

ATWOOD OCEANICS INC  
Form 8-K  
January 20, 2010

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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FORM 8-K  
CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d)  
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

DATE OF EARLIEST EVENT REPORTED: JANUARY 20, 2010

ATWOOD OCEANICS, INC.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 1-13167

TEXAS  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

Internal Revenue Service – Employer Identification No. 74-1611874

15835 Park Ten Place Drive, Houston, Texas, 77084  
(281) 749-7800

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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 (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- 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

The ATWOOD SOUTHERN CROSS (owned and operated by our wholly-owned subsidiary Atwood Oceanics Pacific Limited) has been awarded a contract (at a dayrate of \$154,500) by AuDAX Resources Ltd, to drill one (1) firm well plus one option is available until March 1, 2010 to drill from one (1) to four (4) additional wells offshore Tunisia. The rig is expected to go on dayrate around June 6, 2010 during mobilization with an expected commencement of drilling on June 15, 2010. The drilling of the one (1) firm well is expected to take around forty (40) days to complete.

Statements contained in this report with respect to the future are forward-looking statements. These statements reflect management's reasonable judgment with respect to future events. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from those anticipated as a result of various factors including; the Company's dependence on the oil and gas industry; the risks involved in the construction of a rig and commencement of operations of the rig following delivery; competition; operating risks; risks involved in foreign operations; risks associated with possible disruption in operations due to terrorism, acts of piracy, embargoes, war or other military operations; and governmental regulations and environmental matters. A list of additional risk factors can be found in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2009, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

ITEM 9.01                    EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT 99.1    Press Release dated January 20, 2010

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EXHIBIT INDEX

EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION
99.1	Press Release dated January 20, 2010

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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 hereunto duly authorized.

ATWOOD OCEANICS, INC  
(Registrant)

/s/ James M. Holland  
James M. Holland  
Senior Vice President

DATE: January 20, 2010