

Synthetic Biologics, Inc.
Form 8-K
February 09, 2015

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): February 9, 2015

SYNTHETIC BIOLOGICS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada	1-12584	13-3808303
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File No.)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)

155 Gibbs Street, Ste. 412

Rockville, MD 20850

(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

617 Detroit Street, Ste. 100

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(Mailing Address and zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (734) 332-7800

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

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

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

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure

Synthetic Biologics, Inc. (the “Company”) will be making several investor presentations over the next couple of weeks, including a presentation at the 2015 BIO CEO & Investor Conference on February 9, 2015 in New York City, NY. In connection with the presentations, the Company intends to discuss the slide presentation furnished as Exhibit 99.1 hereto, which is incorporated herein by reference.

The slide presentation attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Report includes “safe harbor” language pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended, indicating that certain statements contained in the slide presentation or in the press release are “forward-looking” rather than historical.

The information included in this Item 7.01 and in Exhibit 99.1 shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section or incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing. The Company undertakes no duty or obligation to update or revise information included in this Report or any of the Exhibits.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

The following exhibit is being filed as part of this Report.

Exhibit

Number Description

99.1 Presentation materials to be provided at Synthetic Biologics, Inc.’s presentations

SIGNATURES

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

SYNTHETIC BIOLOGICS,
INC.

Date: February 9, 2015 By: /s/ C. Evan Ballantyne
Name: C. Evan Ballantyne
Title: Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit

Number Description

99.1 Presentation materials to be provided at Synthetic Biologics, Inc.'s presentations

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TD VALIGN="bottom"> **Derivative
Financial
Instruments Marketable
Securities Total
AOCGL (In thousands)**

Balance at January 1, 2015

\$(3,504) \$(101) \$(3,605)

Change in other comprehensive (loss) gain before reclassifications, after tax of \$825 and \$(1)

(1,534) (293) (1,827)

Reclassification adjustments for items included in Net Income, after tax of \$(2,593) and \$0

4,817 4,817

Balance at June 30, 2015

\$(221) \$(394) \$(615)

The following table presents the line items in our Consolidated Statements of Operations affected by reclassification adjustments out of AOCGL.

Major Category of AOCGL	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,		Consolidated Statements of Operations Line Items
	2015	2014	2015	2014	
Derivative Financial Instruments:					
					Contract drilling, excluding
Unrealized loss (gain) on FOREX contracts	\$ 1,894	\$ (3,630)	\$ 7,414	\$ (3,899)	depreciation
Unrealized (gain) loss on treasury lock agreements	(2)	(2)	(4)	(4)	Interest expense
	(662)	1,272	(2,593)	1,366	Income tax expense
	\$ 1,230	\$ (2,360)	\$ 4,817	\$ (2,537)	Net of tax
Marketable Securities:					
Unrealized (gain) loss on marketable securities	\$	\$ (24)	\$	\$ (33)	Other, net
		6		7	Income tax expense

\$ \$ (18) \$ \$ (26) Net of tax

Table of Contents**13. Restructuring and Separation Costs**

In response to the continuing decline in the offshore drilling market, we reviewed our cost and organization structure, and, as a result, our management approved and initiated a reduction in workforce at our onshore bases and corporate facilities, also referred to as the Corporate Reduction Plan, in the first half of 2015. As of June 30, 2015, appropriate communications have been made to substantially all impacted personnel, and we recognized \$1.0 million and \$7.2 million in restructuring and employee separation related costs for the three-month and six-month periods ended June 30, 2015, respectively. Substantially all costs associated with the Corporate Reduction Plan had been paid as of June 30, 2015.

14. Segments and Geographic Area Analysis

Although we provide contract drilling services with different types of offshore drilling rigs and also provide such services in many geographic locations, we have aggregated these operations into one reportable segment based on the similarity of economic characteristics due to the nature of the revenue earning process as it relates to the offshore drilling industry over the operating lives of our drilling rigs.

Revenues from contract drilling services by equipment type are listed below:

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(In thousands)			
Floaters:				
Ultra-Deepwater	\$ 315,670	\$ 182,656	\$ 567,066	\$ 388,450
Deepwater	181,104	120,539	319,874	267,098
Mid-Water	96,926	300,902	273,283	586,881
Total Floaters	593,700	604,097	1,160,223	1,242,429
Jack-ups	23,742	45,457	56,796	92,433
Total contract drilling revenues	617,442	649,554	1,217,019	1,334,862
Revenues related to reimbursable expenses	16,590	42,690	37,069	66,806
Total revenues	\$ 634,032	\$ 692,244	\$ 1,254,088	\$ 1,401,668

Geographic Areas

Our drilling rigs are highly mobile and may be moved to other markets throughout the world in response to market conditions or customer needs. At June 30, 2015, our actively-marketed drilling rigs were en route to or located offshore seven countries in addition to the United States. Revenues by geographic area are presented by attributing revenues to the individual country or areas where the services were performed.

Three Months Ended**Six Months Ended**

	June 30,		June 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(In thousands)			
United States	\$ 112,709	\$ 128,639	\$ 189,867	\$ 243,508
International:				
South America	238,640	262,072	431,715	549,996
Europe/Africa/Mediterranean	136,532	104,725	287,802	260,316
Australia/Asia	109,885	134,555	247,020	230,319
Mexico	36,266	62,253	97,684	117,529
Total revenues	\$ 634,032	\$ 692,244	\$ 1,254,088	\$ 1,401,668

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ITEM 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our unaudited consolidated financial statements (including the notes thereto) included elsewhere in this report and our audited consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto, Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Item 1A, Risk Factors included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. References to Diamond Offshore, we, us or our mean Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and its subsidiaries.

We are a leader in offshore drilling, providing contract drilling services to the energy industry around the globe with a fleet of 35 offshore drilling rigs. Our current fleet consists of eight ultra-deepwater, seven deepwater and nine mid-water semisubmersibles, five dynamically-positioned ultra-deepwater drillships and six jack-ups. Construction of our fourth newbuild ultra-deepwater drillship, the *Ocean BlackLion*, was completed in the second quarter of 2015, and the rig is currently in the Canary Islands, where we are preparing the rig for commencement of its engagement in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, or GOM, later this year. One of our eight ultra-deepwater semisubmersibles, the *Ocean GreatWhite*, is currently under construction and is expected to be delivered in the second quarter of 2016. The *Ocean GreatWhite* is expected to commence a three-year drilling contract offshore Australia in late 2016.

Of our current fleet, one deepwater and four mid-water semisubmersible rigs and four jack-up rigs are cold stacked. We expect to cold stack an additional two floaters (one ultra-deepwater and one midwater semisubmersible) in the near term. Since the beginning of 2015, seven of our older mid-water semisubmersible rigs have been sold for scrap.

Market Overview

Current crude oil prices have declined significantly since the summer of 2014, and oil markets remain volatile and unpredictable due to a number of geopolitical and economic factors, including the proposed Iranian accord, which would result in the lifting of international sanctions. In reaction to the depressed fundamentals in the oil and gas industry, independent and national oil companies and exploration and production companies have announced significant reductions to their 2016 capital spending plans, on top of their already-reduced 2015 capital spending plans. Thus far in 2015, rig tenders have been infrequent and have generally been limited to short-term or well-to-well work. Competition for the limited number of drilling jobs continues to be intense, with numerous offshore drillers vying for the same opportunities, including some contractors bidding multiple rigs on the same bid, and in some cases bidding rigs of both high and lower specifications on the same bid. Operators are continuing to attempt to sublet previously contracted rigs for which capital spending programs have been delayed or canceled. In addition, newbuild floaters continue to enter the market, many of which are not contracted, adding to the oversupply of rigs. With the shortage of work and an oversupply of rigs available for work, price competition remains intense, and some industry analysts are predicting further weakening in dayrates across the floater markets.

In addition, as a result of the depressed market conditions and continued pessimistic outlook for the near term, certain of our customers, as well as those of our competitors, have attempted to renegotiate or terminate existing drilling contracts. Such renegotiations could include requests to lower the contract dayrate, lowering of a dayrate in exchange for additional contract term, shortening the term on one contracted rig in exchange for additional term on another rig, early termination of a contract in exchange for a lump sum margin payout and many other possibilities. In addition to the potential for renegotiations, some of our drilling contracts, permit the customer to terminate the contract early after specified notice periods or permit the customer to terminate the contract early in the event of excessive downtime, sometimes resulting in no payment to us or sometimes resulting in a contractually specified termination amount, which often does not fully compensate us for the loss of the contract. During depressed market conditions, certain customers have utilized such contract clauses to seek to renegotiate or terminate a drilling contract or claim that we have breached provisions of our drilling contracts in order to avoid their obligations to us under circumstances where

we believe we are in compliance with the contracts. The early termination of a contract may result in a rig being idle for an extended period of time, which could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. When a customer terminates our contract prior to the contract's scheduled expiration, our contract backlog is also adversely impacted. See [Contract Drilling Backlog](#) below.

As previously disclosed, on February 20, 2015, a representative of PEMEX Exploración y Producción, or PEMEX, verbally informed us of PEMEX's intention to exercise its contractual right to terminate its drilling contracts on the *Ocean Ambassador*, the *Ocean Nugget* and the *Ocean Summit*, and to cancel its drilling contract on the *Ocean*

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Lexington, which contract was scheduled to commence in September 2015. During the second quarter of 2015, PEMEX terminated the contract for the *Ocean Nugget*, and delivered to us a notice of termination of the contract on the *Ocean Summit*. During the second quarter of 2015, PEMEX rescinded its termination of the *Ocean Summit* contract, and we and PEMEX renegotiated the contracts for the *Ocean Ambassador*, *Ocean Summit* and *Ocean Scepter* at lower dayrates. In July 2015, PEMEX delivered to us a notice to initiate the rescission of the *Ocean Lexington* contract, which process is currently underway.

Also as previously disclosed, during the first quarter of 2015 Petróleo Brasileiro S.A., or Petrobras, notified us of its right to terminate the drilling contract on the *Ocean Baroness* and verbally informed us that it did not intend to continue to use the rig. During the second quarter of 2015, we received written notification from Petrobras to terminate the drilling contract on the *Ocean Baroness*, which became effective on May 31, 2015. The *Ocean Baroness* is currently demobilizing to the GOM, where the rig is expected to be cold stacked until market conditions improve.

Current depressed market conditions in the offshore drilling industry have materially impacted our results of operations and cash flows in the second quarter and first half of 2015. We currently expect that these adverse market conditions will continue for the foreseeable future. The continuation of these conditions could result in more of our rigs being without contracts and/or cold stacked or scrapped and could further materially and adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. When we cold stack a rig, we evaluate the rig for impairment. During the first half of 2015, we recognized a \$358.5 million impairment charge related to eight rigs, for which we determined the carrying values to be impaired. See Results of Operations Overview Six Months Ended June 30, 2015 and 2014 *Impairment of Assets*.

As of July 20, 2015, 14 of our rigs were not subject to a drilling contract with a customer, including 11 rigs that have been cold stacked or are in the process of being cold stacked. See Contract Drilling Backlog for future commitments of our rigs during 2015 through 2020.

Although these general market conditions impact all segments of the offshore drilling market, the following discussion addresses market conditions within segments of the floater market.

Floater Markets

Ultra-Deepwater and Deepwater Floaters. Globally, the ultra-deepwater and deepwater floater markets continue to be depressed. The continuing oversupply of rigs and diminished demand has resulted in further decline in dayrates and the stacking, and in some cases scrapping, of rigs in all asset classes. Industry analysts expect offshore drillers to continue to scrap older, lower specification rigs.

Newbuild rig deliveries and established rigs coming off contract continue to fuel an oversupply of floaters in both the ultra-deepwater and deepwater markets. In an effort to manage the oversupply of rigs and potentially avoid the cost of cold stacking newly-built rigs, which, in the case of dynamically-positioned rigs, can be significant, certain drilling contractors have recently exercised options to delay the delivery of certain rigs by the shipyard. As of the date of this report, based on industry data, there are approximately 52 competitive, or non-owner-operated, newbuild floaters on order. Based on industry reports, half of the 10 newbuilds scheduled for delivery in the second half of 2015, as well as 18 of the 27 newbuilds scheduled for delivery in 2016 and eight of the nine newbuilds scheduled for delivery in 2017 are not contracted for future work. There are currently six newbuilds on order for delivery between 2018 and 2020, only one of which has been contracted for future work. In addition, industry reports indicate that Petrobras, our largest single customer based on 2014 annual consolidated revenues, currently has 13-17 rigs under construction, with two scheduled for delivery in 2015. The influx of newbuilds into the market, combined with established rigs coming off contract during 2015, is expected to contribute to further weakening of the ultra-deepwater and deepwater floater

markets.

Mid-Water Floaters. While conditions in the mid-water market vary slightly by region, mid-water rigs have generally been adversely impacted by (i) lower demand, (ii) declining dayrates, (iii) increased regulatory requirements, including more stringent design requirements for well control equipment, which could significantly increase the capital needed to comply with design requirements that would permit such rigs to work in U.S. waters, (iv) the challenges experienced by lower specification units in this segment as a result of more complex customer specifications, and (v) the intensified competition resulting from the migration of some deepwater and ultra-deepwater units to compete against mid-water units. To date the mid-water market has seen the highest number of cold-stacked and scrapped rigs. Additionally, as market conditions remain challenging, higher specification rigs may continue to take the place of lower specification units, leading to additional lower specification rigs being cold stacked or ultimately scrapped.

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The following table reflects our contract drilling backlog as of July 1, 2015, February 9, 2015 (the date reported in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014), and July 23, 2014 (the date reported in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2014). Contract drilling backlog as presented below includes only firm commitments (typically represented by signed contracts, except as indicated in the footnotes to the tables below), and is calculated by multiplying the contracted operating dayrate by the firm contract period and adding one-half of any potential rig performance bonuses. Our calculation also assumes full utilization of our drilling equipment for the contract period (excluding scheduled shipyard and survey days); however, the amount of actual revenue earned and the actual periods during which revenues are earned will be different than the amounts and periods shown in the tables below due to various factors. Utilization rates, which generally approach 92-98% during contracted periods, can be adversely impacted by downtime due to various operating factors including, but not limited to, weather conditions and unscheduled repairs and maintenance. Contract drilling backlog excludes revenues for mobilization, demobilization, contract preparation and customer reimbursables. No revenue is generally earned during periods of downtime for regulatory surveys. Changes in our contract drilling backlog between periods are generally a function of the performance of work on term contracts, as well as the extension or modification of existing term contracts and the execution of additional contracts.

	July 1, 2015	February 9, 2015	July 23, 2014
	(In thousands)		
Contract Drilling Backlog			
Floaters:			
Ultra-Deepwater ⁽¹⁾	\$ 4,902,000	\$ 5,390,000	\$ 3,751,000
Deepwater ⁽²⁾	621,000	748,000	901,000
Mid-Water	378,000	611,000	1,375,000
Total Floaters	5,901,000	6,749,000	6,027,000
Jack-ups	33,000	91,000	216,000
Total	\$ 5,934,000	\$ 6,840,000	\$ 6,243,000

(1) Contract drilling backlog as of July 1, 2015 for our ultra-deepwater floaters includes (i) \$1.1 billion attributable to our contracted operations offshore Brazil for the years 2015 to 2018 and (ii) \$641.0 million for the years 2016 to 2019 attributable to future work for the semisubmersible *Ocean GreatWhite*, which is under construction.

(2) Contract drilling backlog as of July 1, 2015 for our deepwater floaters includes \$120.0 million attributable to our contracted operations offshore Brazil for the years 2015 to 2016.

The following table reflects the amount of our contract drilling backlog by year as of July 1, 2015.

Total	For the Years Ending December 31,				
	2015 ⁽¹⁾	2016	2017	2018	2020
(In thousands)					

Contract Drilling Backlog

Floaters:

Ultra-Deepwater ⁽²⁾	\$ 4,902,000	\$ 740,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,202,000	\$ 1,733,000
Deepwater ⁽³⁾	621,000	212,000	273,000	136,000	
Mid-Water	378,000	104,000	153,000	121,000	
Total Floaters	5,901,000	1,056,000	1,653,000	1,459,000	1,733,000
Jack-ups	33,000	25,000	8,000		
Total	\$ 5,934,000	\$ 1,081,000	\$ 1,661,000	\$ 1,459,000	\$ 1,733,000

(1) Represents the six-month period beginning July 1, 2015.

(2) Contract drilling backlog as of July 1, 2015 for our ultra-deepwater floaters includes (i) \$228.0 million, \$333.0 million, \$332.0 million and \$158.0 million for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively, attributable to our contracted operations offshore Brazil and (ii) \$90.0 million for the year 2016, \$214.0 million for the year 2017 and \$337.0 million in the aggregate for the years 2018 to 2019 attributable to future work for the *Ocean GreatWhite*, which is under construction.

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(3) Contract drilling backlog as of July 1, 2015 for our deepwater floaters includes \$62.0 million and \$58.0 million for the years 2015 and 2016, respectively, attributable to our contracted operations offshore Brazil.

The following table reflects the percentage of rig days committed by year as of July 1, 2015. The percentage of rig days committed is calculated as the ratio of total days committed under contracts, as well as scheduled shipyard, survey and mobilization days for all rigs in our fleet, to total available days (number of rigs, including cold-stacked rigs, multiplied by the number of days in a particular year). Total available days have been calculated based on the expected final commissioning dates for the *Ocean GreatWhite*, which is under construction.

	For the Years Ending December 31,				
	2015 ⁽¹⁾	2016	2017	2018	2020
Rig Days Committed ⁽²⁾					
Floaters:					
Ultra-Deepwater	85%	65%	54%		26%
Deepwater	49%	31%	17%		
Mid-Water	30%	13%	9%		
All Floaters	58%	40%	31%		12%
Jack-ups	22%	3%			

(1) Represents a six-month period beginning July 1, 2015.

(2) As of July 1, 2015, includes approximately 290 and 314 currently known, scheduled shipyard days for rig commissioning, contract preparation, surveys and extended maintenance projects, as well as rig mobilization days, for the remainder of 2015 and for the year 2016, respectively.

Important Factors That May Impact Our Operating Results, Financial Condition or Cash Flows

Regulatory Surveys and Planned Downtime. Our operating income is negatively impacted when we perform certain regulatory inspections, which we refer to as a 5-year survey, or special survey, that are due every five years for each of our rigs. Operating revenue decreases because these special surveys are generally performed during scheduled downtime in a shipyard. Operating expenses increase as a result of these special surveys due to the cost to mobilize the rigs to a shipyard, inspection costs incurred and repair and maintenance costs. Repair and maintenance activities may result from the special survey or may have been previously planned to take place during this mandatory downtime. The number of rigs undergoing a 5-year survey will vary from year to year, as well as from quarter to quarter.

In addition, operating income may be negatively impacted by intermediate surveys, which are performed at interim periods between 5-year surveys. Intermediate surveys are generally less extensive in duration and scope than a 5-year survey. Although an intermediate survey may require some downtime for the drilling rig, it normally does not require shipyard time, except for rigs older than 15 years that are located in the United Kingdom, or U.K., sector of the North Sea.

During the remainder of 2015, we expect to spend an additional approximately 290 days for the mobilization of rigs, contract modifications, acceptance testing and extended maintenance projects, including days associated with mobilization of and acceptance testing for the recently delivered *Ocean BlackLion* (approximately 159 days), which is not expected to commence drilling operations until the fourth quarter of 2015. We can provide no assurance as to the exact timing and/or duration of downtime associated with regulatory inspections, planned rig mobilizations and other

shipyard projects. See *Contract Drilling Backlog*.

In April 2015, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (an agency established by the U.S. Department of the Interior that governs the offshore drilling industry on the Outer Continental Shelf) announced proposed rules, expected to be enacted into law following a 60-day comment period, which include more stringent design requirements for well control equipment used in offshore drilling operations. Based on our assessment of the proposed rules, we believe that we will need to incur significant capital cost to comply with the additional design requirements to enable our cold stacked mid-water semisubmersibles to return to work in U. S. waters.

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Physical Damage and Marine Liability Insurance. We are self-insured for physical damage to rigs and equipment caused by named windstorms in the GOM. If a named windstorm in the GOM causes significant damage to our rigs or equipment, it could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows. Under our current insurance policies that expire on May 1, 2016, we carry physical damage insurance for certain losses, other than those caused by named windstorms in the GOM, for which our deductible for physical damage is \$25.0 million per occurrence. There is no assurance, however, that we will be able to retain or obtain, as the case may be, adequate levels of such coverage for such events at rates and with deductibles that we consider to be reasonable, or that we will continue to retain such coverage in the future or obtain such coverage in any particular jurisdiction. We do not typically retain loss-of-hire insurance policies to cover our rigs.

In addition, under our current insurance policies that expire on May 1, 2016, we carry marine liability insurance covering certain legal liabilities, including coverage for certain personal injury claims, with no exclusions for pollution and/or environmental risk. We believe that the policy limit for our marine liability insurance is within the range that is customary for companies of our size in the offshore drilling industry and is appropriate for our business. Our deductibles for marine liability coverage, including for personal injury claims, are \$25.0 million for the first occurrence and vary in amounts ranging between \$5.0 million and, if aggregate claims exceed certain thresholds, up to \$100.0 million for each subsequent occurrence, depending on the nature, severity and frequency of claims that might arise during the policy year.

Construction and Capital Upgrade Projects. We capitalize interest cost for the construction and upgrade of qualifying assets in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S., or GAAP. The period of interest capitalization covers the duration of the activities required to make the asset ready for its intended use, and the capitalization period ends when the asset is substantially complete and ready for its intended use. We ceased capitalization of interest on five qualifying projects as a result of their completion in 2014 and on the *Ocean BlackLion* upon its delivery in the second quarter of 2015. We continue to capitalize interest for our ultra-deepwater semisubmersible *Ocean GreatWhite*. Consequently, interest expense reported in our Consolidated Statements of Operations will increase in the second half of 2015, compared to the prior year and the first half of 2015, due to the completion of projects.

Impact of Changes in Tax Laws or Their Interpretation. We operate through our various subsidiaries in a number of countries throughout the world. As a result, we are subject to highly complex tax laws, treaties and regulations in the jurisdictions in which we operate, which may change and are subject to interpretation. Changes in laws, treaties and regulations and the interpretation of such laws, treaties and regulations may put us at risk for future tax assessments and liabilities which could be substantial and could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Critical Accounting Estimates*Impairment of Long-Lived Assets*

We evaluate our property and equipment for impairment whenever changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable (such as, but not limited to, cold stacking a rig, the expectation of cold stacking a rig in the near term, a decision to retire or scrap a rig, or excess spending over budget on a newbuild, construction project or major rig upgrade). We utilize an undiscounted probability-weighted cash flow analysis in testing an asset for potential impairment. Our assumptions and estimates underlying this analysis include the following:

dayrate by rig;

utilization rate by rig if active, warm stacked or cold stacked (expressed as the actual percentage of time per year that the rig would be used at certain dayrates);

the per day operating cost for each rig if active, warm stacked or cold stacked;

the estimated annual cost for rig replacements and/or enhancement programs;

the estimated maintenance, inspection or other costs associated with a rig returning to work;

salvage value for each rig; and

estimated proceeds that may be received on disposition of each rig.

Based on these assumptions, we develop a matrix for each rig under evaluation using multiple utilization/dayrate scenarios, to each of which we have assigned a probability of occurrence. We arrive at a projected probability-weighted cash flow for each rig based on the respective matrix and compare such amount to the carrying value of the asset to assess recoverability.

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The underlying assumptions and assigned probabilities of occurrence for utilization and dayrate scenarios are developed using a methodology that examines historical data for each rig, which considers the rig's age, rated water depth and other attributes and then assesses its future marketability in light of the current and projected market environment at the time of assessment. Other assumptions, such as operating, maintenance and inspection costs, are estimated using historical data adjusted for known developments and future events that are anticipated by management at the time of the assessment.

Management's assumptions are necessarily subjective and are an inherent part of our asset impairment evaluation, and the use of different assumptions could produce results that differ from those reported. Our methodology generally involves the use of significant unobservable inputs, representative of a Level 3 fair value measurement, which may include assumptions related to future dayrate revenue, costs and rig utilization, quotes from rig brokers, the long-term future performance of our rigs and future market conditions. Management's assumptions involve uncertainties about future demand for our services, dayrates, expenses and other future events, and management's expectations may not be indicative of future outcomes. Significant unanticipated changes to these assumptions could materially alter our analysis in testing an asset for potential impairment. For example, changes in market conditions that exist at the measurement date or that are projected by management could affect our key assumptions. Other events or circumstances that could affect our assumptions may include, but are not limited to, a further sustained decline in oil and gas prices, cancelations of our drilling contracts or contracts of our competitors, contract modifications, costs to comply with new governmental regulations, growth in the global oversupply of oil and geopolitical events, such as lifting sanctions on oil-producing nations. Should actual market conditions in the future vary significantly from market conditions used in our projections, our assessment of impairment would likely be different.

Our other significant accounting policies are discussed in Note 1 of our notes to unaudited consolidated financial statements included in Item 1 of Part I of this report and in Note 1 of our notes to audited consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. There were no material changes to these policies during the three months ended June 30, 2015.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations**

Although we perform contract drilling services with different types of drilling rigs and in many geographic locations, there is a similarity of economic characteristics among all our divisions and locations, including the nature of services provided and the type of customers for our services. We believe that the combination of our drilling rigs into one reportable segment is the appropriate aggregation in accordance with applicable accounting standards on segment reporting. However, for purposes of this discussion and analysis of our results of operations, we provide greater detail with respect to the types of rigs in our fleet to enhance the reader's understanding of our financial condition, changes in financial condition and results of operations.

Key performance indicators by equipment type are listed below.

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
REVENUE EARNING DAYS ⁽¹⁾				
Floaters:				
Ultra-Deepwater	654	420	1,160	933
Deepwater	402	281	687	624
Mid-Water	349	1,107	1,012	2,136
Jack-ups	287	464	645	965
UTILIZATION ⁽²⁾				
Floaters:				
Ultra-Deepwater	63%	51%	57%	58%
Deepwater	63%	51%	54%	58%
Mid-Water	32%	68%	42%	66%
Jack-ups	53%	74%	59%	77%
AVERAGE DAILY REVENUE ⁽³⁾				
Floaters:				
Ultra-Deepwater	\$ 483,000	\$ 435,000	\$ 489,000	\$ 416,500
Deepwater	450,900	429,300	465,700	428,000
Mid-Water	278,000	271,900	270,000	274,800
Jack-ups	82,800	98,000	88,100	95,800

(1) A revenue earning day is defined as a 24-hour period during which a rig earns a dayrate after commencement of operations and excludes mobilization, demobilization and contract preparation days.

(2) Utilization is calculated as the ratio of total revenue-earning days divided by the total calendar days in the period for all specified rigs in our fleet (including cold-stacked rigs, but excluding rigs under construction). As of June 30, 2015, our cold-stacked rigs included one deepwater semisubmersible, four mid-water semisubmersibles and four jack-up rigs.

(3) Average daily revenue is defined as total contract drilling revenue for all of the specified rigs in our fleet per revenue earning day.

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Comparative data relating to our revenues and operating expenses by equipment type are listed below.

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(In thousands)			
CONTRACT DRILLING REVENUE				
Floaters:				
Ultra-Deepwater	\$ 315,670	\$ 182,656	\$ 567,066	\$ 388,450
Deepwater	181,104	120,539	319,874	267,098
Mid-Water	96,926	300,902	273,283	586,881
Total Floaters	593,700	604,097	1,160,223	1,242,429
Jack-ups	23,742	45,457	56,796	92,433
Total Contract Drilling Revenue	\$ 617,442	\$ 649,554	\$ 1,217,019	\$ 1,334,862
REVENUES RELATED TO REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES				
	\$ 16,590	\$ 42,690	\$ 37,069	\$ 66,806
CONTRACT DRILLING EXPENSE				
Floaters:				
Ultra-Deepwater	\$ 161,485	\$ 122,327	\$ 316,024	\$ 245,857
Deepwater	86,464	81,641	150,139	153,590
Mid-Water	66,735	148,931	166,055	282,977
Total Floaters	314,684	352,899	632,218	682,424
Jack-ups	20,873	29,851	42,443	57,880
Other	7,312	12,626	18,866	24,862
Total Contract Drilling Expense	\$ 342,869	\$ 395,376	\$ 693,527	\$ 765,166
REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES				
	\$ 16,336	\$ 42,290	\$ 36,428	\$ 65,956
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)				
Floaters:				
Ultra-Deepwater	\$ 154,185	\$ 60,329	\$ 251,042	\$ 142,593
Deepwater	94,640	38,898	169,735	113,508
Mid-Water	30,191	151,971	107,228	303,904
Total Floaters	279,016	251,198	528,005	560,005
Jack-ups	2,869	15,606	14,353	34,553
Other	(7,312)	(12,626)	(18,866)	(24,862)
Reimbursable expenses, net	254	400	641	850
Depreciation	(123,329)	(108,906)	(260,628)	(215,917)
General and administrative expense	(16,548)	(20,478)	(34,000)	(43,305)

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Gain on disposition of assets	164	8,572	775	8,719
Impairment of assets			(358,528)	
Restructuring and separation costs	(993)		(7,161)	
Total Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 134,121	\$ 133,766	\$ (135,409)	\$ 320,043
Other income (expense):				
Interest income	584	150	1,167	558
Interest expense, net of amounts capitalized	(25,468)	(18,523)	(49,450)	(36,678)
Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	(3,473)	(2,971)	2,117	(4,149)
Other, net	264	181	485	508
Income (loss) before income tax (expense) benefit	106,028	112,603	(181,090)	280,282
Income tax (expense) benefit	(15,642)	(22,890)	15,767	(44,759)
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 90,386	\$ 89,713	\$ (165,323)	\$ 235,523

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The following is a summary as of the date of this report of the most significant transfers of our rigs during 2015 and 2014 between the geographic areas in which we operate:

Rig	Rig Type	Relocation Details	Date
Floaters ⁽¹⁾:			
<i>Ocean Confidence</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	Angola to Cameroon	February 2014
<i>Ocean BlackHawk</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	South Korea to GOM (initial mobilization)	February 2014
<i>Ocean Confidence</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	Cameroon to Canary Islands (life-extension project)	April 2014
<i>Ocean Clipper</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	Brazil to Colombia	June 2014
<i>Ocean Monarch</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	Indonesia to Malaysia (shipyard project)	September 2014
<i>Ocean Clipper</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	Colombia to Brazil	December 2014
<i>Ocean BlackHornet</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	South Korea to GOM (initial mobilization)	December 2014
<i>Ocean BlackRhino</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	South Korea to GOM (initial mobilization)	December 2014
<i>Ocean BlackLion</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	South Korea to Canary Islands (contract preparation)	May 2015
<i>Ocean Monarch</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	Malaysia to Australia	June 2015
<i>Ocean Baroness</i>	Ultra-Deepwater	Brazil to GOM	June 2015
<i>Ocean Onyx</i>	Deepwater	Placed in service (GOM)	January 2014
<i>Ocean Star</i>	Deepwater	Brazil to GOM (cold stacked April 2015)	September 2014
<i>Ocean Apex</i>	Deepwater	Singapore to Vietnam	December 2014
<i>Ocean Onyx</i>	Deepwater	GOM to Trinidad	March 2015
<i>Ocean Victory</i>	Deepwater	GOM to Trinidad	March 2015
<i>Ocean Apex</i>	Deepwater	Vietnam to Malaysia	April 2015
<i>Ocean General</i>	Mid-Water	Vietnam to Indonesia	March 2014
<i>Ocean Quest</i>	Mid-Water	Malaysia to Vietnam	May 2014
<i>Ocean Patriot</i>	Mid-Water	Singapore to U.K.	June 2014
<i>Ocean Vanguard</i>	Mid-Water	Norway to U.K. (cold stacked July 2014)	June 2014
<i>Ocean General</i>	Mid-Water	Indonesia to Malaysia (cold stacked October 2014)	September 2014
<i>Ocean Quest</i>	Mid-Water	Vietnam to Malaysia	April 2015
Jack-ups:			
<i>Ocean Titan</i>	Jack-up	Mexico to GOM (cold stacked January 2015)	June 2014
<i>Ocean Spur</i>	Jack-up	Ecuador to Singapore (cold stacked June 2015)	April 2015
<i>Ocean Nugget</i>	Jack-up	Mexico to GOM (cold stacked June 2015)	June 2015

⁽¹⁾ The *Ocean Concord*, *Ocean Yatzy* and *Ocean Epoch* were sold for scrap in the first quarter of 2015. The *Ocean Winner*, *Ocean Saratoga*, *Ocean Worker* and *Ocean Yorktown* were sold for scrap in the second quarter of 2015.

Overview**Three Months Ended June 30, 2015 and 2014**

Operating Income. Our operating results remained relatively flat, increasing \$0.4 million during the second quarter of 2015, compared to the same period of 2014. Lower contract drilling expense (\$52.5 million, or 13%) and general

and administrative expense (\$3.9 million) for the second quarter of 2015 were partially offset by a \$32.1 million, or 5%, reduction in revenue, a \$14.4 million increase in depreciation expense and the absence of an \$8.8 million gain on sale of the *Ocean Spartan* in June 2014. Depreciation expense increased during the second quarter of 2015, primarily as a result of a higher depreciable asset base in 2015, which includes the *Ocean Apex* and three newbuild drillships that were placed in service after the second quarter of 2014.

Contract drilling revenue for our mid-water and jack-up fleets decreased \$204.0 million and \$21.7 million, respectively, during the second quarter of 2015 compared to the prior year period, primarily as a result of 758 and 177 fewer revenue earning days, respectively. In contrast, contract drilling revenue earned by our ultra-deepwater and deepwater floaters during the current year quarter increased \$133.0 million and \$60.6 million, respectively, compared to the second quarter of 2014, primarily due to higher average daily revenue earned by both our ultra-deepwater and deepwater fleets, including the effect of higher amortized mobilization and contract preparation fees, compared to the prior year, combined with an aggregate 355-day increase in revenue earning days.

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Contract drilling expense decreased an aggregate of \$52.5 million during the second quarter of 2015, compared to the same quarter of 2014, reflecting lower costs for labor and personnel (\$24.7 million), repairs and maintenance (\$27.8 million), inspections (\$5.7 million), agency fees (\$4.5 million), freight (\$3.3 million), and a net decrease in other rig operating costs and overhead costs (\$10.4 million), partially offset by higher rig mobilization costs (\$23.9 million).

Interest Expense, Net of Amounts Capitalized. Interest expense increased \$6.9 million during the second quarter of 2015, compared to the same period in 2014, primarily as a result of less interest capitalized in the current year quarter on our remaining construction projects (\$10.0 million). This unfavorable impact was partially offset by the absence of \$3.3 million of interest expense recognized in the prior year quarter related to our 5.15% Senior Notes, which we repaid in September 2014.

Income Tax Expense. Our effective tax rate for the three months ended June 30, 2015 was 14.9%, compared to a 20.3% effective tax rate for the three months ended June 30, 2014. The effective tax rate in the 2015 period was lower than in the same period of 2014 primarily due to the mix of our domestic and international pre-tax earnings and losses.

Six Months Ended June 30, 2015 and 2014

Operating (Loss) Income. Operating results decreased \$455.5 million during the first half of 2015, compared to the same period of 2014, primarily due to a \$358.5 million impairment loss, the effects of lower rig utilization during the current year period, primarily for our mid-water semisubmersible fleet, \$7.2 million in restructuring and severance costs recognized in 2015 and the absence of an \$8.8 million gain related to the sale of the *Ocean Spartan* in June 2014. Depreciation expense increased \$44.7 million in the first six months of 2015, compared to the same period in 2014, primarily due to a higher depreciable asset base in 2015, which includes the *Ocean Apex* and three newbuild drillships, which were placed in service in 2014, and the *Ocean BlackLion*, which was delivered in May 2015.

These unfavorable results, which reduced operating income, were partially offset by the favorable impact of a \$71.6 million, or 9%, net reduction in contract drilling expense, as a result of lower rig utilization, including the impact of cold stacked and retired rigs, and cost control efforts, and a \$9.3 million reduction in general and administrative expense, primarily due to lower compensation costs, in the first half of 2015 compared to the prior year period. The decrease in contract drilling expense reflects lower costs for labor and personnel (\$51.1 million), repairs and maintenance (\$29.7 million), inspections (\$5.9 million), freight (\$3.7 million), and a net decrease in other rig operating, shorebase support and overhead costs (\$9.2 million), partially offset by higher rig mobilization costs (\$28.0 million).

Contract drilling revenue for our mid-water and jack-up fleets decreased \$313.6 million and \$35.6 million, respectively, during the first six months of 2015, compared to the prior year period, primarily as a result of 1,124 and 320 fewer revenue earning days, respectively, due to the cold stacking and sales of rigs in these fleets. In contrast, contract drilling revenue earned by our ultra-deepwater and deepwater floaters increased \$178.6 million and \$52.8 million, respectively, during the first half of 2015, compared to the same period of 2014, primarily due to higher average daily revenue earned by both our ultra-deepwater and deepwater fleets, including the effect of higher amortized mobilization and contract preparation fees, compared to the prior year period, combined with an aggregate 290-day increase in revenue earning days during the 2015 period.

Impairment of Assets. During the first six months of 2015, we determined that the carrying value of our 7,875-foot water depth rated drillship, the *Ocean Clipper*, and seven of our mid-water floaters, was impaired. We recorded an impairment loss aggregating \$358.5 million in the first quarter of 2015. See Critical Accounting Estimates *Impairment of Long-Lived Assets* and Notes 1 and 2 to our unaudited consolidated financial statements included in Item 1 of Part I of this report.

Restructuring and Separation Costs. In response to the continued decline in the offshore drilling market, we have reviewed our cost and organization structure. As a result, our management approved and initiated a reduction in workforce at our onshore bases and corporate facilities. During the six months ended June 30, 2015, we recognized \$7.2 million in restructuring and employee separation related costs on behalf of separated employees.

Interest Expense, Net of Amounts Capitalized. Interest expense increased \$12.8 million during the six-month period ended June 30, 2015, compared to the same period in 2014, primarily as a result of less interest capitalized during the first six months of 2015 on qualifying construction projects (\$20.2 million) due to the completion of four projects in 2014. This unfavorable impact was partially offset by the absence of \$6.4 million of interest expense recognized in the first half of 2014 related to our 5.15% Senior Notes, which we repaid in September 2014, combined with a \$1.2 million reduction in interest expense recognized associated with uncertain tax positions.

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Income Tax Expense. Our effective tax rate for the six months ended June 30, 2015 was 8.8%, compared to a 16.0% effective tax rate for the six months ended June 30, 2014. The effective tax rate in the 2015 period was lower than in the same period of 2014 primarily due to the mix of our domestic and international pre-tax earnings and losses, including asset impairments taken in various jurisdictions during 2015.

Contract Drilling Revenue and Expense by Equipment Type**Three Months Ended June 30, 2015 and 2014**

Ultra-Deepwater Floaters. Revenue generated by our ultra-deepwater floaters increased \$133.0 million during the second quarter of 2015, compared to the same quarter of 2014, primarily as a result of 234 incremental revenue earning days (\$101.7 million) and higher average daily revenue earned (\$31.4 million). The increase in revenue earning days in the second quarter of 2015 was primarily attributable to incremental revenue earning days for our three newbuild drillships, the *Ocean BlackHawk*, *Ocean BlackHornet* and *Ocean BlackRhino*, and the *Ocean Endeavor*, which began drilling operations in Romania in the second half of 2014. These favorable contributions were partially offset by a decrease in revenue earning days due to downtime associated with a service-life extension project for the *Ocean Confidence* and operational issues with the *Ocean Baroness* during the second quarter of 2015. Average daily revenue for the second quarter of 2015 increased, compared to the second quarter of 2014, primarily due to a higher dayrate earned by the *Ocean Endeavor* offshore Romania, a February 2015 dayrate adjustment for the *Ocean Courage*, and incremental amortization of \$5.6 million in rig mobilization and contract preparation fees.

Contract drilling expense for our ultra-deepwater floaters increased \$39.2 million during the second quarter of 2015, compared to the same period of 2014, reflecting incremental contract drilling expense for our three newbuild drillships (\$39.4 million) and the *Ocean Endeavor* (\$7.3 million). Contract drilling expense for our other ultra-deepwater floaters decreased \$7.5 million, primarily reflecting lower personnel related, maintenance and inspection costs, partially offset by higher rig mobilization costs.

Deepwater Floaters. Revenue generated by our deepwater floaters increased \$60.6 million in the second quarter of 2015, compared to the same quarter in 2014, primarily due to 121 incremental revenue earning days (\$51.9 million) and higher average daily revenue earned (\$8.7 million) during the current year quarter. The increase in revenue earning days was the result of incremental revenue earning days for the *Ocean Alliance* (81 survey days in 2014 period) and the *Ocean Valiant* and *Ocean Victory*, which were both warm stacked between contracts in the second quarter of 2014 (129 additional days), partially offset by the cold stacking of the *Ocean Star* in the second quarter of 2015 (91 fewer days). Average daily revenue increased during the second quarter of 2015 primarily due to the recognition of a \$10.0 million demobilization fee for the *Ocean Apex* upon completion of its initial contract in the second quarter of 2015.

Contract drilling expense incurred by our deepwater floaters increased \$4.8 million during the second quarter of 2015, compared to the same period of 2014, primarily due to incremental contract drilling expense associated with contracts in the second quarter of 2015 for the *Ocean Apex* and *Ocean Valiant* (\$22.0 million), incremental mobilization costs for the *Ocean Onyx* in connection with its Trinidad contract (\$7.0 million) and higher contract drilling expense for our other deepwater rigs, including shorebase support costs (\$5.3 million). The increase in contract drilling expense in the second quarter of 2015, compared to the second quarter of 2014, was partially offset by the *Ocean Star*, which was cold stacked in the second quarter of 2015 (\$8.6 million) and the absence of costs associated with a 2014 five-year survey for the *Ocean Alliance* (\$20.9 million).

Mid-Water Floaters. Revenue generated by our mid-water floaters decreased \$204.0 million in the second quarter of 2015, compared to the same quarter in 2014, primarily due to 758 fewer revenue earning days (\$206.1 million), which

was the result of incremental downtime associated with cold-stacked and retired rigs (808 additional days) and planned downtime associated with a survey of the *Ocean Guardian* (42 additional days), partially offset by incremental revenue earning days for the *Ocean Patriot*, which resumed operations in the fourth quarter of 2014 after completion of an enhancement project (91 additional days).

Contract drilling expense decreased \$82.2 million in the second quarter of 2015, compared to the prior year quarter, primarily due to reduced operating costs for our stacked or retired mid-water rigs (\$95.3 million), partially offset by incremental costs incurred by the *Ocean Patriot* (\$11.9 million).

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Jack-ups. Contract drilling revenue and expense for our jack-up fleet decreased \$21.7 million and \$9.0 million, respectively, during the second quarter of 2015, compared to the prior year quarter, primarily due to decreased revenue and costs for the cold stacked *Ocean King* and *Ocean Titan*. Contract drilling revenue for the second quarter of 2015 was also negatively impacted by a dayrate reduction for the *Ocean Scepter* that was retroactive to the beginning of 2015 and reduced revenue for the current year quarter by \$3.8 million.

Six Months Ended June 30, 2015 and 2014

Ultra-Deepwater Floaters. Revenue generated by our ultra-deepwater floaters increased \$178.6 million during the first six months of 2015, compared to the same period of 2014, primarily as a result of higher average daily revenue earned (\$84.1 million), combined with 227 incremental revenue earning days (\$94.5 million) in the first half of 2015. Average daily revenue increased during the first half of 2015, compared to the prior year period, primarily due to revenue associated with incremental operations for the *Ocean Endeavor* in Romania, a contract extension for the *Ocean Rover* at a higher dayrate than previously earned and a dayrate adjustment for the *Ocean Courage*, combined with incremental amortization of \$13.2 million in mobilization and contract preparation fees and the operation of two additional drillships in the 2015 period. Total revenue earning days increased during the first half of 2015 primarily due to 239 incremental days earned by our newbuild drillships, the *Ocean BlackHawk*, *Ocean BlackHornet*, and *Ocean BlackRhino* and 150 incremental days associated with the *Ocean Endeavor*. These positive factors were partially offset by 90 fewer revenue earning days for the *Ocean Confidence* due to its service-life extension project and 78 fewer revenue earning days for the *Ocean Baroness* due to operational issues.

Contract drilling expense for our ultra-deepwater floaters increased \$70.2 million during the first half of 2015, compared to the same period of 2014, reflecting incremental contract drilling expense for our newbuild drillships (\$65.3 million) and the *Ocean Endeavor* (\$20.6 million), partially offset by lower operating costs for the *Ocean Confidence* due to its service-life extension project (\$9.0 million) and a net \$6.7 million decrease in contract drilling expense for our other ultra-deepwater rigs.

Deepwater Floaters. Revenue generated by our deepwater floaters increased \$52.8 million in the first half of 2015, compared to the same period in 2014, primarily due to 63 incremental revenue earning days (\$26.9 million) in the current year period combined with higher average daily revenue earned (\$25.9 million). Revenue earning days increased during the first six months of 2015 due to incremental revenue earning days for the *Ocean Apex* (72 additional days), which completed its major upgrade in late 2014, the *Ocean Valiant* (81 additional days) and the *Ocean Alliance* (128 fewer survey days), partially offset by 181 fewer revenue earning days for the *Ocean Star*, which has been idle since the third quarter of 2014, and incremental days associated with the mobilization of other deepwater rigs (54 days). Higher average daily revenue earned during the first half of 2015 reflected revenue earned by the *Ocean Apex* and incremental amortization of \$15.1 million in mobilization and contract preparation fees.

Contract drilling expense incurred by our deepwater floaters decreased an aggregate \$3.5 million during the first six months of 2015, compared to the same period of 2014, primarily due to reduced operating costs for the *Ocean Star* (\$11.7 million), the absence of costs associated with a 2014 five-year survey for the *Ocean Alliance* (\$20.9 million) and lower other operating and shorebase support costs (\$3.8 million). These cost reductions were partially offset by incremental operating costs incurred by the *Ocean Apex* (\$19.0 million) and increased mobilization costs for the *Ocean Valiant* and *Ocean Onyx* (\$13.9 million) in the 2015 period.

Mid-Water Floaters. Revenue generated by our mid-water floaters decreased \$313.6 million in the first half of 2015, compared to the same period in 2014, primarily due to 1,124 fewer revenue earning days (\$308.8 million), combined with the effect of lower average daily revenue earned (\$4.8 million). The reduction in revenue earning days during the first six months of 2015 was the result of incremental downtime associated with ten cold-stacked or retired rigs (1,406

additional days), partially offset by incremental revenue earning days for the *Ocean Patriot* after completion of an enhancement project (181 additional days) and the *Ocean Quest*, which operated in Vietnam during the first half of 2015, compared to the prior year when the rig was warm stacked between contracts (57 additional days), and fewer aggregate incremental downtime days for rig mobilization, surveys and unpaid repairs (44 fewer days).

Contract drilling expense decreased \$116.9 million in the first six months of 2015, compared to the prior year period, primarily due to reduced operating costs for our cold-stacked or retired mid-water rigs (\$143.9 million), partially offset by incremental costs for the *Ocean Patriot* (\$24.7 million).

Jack-ups. Contract drilling revenue and expense for our jack-up fleet decreased \$35.7 million and \$15.4 million, respectively, during the first half of 2015, compared to the prior year period, primarily due lower revenue and contract drilling expense for the cold-stacked *Ocean Titan* and *Ocean King* .

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We currently have available a syndicated Revolving Credit Agreement, or Credit Agreement, to meet our short-term and long-term liquidity needs.

At June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, we had cash available for current operations as follows:

	June 30, 2015	December 31, 2014
	(In thousands)	
Cash and equivalents	\$ 95,854	\$ 233,623
Marketable securities	15,953	16,033
Total cash available for current operations	\$ 111,807	\$ 249,656

As of July 1, 2015, our contract drilling backlog was approximately \$5.9 billion, of which approximately \$1.1 billion is expected to be realized in the second half of 2015.

Historically, a substantial portion of our cash flows has been invested in the enhancement of our drilling fleet. We determine the amount of cash required to meet our capital commitments by evaluating our rig construction obligations, the need to upgrade rigs to meet specific customer requirements and our ongoing rig equipment enhancement/replacement programs.

Certain of our international rigs are owned and operated, directly or indirectly, by our wholly-owned subsidiary Diamond Offshore International Limited, or DOIL, and, as a result of our intention to indefinitely reinvest the earnings of DOIL to finance our foreign activities, we do not expect such earnings to be available for distribution to our stockholders or to finance our domestic activities. To the extent available, we expect to utilize the operating cash flows generated by and cash reserves of DOIL and the operating cash flows available to and cash reserves of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. to meet each entity's respective working capital requirements and capital commitments. However, in light of the significant cash requirements of our capital expansion program in the remainder of 2015 and in 2016, we may also make use of our credit facility or commercial paper program to finance our capital expenditures and working capital requirements. In addition, we will make periodic assessments of our capital spending programs based on industry conditions and make adjustments thereto if required. See Cash Flow, Capital Expenditures and Contractual Obligations Contractual Cash Obligations Rig Construction and Credit Agreement, Senior Notes and Commercial Paper Program.

We pay dividends at the discretion of our Board of Directors, or Board. During the six-month period ended June 30, 2015, we paid cash dividends totaling \$34.3 million. During the six-month period ended June 30, 2014, we paid regular and special cash dividends totaling \$34.5 million and \$209.9 million, respectively. Our Board has adopted a policy of considering paying regular and special cash dividends, in amounts to be determined, on a quarterly basis. Any determination to declare a dividend, as well as the amount of any dividend that may be declared, will be based on the Board's consideration of our financial position, earnings, earnings outlook, capital spending plans, outlook on current and future market conditions and business needs and other factors that our Board considers relevant at that time. Our dividend policy may change from time to time, and there can be no assurance that we will continue to declare any cash dividends at all or in any particular amounts.

On July 31, 2015, we declared a regular cash dividend of \$0.125 per share of our common stock, which is payable on September 1, 2015 to stockholders of record on August 14, 2015.

Depending on market and other conditions, we may, from time to time, purchase shares of our common stock in the open market or otherwise. We did not purchase any shares of our outstanding common stock during the six-month period ended June 30, 2015. However, during the six-month period ended June 30, 2015, in connection with the vesting of restricted stock units held by our chief executive officer, we withheld 7,810 shares of common stock, with a cost of \$0.2 million, to satisfy the associated payroll tax obligation.

During the six-month period ended June 30, 2014, we purchased 1,895,561 shares of our common stock at an aggregate cost of \$87.8 million. In addition, Loews Corporation, or Loews, has informed us that, depending on market and other conditions, it may, from time to time, purchase shares of our common stock in the open market or otherwise. During the six-month period ended June 30, 2015, Loews purchased 904,154 shares of our common stock. Loews did not purchase any shares of our outstanding common stock during the six-month period ended June 30, 2014.

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Our primary source of cash during the six-month period ended June 30, 2015, was an aggregate \$200.8 million generated from operating activities, \$375.0 million from short-term borrowings under our commercial paper program and \$7.7 million from the disposition of assets, including \$4.8 million in proceeds from the sale of seven mid-water floaters for scrap during the period. Our primary uses of cash during the same period were \$686.1 million towards the construction of new rigs and our ongoing rig equipment enhancement/replacement program, including payment of the final construction installment due on the *Ocean BlackLion*, and \$35.1 million for the payment of dividends and anti-dilution adjustments to stock plan participants. See Credit Agreement, Senior Notes and Commercial Paper Program Commercial Paper Program.

For the six-month period ended June 30, 2014, our primary source of cash was an aggregate \$367.3 million generated from operating activities, \$1.4 billion in proceeds, primarily from the maturity of marketable securities, net of purchases, and \$16.5 million from the disposition of assets, primarily from the sale of the *Ocean Spartan* in June 2014. Our primary uses of cash during the same period were \$817.4 million towards the construction of new rigs and our ongoing rig equipment enhancement/replacement program, \$244.4 million for the payment of dividends and \$87.8 million for the repurchase of shares.

We may, from time to time, issue debt or equity securities, or a combination thereof, to finance capital expenditures, the acquisition of assets and businesses or for general corporate purposes. Our ability to access the capital markets by issuing debt or equity securities will be dependent on our results of operations, our current financial condition, current credit ratings, current market conditions and other factors beyond our control.

Cash Flow, Capital Expenditures and Contractual Obligations

Our cash flow from operations and capital expenditures for the six-month periods ended June 30, 2015 and 2014 were as follows:

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2015	2014
	(In thousands)	
Cash flow from operations	\$ 200,844	\$ 367,327
Cash capital expenditures:		
Drillship construction	\$ 407,980	\$ 465,103
Construction of deepwater floaters	34,020	94,307
Construction of ultra-deepwater floater	21,828	7,703
<i>Ocean Patriot</i> enhancement project	1,448	66,239
<i>Ocean Confidence</i> service-life extension project	74,825	
Rig equipment and replacement programs	146,010	184,023
Total capital expenditures	\$ 686,111	\$ 817,375

Cash Flow

Cash flow from operations decreased approximately \$166.5 million during the first six months of 2015, compared to the first six months of 2014, primarily due to lower cash receipts from contract drilling services (\$191.5 million),

partially offset by a \$23.3 million net decrease in cash payments for contract drilling and general and administrative expenses, including personnel-related, maintenance, mobilization and other rig operating costs.

Capital Expenditures

As of the date of this report, we expect our capital spending for 2015 to aggregate approximately \$920.0 million, of which we expect to spend approximately \$630.0 million on our current rig construction projects, including the *Ocean Confidence* service-life-extension project. During the first half of 2015, we incurred \$484.6 million in project-related expenditures, including accrued expenditures. See Contractual Cash Obligations Rig Construction. Our 2015 capital spending program also includes an estimated \$290.0 million for our ongoing capital maintenance and replacement programs, of which \$126.1 million had been incurred as of June 30, 2015.

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Contractual Cash Obligations Rig Construction

As of the date of this report, we have one rig, the *Ocean GreatWhite*, under construction in Ulsan, South Korea, for which we are obligated under a construction agreement with Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., Ltd. Construction of the *Ocean GreatWhite* continues with delivery expected in the second quarter of 2016. The estimated total project cost, including shipyard costs, capital spares, commissioning, project management and shipyard supervision, is \$764.0 million, of which \$212.9 million has been incurred as of June 30, 2015. See Note 11 Commitments and Contingencies to our unaudited consolidated financial statements included in Item 1 of Part I of this report for more information about this project.

We had no other purchase obligations for major rig upgrades or any other significant obligations at June 30, 2015, except for those related to our direct rig operations, which arise during the normal course of business.

Other Obligations

As of June 30, 2015, we had foreign currency forward exchange, or FOREX, contracts outstanding in the aggregate notional amount of \$2.7 million. See further information regarding these contracts in Note 7 Derivative Financial Instruments to our unaudited consolidated financial statements included in Item 1 of Part I of this report.

As of June 30, 2015, the total unrecognized tax benefits related to uncertain tax positions was \$53.5 million. In addition, we have recorded a liability, as of June 30, 2015, for potential penalties and interest of \$39.8 million and \$7.7 million, respectively. Due to the high degree of uncertainty regarding the timing of future cash outflows associated with the liabilities recognized in these balances, we are unable to make reasonably reliable estimates of the period of cash settlement with the respective taxing authorities.

Credit Agreement, Senior Notes and Commercial Paper Program

Credit Agreement

Our Credit Agreement provides for a \$1.5 billion senior unsecured revolving credit facility, for general corporate purposes, and matures on October 22, 2019, except for \$40 million of commitments that mature on March 17, 2019. We also have the option to increase the revolving commitments under the Credit Agreement by up to an additional \$500 million from time to time, upon receipt of additional commitments from new or existing lenders, and to request up to two additional one-year extensions of the maturity date. The entire amount of the facility is available, subject to its terms, for revolving loans. Up to \$250 million of the facility may be used for the issuance of performance or other standby letters of credit and up to \$100 million may be used for swingline loans. As of June 30, 2015, there were no loans or letters of credit outstanding under the Credit Agreement, and we were in compliance with all covenant requirements under the Credit Agreement. See Commercial Paper Program.

Senior Notes

On July 1, 2015, we repaid \$250.0 million in aggregate principal amount of our 4.875% Senior Notes due July 1, 2015, primarily with funds obtained through the issuance of additional commercial paper.

Commercial Paper Program

In February 2015, we established a commercial paper program with three commercial paper dealers pursuant to which we may issue, on a private placement basis, unsecured commercial paper notes up to a maximum aggregate amount

outstanding at any time of \$1.5 billion. Proceeds from issuances under the commercial paper program may be used for general corporate purposes. The maturities of the notes may vary, but may not exceed 397 days from the date of issuance. The notes will be issued, at our option, either at a discounted price to their principal face value or will bear interest, which may be at a fixed or floating rate, at rates that will vary based on market conditions and the ratings assigned by credit rating agencies at the time of issuance. The notes are not redeemable or subject to voluntary prepayment by us prior to maturity. Our Credit Agreement provides liquidity for our payment obligations in respect of the notes issued under the commercial paper program, and the aggregate amount of notes outstanding at any time will not exceed the amount available under the Credit Agreement. During the quarter ended June 30, 2015, we added a fourth commercial paper dealer to our commercial paper program. As of June 30, 2015, we had \$375.0 million in commercial paper notes outstanding with a weighted average interest rate of 0.49% and a weighted average remaining term of eight days.

We continually assess our working capital availability and requirements and reevaluate our aggregate commercial paper position based on daily net working capital activity and short and long-term cash requirements, including the repayment of debt and our capital spending program. We expect to issue additional commercial paper, as necessary, to meet short-term liquidity needs, and to reduce our aggregate commercial paper position, as excess operating cash flow allows, maintaining our financial flexibility. However, we expect our short-term borrowings to increase over the next 12 months.

As of July 31, 2015, we had an additional \$910.8 million available under the Credit Agreement for the issuance of commercial paper.

Table of Contents**Credit Ratings**

In April 2015, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, or S&P, revised its outlook on us from negative to stable and lowered our corporate credit and unsecured debt rating from A- to BBB+. Our current credit rating is A3 for Moody's Investors Services, or Moody's. In February 2015, Moody's and S&P assigned short-term credit ratings of Prime-2 and A2, respectively, to our commercial paper program. Market conditions and other factors, many of which are outside of our control, could cause our credit ratings to be lowered. A downgrade in our credit ratings could impact our cost of issuing additional debt and the amount of additional debt that we could issue. A series of downgrades or a substantial downgrade could restrict our access to capital markets and our ability to raise additional debt or rollover existing maturities. As a consequence, we may not be able to issue additional debt in amounts and/or with terms that we consider to be reasonable. One or more of these occurrences could limit our ability to pursue other business opportunities.

Other Commercial Commitments Letters of Credit

We were contingently liable as of June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$68.4 million under certain performance, security, supersedeas and customs bonds and letters of credit. Agreements relating to approximately \$61.6 million of performance, security, supersedeas and customs bonds can require collateral at any time. As of June 30, 2015, we had not been required to make any collateral deposits with respect to these agreements. The remaining agreements cannot require collateral except in events of default. Banks have issued letters of credit on our behalf securing certain of these bonds. The table below provides a list of these obligations in U.S. dollar equivalents and their time to expiration.

	Total	For the Years Ending December 31,			
		2015	2016	2017	2018
		(In thousands)			
Other Commercial Commitments					
Performance bonds	\$ 56,846	\$ 1,700	\$ 9,911	\$ 26,110	\$ 19,125
Supersedeas bond	9,189	9,189			
Other	2,358	1,415	943		
Total obligations	\$ 68,393	\$ 12,304	\$ 10,854	\$ 26,110	\$ 19,125

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

At June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, we had no off-balance sheet debt or other off-balance sheet arrangements.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

See Note 1 General Information to our unaudited consolidated financial statements included in Item 1 of Part I of this report for a discussion of recently issued accounting pronouncements.

Forward-Looking Statements

We or our representatives may, from time to time, either in this report, in periodic press releases or otherwise, make or incorporate by reference certain written or oral statements that are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. All statements other than statements of historical fact are, or may be deemed to be, forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include, without limitation, any statement that may project, indicate or imply future results, events, performance or achievements, and may contain or be identified by the words expect, intend, plan, predict, anticipate, estimate, believe, should, could, will be, will continue, will likely result, project, forecast, budget and similar expressions. In addition, any statements concerning future financial performance (including, without limitation, future revenues, earnings or growth rates), ongoing business strategies or prospects, and possible actions taken by or against us, which may be provided by management, are also forward-looking statements as so defined. Statements made by us in this report that contain forward-looking statements may include, but are not limited to, information concerning our possible or assumed future results of operations and statements about the following subjects:

market conditions and the effect of such conditions on our future results of operations;

sources and uses of and requirements for financial resources;

availability under our Credit Agreement and issuance of notes under our commercial paper program;

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interest rate and foreign exchange risk;

contractual obligations;

operations outside the United States;

business strategy;

growth opportunities;

competitive position;

expected financial position;

cash flows and contract backlog;

declaration or payment of regular or special dividends;

financing plans;

market outlook;

tax planning;

debt levels, credit ratings and the impact of changes in the credit markets and credit ratings for our debt;

budgets for capital and other expenditures;

timing and duration of required regulatory inspections for our drilling rigs;

timing and cost of completion of rig upgrades, construction projects and other capital projects;

delivery dates and drilling contracts related to rig conversion or upgrade projects, construction projects, other capital projects or rig acquisitions;

plans and objectives of management;

idling drilling rigs or reactivating stacked rigs;

scrapping retired rigs;

assets held for sale;

asset impairments and impairment evaluations and any future use or disposition of impaired assets;

effective date and performance of contracts;

outcomes of legal proceedings;

compliance with applicable laws; and

availability, limits and adequacy of insurance or indemnification.

These types of statements are based on current expectations about future events and inherently are subject to a variety of assumptions, risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expected, projected or expressed in forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, among others, the following:

those described under Risk Factors in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014;

general economic and business conditions;

worldwide demand for oil and natural gas;

changes in foreign and domestic oil and gas exploration, development and production activity;

oil and natural gas price fluctuations and related market expectations;

the ability of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, commonly called OPEC, to set and maintain production levels and pricing, and the level of production in non-OPEC countries;

policies of various governments regarding exploration and development of oil and gas reserves;

our inability to obtain contracts for our rigs that do not have contracts;

the cancellation or renegotiation of contracts included in our reported contract backlog;

advances in exploration and development technology;

the worldwide political and military environment, including, for example, in oil-producing regions and locations where our rigs are operating or where we have rigs under construction;

casualty losses;

operating hazards inherent in drilling for oil and gas offshore;

the risk that future regular or special dividends may not be declared or paid;

the risk of physical damage to rigs and equipment caused by named windstorms in the GOM;

industry fleet capacity, including, without limitation, construction of new drilling rig capacity in Brazil;

market conditions in the offshore contract drilling industry, including, without limitation, dayrates and utilization levels;

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competition;

changes in foreign, political, social and economic conditions;

risks of international operations, compliance with foreign laws and taxation policies and seizure, expropriation, nationalization, deprivation, malicious damage or other loss of possession or use of equipment and assets;

risks of potential contractual liabilities pursuant to our various drilling contracts in effect from time to time;

customer or supplier bankruptcy or liquidation;

the ability of customers and suppliers to meet their obligations to us and our subsidiaries;

collection of receivables;

the risk that a letter of intent may not result in a definitive agreement;

foreign exchange and currency fluctuations and regulations, and the inability to repatriate income or capital;

risks of war, military operations, other armed hostilities, terrorist acts and embargoes;

changes in offshore drilling technology, which could require significant capital expenditures in order to maintain competitiveness;

regulatory initiatives and compliance with governmental regulations including, without limitation, regulations pertaining to climate change, greenhouse gases, carbon emissions or energy use;

compliance with and liability under environmental laws and regulations;

potential changes in accounting policies by the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, or regulatory agencies for our industry which may cause us to revise our financial accounting and/or disclosures in the future, and which may change the way analysts measure our business or financial performance;

development and exploitation of alternative fuels;

customer preferences;

effects of litigation, tax audits and contingencies and the impact of compliance with judicial rulings and jury verdicts;

cost, availability, limits and adequacy of insurance;

invalidity of assumptions used in the design of our controls and procedures;

the results of financing efforts;

adequacy and availability of our sources of liquidity;

risks resulting from our indebtedness;

public health threats;

negative publicity;

impairments of assets;

the availability of qualified personnel to operate and service our drilling rigs; and

various other matters, many of which are beyond our control.

The risks and uncertainties included here are not exhaustive. Other sections of this report and our other filings with the SEC include additional factors that could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial performance. Given these risks and uncertainties, investors should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements included in this report speak only as of the date of this report. We expressly disclaim any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statement to reflect any change in our expectations or beliefs with regard to the statement or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any forward-looking statement is based.

ITEM 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

There were no material changes in our market risk components for the six months ended June 30, 2015. See Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk included in Item 7A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K

filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the year ended December 31, 2014 for further information.

ITEM 4. Controls and Procedures.

We maintain a system of disclosure controls and procedures which are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the federal securities laws, including this report, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported on a timely basis. These disclosure controls and procedures include controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us under the federal securities laws is accumulated and communicated to our management on a timely basis to allow decisions regarding required disclosure.

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Our Chief Executive Officer, or CEO, and Chief Financial Officer, or CFO, participated in an evaluation by our management of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) as of June 30, 2015. Based on their participation in that evaluation, our CEO and CFO concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of June 30, 2015.

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the foregoing evaluation that occurred during our second fiscal quarter of 2015 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 6. Exhibits.

See the Exhibit Index for a list of those exhibits filed or furnished herewith.

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SIGNATURES

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

DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING, INC.
(Registrant)

Date August 3, 2015

By: \s\ Gary T. Krenek
Gary T. Krenek
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Date August 3, 2015

\s\ Beth G. Gordon
Beth G. Gordon
Controller (Chief Accounting Officer)

Table of Contents**EXHIBIT INDEX**

Exhibit No.	Description
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2003) (SEC File No. 1-13926).
3.2	Amended and Restated By-laws (as amended through October 4, 2013) of Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed October 8, 2013).
10.1	Amendment to Employment Agreement, dated April 1, 2015, between Diamond Offshore Management Company and Beth G. Gordon (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2015).
10.2*	Separation Agreement and General Release, dated March 30, 2015, between Diamond Offshore Management Company and John M. Vecchio.
31.1*	Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of the Chief Executive Officer.
31.2*	Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of the Chief Financial Officer.
32.1*	Section 1350 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer.
101.INS*	XBRL Instance Document.
101.SCH*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.
101.CAL*	XBRL Taxonomy Calculation Linkbase Document.
101.LAB*	XBRL Taxonomy Label Linkbase Document.
101.PRE*	XBRL Presentation Linkbase Document.
101.DEF*	XBRL Definition Linkbase Document.
	* Filed or furnished herewith.