

OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY

ANYbotics ships explosion-proof inspection robot ANYmal X

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ANYbotics has begun customer deliveries of ANYmal X, a legged inspection robot certified for operation in explosive industrial atmospheres, including oil, gas and chemical facilities. The move marks a commercial milestone for autonomous inspection technology in hazardous-area environments, where traditional manned rounds carry safety risks and operational costs.

ANYmal X is designed to perform routine inspection tasks in areas classified as explosive atmospheres — zones where flammable gases, vapours or dust may be present in concentrations that make conventional electronic equipment a potential ignition source. The robot's certification to operate in such environments distinguishes it from general-purpose industrial robots and positions it specifically for upstream and downstream hydrocarbon facilities, as well as chemical plants.

Legged robots offer a practical advantage over wheeled or tracked alternatives in industrial settings: they can navigate stairs, uneven surfaces, and the cluttered deck layouts common on offshore platforms and onshore processing facilities. ANYmal X can conduct visual, thermal, and acoustic inspections autonomously, reducing the need for personnel to enter high-risk zones for routine checks. This capability is increasingly relevant as operators across the oil and gas sector look to reduce manning levels on offshore assets, lower operational expenditure, and meet more stringent safety standards.

The start of commercial deliveries signals that ANYmal X has moved beyond development and pilot phases into a product operators can procure and deploy. The

company has not disclosed the names of initial customers, volumes shipped, or pricing. It is also not stated whether any deliveries are destined for African operations, though the technology is applicable to any facility with hazardous-area classification requirements — including the growing number of FPSO vessels, LNG terminals, and onshore processing plants operating across sub-Saharan and North Africa.

For the broader oil and gas services sector, autonomous inspection robots represent a category of operational technology that integrates with existing asset integrity and maintenance management frameworks. Adoption is being driven by a combination of workforce safety objectives, cost reduction targets, and increasing operator focus on data-driven maintenance strategies. ANYmal X's hazardous-area certification lowers a key regulatory barrier that had previously limited robotic inspection to non-classified zones.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies operating or supplying to African offshore assets — particularly FPSO operators and platform maintenance contractors — should monitor ANYmal X as a procurement candidate for hazardous-area inspection programmes. No signed contracts with African operators have been announced, so direct procurement outreach is premature; the appropriate posture now is to track commercial adoption and assess fit with existing integrity management contracts. Companies offering integrated operations or maintenance services to African upstream clients could explore bundling autonomous inspection capability into service proposals.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **FPSO:** FPSO operators and asset managers should evaluate ANYmal X for hazardous-area deck inspections as a manning-reduction and safety compliance tool on African-deployed vessels.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Topsides integrity service providers could assess integrating ANYmal X into existing inspection, maintenance and repair contracts to strengthen competitive proposals.

- **Drilling:** Drilling contractors with manned offshore platforms in Africa could monitor ANYmal X as a cost-reduction measure for routine zone inspections on classified-area drill floors.
- **Service:** Asset integrity and operations technology consultancies should track ANYmal X adoption curves to advise African operator clients on autonomous inspection readiness and regulatory acceptance.

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