

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

FORM 8-K

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

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): May 10, 2017

**Rowan Companies plc**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**England and Wales**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)

**1-5491**  
(Commission File Number)

**98-1023315**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

**2800 Post Oak Boulevard**  
**Suite 5450**  
**Houston, Texas**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**77056-6189**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(713) 621-7800**

**Not Applicable**  
(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 (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))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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**Item 8.01 Other Events.**

Rowan Companies plc, through a wholly owned subsidiary, participated in the recent Petrobras public rig auction and was the high bidder for P-59 and P-60, two 2013 built LeTourneau Super 116E jack-up rigs. While Rowan was the high bidder and is required to purchase the rigs at its bid price (US\$30 million per rig), the auction results have not yet been approved by Petrobras.

**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.

Dated: May 11, 2017

Rowan Companies plc

By: /s/ Stephen M. Butz

Stephen M. Butz

*Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer*