

## KEROGEN ENERGY FUND, L.P.

# **Equity, Mezzanine & Senior Debt Financing Options for Junior E&P Companies**

Roy T. Kelly, MD, Kerogen Capital (UK) Ltd. March 2, 2016





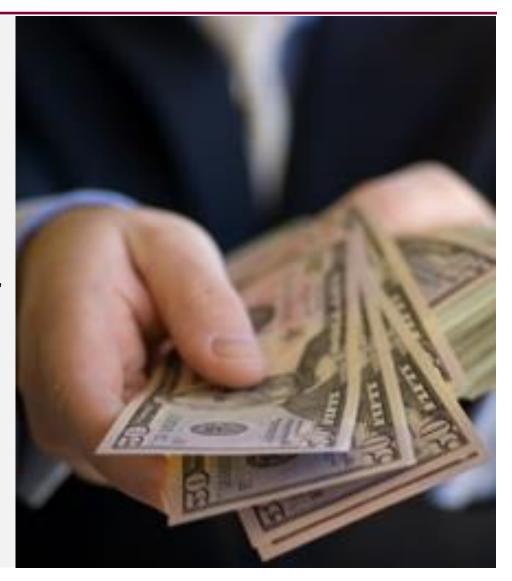


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- Definitions
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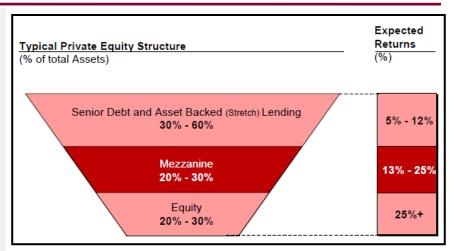
## **Debt Capital**

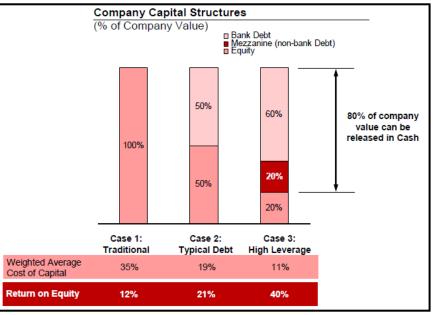
- Loans that have to be paid back over a certain term
- Generally the cheapest form of capital
- Debt is available at the corporate level (majors & mid-caps) and the asset level
- Companies with Baa3¹ (e.g. NBL) to Aaa¹,² (e.g. XOM) credit ratings will to obtain debt at rates of LIBOR + 2 to 5 %
- Debt comes with "covenants" relating to the "health" of the company or the project
- The current market is horrible for junior companies with or without commercial Reserves
- It's even worse for emerging markets ("exotic locations")
- Debt usually subordinates [ordinary] shareholders, such that an unpaid debt overhang can wipe out equity shareholders



## **Mezzanine Capital**

- mezza|nine: from Latin "in the middle"
- An intermediate financing tool rather than a source of permanent capital, literally in between senior debt and equity in terms of the acceptable risk profile, amounts to be advanced, and rate of return
- Around for decades, can take many forms and structures to fund a growth opportunity
- Often project specific, mezzanine providers like to share in the project's upside
- Higher return than senior debt, often with warrants for equity participation; ranks "lower" than senior debt
- Quoting one investor: "mezzanine is the new equity"
- Use: project too early for bank debt, lower cost than equity, enhance return on equity
- Providers: smaller banks, specialists, Private Equity

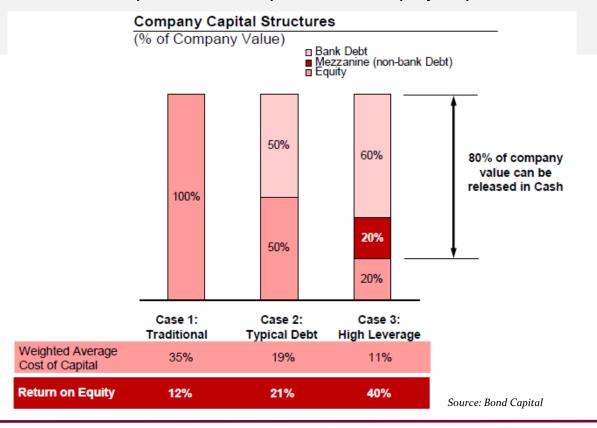




Source: Bond Capital

#### Senior & Mezzanine Debt Enhance Value

- Debt, including mezzanine, can provide leverage to lower a company's weighted average cost of capital
- Release significant value / Improve return on equity
- But increases financial risk. Required to find optimal debt/equity capital structure



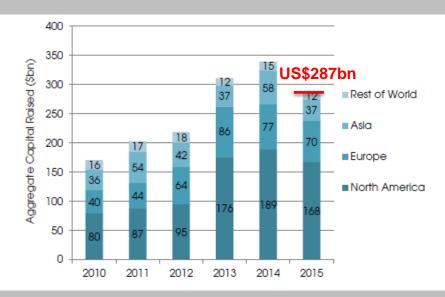
## **Equity**

- the risked capital staked by the owners through purchase of a company's stock
- Unlike debt, not repaid in the course of normal business
- Public Equity investors want dividend income and/or capital growth
- Ideally, a company would want investors aligned with the goals & timing of management, and usually long-only investors ["patient money"]
- Less desirable on the share register?
  - Activist investors
  - Short investors
  - Interlopers
- Enter Private Equity...

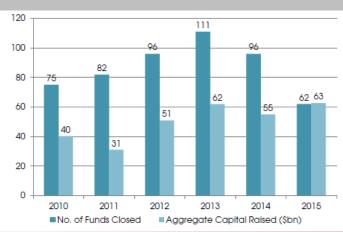
## What is Private Equity?

- Asset class consisting of equity and debt investments into operating companies, private or public
- Started post-WWII in the US aimed largely at leveraged buyouts
- Funds are sourced from high net worth individuals, institutions, pension plans etc. wishing to achieve higher returns
- PE and VC assets under management reached US\$3.8Tn in 2014
- The numbers for 2015 ... ~US\$287bn raised by PE, with ~US\$63 for natural resources (see charts)

### Private Equity Fundraising by Region<sup>1</sup>, 2010 - 2015 (\$bn)



### Natural Resources Fundraising<sup>1</sup>, 2010 – 2015 (\$bn)



## Key Value-Add of a Private Equity Model

## Long investment horizon

 Provide long-term stable capital in an industry that is both highly capital intensive and typically requires at least a five year planning horizon

#### **Bespoke solution**

 Offers a structured solution for funding which can be tailored to specific project milestones

## Management independence

Allows management to retain their independence, e.g. prior to a farm-out decision

Enables focus on the operations and growth of the businesses rather than funding

**Alignment** 

 Foster alignment between shareholders, management teams, partners, and other stakeholders through building shared objectives and aligning incentives

**All-round support** 

Deliver strategic, technical, operational and financial support to investee companies

- Compared to public market investors PE investors are typically more flexible in terms of investment structure and horizon, and can deliver strategic, technical, and operational support to investee companies
- Compared to strategics PE investors typically allow management to retain independence and control, with key focus on value maximisation

## PE Funding for Junior O&G Companies – *Exploding the myths*

## Control / Governance

PE funds do not always require absolute control over the investee company

#### **Returns**

 The PE Fund's objective of achieving its IRR/MoC targets is not mutually exclusive from oil & gas co. mission statements, especially where shareholder value is key

## Alignment with Management

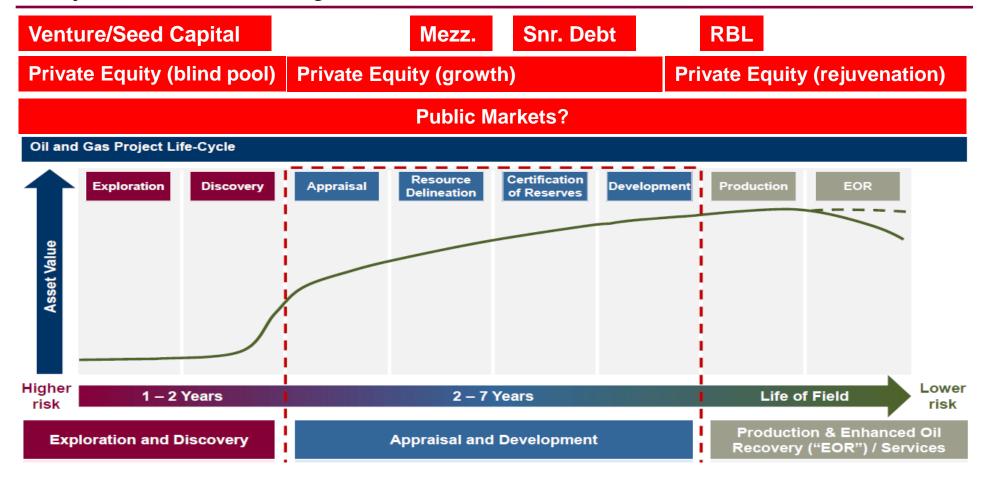
 Management compensation / incentives can be aligned with PE equity investors around mutual objective setting

## Investment Horizon

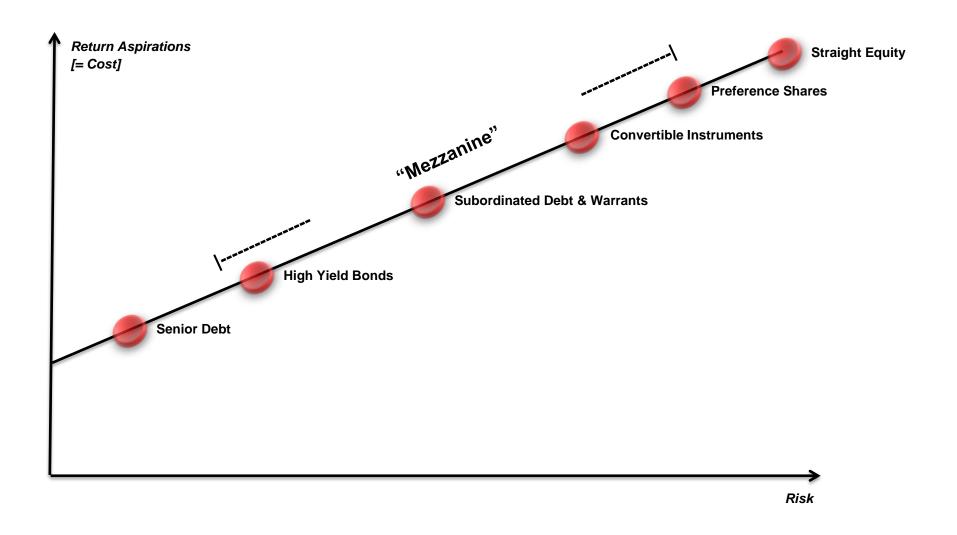
- PE funds are truly Long-Only: PE funds are fixed term, usually 10 years with 2 year extensions
- Consequently, PE Funds rarely need short-term liquidity and can endure a cycle

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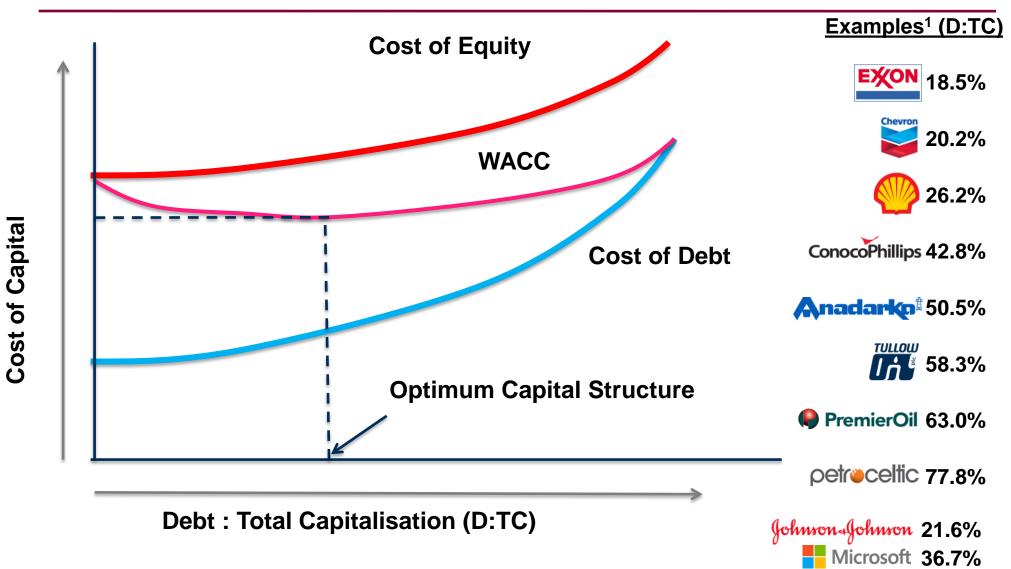
## **Life Cycle – Where the Funding Comes From**



## Cost of Capital - the return expected by those who provide capital



#### **Debt: Cost? How much?**



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## **Over-leverage - Some Current Symptoms**

- Very high, even too high, gearing in terms of debt:equity
- Much debt obtained at US\$100/stb+
  - What's Plan B?
- The paradox of success
- Covenants being breached:
  - Loan repayments
  - Credit metrics
  - Cashflow & debt cover ratios
  - Reserves redeterminations & borrowing base



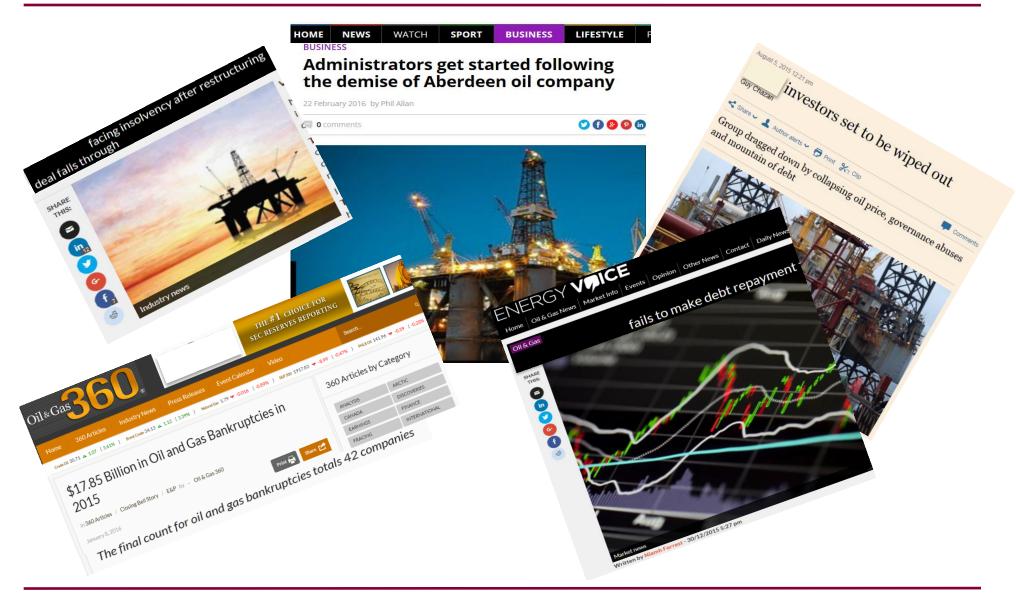
## The Correct Borrowing Base?

- Loans not to exceed asset value
  - Various price scenarios
- Tight covenants adhered to
- Take action when prices change
- Portfolio optimisation
- Right-sizing G&A
- Cost reductions
- Successful commodity price hedging

April loan redetermination cycle in US to further reduce borrowing bases



## **Debt "War Stories" - The Headlines**



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## **Sources of Capital** – what I said & thought in 2014<sup>1</sup>

		<b>Current Availability</b>	Issues	
Public Markets	IPO	<ul><li>Challenging</li><li>Some appetite</li></ul>	<ul><li>Hefty discounts to NAV</li><li>Onerous bourse rules / Fees</li></ul>	
	Follow-on Raise	<ul><li>Option still available</li><li>Share price performance?</li></ul>	<ul><li>Dilution</li><li>Use of funds</li></ul>	
Private Placement		<ul> <li>Limited capacity</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Timeframe</li><li>Comps.</li></ul>	
Traditional Farmout		<ul><li>Frequent</li><li>Promotes remain possible</li></ul>	<ul><li>Derisking varies</li></ul>	
Private Equity		<ul> <li>Start-up to late stage</li> <li>2013: US\$450billion raised by PE²</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Some myths</li><li>LP universe</li></ul>	
Debt	Senior / RBL	<ul><li>Readily available</li><li>RBL: asset? country? company?</li></ul>	<ul><li>Cheapest source of funds</li><li>XOM (2014): \$5.5bn, ≤3.176% 10-yr bonds</li></ul>	
	Mezzanine	<ul><li>Less popular</li></ul>	<ul> <li>More expensive than senior debt</li> </ul>	

<sup>1.</sup> Based on Oil & Gas Investor Summit, June 2014 (oil averaged US\$98.18/stb nominal); 2.Bain PE Report, 2014 (funds with final close)

## **Sources of Capital** – 2016 Thoughts

		Current Status		
Public Markets	IPO	Non-existent! (2015: 1 on AIM, 2 on TSX)		
	Follow-on Raise	Some hand-to-mouth raises, some larger		
Private Placement		<ul><li>Limited capacity</li></ul>		
Traditional Farmout		Rare, with shrinking promotes & back costs		
Private Equity		Remains start-up to late stage		
		■ 2015: ~US\$300billion raised by PE¹		
Debt	Senior / RBL	<ul> <li>XOM (2015): US\$8.8bn, ≤3.176%, 10-yr bonds</li> <li>Asset-level RBL dried up for smallco</li> </ul>		
	Mezzanine	<ul><li>Less popular</li></ul>		

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## **Kerogen Capital**

- Kerogen is an independent private equity fund manager specialising in the international oil and gas sector
- On third managed fund. Global institutional investor base: ~US\$1.6bn AUM
- Formed in 2007 with offices in HK and London. Professionals from financial, technical and operating backgrounds
- Focused on funding junior E&P companies with growth and development capital
- Geography: outside North America
- Financial solution combined with an active value added investor approach
- Signatories to the UNPRI, issued ESG Policy February 2014

### Kerogen Investee Companies: Financial Instruments Employed



**Public Market Equity & Senior Debt** 



Equity, Bridging, Convertible Instruments, Junior Mezz., bolt-on acquisitions



**Equity** 



**Equity** 



**Preference Shares (quasi-debt)** 



Straight Equity + co-investment; bolt-on acquisition

## Kerogen Case Study: NewAge - What the Company Said

NewAge - Strategy For Creating Shareholder Value





### About NewAge

Fast growing, huge potential...and we've been lucky



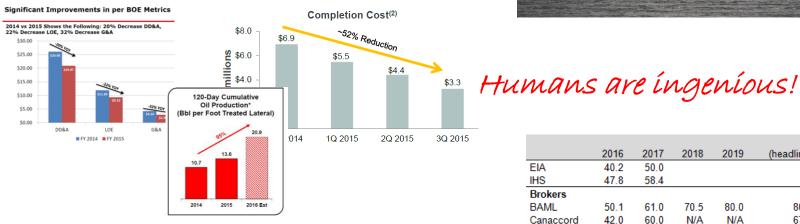


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#### Reasons to be cheerful?

## Rigs are cheaper!





## Future Oil Prices [?]

	2016	2017	2018	2019	LT (headline)	LT (2016 real)	Date of forecast
EIA	40.2	50.0	2010	2010	(Illeadillie)	(20101cai)	Jan-16
IHS	47.8	58.4					Jan-16
Brokers							
BAML	50.1	61.0	70.5	80.0	80.0	75.4	Jan-16
Canaccord	42.0	60.0	N/A	N/A	67.5	64.9	Jan-15
CS	58.0	65.0	70.0	70.0	75.0	69.3	Jan-16
GS	49.5	65.0	65.0	60.0	55.0	50.8	Dec-15
JPM	50.0	60.0	65.0	70.0	75.0	69.3	Jan-16
MS	48.5	72.0	85.0	85.0	90.0	83.1	Jan-16
RBC	42.5	60.0	74.0	N/A	79.0	74.4	Jan-16
Scotia	54.0	59.0	65.0	75.0	80.0	73.9	Dec-15
SocGen	53.8	62.5	67.5	70.0	75.0	69.3	Dec-15
UBS	42.5	55.0	70.0	75.0	75.0	70.7	Jan-16
Median	49.8	60.5	70.0	72.5	75.0	70.0	
Average	49.1	62.0	70.2	73.1	75.2	70.1	

#### **Some Conclusions**

- Conventional debt sources & public market funding have for the moment all but dried up for junior oil and gas companies
- To attract debt at the asset or corporate level, there is no substitute for: quality, low breakeven assets, *flexible* developments, lean G&A and right-sized debt:equity ratios for differing market conditions
- The war stories and insolvencies we're currently hearing about it seems every week
   are generally because these guidelines have been flouted
- Private Equity can help investee companies with very flexible, creative financial instruments, and alignment with management goals
- Companies need to be nimble to adapt their sources of funding to the particular phase of their projects & to market conditions: CEOs & CFOs take note...



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