

NOBLE CORP  
Form 425  
December 29, 2005

**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): December 29, 2005**

**NOBLE CORPORATION**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

**Cayman Islands**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

**001-31306**

(Commission File Number)

**98-0366361**

(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**13135 South Dairy Ashford, Suite 800**

**Sugar Land, Texas**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**77478**

(Zip code)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (281) 276-6100**

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-2(c))

**Item 8.01. Other Events.**

On December 29, 2005, the Company issued a press release reiterating its prior statement regarding an offer for the shares of Smedvig ASA. The press release is filed herewith as Exhibit 99.1.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(c) Exhibits.

Exhibit 99.1 Noble Corporation Press Release of December 29, 2005.

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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.

NOBLE CORPORATION

Date: December 29, 2005

By: /s/ Julie J. Robertson  
Julie J. Robertson  
Senior Vice President -- Administration

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**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

Exhibit No.	Description
Exhibit 99.1	Noble Corporation Press Release of December 29, 2005.