

AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT

# Matrix Energy and TotalEnergies Complete 3D Seismic Survey in Nigerian Shallow Water

Saga deep read · 27 May 2026 · Score 50

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Nigerian junior Matrix Energy and French major TotalEnergies have each recently concluded three-dimensional (3D) seismic data acquisition in Nigeria's shallow water, marking a meaningful step forward in the country's upstream exploration cycle. While the two campaigns appear to have been conducted independently, their near-simultaneous completion points to a renewed appetite for seismic investment in a basin that has seen uneven activity in recent years.

Shallow-water Nigeria remains a strategically important frontier for both indigenous operators and international majors. The completion of 3D seismic surveys is a prerequisite for high-grading prospects ahead of drilling decisions, and back-to-back campaigns by operators of different scales — a domestic junior and a global supermajor — suggests the licensing and investment environment is sufficiently stable to justify capital commitment at the exploration stage.

For Matrix Energy, completing a 3D seismic programme represents a significant technical and financial undertaking for a junior operator, signalling ambitions to move up the value chain beyond its existing downstream and midstream footprint in Nigeria. TotalEnergies, meanwhile, maintains a long-established presence in Nigerian offshore acreage, and fresh seismic data in shallow water could support future well planning or asset portfolio optimisation across its Nigerian operations.

The timing of both campaigns is notable given the broader context of Nigeria's upstream sector: the country has been working to attract renewed exploration

investment following years of above-ground challenges including fiscal uncertainty, infrastructure constraints, and security concerns in the Niger Delta. Completed seismic surveys by both a local champion and an international major may serve as a modest confidence signal to other operators weighing entry or re-entry into Nigerian shallow water.

For service companies and technology providers, the post-acquisition phase — processing, interpretation, and eventual well design — will drive near-term procurement activity. Should either operator proceed toward drilling on the basis of their newly acquired data, demand for well services, marine support, and shallow-water drilling equipment would follow. The window between seismic completion and a final investment or drilling decision is typically 12 to 36 months, making this an appropriate moment for service companies to engage both operators at the technical and commercial planning level.

### Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies with shallow-water drilling, well services, or marine seismic processing capabilities should monitor both Matrix Energy and TotalEnergies Nigeria for upcoming tender activity as these operators move from data acquisition toward prospect evaluation and potential drilling. Engagement now — particularly with Matrix Energy as an emerging indigenous operator — could establish early positioning ahead of well programme announcements. Partners with shallow-water FPSO or subsea light-well-intervention expertise should flag Nigeria shallow water as a medium-term pipeline opportunity.

#### PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Shallow-water jack-up or platform rig providers should track both operators for potential exploration or appraisal well campaigns following seismic interpretation.
- **Service:** Seismic data processing and reservoir characterisation firms can approach both Matrix Energy and TotalEnergies Nigeria now, while acquired data moves into the interpretation phase.

- **Subsea/FPSO:** If seismic results support a development decision, shallow-water FPSO or fixed-platform solutions would be relevant — worth monitoring over an 18-36 month horizon.
- **Pipeline:** Any shallow-water discovery tied to existing Niger Delta infrastructure could require incremental pipeline or flowline work, particularly relevant given Nigeria's ongoing field-life extension activity.

[Original source: Africa Oil+Gas Report →](#)

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## Saga Advisory

General: [info@saga-advisory.com](mailto:info@saga-advisory.com) · [saga-advisory.com](http://saga-advisory.com)

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