

TETRA TECHNOLOGIES INC  
Form 11-K  
June 29, 2017

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

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FORM 11-K

(MARK ONE)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM \_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_

Commission File No. 1-13455

A. Full title of the plan and address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

TETRA Technologies, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Plan

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

TETRA Technologies, Inc.  
24955 Interstate 45 North  
The Woodlands, Texas 77380

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Supplemental Schedule\*

Schedule H, Line 4(i) – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) Page 12

Other  
schedules  
required by  
29 CFR  
2520.103-10  
of the  
Department  
of Labor's  
Rules and  
Regulations  
for Reporting  
and

\*Note Disclosure  
under the  
Employee  
Retirement  
Income  
Security Act  
of 1974, as  
amended,  
have been  
omitted  
because they  
are not  
applicable.

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Administrator of TETRA Technologies, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of TETRA Technologies, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Plan as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2016. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of TETRA Technologies, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Plan at December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2016, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

The accompanying supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2016, has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of TETRA Technologies, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Plan's financial statements. The information in the supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental schedule. In forming our opinion on the information, we evaluated whether such information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP  
Houston, Texas  
June 29, 2017

TETRA Technologies, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Plan  
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	December 31,	
	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Receivables:		
Notes receivable from participants	\$4,574,390	\$5,530,639
Investments, at fair value	119,507,251	130,871,918
Net assets available for benefits	\$124,081,641	\$136,402,557

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

TETRA Technologies, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Plan  
 Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits  
 Year Ended December 31, 2016

Additions:

Employer contributions	\$1,283,266
Participant contributions	8,174,298
Rollover contributions	726,015
Interest and dividends	4,237,886
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	190,001
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	2,401,901
Total additions	17,013,367

Deductions:

Benefits paid to participants	29,283,129
Administrative expenses	51,154
Total deductions	29,334,283

Net increase (decrease) (12,320,916 )

Net assets available for benefits:

Beginning of year	136,402,557
End of year	\$124,081,641

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

TETRA Technologies, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2016

1. Description of Plan

The following description of the TETRA Technologies, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Plan (the Plan) is provided for general information only. Participants should refer to the Plan Document and Summary Plan Description for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions, a copy of which is available from TETRA Technologies, Inc. (the Company or Plan Administrator).

General

The Plan, which initially became effective January 1, 1990, is a profit sharing plan as defined by Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the IRC) and contains a provision for salary reduction contributions under Section 401(k) of the IRC. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA). The Company is the designated administrator of the Plan and the Plan is advised by the 401(k) Committee, which currently consists of certain employees of the Company. T. Rowe Price Trust Company (TRP or Trustee) is the trustee of the Plan.

Eligibility

Employees who have attained age 18 are eligible to participate in the Plan beginning on the first day of any calendar month coincident with or following completion of six months of service. However, the following employees or classes of employees are not eligible to participate: (i) employees who are non-resident aliens and who receive no earned income from the Company which constitutes income from sources within the United States; (ii) leased employees; and (iii) employees who are residents of Puerto Rico.

Contributions

The maximum elective contribution limit is 70% of eligible Plan compensation. Contributions for each participant are limited in any calendar year to annual "regular" and "catch-up" contribution limits as determined pursuant to the IRC. Unless the employee elects otherwise, 4% of each eligible employee's eligible Plan compensation is automatically contributed to the Plan on a pre-tax basis. The Plan provides an automated service which increases the employee's elective contribution rate by 2% at the same time each year until a 6% elective contribution rate has been reached. The 6% elective contribution rate is the amount needed to take advantage of the full Company match, if any. The employee is reminded annually before any such increase takes place and can elect to change the elective contribution rate at any time by contacting TRP. Employees have the option to elect a 0% elective contribution rate or to change their elective contribution rate in accordance with the Plan.

The Company may contribute an amount equal to a specified matching percentage of the participant's elective contribution. The Company made matching contributions of 50% of the first 6% of the participant's elective contributions per pay period from January 1, 2016 to April 2016. In May 2016, the Company suspended its matching contribution of participants' contributions. The Company may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, re-implement its matching contribution at a future date.

The Company may also, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, make a profit sharing contribution to the Plan at the end of each fiscal year. Such Company contribution would be allocated to Plan participants, who are employed on December 31 of such year, in the same ratio that each participant's eligible Plan compensation bears to the total

eligible Plan compensation of all participants. No profit sharing contribution was made for the 2016 Plan year.

Participants have the right to direct the investment of their contributions, including the Company's matching contributions and profit sharing, if any, into any of the investment options offered by the Plan. Participant contributions and Company contributions for which no participant investment direction is given are automatically allocated to age appropriate target date mutual funds. These target date mutual funds provide an asset allocation and investment strategy based on a future retirement date. If the contributions of a participant are automatically allocated to a target date mutual fund, the participant may elect to change such investments in accordance with the Plan.

#### Company Stock Fund

The Plan permits participants to invest in common stock of the Company through the Plan's Company Stock Fund. The Company Stock Fund may also hold cash or other short-term securities, although these are expected to be a small percentage of the fund.

The Plan limits the amount a participant can invest in the Company Stock Fund, to encourage diversification of participants' accounts. Each payroll period, a participant can direct up to a maximum of 50% of their contributions to the Company Stock Fund. In addition, a participant may not transfer amounts from other investment funds into the Company Stock Fund to the extent the transfer would result in more than 50% of the participant's total account balance being invested in the Company Stock Fund.

#### Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their elective contributions, as adjusted for earnings and losses thereon. Vesting in the matching contribution and profit sharing contribution portions of their accounts, if any, as adjusted for earnings and losses thereon, is based on years of service. Participants are 25% vested after two years of service and vest an additional 25% each year thereafter, becoming 100% vested after five years of service. Upon a participant's death, disability or normal retirement, the participant becomes 100% vested in his or her entire account. Except as otherwise described herein, participants forfeit any non-vested matching contribution and profit sharing contribution portions of their accounts in the Plan upon termination of employment with the Company.

#### Benefit Payments and Forfeitures

Upon termination of employment for any reason, a participant's vested balance is payable in a lump sum or installments. Amounts which are forfeited by participants due to termination of employment are used as a credit against the Company's matching and profit sharing contributions, if any. During 2016, amounts forfeited by participants totaling \$173,754 were used as a credit against Company-paid matching contributions. Cumulative forfeitures relating to prior period activity and available to be applied against any future Company-paid matching contributions or profit sharing were approximately \$489,311 and \$120,215 as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

#### Plan Amendment and Termination

The Company has the right under the Plan to amend or terminate the Plan, subject to applicable law. In the event of Plan termination, participants would become 100% vested in their accounts.

#### Participant Loans

Participants, during their time of employment, may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000, up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balances. Loan terms range from 1 to 5 years, or up to 15 years for the purchase of the participant's primary residence. The loans are secured by the balances in the participants' accounts and bear interest at rates established at the inception of the loan, set at one percentage point higher than the prime lending rate as posted in the Wall Street Journal (or similar financial publication). Principal and interest are paid ratably, generally through payroll deductions.

#### Administrative Expenses

Certain administrative expenses are paid by the Company.

## 2. Summary of Accounting Policies



Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements of the Plan have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Benefit payments to participants are recorded upon distribution.

## Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes and schedule. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

## Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants represent participant loans that are recorded at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income on notes receivable from participants is recorded when it is earned. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are recorded when they are incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2016 or 2015. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the plan administrator deems the participant loan to be a distribution, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded.

## Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The Plan's investments are stated at fair value. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (an exit price).

Short term investments are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis and dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

## 3. Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e., an exit price). The fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

Level 1 – Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets that are accessible to the reporting entity at the measurement date for identical assets and liabilities.

Level 2 – Inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full term of the asset or liability. Level 2 inputs include the following:

- quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets;

- quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active;

- observable inputs other than quoted prices that are used in the valuation of the asset or liabilities (e.g., interest rate and yield curve quotes at commonly quoted intervals); and

- inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability (i.e., supported by little or no market activity). Level 3 inputs include management's own assumption about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability (including assumptions about risk).

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is classified is determined based on the lowest priority input that is significant to the fair value measure in its entirety.

The following tables set forth by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets carried at fair value for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015:



Assets at Fair Value as of December 31,  
2016

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
TETRA Technologies, Inc. common stock	\$2,667,828	\$ —	—\$	—\$2,667,828
Mutual funds	108,176,987	—	—	108,176,987
	\$110,844,815	\$ —	—\$	—\$110,844,815
Investments measured at net asset value:				
Stable Value Fund (a)				8,662,436
Total assets at fair value				\$119,507,251

Assets at Fair Value as of December 31,  
2015

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
TETRA Technologies, Inc. common stock	\$4,702,291	\$ —	—\$	—\$4,702,291
Mutual funds	116,903,135			116,903,135
	\$121,605,426	\$ —	—\$	—\$121,605,426
Investments measured at net asset value:				
Stable Value Fund (a)				\$9,266,492
Total assets at fair value				\$130,871,918

(a) This category includes a common/collective trust fund that is designed to deliver safety and stability by preserving principal and accumulating earnings. This fund is primarily invested in guaranteed investment contracts and synthetic investment contracts. Participant-directed redemptions have no restrictions; however, the Plan is required to provide a one year redemption notice to liquidate its entire share in the fund. The fair value of this fund is based on the net asset value as reported by the issuer of the fund, which is determined based on the fair value of the underlying investment contracts in the fund.

The Plan's valuation methodology used to measure the fair values of Company stock and mutual funds were derived from quoted market prices, as these instruments have active markets. Common collective trust funds are measured at net asset value as determined by the issuer. The net asset value is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value.

#### 4. Income Tax Status

The underlying non-standardized prototype plan has received an opinion letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) dated March 31, 2014, stating that the form of the Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the IRC, and therefore, the related trust is tax exempt. In accordance with Revenue Procedures 2016-6 and 2015-36, the Plan Administrator has determined that it is eligible to and has chosen to rely on the current IRS prototype plan opinion letter. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the IRC to maintain its qualification. The Plan Administrator has indicated that it will take the necessary steps, if any, to bring the Plan's operation into compliance with the IRC.

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles require plan management to evaluate uncertain tax positions taken by the Plan. The financial statement effects of a tax position are recognized when the position is more likely than not, based on the technical merits, to be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan Administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2016, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken. The Plan has recognized no interest or penalties related to uncertain tax positions. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits in progress for any tax periods. The Plan Administrator believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2013.



#### 5. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan provides for investments in various investment securities, that in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit, and overall market volatility risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits and participant account balances.

#### 6. Related Party Transactions

Certain investments of the Plan are managed by T. Rowe Price Trust Company, the Trustee of the Plan, and therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. The Plan also invests in shares of the Company's common stock and these transactions also qualify as party-in-interest transactions. All of these transactions are exempt from the prohibited transactions rules.

Supplemental Schedule

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TETRA Technologies, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Plan  
 Schedule H, Line 4(i) – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)  
 EIN: 74-2148293 PN: 001  
 December 31, 2016

Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment	Current Value
*T. Rowe Price	Retirement 2025 Fund	\$13,461,730
*T. Rowe Price	Retirement 2020 Fund	10,623,997
*T. Rowe Price	Retirement 2030 Fund	10,473,614
*T. Rowe Price	Retirement 2035 Fund	9,729,918
*T. Rowe Price	Retirement 2040 Fund	9,438,330
*T. Rowe Price	TRP Stable Value Fund	8,662,436
*T. Rowe Price	Retirement 2045 Fund	7,445,996
LM Clearbridge	Large Cap Growth Fund	6,831,798
Vanguard	Interm Bond Index Inv	6,193,543
*T. Rowe Price	TRP Growth Stock Fund	5,423,183
*T. Rowe Price	Retirement 2050 Fund	4,768,309
Participant loans	Loans with various maturities and interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 10.50% per annum	4,574,390
*T. Rowe Price	Retirement 2015 Fund	3,083,842
*TETRA Technologies, Inc.	TETRA Technologies, Inc. common stock	2,667,828
Artisan Funds	Mid Cap Growth Fund	2,478,515
Dreyfus	Mid Cap Value Fund	2,133,567
American Funds	EuroPacific Growth Fund	2,050,703
T. Rowe Price	Retirement 2055 Fund	2,049,033
Vanguard	Selected Value Fund	1,702,624
UBVLX	Undiscovered Managers Behavioral Value L	1,343,091
Franklin	Small Cap Growth Fund	1,341,749
*T. Rowe Price	Retirement 2010 Fund	1,317,968
Vanguard	Value Index, Inv	1,095,910
MFS	International Value	964,002
Vanguard	Growth Index Fund	747,165
Vanguard	Mid-Cap Index	694,217
PIMCO	Income Inst	624,813
Vanguard	Small Cap Index, Inv	601,639
Matthews	Asia Dividend Fund	538,463
*T. Rowe Price	TRP Retire Bal Inv	482,716
MFS	Aggressive Growth Allocation	199,226
*T. Rowe Price	Retirement 2060 Fund	110,439
Vanguard	Developed Markets Index Investor	75,386
Vanguard	Short term Inv	56,266
PIMCO	Short-Term Inst	36,903
MFS	Conservative Allocation	31,142
T. Rowe Price	Retirement 2005 Fund	25,191
MFS	Growth Allocation	1,695



MFS

Moderate Allocation

304

\$124,081,641

\* Party-in-interest

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

TETRA Technologies, Inc. 401(k)  
Retirement Plan

By: /s/Stuart M. Brightman  
Stuart M. Brightman  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
TETRA Technologies, Inc.

Date: June 29, 2017

EXHIBIT INDEX

EXHIBIT NO. DESCRIPTION

23.1 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

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