act, the retaliatory discharge provisions of the Texas Worker's Compensation Act, the Texas Pay Day Act, and any similar state law or local ordinance to binding arbitration under the Federal Arbitration Act, before one neutral arbitrator in the City of Houston, State of Texas, under the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") National Rules for the Resolution of Employment Disputes. If the Parties cannot agree on one arbitrator, a list of seven (7) arbitrators will be requested from AAA, and the arbitrator will be selected using alternate strikes with Executive striking first. The Parties further agree that (i) except as expressly awarded in arbitration and subject to Section 25 below, each party shall be responsible for its own expenses, including but not limited to attorneys' fees in connection with the cost of the arbitration except that the fees of the arbitrators shall be shared equally by Executive and the Company, (ii) collective actions are not permissible unless agreed upon by the parties in writing, (iii) administrative proceedings under the National Labor Relations Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act are not precluded, (iv) the work of Executive involves interstate commerce, and (v) the award rendered by the arbitrator is final and binding, and judgment thereon may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Section shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement which shall remain in full force and effect; *provided, however*, that any claim the Company has for breach of the covenants contained in Sections 8 and 9 of this Agreement shall not be subject to mandatory arbitration, and may be pursued in a court of law or equity.
18. **Entire Agreement.** The terms and provisions contained herein shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to Executive's employment with the Company during the time period covered by this Agreement. This Agreement replaces and supersedes any and all existing agreements entered into between Executive and the Company relating generally to the same subject matter.
19. **Modification of Agreement.** This Agreement may not be changed or modified or released or discharged or abandoned or otherwise terminated, in whole or in part, except by an instrument in writing signed by Executive and an officer or other authorized executive of the Company.

20. **Understand Agreement.** Executive represents and warrants that he has read and understood each and every provision of this Agreement, acknowledges that he has obtained independent legal advice from attorneys of his choice, and confirms that Executive has freely and voluntarily entered into this Agreement.
21. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the internal laws of the State of Texas without giving any effect to the conflict of laws provisions thereof.
22. **Code Section 409A.** The Parties agree that the Company may amend and/or operate this Agreement to be exempt from or to comply with Code Section 409A including, but not limited to, using the definitions or other terms required by Code Section 409A and including without limitation any notices, rulings, interpretations or regulations issued under Code Section 409A after the date hereof to avoid the application of penalty taxes under Code Section 409A. The Company and Executive shall cooperate in good faith for the adoption of such amendments and/or the operation of the Agreement to avoid the application of penalty taxes under Code Section 409A. The Parties agree that Executive shall have no right to specify the calendar year during which any payment hereunder shall be made.
23. **No Guarantee of Tax Consequences.** None of the Company nor any of its Affiliates or their officers, directors or employees guarantees or shall be responsible or liable for the federal, state, local, domestic and foreign, tax consequences to Executive respecting any payments or benefits provided to Executive under this Agreement (except the Company shall provide the additional payments expressly provided for in Section 7(i)), including but not limited to, any excise taxes that may be imposed under Code Section 409A. Executive acknowledges that the Company has advised him to consult his own counsel and/or tax advisor respecting all of the terms of this Agreement, including but not limited to, Sections 7, 8 and 9.
24. **Withholding Taxes.** The Company may withhold from all salary, bonuses, or other benefits or payments under this Agreement all federal, state, local, domestic and foreign, taxes as shall be required pursuant to any law or governmental ruling or regulation as reasonably determined by the Company.
25. **Legal Fees on Change in Control.** If a Date of Termination occurs after a Change in Control occurs, the Company agrees, upon reasonable documentation, to reimburse to the full extent permitted by law, all legal fees and expenses to a maximum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) which Executive, Executive's legal representatives or Executive's family may reasonably incur arising out of or in connection with any arbitration or litigation, if applicable, concerning the validity or enforceability of any provision of the Agreement, or any action by Executive, Executive's legal representatives, or Executive's family to enforce his or their rights under this Agreement, regardless of the outcome of such arbitration or litigation. The expenses that may be reimbursed under this Section 25 shall in no way modify Executive's duty to arbitrate any such claims or the arbitration provisions under Section 17. Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent that Code Section 409A is applicable to the expenses under this subsection, and to the extent that no

exception under Code Section 409A is applicable, the following shall apply: (a) all expenses that are includable in income to be paid under this subsection shall only be paid if such expenses are incurred prior to the last day of the second (2nd) calendar year following the calendar year in which the Date of Termination occurs; (b) all expenses must be paid by the end of the third (3rd) calendar year following the calendar year in which the Date of Termination occurs; (c) Executive (or his legal representative or family) must provide the Company with reasonable documentation of such expenses; (d) payments for such expenses will be made within 15 business days after reasonable documentation of the expenses incurred has been provided to the Company (and such documentation must be provided within 45 days after the expenses are incurred) but in no event later than the end of Executive's taxable year following the year in which the expenses were incurred; and (e) the payments under this subsection cannot be substituted for another benefit.

26. **Disputed Payments and Refusals to Pay.** If following the Date of Termination, the Company fails to make a payment due under Section 7(e) or Section 25 of this Agreement in whole or in part as of the payment date specified in this Agreement, either intentionally or unintentionally, other than with the express or implied consent of Executive, the Company shall owe Executive interest on the delayed payment, compounded quarterly, if Executive (i) accepts the portion (if any) of the payment that the Company is willing to make (unless such acceptance will result in a relinquishment of the claim to all or part of the remaining amount) and (ii) makes prompt and reasonable good faith efforts to collect the remaining portion of the payment (determined utilizing the standards set forth in Treasury Regulation § 1.409A-3(g)). Any such interest payments shall become due and payable effective as of the applicable payment date(s) specified in (i) Section 7(e) with respect to the delinquent payment(s) due under Section 7(e) and (ii) Section 25 with respect to the delinquent payment(s) due under Section 25. Such interest payable under this Section 26 shall be calculated at a rate equal to an amount equal to two percentage points in excess of the prime commercial lending rate announced from time to time by J.P. Morgan Chase Bank or its successor during the period of such nonpayment, compounded quarterly. The Company shall pay such interest payable under this Section 26 no later than the deadline specified in Treasury Regulation § 1.409A-3(g).
27. **Counterparts.** Any number of counterparts of this Agreement may be executed and each such counterpart shall be deemed to be an original instrument, but all such counterparts together shall constitute but one instrument. This Agreement may be executed by portable document format (PDF) or facsimile signature which signature shall be binding upon the Parties.

[Signature Page Follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement effective as of the Effective Date first written above.

EXECUTIVE

THE COMPANY

ANTHONY TRIPODO

HELIX ENERGY SOLUTIONS GROUP, INC.

Anthony Tripodo

By: _____
Owen Kratz
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: _____

Date: _____