

Kosmos Energy Ltd.
Form 424B7
January 11, 2017

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(7)
Registration No. 333-205144

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not offers to sell these securities and we are not soliciting offers to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JANUARY 11, 2017

**Prospectus Supplement
(To Prospectus dated June 22, 2015)**

30,000,000 Common Shares

Kosmos Energy Ltd.

The selling shareholders identified in this prospectus supplement are offering 30,000,000 common shares, par value \$0.01 per share. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the common shares.

Our common shares are listed on The New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") under the symbol "KOS." The last reported sale price of our common shares on the NYSE on January 10, 2017 was \$6.99 per share.

Investing in our common shares involves a high degree of risk. See "Risk Factors" on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement and on page 6 of the accompanying prospectus. You should also consider the risk factors described in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	Price to Public	Underwriting Discounts and Commissions	Proceeds to the Selling Shareholders, Before Expenses
Per Common Share	\$	\$	\$

Edgar Filing: Kosmos Energy Ltd. - Form 424B7

Total \$ \$ \$

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Pursuant to the Companies Act 1981 of Bermuda, there is no requirement to file this prospectus supplement with the Registrar of Companies in Bermuda. Neither the Bermuda Monetary Authority, the Registrar of Companies of Bermuda nor any other relevant Bermuda authority or government body accept any responsibility for the financial soundness of any proposal or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed herein.

Delivery of the common shares will be made on or about , 2017.

Barclays

The date of this prospectus supplement is , 2017

Edgar Filing: Kosmos Energy Ltd. - Form 424B7

Table of Contents

We and the selling shareholders have not, and the underwriter has not, authorized anyone to provide any information other than that contained in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or in any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us to which we have referred you. We, the selling shareholders and the underwriter take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We and the selling shareholders are not, and the underwriter is not, making an offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date of such document. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. The terms "Kosmos," "we," "us," and "our" refer to Kosmos Energy Ltd. and our subsidiaries unless the context otherwise requires. The term "selling shareholders" refers, collectively, to the selling shareholders named in this prospectus supplement under the caption "Selling Shareholders."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement and the Accompanying Prospectus</u>	<u>S-ii</u>
<u>Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>S-ii</u>
<u>Summary</u>	<u>S-1</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>S-6</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>S-8</u>
<u>Price Range of Our Common Shares</u>	<u>S-8</u>
<u>Dividend Policy</u>	<u>S-8</u>
<u>Selling Shareholders</u>	<u>S-9</u>
<u>Certain Tax Considerations</u>	<u>S-11</u>
<u>Certain ERISA Considerations</u>	<u>S-14</u>
<u>Underwriting</u>	<u>S-15</u>
<u>Validity of Securities</u>	<u>S-25</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>S-25</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Information by Reference</u>	<u>S-26</u>
Prospectus	
<u>Kosmos Energy Ltd.</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Special Note on Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Description of Share Capital</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Description of Units</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Forms of Securities</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Validity of Securities</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>18</u>
	S-i

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS

This document consists of two parts. The first part is the prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering of common shares and also adds to and updates the information contained or incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which describes more general information regarding our securities, some of which does not apply to this offering. You should read both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Information by Reference" in this prospectus supplement and under "Where You Can Find More Information" in the accompanying prospectus, in their entirety before making an investment decision.

If the information set forth in this prospectus supplement differs in any way from the information set forth in the accompanying prospectus or the information contained in any document incorporated by reference herein or therein, the information contained in the most recently dated document shall control.

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain estimates and forward-looking statements. Our estimates and forward-looking statements are mainly based on our current expectations and estimates of future events and trends, which affect or may affect our businesses and operations. Although we believe that these estimates and forward-looking statements are based upon reasonable assumptions, they are subject to several risks and uncertainties and are made in light of information currently available to us. Many important factors, in addition to the factors described in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, may adversely affect our results as indicated in forward-looking statements. You should read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus completely and with the understanding that our actual future results may be materially different from what we expect.

Our estimates and forward-looking statements may be influenced by the following factors, among others:

our ability to find, acquire or gain access to other discoveries and prospects and to successfully develop and produce from our current discoveries and prospects;

uncertainties inherent in making estimates of our oil and natural gas data;

the successful implementation of our and our block partners' prospect discovery and development and drilling plans;

projected and targeted capital expenditures and other costs, commitments and revenues;

termination of or intervention in concessions, rights or authorizations granted by the governments of Ghana, Mauritania, Morocco (including Western Sahara), Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal or Suriname (or their respective national oil companies) or any other federal, state or local governments or authorities, to us;

our dependence on our key management personnel and our ability to attract and retain qualified technical personnel;

the ability to obtain financing and to comply with the terms under which such financing may be available;

Table of Contents

the volatility of oil and natural gas prices;

the availability, cost, function and reliability of developing appropriate infrastructure around and transportation to our discoveries and prospects;

the availability and cost of drilling rigs, production equipment, supplies, personnel and oilfield services;

other competitive pressures;

potential liabilities inherent in oil and natural gas operations, including drilling and production risks and other operational and environmental risks and hazards;

current and future government regulation of the oil and gas industry or regulation of the investment in or ability to do business with certain countries or regimes;

cost of compliance with laws and regulations;

changes in environmental, health and safety or climate change or greenhouse gas laws and regulations or the implementation, or interpretation, of those laws and regulations;

adverse effects of sovereign boundary disputes in the jurisdictions in which we operate, including an ongoing maritime boundary demarcation dispute between Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana impacting our operations in the Deepwater Tano Block offshore Ghana;

our ability to farm out our interests in our discoveries and prospects;

environmental liabilities;

geological, technical, drilling, production and processing problems;

the failure of machinery and equipment necessary for the reliable production of oil and natural gas;

military operations, civil unrest, outbreaks of disease, terrorist acts, wars or embargoes;

the cost and availability of adequate insurance coverage and whether such coverage is enough to sufficiently mitigate potential losses and whether our insurers comply with their obligations under our coverage agreements;

our vulnerability to severe weather events;

Edgar Filing: Kosmos Energy Ltd. - Form 424B7

our ability to meet our obligations under the agreements governing our indebtedness;

the availability and cost of financing and refinancing our indebtedness;

the amount of collateral required to be posted from time to time in our hedging transactions, letters of credit and other secured debt;

the result of any legal proceedings, arbitrations, or investigations we may be subject to or involved in;

our success in risk management activities, including the use of derivative financial instruments to hedge commodity and interest rate risks; and

other risk factors discussed in this prospectus supplement, under Item 1A. "Risk Factors" in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2016, June 30, 2016 and September 30, 2016 and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, in each case incorporated by reference herein.

The words "believe," "may," "will," "aim," "estimate," "continue," "anticipate," "intend," "expect," "plan" and similar words are intended to identify estimates and forward-looking statements.

S-iii

Edgar Filing: Kosmos Energy Ltd. - Form 424B7

Table of Contents

Estimates and forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they were made, and, except to the extent required by law, we undertake no obligation to update or to review any estimate and/or forward-looking statement because of new information, future events or other factors. Estimates and forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and are not guarantees of future performance. As a result of the risks and uncertainties described above, the estimates and forward-looking statements discussed in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus might not occur, and our future results and our performance may differ materially from those expressed in these forward-looking statements due to, including, but not limited to, the factors mentioned above. Because of these uncertainties, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements.

S-iv

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. As a result, this summary does not contain all of the information that may be important to you or that you should consider before investing in our common shares. You should read carefully this entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any related free writing prospectus, together with all documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, which are described under "Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Information by Reference" in this prospectus supplement and under "Where You Can Find More Information" in the accompanying prospectus.

Overview

We are a leading independent oil and gas exploration and production company focused on frontier and emerging areas along the Atlantic Margin. Our assets include existing production and other development projects offshore Ghana, large discoveries and significant further hydrocarbon exploration potential offshore Mauritania and Senegal, as well as exploration licenses with significant hydrocarbon potential offshore Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, Suriname, Morocco and Western Sahara.

Kosmos was founded in 2003 to find oil in under-explored or overlooked parts of West Africa. Members of our management team who had previously worked together making significant discoveries and developing them in Africa, the Gulf of Mexico, and other areas established our company on a single geologic concept that previously had been overlooked by others in the industry, the Late Cretaceous play system.

Following our formation, we acquired multiple exploration licenses and proved the geologic concept with the discovery of the Jubilee Field within the Tano Basin in the deep waters offshore Ghana in 2007. This was the first of our discoveries offshore Ghana; it was one of the largest oil discoveries worldwide in 2007 and is considered one of the largest finds offshore West Africa during the last decade. As technical operator of the initial phase of Jubilee Field, we planned and executed the development. Oil production from the Jubilee Field began in November 2010, just 42 months after initial discovery, a record for a deepwater development in this water depth in West Africa. In 2011, we became a publicly traded company on the NYSE, trading under the ticker symbol "KOS," and had a market capitalization of approximately \$2.7 billion as of December 31, 2016.

Following our initial public offering, we acquired several new exploration licenses and again proved our geologic concept with the Ahmeyim discovery in the deepwater offshore Mauritania in 2015. The Ahmeyim discovery (formerly known as Tortue) was one of the largest natural gas discoveries worldwide in 2015 and is believed to be the largest ever gas discovery offshore West Africa. We have since demonstrated the extension of the gas discovery into Senegal with the successful Guembeul-1 exploration well. We have now drilled five successful exploration and appraisal wells offshore Mauritania and Senegal with a 100% success rate, which collectively have discovered and de-risked a gross potential natural gas resource of approximately 25 and over 50 trillion cubic feet, respectively. In December 2016, we announced a partnership with BP p.l.c. ("BP") in Mauritania and Senegal following a competitive farm-out process for our interests in certain blocks offshore Mauritania and Senegal. We believe BP is the optimal partner to advance the gas developments in these blocks and to move forward a multi-well exploration program to test the basin's liquids potential, scheduled to commence in the second quarter of 2017. In exchange for a 62% working interest in our Mauritania licenses and an effective 32.49% working interest (following exercise of an option to acquire an additional 5% participating interest from Timis Corporation in consideration for a future carry on a well in Senegal) in our Senegal licenses, we will receive fixed consideration of \$916 million and variable consideration of up to \$2 per barrel, for up to 1 billion barrels of liquids, structured as a production royalty, subject to future liquids discovery and prevailing oil prices. We believe that the transaction strengthens our

Table of Contents

balance sheet by reducing our capital expenditure requirements and assists in funding our Mauritania and Senegal exploration and development program over the near to medium term.

Our business strategy focuses on achieving three key objectives: (1) maximize the value of our Ghana assets; (2) continue to explore, appraise and develop the deepwater basin offshore Mauritania and Senegal with our partners to further grow value; and (3) increase value further through a high-impact exploration program to unlock new petroleum systems. In Ghana, we are focused on increasing production, cash flows and reserves from the Jubilee Field, ramping up the production of the Tweneboa-Enyenra-Ntomme fields, and the appraisal and development of our other Ghanaian discoveries. In Mauritania and Senegal, we expect to efficiently appraise and develop our gas discoveries as well as continue to test our inventory of liquids and gas prospects. We also have a large inventory of leads and prospects in the remainder of our exploration portfolio and we plan to test this prospectivity targeting high-impact opportunities along the Atlantic Margin.

Corporate Governance Developments

Upon completion of this offering, funds affiliated with The Blackstone Group L.P. (the "Blackstone Group") and Warburg Pincus LLC ("Warburg Pincus" and, together with the Blackstone Group, our "financial sponsors"), will no longer control a majority of the voting power of our issued and outstanding common shares.

At such time, we will accordingly no longer qualify as a "controlled company" for purposes of certain exemptions from the NYSE corporate governance standards. As a result, we will be required to have at least one independent director on each of our nominating and corporate governance and compensation committees upon completion of this offering, a majority of independent directors on those committees within 90 days after the completion of this offering, and fully independent nominating and corporate governance and compensation committees and a majority independent board of directors within one year after the completion of this offering. We will also be required to perform an annual performance evaluation of our nominating and corporate governance and compensation committees. Prior to this offering, our board of directors has determined that one of the three members of our nominating and corporate governance committee, one of the three members of our compensation committee, all three members of our audit committee and five of the eleven members of our board of directors are independent for purposes of the NYSE corporate governance standards. Should this offering be completed and accordingly, we no longer qualify as a "controlled company," we intend to appoint additional directors or deem certain of our existing directors independent who meet the NYSE independence requirements within the time periods required by the NYSE corporate governance standards.

In addition, on June 20, 2012, the SEC adopted Rule 10C-1 ("Rule 10C-1") under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), to implement provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act pertaining to compensation committee independence and the role and disclosure of compensation consultants and other advisers to the compensation committee. The NYSE has since adopted amendments to its existing listing standards to comply with provisions of Rule 10C-1, and on January 11, 2013, the SEC approved such amendments. The amended listing standards require, among other things, that:

the nominating/corporate governance and compensation committees be subject to annual performance evaluation;

compensation committees be explicitly charged with hiring and overseeing compensation consultants, legal counsel and other committee advisers; and

Table of Contents

compensation committees be required to consider, when engaging compensation consultants, legal counsel or other advisers, certain independence factors, including factors that examine the relationship between the consultant or adviser's employer and us.

We will be subject to these nominating/corporate governance committee and compensation committee independence requirements following the completion of this offering as we will no longer qualify as a "controlled company."

Furthermore, following our financial sponsors' ceasing to control a majority of the voting power of our issued and outstanding common shares, certain provisions set forth in our bye-laws will take effect and certain provisions set forth in a shareholders agreement among us and our financial sponsors (the "shareholders agreement") will no longer be effective. Such provisions consist of:

Election of Directors. All of our directors will no longer be elected annually. Instead, our board of directors will be classified into three equally-sized (or as near as possible) classes of directors, with directors in each class serving for a period ending on the date of the third annual meeting of shareholders next following the annual meeting at which such director was elected. Our board of directors will initially apportion sitting directors among the three classes. The terms of the directors initially apportioned to Class I, Class II and Class III will end on the first, second and third annual meeting of shareholders, respectively, following such cessation of control.

Removal of Directors. Our directors will no longer be able to be removed without cause. Instead, our directors will only be able to be removed for cause with the affirmative vote of shareholders holding not less than a majority of the shares then entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting together as a single class.

Director Nominees. Our financial sponsors will no longer be required to vote for the election to our board of directors of our chief executive officer and independent directors nominated by our nominating and corporate governance committee and recommended by the board of directors for election by our shareholders at the annual general meeting.

Written Consent of Shareholders. Shareholders holding not less than the minimum number of votes that would be necessary to authorize or take any action required or permitted to be taken at any annual or special meeting of shareholders at which all shares entitled to vote thereon were present and voted will no longer be able to take such action by written consent. Instead, any such action will only be able to be taken upon a vote of shareholders at an annual or special meeting of shareholders duly noticed and called in accordance with our bye-laws and Bermuda law.

To the extent this offering is not completed, we will remain a "controlled company" for NYSE purposes and our existing bye-laws and shareholders agreement would remain unchanged. However, if we sell additional common shares in the future to raise capital, or issue common shares upon the vesting of restricted stock awards, or if our financial sponsors sell additional common shares they hold in the future, then our financial sponsors may control less than a majority of the voting power of our issued and outstanding common shares as a result of any such transaction and the changes outlined above will be triggered at such time. There can be no assurance that these changes will not be triggered at any time in the future.

Corporate Information

We were incorporated pursuant to the laws of Bermuda as Kosmos Energy Ltd. in January 2011 to become a holding company for Kosmos Energy Holdings. Kosmos Energy Holdings is a privately held Cayman Islands company that was formed in March 2004. Pursuant to the terms of a corporate reorganization that was completed simultaneously with the closing of our initial public offering, all of the membership interests in Kosmos Energy Holdings were exchanged for newly issued common shares

Edgar Filing: Kosmos Energy Ltd. - Form 424B7

Table of Contents

of Kosmos Energy Ltd. and as a result, Kosmos Energy Holdings became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kosmos Energy Ltd.

We maintain a registered office in Bermuda at Clarendon House, 2 Church Street, Hamilton HM11, Bermuda. The telephone number of our registered office is (441) 295-5950. Our U.S. subsidiary maintains its headquarters at 8176 Park Lane, Suite 500, Dallas, Texas 75231 and its telephone number is (214) 445-9600. Our web site is www.kosmosenergy.com. The information on, or accessible through, our web site does not constitute part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

S-4

Table of Contents

The Offering

Common shares offered by the selling shareholders	30,000,000 common shares, par value \$0.01 per share.
Trading symbol for our common shares	Our common shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "KOS."
Use of Proceeds	We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the common shares.
Dividend Policy	We do not anticipate paying any dividends on our common shares in the foreseeable future. However, we may change this policy in the future. See "Dividend Policy."
Risk Factors	An investment in our common shares involves certain risks. You should carefully consider the risks described in this prospectus supplement, under "Item 1A. Risk Factors" of our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2016, June 30, 2016 and September 30, 2016 and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, as well as other information included in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us or incorporated by reference herein or therein, before making a decision to purchase the common shares offered hereby. Additional risks and uncertainties that we do not know about or that we currently believe are not material may also adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

All applicable share, per share and related information in this prospectus supplement speaks as of September 30, 2016, unless otherwise indicated.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common shares involves a high degree of risk. You should consider carefully the risk factor described below, as well as the risk factors described in "Item 1A. Risk Factors" of our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2016, June 30, 2016 and September 30, 2016 and Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, and all other information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before deciding to invest in the common shares. If any of the risks actually occur, they may materially harm our business, financial condition, operating results or cash flow. As a result, the market price of our common shares could decline, and you could lose all or part of your investment. Additional risks and uncertainties that are not yet identified or that we think are immaterial may also materially harm our business, operating results, financial condition or cash flow and could result in a complete or partial loss of your investment.

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the incorporated documents also contain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, including the risks faced by us described below and elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. See "Special Note on Forward-Looking Statements" in the accompanying prospectus and "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" in this prospectus supplement and any documents incorporated by reference herein and therein.

Upon completion of this offering, we will no longer be a "controlled company" within the meaning of the NYSE rules and the rules of the SEC. However, even if we are no longer a "controlled company," we will continue to qualify for, and may rely on, exemptions from certain corporate governance requirements that would otherwise provide protection to our shareholders during a one-year transition period.

Upon completion of this offering, funds affiliated with the financial sponsors will no longer control a majority of the voting power of our outstanding common shares. See "Summary Corporate Governance Developments." As a result, we will no longer qualify as a "controlled company" for purposes of certain exemptions from the NYSE corporate governance standards. We will therefore be required to have at least one independent director on each of our nominating and corporate governance and compensation committees upon completion of this offering, a majority of independent directors on those committees within 90 days after the completion of this offering, and fully independent nominating and corporate governance and compensation committees and a majority independent board of directors within one year after the completion of this offering. We will also be required to perform an annual performance evaluation of our nominating and corporate governance and compensation committees. Prior to this offering, our board of directors has determined that one of the three members of our nominating and corporate governance committee, one of the three members of our compensation committee, all three members of our audit committee and five of the eleven members of our board of directors are independent for purposes of the NYSE corporate governance standards. Should this offering be completed and we no longer qualify as a "controlled company," we intend to appoint additional directors or deem certain of our existing directors independent who meet the NYSE independence requirements within the time periods required by the NYSE corporate governance standards.

In addition, on June 20, 2012, the SEC adopted Rule 10C-1 under the Exchange Act to implement provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act pertaining to compensation committee independence and the role and disclosure of compensation consultants and other advisers to the compensation committee. The NYSE has since adopted amendments to its

Table of Contents

existing listing standards to comply with provisions of Rule 10C-1, and on January 11, 2013, the SEC approved such amendments. The amended listing standards require, among other things, that:

the nominating/corporate governance and compensation committees be subject to annual performance evaluation;

compensation committees be explicitly charged with hiring and overseeing compensation consultants, legal counsel and other committee advisers; and

compensation committees be required to consider, when engaging compensation consultants, legal counsel or other advisers, certain independence factors, including factors that examine the relationship between the consultant or adviser's employer and us.

We will be subject to these nominating/corporate governance committee and compensation committee independence requirements following the completion of this offering as we will no longer qualify as a "controlled company."

Should we be unable to comply with these NYSE and SEC requirements during the time periods required, we may be subject to enforcement action or disciplinary action from the SEC and/or NYSE, and may risk delisting from the NYSE. Any such actions may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations."

To the extent this offering is not completed, we will remain a "controlled company" for NYSE purposes and our existing bye-laws and shareholders agreement would remain unchanged. However, if we sell additional common shares in the future to raise capital, or issue common shares upon the vesting of restricted stock awards, or if our financial sponsors sell additional common shares they hold in the future, then our financial sponsors may control less than a majority of the voting power of our outstanding common shares as a result of any such transaction and the changes outlined above will be triggered at such time. There can be no assurance that these changes will not be triggered at any time in the future.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the common shares. We will pay the expenses, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, associated with the sale of common shares by the selling shareholders.

PRICE RANGE OF OUR COMMON SHARES

Our common shares are traded on the NYSE under the symbol "KOS." On January 10, 2017, the last reported sale price for our common shares on the NYSE was \$6.99 per share. As of December 31, 2016, we had approximately 108 shareholders of record. The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the reported high and low sale prices for our common shares.

	Price Range	
	High	Low
Year Ending December 31, 2017		
First Quarter (through January 10, 2017)	\$ 7.39	\$ 6.87
Year Ended December 31, 2016		
Fourth Quarter	\$ 7.14	\$ 4.39
Third Quarter	6.63	5.16
Second Quarter	6.79	4.63
First Quarter	6.41	3.17
Year Ended December 31, 2015		
Fourth Quarter	\$ 8.00	\$ 4.62
Third Quarter	8.44	5.34
Second Quarter	10.03	7.94
First Quarter	9.32	7.58

DIVIDEND POLICY

At the present time, we intend to retain all of our future earnings, if any, generated by our operations for the development and growth of our business. Additionally, we are subject to Bermuda legal constraints that may affect our ability to pay dividends on our common shares and make other payments. Under the Bermuda Companies Act, we may not declare or pay a dividend if there are reasonable grounds for believing that we are, or would after the payment be, unable to pay our liabilities as they become due or that the realizable value of our assets would thereafter be less than the aggregate of our liabilities. Pursuant to the terms of certain of our debt agreements, we are restricted in our ability to pay dividends, and certain of our subsidiaries are restricted in their ability to pay dividends to us, unless certain conditions, financial and otherwise are met. Any decision to pay dividends in the future is at the discretion of our board of directors and depends on our financial condition, results of operations, capital requirements and other factors that our board of directors deems relevant.

Table of Contents**SELLING SHAREHOLDERS**

The following table sets forth the number of common shares owned by the selling shareholders prior to this offering, the number of common shares to be offered for sale by the selling shareholders in this offering, the number of common shares to be owned by the selling shareholders after completion of this offering and the percentage of our issued and outstanding common shares owned by the selling shareholders prior to this offering and to be owned after the completion of this offering.

Beneficial ownership of shares is determined under the rules of the SEC and generally includes any shares over which a person exercises sole or shared voting or investment power. Percentage of beneficial ownership is based on 386,757,675 common shares issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2016.

Except as indicated in footnotes to this table, we believe that the shareholders named in this table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all common shares shown to be beneficially owned by them, based on information provided to us by such shareholders.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Shares Beneficially Owned Before the Offering		Number of Shares Being Offered	Shares Beneficially Owned After the Offering	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Blackstone Funds(1)	96,552,512	24.96%	13,500,000	83,052,512	21.47%
Warburg Pincus Funds(2)	118,008,651	30.52%	16,500,000	101,508,651	26.25%

(1)

The Blackstone Funds (as hereinafter defined) are comprised of the following entities: Blackstone Capital Partners (Cayman) IV L.P. ("BCP Cayman IV"), Blackstone Capital Partners (Cayman) IV-A L.P. ("BCP Cayman IV-A"), Blackstone Family Investment Partnership (Cayman) IV-A L.P. ("BFIP"), Blackstone Family Investment Partnership (Cayman) IV-A SMD L.P. ("BFIP SMD") and Blackstone Participation Partnership (Cayman) IV L.P. ("BPP", together with BCP Cayman IV, BCP Cayman IV-A, BFIP and BFIP SMD, the "Blackstone Funds"). The Blackstone Funds beneficially own (i) 90,424,370 shares, which are held by BCP Cayman IV, (ii) 1,474,644 shares, which are held by BCP Cayman IV-A, (iii) 2,394,968 shares, which are held by BFIP, (iv) 1,988,529 shares, which are held by BFIP SMD and (v) 270,001 shares, which are held by BPP. The general partner of BFIP SMD is Blackstone Family GP L.L.C., which is wholly owned by Blackstone's senior managing directors and controlled by Mr. Stephen A. Schwarzman, its founder. The general partner of BCP Cayman IV and BCP Cayman IV-A is Blackstone Management Associates (Cayman) IV L.P. ("BMA"). BCP IV GP L.L.C. ("BCP IV") is the general partner of BMA, BFIP and BPP. Blackstone Holdings III L.P. is the sole member of BCP IV. The general partner of Blackstone Holdings III L.P. is Blackstone Holdings III GP L.P. The general partner of Blackstone Holdings III GP L.P. is Blackstone Holdings III GP Management L.L.C. The sole member of Blackstone Holdings III GP Management L.L.C. is The Blackstone Group L.P. The general partner of The Blackstone Group L.P. is Blackstone Group Management L.L.C. Blackstone Group Management L.L.C. is wholly owned by Blackstone's senior managing directors and controlled by its founder, Stephen A. Schwarzman. Each of such Blackstone entities and Mr. Schwarzman may be deemed to beneficially own the shares beneficially owned by the Blackstone Funds directly or indirectly controlled by it or him, but each disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares. Mr. Foley and Mr. Melwani are Senior Managing Directors of Blackstone Group Management L.L.C. and neither is deemed to beneficially own the shares beneficially owned by the Blackstone Funds. The address of each of the Blackstone Funds, Mr. Stephen A. Schwarzman and each of the other Blackstone entities listed in this footnote is c/o The Blackstone Group, L.P., 345 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10154. The number of common shares being offered includes (i) 12,643,161 common shares by BCP Cayman IV,

Table of Contents

(ii) 206,185 common shares by BCP Cayman IV-A, (iii) 334,865 common shares by BFIP, (iv) 37,752 common shares by BPP and (v) 278,037 common shares by BFIP SMD.

(2)

The Warburg Pincus Funds are comprised of the following entities: Warburg Pincus International Partners, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("WPIP"), and two affiliated funds who collectively hold 59,004,331 shares, and Warburg Pincus Private Equity VIII, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("WP VIII"), and two affiliated funds who collectively hold 59,004,320 shares. The total number of shares reported by WPIP includes 2,360,177 shares that are owned by its affiliated fund Warburg Pincus Netherlands International Partners I C.V., a company incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands ("WPIP Netherlands"), and 87,322 shares that are owned by its affiliated fund WP-WPIP Investors L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("WPIP Investors"). WPIP expressly disclaims beneficial ownership with respect to any common shares other than the common shares owned of record by WPIP. The total number of shares reported by WP VIII includes 1,657,894 shares that are owned by its affiliated fund Warburg Pincus Netherlands Private Equity VIII C.V. I, a company incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands ("WP VIII Netherlands"), and 165,357 shares that are owned by its affiliated fund WP-WPVIII Investors, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("WP VIII Investors"). WP VIII expressly disclaims beneficial ownership with respect to any shares other than the shares owned of record by WP VIII. WP-WPVIII Investors GP L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("WP VIII Investors GP"), is the general partner of WP VIII Investors. WP-WPIP Investors GP L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("WPIP Investors GP"), is the general partner of WPIP Investors. WPP GP LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("WPP GP"), is the general partner of each of WP VIII Investors GP and WPIP Investors GP. Warburg Pincus Partners, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("WP Partners"), is (i) the managing member of WPP GP, and (ii) the general partner of WP VIII, WP VIII Netherlands, WPIP, and WPIP Netherlands. Warburg Pincus Partners GP LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("WP Partners GP"), is the general partner of WP Partners. Warburg Pincus & Co., a New York general partnership, is the managing member of WP Partners GP. The Warburg Pincus Funds are managed by Warburg Pincus LLC, a New York limited liability company ("WP LLC"). Mr. Landy and Mr. Krieger are Directors of Kosmos. Mr. Landy is a Managing General Partner of WP and a Managing Member and Co-Chief Executive Officer of WP LLC. Mr. Krieger is a Partner of WP and a Managing Director and Member of WP LLC. All shares indicated as owned by Messrs. Landy and Krieger are included because of their affiliation with the Warburg Pincus entities. Charles R. Kaye is also a Managing General Partner of WP and a Managing Member and Co-Chief Executive Officer of WP LLC and, together with Mr. Landy, may be deemed to control the Warburg Pincus entities. Messrs. Kaye, Landy and Krieger disclaim beneficial ownership of all shares held by the Warburg Pincus entities. The address of the Warburg Pincus entities, Mr. Kaye and Mr. Landy is 450 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017. The number of common shares being offered includes (i) 8,250,000 common shares by WPIP and (ii) 8,250,000 common shares by WP VIII.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN TAX CONSIDERATIONS

Bermuda Tax Considerations

At the present time, there is no Bermuda income or profits tax, withholding tax, capital gains tax, capital transfer tax, estate duty or inheritance tax payable by us or by our shareholders in respect of our shares. We have obtained an assurance from the Bermuda Minister of Finance under the Exempted Undertakings Tax Protection Act 1966 that, in the event that any legislation is enacted in Bermuda imposing any tax computed on profits or income, or computed on any capital asset, gain or appreciation or any tax in the nature of estate duty or inheritance tax, such tax shall not, until March 31, 2035, be applicable to us or to any of our operations or to our shares, debentures or other obligations except insofar as such tax applies to persons ordinarily resident in Bermuda or is payable by us in respect of real property owned or leased by us in Bermuda.

U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences to a U.S. Holder (as defined below) of owning and disposing of our common shares, but it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all tax considerations that may be relevant to a particular person's decision to acquire our common shares. This summary does not discuss any state, local or foreign tax considerations. This discussion applies only to a U.S. Holder that acquires our common shares pursuant to this offering and holds them as capital assets for tax purposes. In addition, it does not describe all of the tax consequences that may be relevant in light of the U.S. Holder's particular circumstances, including alternative minimum tax consequences, Medicare contribution tax consequences and tax consequences applicable to U.S. Holders subject to special rules, such as:

certain financial institutions;

dealers or traders in securities who use a mark-to-market method of tax accounting;

persons holding our common shares as part of a hedging transaction, straddle, wash sale, conversion transaction or integrated transaction or persons entering into a constructive sale with respect to our common shares;

persons whose functional currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar;

entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes;

tax-exempt entities, including "individual retirement accounts"; or

persons that own or are deemed to own ten percent or more of our voting shares.

If an entity that is classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds our common shares, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partnerships holding our common shares and partners in such partnerships should consult their tax advisers as to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences of holding and disposing of our common shares.

This discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions, and final, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations, all as of the date of this prospectus supplement, any of which is subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers concerning the U.S. federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences of owning and disposing of our common shares in their particular circumstances.

Table of Contents

A "U.S. Holder" is a holder who, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is a beneficial owner of our common shares and is:

a citizen or individual resident of the United States;

a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state therein or the District of Columbia; or

an estate or trust the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

This discussion assumes that we are not, and will not become, a passive foreign investment company, as described below.

Taxation of Distributions

As discussed above under "Dividend Policy," we do not currently intend to pay dividends. In the event that we do pay dividends, distributions paid on our common shares, other than certain *pro rata* distributions of common shares, will be treated as dividends to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles). The amount of the dividend will be treated as foreign-source dividend income to U.S. Holders and will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction generally available to U.S. corporations under the Code. Subject to certain holding period and other requirements, dividends on our common shares that are paid to non-corporate U.S. Holders will be eligible for reduced tax rates so long as our common shares continue to trade on the NYSE.

Sale or Other Disposition of Common Shares

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, gain or loss realized on the sale or other disposition of our common shares will be capital gain or loss, and generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder held our common shares for more than one year. The amount of the gain or loss will equal the difference between the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the common shares disposed of and the amount realized on the disposition, in each case as determined in U.S. dollars. This gain or loss will generally be U.S.-source gain or loss for foreign tax credit purposes. Non-corporate U.S. Holders are generally eligible for reduced tax rates on long-term capital gains. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitation.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules

Based on management estimates and projections of future operations and revenue, we do not believe we will be a passive foreign investment company (a "PFIC") for U.S. federal income tax purposes for our current taxable year and we do not expect to become one in the foreseeable future. In general, a non-U.S. corporation is a PFIC for any taxable year in which (i) 75% or more of its gross income consists of passive income (such as dividends, interest, rents and royalties) or (ii) 50% or more of the average quarterly value of its assets consists of assets that produce, or are held for the production of, passive income. Because our PFIC status is a factual determination that is made annually and depends on the composition of our income and the composition and value of our assets from time to time, there can be no assurance that we will not be a PFIC for any taxable year.

If we were a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder held our common shares, gain recognized by a U.S. Holder on a sale or other disposition (including certain pledges) of our common shares would be allocated ratably over the U.S. Holder's holding period for the common shares. The amounts allocated to the taxable year of the sale or other disposition and to any year before we became a PFIC would be taxed as ordinary income. The amount allocated to each other taxable year would be subject to tax at the highest rate in effect for individuals or corporations, as appropriate, for

Table of Contents

that taxable year, and an interest charge would be imposed on the tax on such amount allocated to that taxable year. In addition, similar rules would apply to the extent that any distribution received by a U.S. Holder on its common shares exceeds 125% of the average of the annual distributions on the common shares received during the preceding three years or the U.S. Holder's holding period, whichever is shorter. Certain elections may be available that would result in alternative treatments (such as mark-to-market treatment) of the common shares. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers to determine whether any of these elections would be available and, if so, what the consequences of the alternative treatments would be in their particular circumstances. If we were a PFIC for any year during which a U.S. Holder held our common shares, we generally would continue to be treated as a PFIC with respect to that holder for all succeeding years during which the U.S. Holder held our common shares, even if we subsequently ceased to meet the requirements for PFIC status. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers regarding the potential availability of a "deemed sale" election that would allow them to eliminate the continuation of PFIC status under these circumstances.

Dividends on our common shares that we pay to non-corporate U.S. Holders will not be eligible for the reduced tax rates described above if we are a PFIC in the taxable year in which the dividends are paid or the prior taxable year. In addition, if a U.S. Holder owns our common shares during any year in which we are a PFIC, the holder generally must file annual reports containing such information as the U.S. Treasury may require on Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") Form 8621 (or any successor form) with respect to us, generally with the holder's federal income tax return for that year.

U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers regarding whether we are or may become a PFIC and the potential application of the PFIC rules.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Payments of dividends and sales proceeds that are made within the United States or through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries generally are subject to information reporting, and may be subject to backup withholding, unless (i) the U.S. Holder is a corporation or other exempt recipient or (ii) in the case of backup withholding, the U.S. Holder provides a correct taxpayer identification number and certifies that it is not subject to backup withholding. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a U.S. Holder will be allowed as a credit against the holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle it to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN ERISA CONSIDERATIONS

Each purchaser represents and warrants that either (i) no portion of the assets used to acquire the common shares constitutes the assets of a "benefit plan investor" within the meaning of Section 3(42) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"), or (ii) the purchase of the common shares will not result in a non-exempt prohibited transaction under Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code.

S-14

Table of Contents

UNDERWRITING

We and the selling shareholders have entered into an underwriting agreement with Barclays Capital Inc., as underwriter of this offering. Under the terms and subject to the conditions contained in the underwriting agreement, the selling shareholders have agreed to sell to the underwriter 30,000,000 common shares.

The underwriting agreement provides that the underwriter is obligated to purchase all of the common shares in the offering if any are purchased.

The underwriter proposes to offer the common shares directly to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to certain dealers at a price less a concession not in excess of \$ _____ per share. After the initial public offering of the shares, the offering price and other selling terms may be changed by the underwriter. The offering of the shares by the underwriter is subject to receipt and acceptance and subject to the underwriter's right to reject any order in whole or in part.

The underwriting fee is equal to the public offering price per common share less the amount paid by the underwriter to the selling shareholders per common share. The following table shows the per share and total underwriting discounts and commissions to be paid to the underwriter by the selling shareholders.

	Per Common Share	Total
Underwriting discounts and commissions paid by the selling shareholders	\$ _____	\$ _____

Sales of common shares outside the United States may be made by affiliates of the underwriter. The underwriter has informed us that it does not intend to confirm sales to discretionary accounts that exceed 5% of the total number of common shares offered by it.

We estimate that the total expenses for this offering, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$ _____, and will be paid by us.

We have agreed that we will not, for a period of 30 days after the date of the underwriting agreement (i) offer, sell, issue, contract to sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of our common shares or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for our common shares, (ii) offer, sell, issue, contract to sell, contract to purchase or grant any option, right or warrant to purchase our common shares or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for our common shares, (iii) enter into any swap, hedge or any other agreement that transfers, in whole or in part, the economic consequences of ownership of our common shares or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for our common shares, (iv) establish or increase a put equivalent position or liquidate or decrease a call equivalent position in our common shares or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for our common shares within the meaning of Section 16 of the Exchange Act, or (v) file with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), relating to our common shares or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for our common shares, or publicly disclose the intention to take any such action, without the prior written consent of the underwriter. The restrictions described in this paragraph do not apply to:

grants of restricted shares, restricted stock units, share options other than equity grants in accordance with the terms of an incentive plan described in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as in existence as of the date hereof;

the issuance of common shares upon the exercise of an option or warrant or the conversion of a security granted under an incentive plan described in the documents incorporated by reference

Edgar Filing: Kosmos Energy Ltd. - Form 424B7

Table of Contents

into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as existing on or otherwise outstanding as of the date hereof;

the filing of a registration statement on Form S-8 relating to the offering of securities in accordance with the terms of an incentive plan described in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as in effect on the date hereof; or

the registration of common shares pursuant to the terms of the registration rights agreement described in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as in existence as of the date hereof.

Certain of our officers and directors and the selling shareholders have agreed that they will not offer, sell, contract to sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of, directly or indirectly, any of our common shares or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for our common shares, enter into a transaction that would have the same effect, or enter into any swap, hedge or other arrangement that transfers, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of our common shares or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for our common shares, whether any of these transactions are to be settled by delivery of our common shares, securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for our common shares, or such other securities, in cash or otherwise, or publicly disclose the intention to make any such offer, sale, pledge or disposition, or to enter into any such transaction, swap, hedge or other arrangement or make any demand for or exercise any right with respect to the registration of any of our common shares or securities convertible into or exchangeable for our common shares, without, in each case, the prior written consent of the underwriter for a period of 30 days after the date of the underwriting agreement. The restrictions described in this paragraph do not apply to:

the sale of the common shares by the selling shareholders to the underwriter in connection with this offering;

transfers or distributions of common shares or any security convertible into common shares (i) as a bona fide gift or gifts, (ii) to any trust for the direct or indirect benefit of the transferee or an immediate family member, (iii) by testate or intestate succession, (iv) to general or limited partners, members, or shareholders of the transferor, or to any corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other person or entity that is a direct or indirect affiliate of the transferor or (v) to any corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other business entity with whom the transferor shares in common an investment manager or advisor, in each case who has investment discretionary authority with respect to the transferor's and such other entity's investments pursuant to an investment management, investment advisory or similar agreement, *provided* that in each case of (i) through (v), each donee, distributee or transferee agrees to be bound in writing by the terms of the lock-up agreement prior to such transfer and no filing by any party (donor, donee, transferor or transferee) under the Exchange Act shall be required or shall be voluntarily made in connection with such transfer;

transactions relating to common shares or other securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any common shares acquired in the open market or any directed share program;

transfers of common shares that are used for the primary purpose of satisfying any tax or other governmental withholding obligation, with respect to any award of equity-based compensation granted pursuant to equity incentive plans;

the establishment of a trading plan pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act for the transfer of common shares or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any common shares, *provided* that such plan does not permit such transfers during the lock-up period; and

Table of Contents

transactions relating to common shares or any security convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any common shares executed under a trading plan pursuant to Rule 10b-1 under the Exchange Act as existing on the date of the underwriting agreement providing for the transfer of common shares or any security convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any common shares.

Certain of our officers, directors and employees have established trading plans pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 and may sell, pledge or otherwise dispose, directly or indirectly, common shares (or securities convertible into or exchangeable for any common shares) during the lock-up period.

We and the selling shareholders have agreed to indemnify the underwriter against certain liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribute to payments that the underwriter may be required to make in that respect.

Price Stabilization and Short Positions

In connection with the offering, the underwriter may engage in stabilizing transactions, over-allotment transactions and covering transactions in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act.

Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

Over-allotment involves sales by the underwriter of shares in excess of the shares the underwriter is obligated to purchase, which creates a naked short position. In a naked short position, the underwriter may close out such position by purchasing shares in the open market.

Covering transactions involve purchases of the common shares in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions. A naked short position can only be closed out by buying shares in the open market.

These stabilizing transactions and covering transactions, as well as purchases by the underwriter for its own accounts, may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common shares or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common shares. As a result the price of our common shares may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. These transactions may be effected on the NYSE and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Affiliations

The underwriter and its affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. The underwriter and its affiliates have, from time to time, performed, and may in the future perform, various financial advisory and investment banking services for us, our affiliates and the selling shareholders, for which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses. For instance, affiliates of the underwriter are lenders under our commercial debt facility. In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriter and its affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own accounts and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and securities activities may involve our securities and/or our instruments. The underwriter and its affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

Table of Contents

Selling Restrictions

The shares are offered for sale in those jurisdictions in the United States, Europe, Asia and the Middle East and elsewhere where it is lawful to make such offers. The underwriter has represented and agreed that it has not offered, sold or delivered and will not offer, sell or deliver any of the shares directly or indirectly, or distribute this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or any other offering material relating to the shares, in or from any jurisdiction except under circumstances that will result in compliance with the applicable laws and regulations thereof and that will not impose any obligations on us except as set forth in the underwriting agreement.

Australia

This prospectus supplement:

does not constitute a disclosure document under Chapter 6D.2 of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (the "Corporations Act");

has not been, and will not be, lodged with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (the "ASIC"), as a disclosure document for the purposes of the Corporations Act and does not purport to include the information required of a disclosure document under Chapter 6D.2 of the Corporations Act; and

may only be provided in Australia to select investors who are able to demonstrate that they fall within one or more of the categories of investors (the "Exempt Investors"), available under section 708 of the Corporations Act.

The shares may not be directly or indirectly offered for subscription or purchased or sold, and no invitations to subscribe for or buy the shares may be issued, and no draft or definitive offering memorandum, advertisement or other offering material relating to any shares may be distributed in Australia, except where disclosure to investors is not required under Chapter 6D of the Corporations Act or is otherwise in compliance with all applicable Australian laws and regulations. By submitting an application for the shares, you represent and warrant to us that you are an Exempt Investor.

As any offer of shares under this document will be made without disclosure in Australia under Chapter 6D.2 of the Corporations Act, the offer of those securities for resale in Australia within 12 months may, under section 707 of the Corporations Act, require disclosure to investors under Chapter 6D.2 if none of the exemptions in section 708 apply to that resale. By applying for the shares, you undertake to us that you will not, for a period of 12 months from the date of issue of the shares, offer, transfer, assign or otherwise alienate those securities to investors in Australia except in circumstances where disclosure to investors is not required under Chapter 6D.2 of the Corporations Act or where a compliant disclosure document is prepared and lodged with ASIC.

Bahrain

This offering is restricted in the Kingdom of Bahrain to banks, financial institutions and professional investors and any person receiving this prospectus supplement in the Kingdom of Bahrain and not falling within those categories is ineligible to purchase our shares.

Bermuda

The shares may be offered or sold in Bermuda only in compliance with the provisions of the Investment Business Act 2003 of Bermuda, which regulates the sale of securities in Bermuda. Additionally, non-Bermudian persons (including companies) may not carry on or engage in any trade or business in Bermuda unless such persons are permitted to do so under applicable Bermuda legislation.

Table of Contents

Engaging in the activity of offering or marketing the shares in Bermuda to persons in Bermuda may be deemed to be carrying on business in Bermuda.

Canada

The shares may be sold only to purchasers purchasing, or deemed to be purchasing, as principal that are accredited investors, as defined in National Instrument 45-106 *Prospectus Exemptions* or subsection 73.3(1) of the Securities Act (Ontario), and are permitted clients, as defined in National Instrument 31-103 *Registration Requirements, Exemptions and Ongoing Registrant Obligations*. Any resale of the shares must be made in accordance with an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the prospectus requirements of applicable securities laws.

Securities legislation in certain provinces or territories of Canada may provide a purchaser with remedies for rescission or damages if this prospectus supplement (including any amendment thereto) contains a misrepresentation, provided that the remedies for rescission or damages are exercised by the purchaser within the time limit prescribed by the securities legislation of the purchaser's province or territory. The purchaser should refer to any applicable provisions of the securities legislation of the purchaser's province or territory for particulars of these rights or consult with a legal advisor.

Pursuant to section 3A.3 of National Instrument 33-105 *Underwriting Conflicts* (NI 33-105), the underwriter is not required to comply with the disclosure requirements of NI 33-105 regarding underwriter conflicts of interest in connection with this offering.

Chile

The shares are not registered in the Securities Registry (Registro de Valores) or subject to the control of the Chilean Securities and Exchange Commission (Superintendencia de Valores y Seguros de Chile). This prospectus supplement and other offering materials relating to the offer of the shares do not constitute a public offer of, or an invitation to subscribe for or purchase, the shares in the Republic of Chile, other than to individually identified purchasers pursuant to a private offering within the meaning of Article 4 of the Chilean Securities Market Act (Ley de Mercado de Valores) (an offer that is not "addressed to the public at large or to a certain sector or specific group of the public").

Dubai

This document relates to an Exempt Offer in accordance with the Markets Rules 2012 of the Dubai Financial Services Authority (the "DFSA"). This document is intended for distribution only to persons of a type specified in the Markets Rules 2012 of the DFSA. It must not be delivered to, or relied on by, any other person. The DFSA has no responsibility for reviewing or verifying any documents in connection with Exempt Offers. The DFSA has not approved this prospectus supplement nor taken steps to verify the information set forth herein and has no responsibility for this document. The securities to which this document relates may be illiquid and/or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers of the shares offered should conduct their own due diligence on the securities. If you do not understand the contents of this document you should consult an authorized financial advisor.

In relation to its use in the DIFC, this document is strictly private and confidential and is being distributed to a limited number of investors and must not be provided to any person other than the original recipient, and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose. The interests in the shares may not be offered or sold directly or indirectly to the public in the DIFC.

Table of Contents

European Economic Area

This prospectus supplement has been prepared on the basis that any offer of shares in any Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a "Relevant Member State") other than offers (the "Permitted Public Offers") which are contemplated in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus will be made pursuant to an exemption under the Prospectus Directive from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of shares. Accordingly any person making or intending to make an offer in that Relevant Member State of shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated in this prospectus supplement may only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for us or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive, in each case, in relation to such offer. We, the selling shareholders and the underwriter have not authorised, and we, the selling shareholders and the underwriter do not authorise, the making of any offer of shares in circumstances in which an obligation arises for us, the selling shareholders or the underwriter to publish or supplement a prospectus for such offer.

In relation to each Relevant Member State, the underwriter has not made and will not make an offer of shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

- (a) to any legal entity that is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- (b) to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representative or representatives nominated by us for any such offer; or
- (c) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive;

provided that no such offer of shares shall require us, the selling shareholders or the underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

Each person in a Relevant Member State who initially acquires any shares or to whom any offer is made will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that it is a "qualified investor" within the meaning of the law in that Relevant Member State implementing Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive. In the case of any shares being offered to a financial intermediary as that term is used in Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, each such financial intermediary will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that the shares acquired by it in the offer have not been acquired on a non-discretionary basis on behalf of, nor have they been acquired with a view to their offer or resale to, persons in circumstances which may give rise to an offer of any shares to the public other than their offer or resale in a Relevant Member State to qualified investors as so defined or in circumstances in which the prior consent of the underwriter has been obtained to each such proposed offer or resale.

We, the underwriter, the selling shareholders and their respective affiliates will rely upon the truth and accuracy of the foregoing representations, acknowledgements and agreements.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an "offer of shares to the public" in relation to any shares in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the shares to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the shares, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State; and the expression "Prospectus Directive" means European Council Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, including by Directive 2010/73/EU), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State.

Table of Contents

France

Neither this prospectus supplement nor any other offering material relating to the shares described in this prospectus supplement has been submitted to the clearance procedures of the Autorité des Marchés Financiers or of the competent authority of another member state of the European Economic Area and notified to the Autorité des Marchés Financiers. The shares have not been offered or sold and will not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, to the public in France. Neither this prospectus supplement nor any other offering material relating to the shares has been or will be:

released, issued, distributed or caused to be released, issued or distributed to the public in France; or

used in connection with any offer for subscription or sale of the shares to the public in France.

Such offers, sales and distributions will be made in France only:

to qualified investors (investisseurs qualifiés) and/or to a restricted circle of investors (cercle restreint d'investisseurs), in each case investing for their own account, all as defined in, and in accordance with articles L.411 2, D.411 1, D.411 2, D.734 1, D.744 1, D.754 1 and D.764 1 of the French Code monétaire et financier;

to investment services providers authorized to engage in portfolio management on behalf of third parties; or

in a transaction that, in accordance with article L.411 2-II 1° or 2° or 3° of the French Code monétaire et financier and article 211 2 of the General Regulations (Règlement Général) of the Autorité des Marchés Financiers, does not constitute a public offer (appel public à l'épargne).

The shares may be resold directly or indirectly, only in compliance with articles L.411 1, L.411 2, L.412 1 and L.621 8 through L.621 8 3 of the French Code monétaire et financier.

Hong Kong

The shares have not been offered or sold and will not be offered or sold in Hong Kong, by means of any document, other than (a) to "professional investors" as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong and any rules made under that Ordinance; or (b) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a "prospectus" as defined in the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32) of Hong Kong or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of that Ordinance. No advertisement, invitation or document relating to the shares has been or may be issued or has been or may be in the possession of any person for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to shares which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to "professional investors" as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance and any rules made under that Ordinance.

Japan

The shares have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act. Accordingly, the shares may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to or for the benefit of a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

Table of Contents

Kuwait

No marketing or sale of the shares may take place in Kuwait unless the same has been duly authorized by the Kuwait Ministry of Commerce and Industry pursuant to the provisions of Law No. 31/1990 and the various ministerial regulations issued thereunder. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus comes are required to inform themselves about and to observe such restrictions. Investors in Kuwait who approach us or obtain copies of this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus are required to keep such prospectus confidential and not to make copies thereof or distribute the same to any other person and are also required to observe the restrictions provided for in all jurisdictions with respect to offering, marketing and the sale of the shares.

Qatar

This prospectus supplement does not constitute an invitation or public offer of the shares in the State of Qatar and should not be construed as such. This prospectus is intended only for the original recipient and must not be provided to any other person. It is not for general circulation in the State of Qatar and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose.

Saudi Arabia

This document may not be distributed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia except to such persons as are permitted under the Offers of Securities Regulations as issued by the board of the Saudi Arabian Capital Market Authority (the "CMA") pursuant to resolution number 2-11-2004 dated 4 October 2004 as amended by resolution number 1-28-2008, as amended. The CMA does not make any representation as to the accuracy or completeness of this document and expressly disclaims any liability whatsoever for any loss arising from, or incurred in reliance upon, any part of this document. Prospective purchasers of the shares offered hereby should conduct their own due diligence on the accuracy of the information relating to the securities. If you do not understand the contents of this document, you should consult an authorized financial adviser.

Singapore

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the shares may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the shares be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the "SFA"), (ii) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275, of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the shares are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor, securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the shares pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 of the SFA except: (1) to an institutional investor or to a relevant person

Table of Contents

defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person arising from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) or Section 276(4)(i)(B) of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer; (3) where the transfer is by operation of law; (4) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA; or (5) as specified in Regulation 32 of the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Shares and Debentures) Regulations 2005 of Singapore.

Switzerland

The shares may not be publicly offered in Switzerland and will not be listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange (the "SIX") or on any other stock exchange or regulated trading facility in Switzerland. This document does not constitute a prospectus within the meaning of, and has been prepared without regard to the disclosure standards for issuance prospectuses under art. 652a or art. 1156 of the Swiss Code of Obligations or the disclosure standards for listing prospectuses under art. 27 ff. of the SIX Listing Rules or the listing rules of any other stock exchange or regulated trading facility in Switzerland. Neither this document nor any other offering or marketing material relating to the shares or the offering may be publicly distributed or otherwise made publicly available in Switzerland.

Neither this document nor any other offering or marketing material relating to the offering, the Company, the shares have been or will be filed with or approved by any Swiss regulatory authority. In particular, this document will not be filed with, and the offer of shares will not be supervised by, the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA, and the offer of shares has not been and will not be authorized under the Swiss Federal Act on Collective Investment Schemes (the "CISA"). The investor protection afforded to acquirers of interests in collective investment schemes under the CISA does not extend to acquirers of shares.

United Arab Emirates

The shares have not been, and are not being, publicly offered, sold, promoted or advertised in the United Arab Emirates (including the Dubai International Financial Centre) other than in compliance with the laws of the United Arab Emirates (and the Dubai International Financial Centre) governing the issue, offering and sale of securities. Further, this prospectus supplement does not constitute a public offer of securities in the United Arab Emirates (including the Dubai International Financial Centre) and is not intended to be a public offer. This prospectus has not been approved by or filed with the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates, the Securities and Commodities Authority or the Dubai Financial Services Authority.

United Kingdom

The underwriter has:

- (a) only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 ("FSMA")) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the shares in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to us; and
- (b) complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the shares in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

In connection with this offering, the underwriter is not acting for anyone other than us and the selling shareholders and will not be responsible to anyone other than us and the selling shareholders for providing the protections afforded to its clients nor for providing advice in relation to this offering.

Table of Contents

This document is for distribution only to persons who (i) have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19(5) of the FSMA 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (as amended, the "Financial Promotion Order"), (ii) are persons falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) ("high net worth companies, unincorporated associations etc") of the Financial Promotion Order, (iii) are outside the United Kingdom, or (iv) are persons to whom an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of FSMA) in connection with the issue or sale of any securities may otherwise lawfully be communicated or caused to be communicated (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons"). This document is directed only at relevant persons and must not be acted on or relied on by persons who are not relevant persons. Any investment or investment activity to which this document relates is available only to relevant persons and will be engaged in only with relevant persons.

Electronic Distribution

A prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the web sites maintained by the underwriter, or selling group members, if any, participating in this offering and the underwriter participating in this offering may distribute prospectuses electronically. The underwriter may agree to allocate a principal amount of shares to selling group members for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Internet distributions will be allocated by the underwriter and selling group members that will make internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations.

Table of Contents

VALIDITY OF SECURITIES

The validity of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement is being passed upon for us and the selling shareholders by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, New York. The validity of the securities being sold in this offering will be passed upon for the underwriter by Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Kosmos Energy Ltd. appearing in Kosmos Energy Ltd.'s Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2015 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements have been incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The information included in this prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated herein by reference regarding estimated quantities of proved reserves, the future net revenues from those reserves and their present value is based, in part, on estimates of the proved reserves and present values of proved reserves as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 prepared by Ryder Scott Company, L.P., independent reserve engineers. The reserve estimates at December 31, 2013 are based on reports prepared by Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc., independent reserve engineers. These estimates are included in this prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference in reliance upon the authority of such firm as experts in these matters.

S-25

Table of Contents

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION AND INCORPORATION OF
INFORMATION BY REFERENCE**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we file at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet site at www.sec.gov, from which interested persons can electronically access our SEC filings. Other information about us is also on our website at www.kosmosenergy.com. However, except for the information specifically incorporated by reference herein as set forth below, the information on the SEC's website and the information on, or accessible through, our website do not constitute a part of this prospectus supplement.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and all documents subsequently filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, prior to the termination of the offering under this prospectus supplement:

- (a) our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, filed on February 22, 2016;
- (b) our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2016, filed on May 9, 2016, June 30, 2016, filed on August 8, 2016, and September 30, 2016, filed on November 7, 2016;
- (c) our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on June 20, 2016, July 1, 2016, December 21, 2016 (excluding Item 7.01 and Exhibit 99.1 thereto) and January 11, 2017 (two reports; excluding the first paragraph of Item 7.01 of the first report); and
- (d) our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 29, 2016, but only to the extent incorporated by reference in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

You may request a copy of these filings at no cost by writing or telephoning us at:

Kosmos Energy Ltd.
c/o Kosmos Energy, LLC
8176 Park Lane, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75231
Attention: Vice President, Finance
Telephone: (214) 445 9600

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

Kosmos Energy Ltd.

**Common Shares
Preference Shares
Debt Securities
Warrants
Purchase Contracts
Units**

We may offer from time to time common shares, preference shares, debt securities, warrants, purchase contracts or units. We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. In addition, certain selling securityholders to be identified in supplements to this prospectus may offer and sell these securities from time to time. Specific amounts and terms of these securities will be provided in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus, and any documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, carefully before you invest.

Investing in these securities involves certain risks. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 6 before you make your investment decision.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved these securities, or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is June 22, 2015

Table of Contents

We have not authorized anyone to provide any information other than that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or in any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us or to which we have referred you. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We are not making an offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the respective dates of those documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. Unless otherwise stated in this prospectus or the context otherwise requires, the terms "Kosmos," "we," "us," and "our" refer to Kosmos Energy Ltd. and its subsidiaries.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>Kosmos Energy Ltd.</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Special Note on Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Description of Share Capital</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Description of Units</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Forms of Securities</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Validity of Securities</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>18</u>

Table of Contents

KOSMOS ENERGY LTD.

We are a leading independent oil and gas exploration and production company focused on frontier and emerging areas along the Atlantic Margin. Our assets include existing production and other major development projects offshore Ghana, as well as exploration licenses with significant hydrocarbon potential offshore Ireland, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Senegal, Suriname and Western Sahara. Kosmos is listed on The New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") and is traded under the ticker symbol "KOS."

We maintain a registered office in Bermuda at Clarendon House, 2 Church Street, Hamilton HM 11, Bermuda. The telephone number of our registered offices is (441) 295-5950. Our U.S. subsidiary maintains its headquarters at 8176 Park Lane, Suite 500, Dallas, Texas 75231 and its telephone number is (214) 445-9600.

About this Prospectus

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") utilizing a "shelf" registration process. Under this shelf process, we or the selling securityholders may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we or the selling securityholders may offer. Each time we or the selling securityholders sell securities pursuant to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, you must rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we file at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet site at www.sec.gov, from which interested persons can electronically access our SEC filings. Other information about us is also on our website at www.kosmosenergy.com. However, except for the information specifically incorporated by reference herein as set forth below, the information on the SEC's website and the information on, or accessible through, our website do not constitute a part of this prospectus.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and all documents subsequently filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), prior to the termination of the offering under this prospectus:

- (a) our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, filed on February 23, 2015;
- (b) our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2015, filed on May 4, 2015;
- (c) our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 28, 2015;
- (d) our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on: March 30, 2015, April 7, 2015 (excluding Items 2.02 and 7.01 thereof), April 7, 2015, April 10, 2015, June 5, 2015 (as amended on June 8, 2015) and June 11, 2015; and
- (e) the description of our common shares in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed on May 9, 2011.

You may request a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at:

Kosmos Energy Ltd.
c/o Kosmos Energy, LLC
8176 Park Lane, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75231
Attention: Vice President,
Legal and Human Resources, and
Assistant General Counsel
Telephone: (214) 445-9600

Consent under the Bermuda Exchange Control Act 1972 (and its related regulations) has been obtained from the Bermuda Monetary Authority for the issue and transfer of our offered securities to and between persons resident and non-resident of Bermuda for exchange control purposes provided our shares are listed on an appointed stock exchange, which includes the NYSE. In granting such consent the Bermuda Monetary Authority accepts no responsibility for our financial soundness or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus.

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, any prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Our estimates and forward-looking statements are mainly based on our current expectations and estimates of future events and trends, which affect or may affect our businesses and operations. Although we believe that these estimates and forward-looking statements are based upon reasonable assumptions, they are subject to several risks and uncertainties and are made in light of information currently available to us. Many important factors, in addition to the factors described in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein, may adversely affect our results as indicated in forward-looking statements. You should read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein completely and with the understanding that our actual future results may be materially different from what we expect.

Our estimates and forward-looking statements may be influenced by the following factors, among others:

our ability to find, acquire or gain access to other discoveries and prospects and to successfully develop and produce from our current discoveries and prospects;

uncertainties inherent in making estimates of our oil and natural gas data;

the successful implementation of our and our block partners' prospect discovery and development and drilling plans;

projected and targeted capital expenditures and other costs, commitments and revenues;

termination of or intervention in concessions, rights or authorizations granted by the governments of Ghana, Ireland, Mauritania, Morocco (including Western Sahara), Portugal, Senegal or Suriname (or their respective national oil companies) or any other federal, state or local governments or authorities, to us;

our dependence on our key management personnel and our ability to attract and retain qualified technical personnel;

the ability to obtain financing and to comply with the terms under which such financing may be available;

the volatility of oil and natural gas prices;

the availability, cost, function and reliability of developing appropriate infrastructure around and transportation to our discoveries and prospects;

the availability and cost of drilling rigs, production equipment, supplies, personnel and oilfield services;

other competitive pressures;

potential liabilities inherent in oil and natural gas operations, including drilling and production risks and other operational and environmental risks and hazards;

Edgar Filing: Kosmos Energy Ltd. - Form 424B7

current and future government regulation of the oil and gas industry or regulation of the investment in or ability to do business with certain countries or regimes;

cost of compliance with laws and regulations;

Edgar Filing: Kosmos Energy Ltd. - Form 424B7

Table of Contents

changes in environmental, health and safety or climate change laws, greenhouse gas regulation or the implementation, or interpretation, of those laws and regulations;

adverse effects of sovereign boundary disputes in the jurisdictions in which we operate, including an ongoing maritime boundary demarcation dispute between Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana impacting our operations in the Deepwater Tano Block offshore Ghana;

environmental liabilities;

geological, technical, drilling, production and processing problems;

military operations, civil unrest, outbreaks of disease, terrorist acts, wars or embargoes;

the cost and availability of adequate insurance coverage;

our vulnerability to severe weather events;

our ability to meet our obligations under the agreements governing our indebtedness;

the availability and cost of financing and refinancing our indebtedness;

the amount of collateral required to be posted from time to time in our hedging transactions;

the result of any legal proceedings or investigations we may be subject to;

our success in risk management activities, including the use of derivative financial instruments to hedge commodity and interest rate risks; and

other risk factors discussed in the "Risk Factors" section of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2015, our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, in any accompanying prospectus supplement and in other filings made by the us from time to time with the SEC or in materials incorporated herein or therein.

The words "believe," "may," "will," "aim," "estimate," "continue," "anticipate," "intend," "expect," "plan" and similar words are intended to identify estimates and forward-looking statements. Estimates and forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they were made, and, except to the extent required by law, we undertake no obligation to update or to review any estimate and/or forward-looking statement because of new information, future events or other factors. Estimates and forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and are not guarantees of future performance. As a result of the risks and uncertainties described above, the estimates and forward-looking statements discussed in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein might not occur and our future results and our performance may differ materially from those expressed in these forward-looking statements due to, including, but not limited to, the factors mentioned above. Because of these uncertainties, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves significant risks. Before purchasing any securities, you should carefully consider and evaluate all of the information included and incorporated by reference or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement, including the risk factors incorporated by reference herein from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2015, as updated by annual, quarterly and other reports and documents we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and that are incorporated by reference herein or in the applicable prospectus supplement. Our business, results of operations or financial condition could be adversely affected by any of these risks or by additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently consider immaterial.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated.

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2015(2)	Years Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010(2)	
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(1)	N/A	6.9x	1.9x	1.3x	2.0x	N/A

(1) For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings represent income (loss) before income taxes, plus fixed charges and amortization of capitalized interest and less capitalized interest. Fixed charges include interest expense, capitalized interest, amortization of deferred financing costs and an interest component of rent expense.

(2) Earnings were inadequate to cover fixed charges by \$60.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and \$332.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF SHARE CAPITAL

The following description of certain provisions of our memorandum of association and bye-laws does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified by reference to, all of the provisions of our memorandum of association and bye-laws. The memorandum of association and bye-laws are incorporated by reference in this registration statement for these securities and have been filed or incorporated by reference as exhibits to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, and our Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated May 6, 2011, respectively. You should read the memorandum of association and bye-laws for the provisions that are important to you.

General

We are an exempted company organized under the Bermuda Companies Act. The Bermuda Companies Act differs in some material respects from laws generally applicable to Delaware corporations, which differences have been highlighted in the discussion below.

Share Capital

Our authorized share capital consists of 2,000,000,000 common shares, par value \$0.01 per share, and 200,000,000 preference shares, par value \$0.01 per share. As of March 31, 2015, we had 387,588,736 common shares issued and outstanding and no preference shares issued and outstanding.

Pursuant to our bye-laws, subject to the requirements of the NYSE, our board of directors is authorized to issue any of our authorized but unissued shares. The rights of our shareholders are governed by Bermuda law and our memorandum of association and bye-laws.

Common Shares

Holders of common shares are entitled to one vote per share on all matters submitted to a vote of holders of common shares. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any issued and outstanding preference shares, holders of common shares are entitled to receive such dividends, if any, as may be declared from time to time by our board of directors out of funds legally available for dividend payments. Holders of common shares have no redemption, sinking fund, conversion, exchange, pre-emption or other subscription rights. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of common shares are entitled to share equally and ratably in our assets, if any, remaining after the payment of all of our debts and liabilities, subject to any liquidation preference on any outstanding preference shares.

Preference Shares

Pursuant to Bermuda law and our bye-laws, our board of directors is authorized to provide for the issuance of one or more series of preference shares having such number of shares, designations, dividend rates, voting rights, conversion or exchange rights, redemption rights, liquidation rights and other powers, preferences and rights as may be determined by the board without any further shareholder approval. Preference shares, if issued, would have priority over common shares with respect to dividends and other distributions, including the distribution of our assets upon liquidation. Although we have no present plans to issue any preference shares, the issuance of preference shares could decrease the amount of earnings and assets available for distribution to the holders of common shares, could adversely affect the rights and powers, including voting rights, of common shares and could have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a change in control of us or an unsolicited acquisition proposal.

Table of Contents

Board Composition

Our by-laws provides that our board of directors determines the size of the board of directors, provided that it shall be at least five and no more than 15 individuals.

Pursuant to a shareholders agreement entered into by us and affiliates of Warburg Pincus and The Blackstone Group (together with their respective affiliates, our "Investors"), while the size of the board is at nine directors, each Investor has the right to designate (1) two nominees (or if the size of the board of directors is increased, 25% of the board, rounded to the nearest whole number) if it beneficially owns (A) 20% or more of the issued and outstanding common shares eligible to vote at an annual general meeting of shareholders and (B) 50% or more of the common shares owned by such Investor immediately prior to our initial public offering and (2) one nominee (or if the size of the board of directors is increased, 12.5% of the board, rounded to the nearest whole number) if it beneficially owns 7.5% or more of the issued and outstanding common shares eligible to vote at an annual general meeting of shareholders.

Election and Removal of Directors

Our by-laws provide that, prior to the first date on which the Investors no longer constitute a group which beneficially owns more than 50% of the issued and outstanding common shares entitled to vote, all directors will be up for election each year at our annual general meeting of shareholders. On or after such date, our board of directors will be a classified board divided into three classes, with one class coming up for election each year. The election of our directors will be determined by a plurality of the votes cast at the general meeting of shareholders at which the relevant directors are to be elected. Our shareholders do not have cumulative voting rights and accordingly the holders of a plurality of the shares voted can elect all of the directors then standing for election. Our by-laws require advance notice for shareholders to nominate a director or present proposals for shareholder action at an annual general meeting of shareholders. See " Meetings of Shareholders."

Under our by-laws, prior to the first date on which the Investors no longer constitute a group which beneficially owns more than 50% of the issued and outstanding common shares entitled to vote, directors may be removed with or without cause by the affirmative vote of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares entitled to vote. On and after such date, a director may be removed only for cause by the affirmative vote of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares entitled to vote. Any vacancy created by the removal of a director at a special general meeting may be filled at that meeting by the election of another director in his or her place or, in the absence of any such election, by the board of directors. Any other vacancy, including newly created directorships, may be filled by our board of directors.

Proceedings of Board of Directors

Our by-laws provide that our business shall be managed by or under the direction of our board of directors. Our board of directors may act by the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present. A majority of the total number of directors then in office shall constitute a quorum; provided that, in the case of special meetings, for as long as the Investors collectively beneficially own more than 25% of the issued and outstanding common shares, if at least one director designated by each Investor then entitled to designate a director is not present at a special meeting, such meeting will be postponed for at least 24 hours, after which it may be held as long as a quorum consisting of a majority of the total number of directors is present. The board may also act by unanimous written consent.

Table of Contents

Duties of Directors

Under Bermuda common law, members of a board of directors owe a fiduciary duty to the company to act in good faith in their dealings with or on behalf of the company, and to exercise their powers and fulfill the duties of their office honestly. This duty has the following essential elements: (1) a duty to act in good faith in the best interests of the company; (2) a duty not to make a personal profit from opportunities that arise from the office of director; (3) a duty to avoid conflicts of interest; and (4) a duty to exercise powers for the purpose for which such powers were intended. The Bermuda Companies Act also imposes a duty on directors of a Bermuda company, to act honestly and in good faith, with a view to the best interests of the company, and to exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances. In addition, the Bermuda Companies Act imposes various duties on directors with respect to certain matters of management and administration of the company.

The Bermuda Companies Act provides that in any proceedings for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust against any director, if it appears to a court that such officer is or may be liable in respect of the negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust, but that he has acted honestly and reasonably, and that, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, including those connected with his appointment, he ought fairly to be excused for the negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust, that court may relieve him, either wholly or partly, from any liability on such terms as the court may think fit. This provision has been interpreted to apply only to actions brought by or on behalf of the company against the directors.

Under Delaware law, the business and affairs of a corporation are managed by or under the direction of its board of directors. In exercising their powers, directors are charged with a duty of care and a duty of loyalty. The duty of care requires that directors act in an informed and deliberate manner and to inform themselves, prior to making a business decision, of all relevant material information reasonably available to them. The duty of care also requires that directors exercise care in overseeing the conduct of corporate employees. The duty of loyalty is the duty to act in good faith, not out of self-interest, and in a manner which the director reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the shareholders. A party challenging the propriety of a decision of a board of directors bears the burden of rebutting the presumptions afforded to directors by the "business judgment rule." If the presumption is not rebutted, the business judgment rule attaches to protect the directors and their decisions. Where, however, the presumption is rebutted, the directors bear the burden of demonstrating the fairness of the relevant transaction. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Delaware courts subject directors' conduct to enhanced scrutiny in respect of defensive actions taken in response to a threat to corporate control and approval of a transaction resulting in a sale of control of the corporation.

Interested Directors

Under Bermuda law and our bye-laws, as long as a director discloses a direct or indirect interest in any contract or arrangement with us as required by law, such director is entitled to vote in respect of any such contract or arrangement in which he or she is interested, unless disqualified from doing so by the chairman of the meeting, and such a contract or arrangement will not be voidable solely as a result of the interested director's participation in its approval. In addition, the director will not be liable to us for any profit realized from the transaction. In contrast, under Delaware law, such a contract or arrangement is voidable unless it is approved by a majority of disinterested directors or by a vote of shareholders, in each case if the material facts as to the interested director's relationship or interests are disclosed or are known to the disinterested directors or shareholders, or such contract or arrangement is fair to the corporation as of the time it is approved or ratified. Additionally, such interested director could be held liable for a transaction in which such director derived an improper personal benefit.

Table of Contents

Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Bermuda law provides generally that a Bermuda company may indemnify its directors and officers against any loss arising from or liability which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise be imposed on them in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust except in cases where such liability arises from fraud or dishonesty of which such director or officer may be guilty in relation to the company.

Our bye-laws provide that we shall indemnify our officers and directors in respect of their actions and omissions, except in respect of their fraud or dishonesty, and that we shall advance funds to our officers and directors for expenses incurred in their defense upon receipt of an undertaking to repay the funds if any allegation of fraud or dishonesty is proved. Our bye-laws provide that the company and the shareholders waive all claims or rights of action that they might have, individually or in right of the company, against any of the company's directors or officers for any act or failure to act in the performance of such director's or officer's duties, except in respect of any fraud or dishonesty.

Meetings of Shareholders

Under Bermuda law, a company is required to convene at least one general meeting of shareholders each calendar year. Under Bermuda law and our bye-laws, a special general meeting of shareholders may be called by the board of directors or the chairman and must be called upon the request of shareholders holding not less than 10% of the paid-up capital of the company carrying the right to vote at general meetings of shareholders.

Unless otherwise provided in our bye-laws, at any general meeting of shareholders the presence in person or by proxy of shareholders representing a majority of the issued and outstanding shares entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Unless otherwise required by law or our bye-laws, shareholder action requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

Shareholder Proposals

Under Bermuda law, shareholders holding at least 5% of the total voting rights of all the shareholders having at the date of the requisition a right to vote at the meeting to which the requisition relates or any group comprised of at least 100 or more shareholders may require a proposal to be submitted to an annual general meeting of shareholders. Under our bye-laws, any shareholders wishing to nominate a person for election as a director or propose business to be transacted at a meeting of shareholders must provide advance notice.

Shareholder Action by Written Consent

Our bye-laws provide that, until the first date on which the Investors no longer beneficially own more than 50% of the issued and outstanding shares entitled to vote, shareholders can act by written consent. Thereafter, shareholders can only act at a meeting of shareholders.

Amendment of Memorandum of Association and Bye-laws

Our memorandum of association and bye-laws provide that our memorandum of association and bye-laws may not be rescinded, altered or amended except with the approval of our board of directors and shareholders owning a majority of the issued and outstanding shares entitled to vote.

Business Combinations

A Bermuda company may engage in a business combination pursuant to a tender offer, amalgamation or sale of assets.

Table of Contents

The amalgamation or merger of a Bermuda company with another company requires the amalgamation or merger agreement to be approved by the company's board of directors and by its shareholders. Pursuant to the Bermuda Companies Act, unless the company's bye-laws provide otherwise, the approval of 75% of the shareholders voting at a meeting is required to approve the amalgamation or merger agreement, and the quorum for such meeting must be two persons holding or representing more than one-third of the issued shares of the company. Our bye-laws provide that an amalgamation must be approved by our board of directors and by shareholders owning a majority of the issued and outstanding shares entitled to vote. As our bye-laws do not refer to mergers, approval for a merger will be as set out in the Bermuda Companies Act. Shareholders who did not vote in favor of the amalgamation or merger may apply to court for an appraisal within one month of notice of the shareholders meeting.

Under the Bermuda Companies Act, we are not required to seek the approval of our shareholders for the sale of all or substantially all of our assets. However, our bye-laws provide that for so long as any of the Investors or their respective affiliates continue to retain the right to designate at least one director of our board of directors any sale, lease or exchange by us of all or substantially all of our assets will require the approval of either (1) our board of directors, acting by a majority (including at least one director designated by each Investor then entitled to designate a director) or (2) our board of directors and shareholders owning a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote.

Under Bermuda law, where an offer is made for shares of a company and, within four months of the offer, the holders of not less than 90% of the shares not owned by the offeror, its subsidiaries or their nominees accept such offer, the offeror may by notice require the non-tendering shareholders to transfer their shares on the terms of the offer. Dissenting shareholders do not have express appraisal rights but are entitled to seek relief (within one month of the compulsory acquisition notice) from the court, which has power to make such orders as it thinks fit. Additionally, where one or more parties hold not less than 95% of the shares of a company, such parties may, pursuant to a notice given to the remaining shareholders, acquire the shares of such remaining shareholders. Dissenting shareholders have a right to apply to the court for appraisal of the value of their shares within one month of the compulsory acquisition notice. If a dissenting shareholder is successful in obtaining a higher valuation, that valuation must be paid to all shareholders being squeezed out.

Dividends and Repurchase of Shares

Pursuant to our bye-laws, our board of directors has the authority to declare dividends and authorize the repurchase of shares subject to applicable law.

Under Bermuda law, a company may not declare or pay a dividend if there are reasonable grounds for believing that the company is, or would after the payment be, unable to pay its liabilities as they become due or the realizable value of its assets would thereby be less than its liabilities. Under Bermuda law, a company cannot purchase its own shares if there are reasonable grounds for believing that the company is, or after the repurchase would be, unable to pay its liabilities as they become due.

Transactions with Significant Shareholders

The Bermuda Companies Act does not have, and our bye-laws do not provide for, the equivalent of the "business combination" provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporate Law.

Corporate Opportunities

Our bye-laws provide that, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, we renounce any interest or expectancy in, or in being offered an opportunity to participate in, any business opportunity that may be from time to time be presented to the Investors or any of their respective officers, directors, agents, shareholders, members, partners, affiliates and subsidiaries (other than us and our

Table of Contents

subsidiaries) or business opportunities that such parties participate in or desire to participate in, even if the opportunity is one that we might reasonably have pursued or had the ability or desire to pursue if granted the opportunity to do so, and no such person shall be liable to us for breach of any fiduciary or other duty, as a director or controlling shareholder or otherwise, by reason of the fact that such person pursues or acquires any such business opportunity, directs any such business opportunity to another person or fails to present any such business opportunity to us unless, in the case of any such person who is one of our directors, such person fails to present any business opportunity that is expressly offered to such person solely in his or her capacity as our director.

Shareholder Suits

Class actions and derivative actions are generally not available to shareholders under Bermuda law. The Bermuda courts, however, would ordinarily be expected to permit a shareholder to commence an action in the name of a company to remedy a wrong to the company where the act complained of is alleged to be beyond the corporate power of the company or illegal, or would result in the violation of the company's memorandum of association or bye-laws. Furthermore, consideration would be given by a Bermuda court to acts that are alleged to constitute a fraud against the minority shareholders or where an act requires the approval of a greater percentage of the company's shareholders than that which actually approved it.

When the affairs of a company are being conducted in a manner which is oppressive or prejudicial to the interests of some part of the shareholders, one or more shareholders may apply to the Supreme Court of Bermuda, which may make such order as it sees fit, including an order regulating the conduct of the company's affairs in the future or ordering the purchase of the shares of any shareholders by other shareholders or by the company.

Our bye-laws contain a provision by virtue of which we and our shareholders waive any claim or right of action that they have, both individually and on our behalf, against any director or officer in relation to any action or failure to take action by such director or officer, except in respect of any fraud or dishonesty of such director or officer. We have been advised by the SEC that in the opinion of the SEC, the operation of this provision as a waiver of the right to sue for violations of federal securities laws would likely be unenforceable in U.S. courts.

Access to Books and Records and Dissemination of Information

Members of the general public have a right to inspect the public documents of a company available at the office of the Registrar of Companies in Bermuda. These documents include the company's memorandum of association and any amendments thereto. The shareholders have the additional right to inspect the bye-laws of the company, minutes of general meetings of shareholders and the company's audited financial statements. The company's audited financial statements must be presented at the annual general meeting of shareholders. The company's share register is open to inspection by shareholders and by members of the general public without charge. A company is required to maintain its share register in Bermuda but may, subject to the provisions of the Bermuda Companies Act, establish a branch register outside of Bermuda. Bermuda law does not, however, provide a general right for shareholders to inspect or obtain copies of any other corporate records.

Registrar or Transfer Agent

A register of holders of the common shares is maintained by Codan Services Limited in Bermuda, and a branch register is maintained in the United States by Computershare Trust Company, N.A., who serves as branch registrar and transfer agent.

Listing

Our common shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "KOS."

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The debt securities will constitute either senior or subordinated debt of Kosmos. The debt securities that are sold may be exchangeable for and/or convertible into common shares or any of the other securities that may be sold under this prospectus. The debt securities will be issued under one or more separate indentures between us and a designated trustee. We will include in a prospectus supplement the specific terms of each series of senior or subordinated debt securities being offered, including the terms, if any, on which a series of senior or subordinated debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities. In addition, the material terms of any indenture, which will govern the rights of the holders of our senior or subordinated debt securities will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants to purchase our debt or equity securities or securities of third parties or other rights, including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies, securities or indices, or any combination of the foregoing. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any other securities and may be attached to, or separate from, such securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent. The terms of any warrants to be issued and a description of the material provisions of the applicable warrant agreement will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

We may issue purchase contracts for the purchase or sale of:

debt or equity securities issued by us or securities of third parties, a basket of such securities, an index or indices or such securities or any combination of the above as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement;

currencies; or

commodities.

Each purchase contract will entitle the holder thereof to purchase or sell, and obligate us to sell or purchase, on specified dates, such securities, currencies or commodities at a specified purchase price, which may be based on a formula, all as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may, however, satisfy our obligations, if any, with respect to any purchase contract by delivering the cash value of such purchase contract or the cash value of the property otherwise deliverable or, in the case of purchase contracts on underlying currencies, by delivering the underlying currencies, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will also specify the methods by which the holders may purchase or sell such securities, currencies or commodities and any acceleration, cancellation or termination provisions or other provisions relating to the settlement of a purchase contract.

The purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders thereof or vice versa, which payments may be deferred to the extent set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, and those payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis. The purchase contracts may require the holders thereof to secure their obligations in a specified manner to be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Alternatively, purchase contracts may require holders to satisfy their obligations thereunder when the purchase contracts are issued. Our obligation to settle such pre-paid purchase contracts on the relevant settlement date may constitute indebtedness. Accordingly, pre-paid purchase contracts will be issued under an indenture.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue units consisting of one or more purchase contracts, warrants, debt securities, preference shares, common shares or any combination of such securities.

FORMS OF SECURITIES

Each debt security, warrant, and unit will be represented either by a certificate issued in definitive form to a particular investor or by one or more global securities representing the entire issuance of securities. Certificated securities will be issued in definitive form and global securities will be issued in registered form. Definitive securities name you or your nominee as the owner of the security, and in order to transfer or exchange these securities or to receive payments other than interest or other interim payments, you or your nominee must physically deliver the securities to the trustee, registrar, paying agent or other agent, as applicable. Global securities name a depository or its nominee as the owner of the debt securities, warrants, or units represented by these global securities. The depository maintains a computerized system that will reflect each investor's beneficial ownership of the securities through an account maintained by the investor with its broker/dealer, bank, trust company or other representative, as we explain more fully below.

Global Securities

Registered Global Securities

We may issue the registered debt securities, warrants and units in the form of one or more fully registered global securities that will be deposited with a depository or its nominee identified in the applicable prospectus supplement and registered in the name of that depository or nominee. In those cases, one or more registered global securities will be issued in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal or face amount of the securities to be represented by registered global securities. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole for securities in definitive registered form, a registered global security may not be transferred except as a whole by and among the depository for the registered global security, the nominees of the depository or any successors of the depository or those nominees.

If not described below, any specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to any securities to be represented by a registered global security will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to those securities. We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depository arrangements.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be limited to persons, called participants, that have accounts with the depository or persons that may hold interests through participants. Upon the issuance of a registered global security, the depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants' accounts with the respective principal or face amounts of the securities beneficially owned by the participants. Any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the securities will designate the accounts to be credited. Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depository, with respect to interests of participants, and on the records of participants, with respect to interests of persons holding through participants. The laws of some states may require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of these securities in definitive form. These laws may impair your ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in registered global securities.

So long as the depository, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a registered global security, that depository or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the

Table of Contents

securities represented by the registered global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement, guaranteed trust preferred security or unit agreement. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security will not be entitled to have the securities represented by the registered global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of the securities under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement, guaranteed trust preferred security or unit agreement. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a registered global security must rely on the procedures of the depository for that registered global security and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which the person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement, guaranteed trust preferred security or unit agreement. We understand that under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a registered global security desires to give or take any action that a holder is entitled to give or take under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement, guaranteed trust preferred security or unit agreement, the depository for the registered global security would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take that action, and the participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through them to give or take that action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

Principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on debt securities, and any payments to holders with respect to warrants, guaranteed trust preferred securities or units, represented by a registered global security registered in the name of a depository or its nominee will be made to the depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the registered global security. None of Kosmos, the trustees, the warrant agents, the unit agents or any other agent of Kosmos, agent of the trustees or agent of the warrant agents or unit agents will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the registered global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depository for any of the securities represented by a registered global security, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium, interest or other distribution of underlying securities or other property to holders on that registered global security, will immediately credit participants' accounts in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in that registered global security as shown on the records of the depository. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security held through participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of those participants.

If the depository for any of these securities represented by a registered global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and a successor depository registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act is not appointed by us within 90 days, we will issue securities in definitive form in exchange for the registered global security that had been held by the depository. Any securities issued in definitive form in exchange for a registered global security will be registered in the name or names that the depository gives to the relevant trustee, warrant agent, unit agent or other relevant agent of ours or theirs. It is expected that the depository's instructions will be based upon directions received by the depository from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the registered global security that had been held by the depository.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Kosmos and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, may sell the securities in one or more of the following ways (or in any combination) from time to time:

through underwriters or dealers, whether individually or through an underwriting syndicate led by one or more managing underwriters;

in "at the market offerings" within the meaning of Rule 415(a)(4) under the Securities Act, to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market, on an exchange or otherwise;

directly to a limited number of purchasers or to a single purchaser;

through agents; or

through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

The prospectus supplement will state the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;

the purchase price of such securities and the proceeds to be received by Kosmos, if any;

any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters' or agents' compensation;

any public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchanges on which the securities may be listed.

Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time. In addition, to the extent this prospectus is used by any selling securityholder to resell common shares or other securities, information with respect to the selling securityholder will be contained in a prospectus supplement to this prospectus, in a post-effective amendment or in filings we make with the SEC under the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference.

If Kosmos and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, use underwriters in the sale, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including:

negotiated transactions;

Edgar Filing: Kosmos Energy Ltd. - Form 424B7

at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

Unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase any securities will be conditioned on customary closing conditions and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of such series of securities, if any are purchased.

Kosmos and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, may sell the securities through agents from time to time. The prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities and any commissions we pay to them. Generally, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

Table of Contents

Kosmos and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain purchasers to purchase the securities from Kosmos at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus supplement will set forth any commissions we pay for solicitation of these contracts.

Underwriters and agents may be entitled under agreements entered into with Kosmos and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, to indemnification by Kosmos and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, against certain civil liabilities, including, without limitation, liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments which the underwriters or agents may be required to make. Underwriters and agents may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for Kosmos and its affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Each series of securities other than our common shares, which is listed on the NYSE, will be a new issue of securities and will have no established trading market. Any underwriters to whom securities are sold for public offering and sale may make a market in the securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. The securities, other than our common shares, may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange.

VALIDITY OF SECURITIES

The validity of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered will be passed on for us by Conyers Dill & Pearman Limited, our special Bermuda counsel.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Kosmos Energy Ltd. appearing in our Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2014 (including schedules appearing therein) and the effectiveness of Kosmos Energy Ltd.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The information incorporated by reference in this prospectus regarding estimated quantities of proved reserves, the future net revenues from those reserves and their present value is based, in part, on estimates of the proved reserves and present values of proved reserves as of December 31, 2014 and 2013. The reserve estimates at December 31, 2014 are based on reports prepared by Ryder Scott Company, L.P., independent reserve engineers, and the reserve estimates at December 31, 2013 are based on reports prepared by Netherland, Sewell & Associates, Inc., independent reserve engineers. These estimates are incorporated by reference into this prospectus in reliance upon the authority of such firm as experts in these matters.

Table of Contents
