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Shelf Drilling lands two jack-up contracts in Nigeria

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Shelf Drilling has secured additional drilling contracts in Nigeria for two of its jack-up rigs, extending the company's active footprint in one of West Africa's most established offshore drilling markets. The contracts represent signed agreements, confirming committed work scope rather than letters of intent or preliminary arrangements.

The two jack-up rigs will continue operating in Nigerian waters under the new engagements. Nigeria remains a core market for jack-up activity in the Gulf of Guinea, with shallow-water programmes sustaining demand for this rig class across both international majors and indigenous operators. Shelf Drilling, which operates a global fleet of jack-up units, has maintained a consistent presence in the country across multiple contract cycles.

While the source article does not specify contract durations, day rates, or the identity of the operators commissioning the work, the award of back-to-back or concurrent contracts for two units signals sustained client demand rather than a one-off engagement. For rig contractors operating in Nigeria, multi-rig utilisation at a single client or across clients in the same jurisdiction typically reflects a stable near-term drilling programme, whether tied to field development, appraisal, or well intervention activity.

Nigeria's upstream sector has shown renewed contracting momentum following a period of fiscal and regulatory uncertainty linked to the Petroleum Industry Act transition. Indigenous operators, in particular, have expanded their drilling ambitions

as asset acquisitions from international oil companies translate into active well campaigns. Jack-up rigs suited to the shallow continental shelf off the Niger Delta remain central to this activity, and contract extensions or new awards for established contractors like Shelf Drilling reflect the tightening of available rig supply in the region.

For Norwegian oil and gas service companies tracking West Africa, this development confirms that operational tempo in Nigerian shallow-water drilling is being maintained, with signed contracts providing a near-term window for associated services procurement. Well services, drilling fluids, tubulars logistics, and rig-based inspection and maintenance services are all potential areas of activity tied to active jack-up campaigns of this type.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

These are signed contracts, meaning procurement cycles for well services, consumables, and rig support are likely active or imminent. Norwegian well services and drilling support companies should initiate outreach to Shelf Drilling's Nigeria operations team and relevant operator procurement contacts. Monitoring further contract announcements from Nigerian operators running shallow-water programmes will help prioritise which clients are building multi-well inventory.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Shelf Drilling's two-rig commitment creates direct demand for third-party drilling services, rig equipment maintenance, and inspection contracts tied to sustained Nigerian operations.
- **Service:** Active jack-up campaigns require well services including cementing, wireline, and completion tools — Norwegian service companies with regional bases should engage Shelf Drilling and operator procurement teams now.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Shallow-water jack-up drilling results in Nigeria often feed tieback or platform-based development decisions; monitoring well outcomes can provide early signals for subsea or topsides scope.
- **Pipeline:** Successful appraisal or development wells drilled by these rigs may generate future pipeline and flowline tie-in work as fields are brought onstream.

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