

DRILLING CONTRACTOR · GHANA · DRILLING

Saipem wins Eni drilling contracts for Ghana, Cyprus

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Saipem has secured two offshore drilling contracts from Eni subsidiaries, one covering operations offshore Ghana and one offshore Cyprus, extending fleet utilisation for the semisubmersible Scarabeo 9 and the drillship Saipem 10000 into 2026 and 2027.

The Ghana contract assigns the Scarabeo 9 semisubmersible to drilling operations in Eni's Ghanaian acreage. The Cyprus contract, awarded by Eni Cyprus, deploys the Saipem 10000 drillship within Cyprus's Exclusive Economic Zone. Both awards are confirmed contracts — not letters of intent or framework agreements — providing Saipem with concrete revenue backlog and rig scheduling certainty across two distinct basins.

Ghana remains one of West Africa's established deepwater producers, with Eni holding a material position in the country. The Scarabeo 9 is a harsh-environment semisubmersible capable of operating in deepwater conditions, making it suited to the frontier and appraisal drilling demands that characterise Eni's African exploration programme. The back-to-back contract structure across two geographies suggests Eni is managing rig availability strategically, locking in premium units ahead of what the broader market anticipates to be a tighter supply window for high-specification floaters in 2026.

For the Norwegian offshore services sector, this award carries direct implications. Saipem's mobilisation of two high-specification rigs — one to West Africa — generates downstream demand across the full drilling supply chain. Rig moves of this scale

require subsea equipment packages, drilling consumables, well construction services, and logistics support. Norwegian companies active in well services, subsea tooling, and drilling equipment supply have an established presence across West African hubs, and Ghana's mature operator ecosystem — with Eni, as a disciplined supermajor, running the programme — reduces counterparty risk compared with frontier jurisdictions.

The 2026–2027 utilisation window also provides sufficient lead time for service companies to engage Saipem's procurement teams and position for subcontract opportunities, whether in completion equipment, subsea wellheads, or specialist intervention services. Eni's operational cadence in Ghana has historically supported a layered supply chain, and Norwegian firms with existing in-country relationships or regional bases in Accra or Takoradi are best placed to act on this signal.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

These are signed contracts with defined mobilisation windows into 2026 and 2027, making this an appropriate moment for Norwegian well services, subsea equipment, and drilling support companies to initiate outreach to Saipem's procurement organisation. Partners with existing Ghana country presence or West Africa regional hubs should prioritise engagement given the defined timeline. Firms without in-country footing should begin qualification processes now to meet Saipem's vendor onboarding lead times.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Saipem's Scarabeo 9 deployment to Ghana opens subcontract opportunities in drilling equipment supply, BOP services, and rig consumables — contact Saipem procurement ahead of 2026 mobilisation.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Eni's drilling campaign in Ghana may require subsea wellhead systems and intervention tooling; Norwegian subsea suppliers should map their product fit against the anticipated well programme.
- **Service:** Well services companies offering cementing, wireline, or directional drilling should engage Saipem's Ghana vendor list, as high-specification semisubmersible campaigns typically require multiple specialist subcontractors.

- **Pipeline:** If the Eni Ghana campaign yields discoveries or appraisals, subsea tieback and pipeline scoping could follow — monitor well results from 2026 onwards for early infrastructure signals.

[Original source: Drilling Contractor →](#)

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