

OFFSHORE ENGINEER · NIGERIA · SUBSEA

# Eni closes Nigerian AENR sale to Apex Global

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Eni has completed the sale of its Nigerian subsidiary, Agip Energy and Natural Resources (Nigeria) (AENR), to Apex Global Energy Limited (APEX), marking a further step in the Italian major's ongoing restructuring of its Nigerian onshore and shallow-water portfolio. The transaction transfers full ownership of AENR to APEX, a move that follows a broader industry trend of international oil companies divesting Nigerian legacy assets to independent and indigenous operators.

The divestment reflects Eni's strategic reconfiguration in Nigeria, where international majors have been progressively reducing exposure to assets associated with operational complexity, community relations challenges, and pipeline security concerns. APEX, as the incoming operator, will inherit AENR's asset base along with the associated production, infrastructure, and liability obligations. The article does not specify production volumes, block designations, or the financial terms of the transaction.

For the Nigerian energy sector, ownership transitions of this kind typically trigger a period of operational review by the incoming operator, who must assess well stock, surface facilities, and third-party service contracts. Independent acquirers in Nigeria have historically moved to restructure supplier rosters and renegotiate terms, creating both disruption and opportunity for service companies already embedded in the asset. At the same time, new operators often seek to demonstrate production growth to validate the acquisition, which can accelerate drilling and well intervention programmes.

Nigeria remains one of sub-Saharan Africa's largest hydrocarbon producers, and the continued rebalancing of operatorship from IOCs to independents and indigenous companies is reshaping the procurement landscape. Service companies that have existing relationships with Eni-operated assets in Nigeria should monitor how APEX intends to structure its operating model, as decisions on retained versus replaced contractors will likely be made in the near term following deal close.

Norwegian service companies with a footprint in Nigeria should treat this transaction as a relationship-building and monitoring moment rather than an immediate procurement opportunity. The contract structure under the new operator is not yet public, and it would be premature to assume existing service agreements will be carried over or that new tenders will be issued immediately. Engaging with APEX at a corporate and technical level now — understanding their operational priorities and investment timeline — positions Norwegian suppliers ahead of any formal procurement process that may follow.

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

This is a completed asset sale, not a signed service contract or open tender, so direct procurement outreach is premature. Norwegian service companies with existing exposure to AENR-operated assets should monitor APEX's operational strategy and initiate relationship-building at the technical and commercial level. Once APEX signals a drilling, well intervention, or infrastructure investment programme, the procurement window will open and early-positioned suppliers will have an advantage.

### PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** APEX may pursue a near-term drilling or workover campaign to demonstrate production growth post-acquisition — Norwegian drilling contractors and well services firms should map current rig and equipment availability in Nigeria.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If AENR's asset base includes offshore or shallow-water infrastructure, APEX will need integrity management and subsea inspection services; Norwegian IRM specialists should engage early to understand asset condition.

- **Service:** Operator transitions routinely trigger contract reviews — well services and production chemistry companies with Eni/AENR incumbency should proactively engage APEX to confirm or renegotiate existing arrangements.
- **Pipeline:** Nigerian onshore and near-shore assets typically carry significant pipeline infrastructure; APEX will need pipeline integrity and maintenance support, an area where Norwegian technology providers hold strong credentials.

[Original source: Offshore Engineer →](#)

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