

SUPERIOR ENERGY SERVICES INC

Form S-3ASR

March 08, 2017

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 7, 2017

Registration No. 333-

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

Form S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Superior Energy Services, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

75-2379388
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

1001 Louisiana Street, Suite 2900

Houston, Texas

77002

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (713) 654-2200

William B. Masters

Executive Vice President and General Counsel

Superior Energy Services, Inc.

1001 Louisiana Street, Suite 2900

Houston, Texas 77002

(713) 654-2200

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Ryan J. Maierson

John M. Greer

Latham & Watkins LLP

811 Main Street, Suite 3700

Houston, Texas 77002

(713) 546-5400

Approximate Date of Commencement of Proposed Sale to the Public:

From time to time on or after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

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If the only securities being registered on this Form are to be offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer		Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer	(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of	Amount	Proposed	Proposed	
Securities to be Registered	to be	Maximum	Maximum	Amount of
	Registered(1)	Offering Price	Offering Price(1)	Registration Fee(2)
	per Share(1)			
Common Stock				
Preferred Stock				
Depository Shares (3)				
Debt Securities				

Warrants

Total

- (1) An indeterminate amount of each class of securities listed above are being registered as may be issued from time to time at indeterminate prices.
- (2) In reliance on Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant hereby defers payment of the registration fee required in connection with this Registration Statement. Accordingly, no filing fee is paid herewith and all registration fees will be paid on a pay as you go basis.
- (3) The depositary shares being registered will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued under a deposit agreement. If the registrant elects to offer fractional interests in shares of preferred stock registered hereunder, depositary receipts will be distributed to the investors purchasing the fractional interests, and the shares of preferred stock will be issued to the depositary under the deposit agreement. No separate consideration will be received for the depositary shares.

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PROSPECTUS

Superior Energy Services, Inc.

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Depositary Shares

Debt Securities

Warrants

We may issue and sell from time to time securities described in this prospectus. This prospectus contains summaries of the general terms of the securities. At the time of each offering, we will provide the specific terms of the offering and the securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol SPN.

Investing in our securities involves certain risks. You should carefully consider the Risk Factors section of the documents that are incorporated by reference herein and in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Prospectus dated March 7, 2017

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a shelf registration statement that we have filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). By using a shelf registration statement, we may offer the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. For further information about the securities and us, you should refer to our registration statement and its exhibits. The registration statement can be obtained from the SEC as described below under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement and, if applicable, a free writing prospectus that will describe the specific terms of the offering and the securities being offered. A prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus may include or incorporate by reference a discussion of any risk factors or other special considerations applicable to the securities being offered or to us. The prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus may also add to, update or change the information contained in this prospectus and, accordingly, to the extent inconsistent, the information in this prospectus will be superseded by the information in the prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus. Please carefully read this prospectus, the prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus, in addition to the information contained in the documents we refer to under the headings Where You Can Find More Information.

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SUPERIOR ENERGY SERVICES, INC.

We provide a wide variety of services and products to the energy industry. We serve major, national and independent oil and natural gas exploration and production companies around the world and we offer products and services with respect to the various phases of a well's economic life cycle.

Unless the context requires otherwise or unless otherwise noted, all references in this prospectus to: the Company, we, our, us or like terms refer to Superior Energy Services, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

We are a Delaware corporation. The address of our principal executive offices and our telephone number at that location is:

Superior Energy Services, Inc.

1001 Louisiana Street, Suite 2900

Houston, Texas 77002

(713) 654-2200

Our internet web site address is www.superiorenergy.com. Information contained on or accessible from our website or any other web site is not incorporated into this prospectus and does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public at the SEC's web site at *www.sec.gov*. You may also access the information we file electronically with the SEC through our website at *www.superiorenergy.com*. We have not and will not incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information included on, or linked from, our website, and any such information does not constitute a part of this prospectus. You may also inspect reports, proxy statements and other information about Superior Energy Services, Inc. at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), 20 Broad Street, New York, NY 10005.

We incorporate by reference information into this prospectus, which means that we disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except for any information superseded by information contained expressly in this prospectus. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus is current as of any date other than the date on the cover page of this prospectus. You should not assume that the information contained in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the respective dates of such documents.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, after the date of this prospectus and until the termination of this offering (excluding any information furnished and not filed with the SEC).

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, filed with the SEC on February 24, 2017;

the information incorporated by reference into Part III of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, from our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, filed with the SEC on April 13, 2016;

our Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on February 13, 2017; and

the description of our common stock included in our Form 8-A/A, filed on May 3, 2001, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating, changing or otherwise modifying such description. You can obtain copies of any of these documents without charge upon written or oral request by requesting them in writing or by telephone at:

Superior Energy Services, Inc.

1001 Louisiana Street, Suite 2900

Houston, Texas 77002

(713) 654-2200

We have not authorized anyone to provide any information or to make any representations other than those contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or in any free writing prospectuses we have prepared. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We are not making an offer of the securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus is accurate only as of the date on its cover page and that any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference.

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the information in this prospectus and incorporated by reference into this prospectus may contain forward-looking statements within the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Generally, the words expects, anticipates, targets, goals, projects, intends, plans, believes, seeks and variations of such words and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words. All statements other than statements of historical fact included in this prospectus or such other materials regarding our financial position, financial performance, liquidity, strategic alternatives, market outlook, future capital needs, capital allocation plans, business strategies and other plans and objectives of our management for future operations and activities are forward-looking statements. These statements are based on certain assumptions and analyses made by our management in light of its experience and prevailing circumstances on the date such statements are made. Such forward-looking statements, and the assumptions on which they are based, are inherently speculative and are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from such statements. Such uncertainties include, but are not limited to:

the cyclical and volatility of the oil and gas industry, including changes in prevailing oil and gas prices or expectations about future prices;

operating hazards, including the significant possibility of accidents resulting in personal injury or death, property damage or environmental damage for which we may have limited or no insurance coverage or indemnification rights;

the effect of regulatory programs (including worker health and safety laws) and environmental matters on our operations or prospects, including the risk that future changes in the regulation of hydraulic fracturing could reduce or eliminate demand for our pressure pumping services, or that future changes in climate change legislation could result in increased operating costs or reduced commodity demand globally;

counterparty risks associated with reliance on key suppliers;

risks associated with the uncertainty of macroeconomic and business conditions worldwide;

changes in competitive and technological factors affecting our operations;

credit risk associated with our customer base;

the potential inability to retain key employees and skilled workers;

challenges with estimating our oil and natural gas reserves and potential liabilities related to our oil and natural gas property;

risks inherent in acquiring businesses;

risks associated with cyber-attacks;

risks associated with business growth during an industry recovery outpacing the capabilities of our infrastructure and workforce;

political, legal, economic and other risks and uncertainties associated with our international operations;

potential changes in tax laws, adverse positions taken by tax authorities or tax audits impacting our operating results;

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risks associated with our outstanding debt obligations and the potential effect of limiting our future growth and operations our continued access to credit markets on favorable terms; and

the impact that unfavorable or unusual weather conditions could have on our operations.

These risks and other uncertainties related to our business are described under Risk Factors in this prospectus and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, which is incorporated by reference herein, and our other reports filed with the SEC. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to be correct. Investors are cautioned that many of the assumptions on which our forward-looking statements are based are likely to change after such statements are made, including for example the market prices of oil and gas and regulations affecting oil and gas operations, which we cannot control or anticipate. Further, we may make changes to our business strategies and plans (including our capital spending and capital allocation plans) at any time and without notice, based on any changes in the above-listed factors, our assumptions or otherwise, any of which could or will affect our results.

Should one or more of the risks or uncertainties described in this prospectus occur, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results and plans could differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements.

All forward-looking statements, expressed or implied, included in this prospectus are expressly qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement. This cautionary statement should also be considered in connection with any subsequent written or oral forward-looking statements that we or persons acting on our behalf may issue.

Except as otherwise required by applicable law, we disclaim any duty to update any forward-looking statements, all of which are expressly qualified by the statements in this section, to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this prospectus.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we inform you otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus, we expect to use the net proceeds we receive from any offering under this prospectus for general corporate purposes, including, but not limited to, repayment or refinancing of debt, financing of acquisitions, working capital and capital expenditures. Pending any specific application, we may initially invest funds in short-term marketable securities or apply them to the reduction of indebtedness.

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Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated is as follows:

	Years Ended December 31,				
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(i)	(ii)	(ii)	5.36x	1.97x	5.77x

- (i) For purposes of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes less (a)(1) loss of equity investments of unconsolidated subsidiaries and (2) capitalized interest plus (b)(1) loss of equity investments of unconsolidated subsidiaries, (2) fixed charges, (3) amortization of capitalized interest and (4) distributed income of equity investees. Fixed charges consist of (a) interest expense, (b) capitalized interest and (d) interest within rent expense.
- (ii) Total earnings (loss) available for fixed charges for the years ended December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015 were inadequate to cover fixed charges by \$1.1 billion and \$2.1 billion, respectively.

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DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following description of our common stock, preferred stock, certificate of incorporation and by-laws is a summary only and is subject to the complete text of our certificate of incorporation and by-laws, which have been filed with the SEC and which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. You should read our certificate of incorporation and by-laws as currently in effect for more details regarding the provisions described below and for other provisions that may be important to you. This section also summarizes relevant provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law (DGCL). The terms of the DGCL are more detailed than the general information provided below. Therefore, you should carefully consider the actual provisions of these laws.

Our authorized capital stock consists of 250,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, and we have authority to issue 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01. As of March 1, 2017, there were 152,831,563 shares of common stock issued and outstanding. No shares of preferred stock are outstanding.

Common Stock

Under our certificate of incorporation, as amended to date, we have authority to issue 250,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001. As of March 1, 2017, 152,831,563 shares of common stock were outstanding. As of that date, we also had 7,267,326 shares of common stock reserved for issuance upon exercise of options or in connection with other awards outstanding under various employee or director incentive, compensation and option plans. The outstanding shares of common stock are, and all shares of common stock being offered by this prospectus will be, fully paid and nonassessable. The following description of our common stock, certificate of incorporation, and by-laws are only summaries, and we encourage you to review complete copies of these documents, which are exhibits to the Registration Statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Dividends

Subject to any preferences accorded to the holders of our preferred stock, holders of our common stock are entitled to any dividend declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for that purpose.

Voting Rights

The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held of record on all matters as to which stockholders are entitled to vote. Stockholders are not allowed to cumulate votes on any matters submitted to our stockholders, including the election of our board of directors.

Liquidation and Other Rights

In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of our common stock will be entitled to share equally in any of our assets available for distribution after the payment in full of all debts and distributions and after the holders of all series of outstanding preferred stock have received their liquidation preferences in full. The holders of our common stock are not entitled to preemptive or redemption rights. Shares of common stock are not redeemable and are not convertible into shares of any other class of capital stock.

Preferred Stock

Under our certificate of incorporation, as amended to date, we have authority to issue, in one or more series, 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. Currently, no shares of our preferred stock are outstanding.

The description of the terms of our preferred stock set forth below does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our certificate of incorporation and the certificate of designations relating to each series of preferred stock.

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Our board of directors is authorized to designate, for each series of preferred stock, the preferences, qualifications, limitations, restrictions and optional or other special rights of such series, including, but not limited to:

the number of shares in the series;

the name of the series;

the dividend rate or basis for determining such rate if any, on the shares of the series;

whether dividends will be cumulative and, if so, from which date or dates;

whether the shares of the series will be redeemable and if so, the dates, prices and other terms and conditions of redemption;

whether we will be obligated to purchase or redeem shares of the series pursuant to a sinking fund or otherwise, and the prices, periods and other terms and conditions upon which the shares of the series will be redeemed or purchased;

the rights, if any, of holders of the shares of the series to convert such shares into, or exchange such shares for, shares of any other class of stock;

whether the shares of the series will have voting rights, in addition to the voting rights provided by law, and, if so, the terms of those voting rights; and

the rights of the shares of the series in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

The shares of preferred stock of any one series will be identical except for the dates from which dividends will cumulate, if at all.

The issuance of preferred stock could adversely affect the voting power of holders of our common stock and the likelihood that such holders will receive dividend payments and payments upon liquidation and could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control.

Provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws and Delaware Law

Our certificate of incorporation and by-laws contain provisions that may have an adverse effect on the ability of our stockholders to influence our corporate governance.

Summaries of the provisions described in the preceding paragraph, and certain provisions of Delaware law, are set forth below. However, you should read our certificate of incorporation and by-laws for a more complete description of the rights of holders of our common stock.

Amendment of By-laws. Under Delaware law, the power to adopt, amend or repeal by-laws is conferred upon stockholders. However, a corporation may in its certificate of incorporation also confer such power upon the board of directors. Our certificate of incorporation and by-laws grant such powers to our board of directors.

Advance Notice of Stockholder Nominations and Stockholder Business. Our by-laws permit stockholders to nominate a person for election as a director or bring other matters before a stockholders' meeting only if a written notice of intent to nominate or bring business before a meeting is given a specified time in advance of the meeting.

Delaware Section 203. We are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which imposes a three-year moratorium on the ability of Delaware corporations to engage in a wide range of specified transactions with any interested stockholder. An interested stockholder includes, among other things, any person other than the corporation and its majority-owned subsidiaries who owns 15% or more of any class or series of stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors. However, the moratorium will not apply if, among other things, the transaction is approved by:

the corporation's board of directors prior to the date the interested stockholder became an interested stockholder; or

the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of each class or series of stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, not including those shares owned by the interested stockholder.

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Special Meetings of the Stockholders. Our by-laws provide that special meetings of stockholders may be called only pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of directors. Our stockholders do not have the power to call a special meeting.

Limitation of Directors Liability. Our certificate of incorporation contains provisions eliminating the personal liability of our directors to us and our stockholders for monetary damages for breaches of their fiduciary duties as directors to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. Under Delaware law and our certificate of incorporation, a director will not be liable for a breach of his or her duty except for liability for:

a breach of his or her duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders;

acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

dividends or stock repurchases or redemptions that are unlawful under Delaware law; and

any transaction from which he or she receives an improper personal benefit.

These provisions pertain only to breaches of duty by directors as directors and not in any other corporate capacity, such as officers. In addition, these provisions limit liability only for breaches of fiduciary duties under Delaware corporate law and not for violations of other laws such as the federal securities laws.

As a result of these provisions in our certificate of incorporation, our stockholders may be unable to recover monetary damages against directors for actions taken by them that constitute negligence or gross negligence or that are in violation of their fiduciary duties. However, our stockholders may obtain injunctive or other equitable relief for these actions. These provisions also reduce the likelihood of derivative litigation against our directors that might have benefitted us.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE DEPOSITARY SHARES

We may, at our option, elect to offer fractional shares of preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we exercise this option, we will issue to the public receipts for depositary shares, and each of these depositary shares will represent a fraction, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, of a share of a particular series of preferred stock. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a share of preferred stock underlying that depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock underlying that depositary share. These rights include dividend, voting, redemption and liquidation rights. As of March 1, 2017, no depositary shares were outstanding.

The shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited with a bank or trust company selected by us to act as depositary, under a deposit agreement between us and the depositary. The depositary will be the transfer agent, registrar and dividend disbursing agent for the depositary shares.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the deposit agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares, in accordance with the terms of the offering.

The following description of the terms of our depositary shares sets forth certain general terms and provisions of our depositary shares to which any prospectus supplement may relate and will apply to the depositary shares offered by this prospectus unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement for a particular offering of depositary shares may specify different or additional terms. The description of the terms of our depositary shares set forth below and in any prospectus supplement does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our certificate of incorporation and the certificate of designations relating to the series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares, and the deposit agreement and depositary receipts in connection with the offering of specific depositary shares. The forms of the deposit agreement and depositary receipts will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of specific depositary shares.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute cash dividends or other cash distributions, if any, received in respect of the series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares to the record holders of depositary receipts in proportion to the number of depositary shares owned by those holders on the relevant record date. The relevant record date for depositary shares will be the same date as the record date for the underlying preferred stock.

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary shares that are entitled to receive the distribution, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution. If this occurs, the depositary may, with our approval, sell the property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to the applicable holders.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares is subject to redemption, the depositary shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of that series of preferred stock held by the depositary. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share payable with respect to that series of the preferred stock.

Whenever we redeem shares of preferred stock that are held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem, as of the same redemption date, the number of depositary shares representing the shares of preferred stock so redeemed. If fewer than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary will select the depositary shares to be redeemed by lot or pro rata, as the depositary may determine.

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Liquidation Preference

If a series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares has a liquidation preference, in the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of depositary shares will be entitled to receive the fraction of the liquidation preference accorded each share of the applicable series of preferred stock, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Voting of Preferred Stock

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the information contained in the notice to the record holders of the underlying depositary receipts. Each record holder of the depositary receipts on the record date will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the amount of the preferred stock underlying that holder's depositary shares. The relevant record date for depositary shares will be the same date as the record date for the underlying preferred stock. The depositary will then try, as far as practicable, to vote the number of shares of preferred stock underlying those depositary receipts in accordance with these instructions, and we agree to take all actions deemed necessary by the depositary to enable the depositary to do so. The depositary will not vote the shares of preferred stock to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of the underlying depositary receipts.

Amendment and Termination of Depositary Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may at any time be amended by agreement between us and the depositary. However, any amendment which materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding approve the amendment. We or the depositary may terminate the deposit agreement only if:

all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed; or

there has been a final distribution of the underlying preferred stock in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and the preferred stock has been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts.

Charges of Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will also pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock.

Holders of depositary receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and those other charges, including a fee for the withdrawal of shares of preferred stock upon surrender of depositary receipts, as are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts. If these charges are not paid, the depositary may:

refuse to transfer depositary shares;

withhold dividends and distributions in respect to depositary shares; or

sell the depositary shares evidenced by the depositary receipt.

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Miscellaneous

The depositary will forward to holders of depositary receipts all reports and communications we deliver to the depositary that we are required to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock. In addition, the depositary will make available for inspection by holders of depositary receipts at the principal office of the depositary, and at such other places as it may from time to time deem advisable, any reports or communications we deliver to the depositary as the holder of the preferred stock.

Neither we nor the depositary will be liable if either of us is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond the control of either us or the depositary in performing our respective obligations under the deposit agreement. Our obligations and those of the depositary will be limited to performance in good faith of our respective duties under the deposit agreement. Neither we nor the depositary will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the depositary may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering notice to us. We may remove the depositary at any time. Any resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of the appointment. The successor depositary must be appointed by us within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement a description of the debt securities that may be offered under this prospectus.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE WARRANTS

We may issue warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, or other securities or any combination of the foregoing. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any common stock, preferred stock, debt securities or other securities and may be attached to or separate from the common stock, preferred stock, debt securities or other securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent we will name in a prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

The prospectus supplement relating to any warrants that we may offer will include specific terms relating to the offering. We will file the form of any warrant agreement with the SEC, and you should read the warrant agreement for provisions that may be important to you. The applicable prospectus supplement will include some or all of the following terms:

the title of the warrants;

the aggregate number of the warrants offered;

the designation, number and terms of the common stock, preferred stock, debt securities or other securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants, and procedures by which the number of securities purchasable may be adjusted;

the exercise price of the warrants;

the dates or periods during which the warrants are exercisable;

the designation and terms of any securities with which the warrants are issued;

if the warrants are issued as a unit with another security, the date, if any, on and after which the warrants and the other security will be separately transferable;

if the exercise price is not payable in U.S. dollars, the foreign currency, currency unit or composite currency in which the exercise price is denominated;

any minimum or maximum amount of warrants that may be exercised at any one time; and

any terms, procedures and limitations relating to the transferability, exchange or exercise of the warrants.

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities in and outside the United States through underwriters or dealers, directly to purchasers or through agents.

Sale Through Underwriters or Dealers

If we use underwriters in the sale of the securities, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Underwriters may offer the securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities if they purchase any of them. The underwriters may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

During and after an offering through underwriters, the underwriters may purchase and sell the securities in the open market. These transactions may include overallotment and stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover syndicate short positions created in connection with the offering. The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid, whereby selling concessions allowed to syndicate members or other broker-dealers for the offered securities sold for their account may be reclaimed by the syndicate if such offered securities are repurchased by the syndicate in stabilizing or covering transactions. These activities may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the offered securities, which may be higher than the price that might otherwise prevail in the open market. If commenced, these activities may be discontinued at any time.

If we use dealers in the sale of the securities, we will sell such securities to them as principals. They may then resell those securities to the public at varying prices determined by the dealers at the time of resale. The dealers participating in any sale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those securities. We will include in the prospectus supplement the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction.

Direct Sales and Sales Through Agents

We may sell the securities directly. In that event, no underwriters or agents would be involved. We may also sell the securities through agents we designate from time to time. In the prospectus supplement, we will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities, and we will describe any commissions payable by us to the agent. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

We may sell the securities directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those securities. We will describe the terms of any such sales in the prospectus supplement.

Delayed Delivery Contracts

If we so indicate in the prospectus supplement, we may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from certain types of institutions to purchase the securities from us at the public offering price under delayed delivery

contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

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General Information

We may have agreements with the agents, dealers and underwriters to indemnify them against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments that the agents, dealers or underwriters may be required to make. Agents, dealers and underwriters may engage in transactions with us or perform services for us in the ordinary course of their businesses for which they will receive customary fees and commissions.

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LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the offered securities and other matters in connection with any offering of the securities will be passed upon for us by Latham & Watkins LLP, Houston, Texas, our outside counsel. If the securities are being distributed through underwriters or agents, the underwriters or agents will be advised about legal matters relating to any offering by their own legal counsel, which will be named in the related prospectus supplement.

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EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Superior Energy Services, Inc. as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2016, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016 have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

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Superior Energy Services, Inc.

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Depository Shares

Debt Securities

Warrants

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN THE PROSPECTUS****Item 14. *Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution***

Set forth below are the expenses (other than underwriting discounts and commissions) expected to be incurred in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities registered hereby. With the exception of the SEC registration fee, the amounts set forth below are estimates.

SEC registration fee	\$	*
Accountants fees and expenses	\$	**
Legal fees and expenses	\$	**
Trustee and Counsel fees and expenses	\$	**
Printing and engraving expenses	\$	**
Listing fees	\$	**
Miscellaneous	\$	**
Total	\$	**

* The registrant is deferring payment of the registration fee in reliance on Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r) of the Securities Act.

** Estimated expenses are not presently known. The foregoing sets forth the general categories of expenses (other than underwriting discounts and commissions) that we anticipate we will incur in connection with the offering of securities under this registration statement. An estimate of the aggregate expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being offered will be included in the applicable prospectus supplement

Item 15. *Indemnification of Directors and Officers*

Subsection (a) of Section 145 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, or the DGCL, empowers a corporation to indemnify any person who was or is a party or who is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the person's conduct was unlawful.

Subsection (b) of Section 145 empowers a corporation to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that the person acted in any of the capacities set forth above, against expenses (including attorneys fees) actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the

defense or settlement of such action or suit if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper.

Section 145 further provides that to the extent a director or officer of a corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsections (a) and (b) of Section 145, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, such person shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection therewith; that indemnification

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provided for by Section 145 shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the indemnified party may be entitled; and the indemnification provided for by Section 145 shall, unless otherwise provided when authorized or ratified, continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of such person's heirs, executors and administrators. Section 145 also empowers the corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity, or arising out of his status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liabilities under Section 145.

Section 102(b)(7) of the DGCL provides that a corporation's certificate of incorporation may contain a provision eliminating or limiting the personal liability of a director to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, provided that such provision shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a director (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the DGCL, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

Our certificate of incorporation contains provisions eliminating the personal liability of our directors for monetary damages for breaches of their fiduciary duties as directors to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL. In addition, our certificate of incorporation provides that if Delaware law is amended to authorize the further elimination or limitation of the liability of a director, then the liability of the directors shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law, as amended. These provisions pertain only to breaches of duty by directors as directors and not in any other corporate capacity, such as officers, and limit liability only for breaches of fiduciary duties under Delaware corporate law and not for violations of other laws such as the federal securities laws.

Our certificate of incorporation also requires us to indemnify our directors, officers, employees and agents to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL against certain expenses and costs, judgments, settlements and fines incurred in the defense of any claim, including any claim brought by or in the right of the Company, to which they were made parties by reason of being or having been directors, officers, employees and agents.

Under Section 6 of our by-laws, we are required to defend and indemnify each person who is involved in any threatened or actual claim, action or proceeding by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director or officer or serving in a similar position with respect to another entity at our request if (a) the director or officer is successful in defending the claim on its merits or otherwise or (b) the director or officer meets the standard of conduct required under the DGCL. However, the director or officer is not entitled to indemnification if (i) the claim is brought by the director or officer against us or (ii) the claim is brought by the director or officer as a derivative action by us or in our right, and the action has not been authorized by our board of directors. The rights conferred by Section 6 of our by-laws are contractual rights and include the right to be paid expenses incurred in defending the action, suit or proceeding in advance of its final disposition.

In addition, we have entered into an indemnity agreement with each of our directors and certain key executive officers, pursuant to which we have agreed under certain circumstances to purchase and maintain directors' and officers' liability insurance. The agreements also provide that we will indemnify the directors or officers, as applicable, against any costs and expenses, judgments, settlements and fines incurred in connection with any claim involving them by reason of their position as a director or officer, as applicable, that are in excess of the coverage provided by such insurance (provided that the director or officer meets certain standards of conduct). Under the indemnity agreements, we are not required to purchase and maintain directors' and officers' liability insurance if our board of directors unanimously determines in good faith that there is insufficient benefit to us from the insurance.

Item 16. Exhibits

(a) *Exhibits*

A list of exhibits filed with this registration statement on Form S-3 is set forth on the Exhibit Index and is incorporated herein by reference.

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Item 17. Undertakings

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement; *provided, however*, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by a Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act, that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:

(A) Each prospectus filed by the Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the

registration statement; and

- (B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the

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registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of such undersigned Registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, such undersigned Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:
- (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of such undersigned Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
 - (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of such undersigned Registrant or used or referred to by such undersigned Registrant;
 - (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about such undersigned Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of such undersigned Registrant; and
 - (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by such undersigned Registrant to the purchaser.
- (b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by

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a director, officer or controlling person of such Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, such Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

- (d) To file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the SEC under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.

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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on March 7, 2017.

Superior Energy Services, Inc.

By: /s/ David D. Dunlap

David D. Dunlap

President, Chief Executive Officer and
Director

Each person whose signature appears below appoints David D. Dunlap and Robert S. Taylor, and each of them, as his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and re-substitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement and any Registration Statement (including any amendment thereto) for this offering that is to be effective upon filing pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or would do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agent may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ David D. Dunlap David D. Dunlap	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (chief executive officer)	March 7, 2017
/s/ Robert S. Taylor Robert S. Taylor	Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer (principal financial and accounting officer)	March 7, 2017
/s/ Terence E. Hall Terence E. Hall	Chairman of the Board	March 7, 2017
/s/ Harold J. Bouillion Harold J. Bouillion	Director	March 7, 2017
/s/ James M Funk James M. Funk	Director	March 7, 2017

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/s/ Peter D. Kinnear Peter D. Kinnear	Director	March 7, 2017
/s/ Janiece M. Longoria Janiece M. Longoria	Director	March 7, 2017
/s/ Michael M. McShane Michael M. McShane	Director	March 7, 2017
/s/ W. Matt Ralls W. Matt Ralls	Director	March 7, 2017

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Number	Description
1.1**	Underwriting Agreement.
3.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Superior Energy Services, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Superior Energy Services, Inc. s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed August 7, 2013 (File No. 001-34037)).
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Superior Energy Services, Inc. (as amended through March 7, 2012) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Superior Energy Services, Inc. s Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 12, 2012 (File No. 001-34037)).
4.1	Specimen Stock Certificate (incorporated herein by reference to Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to Superior Energy Services, Inc. s Form S-4 on Form SB-2 filed January 9, 1997 (Registration Statement No. 33-94454)).
4.2*	Form of Indenture.
5.1*	Opinion of Latham & Watkins LLP.
12.1*	Statements relating to the computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges.
23.1*	Consent of KPMG LLP.
23.2*	Consent of Latham & Watkins LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).
24.1*	Powers of Attorney (included on the signature page of this registration statement).
25.1***	Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility and Qualification of The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee.

* Provided herewith.

** To be filed as an exhibit to a report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act or in a post-effective amendment to this Registration statement.

*** To be filed under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.