ECOFIN AGENCY · NIGERIA · PIPELINE

Tantita deploys drones and AI to guard Nigeria pipelines

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Private security firm Tantita has acquired drones and artificial intelligence systems to strengthen surveillance of Nigeria's oil infrastructure, as the country's production approaches 1.8 million barrels per day. The new equipment extends patrol range and enables automated detection of suspicious activity around pipelines and oil vessels, targeting the theft and sabotage that have long suppressed Nigeria's output below its potential.

Nigeria's pipeline network has historically been one of the most vulnerable in the world, with crude theft and vandalism costing the country billions of dollars in lost revenue annually. Tantita, which operates as a private security contractor tasked with protecting key oil infrastructure, is positioning the drone and AI deployment as a force-multiplier — reducing the need for ground patrols in high-risk areas while maintaining persistent surveillance across remote and difficult terrain where pipelines are most exposed.

The drone systems allow longer patrol durations and wider geographic coverage than conventional manned operations, while the AI component is designed to flag anomalous activity in real time — whether vessel movements near offshore offtake points or ground disturbance near buried pipeline corridors. The integration of these technologies represents a meaningful upgrade to what has traditionally been a labour-intensive and reactive security model. Nigeria's production recovery toward 1.8 million bopd has been partly attributed to improved security conditions in the Niger Delta, and sustaining that trajectory depends on continued suppression of infrastructure interference.

For Nigeria's upstream operators and midstream infrastructure owners, the Tantita deployment signals a broader shift toward technology-driven asset protection — a model increasingly favoured by international operators who require demonstrable security frameworks before committing capital to in-country projects. The effectiveness of drone-and-AI surveillance in reducing downtime events will be closely watched by the industry, particularly as Nigeria pursues its ambition of restoring production to and beyond previous peaks.

Norwegian service companies working across Nigerian upstream and midstream assets should note that improved pipeline security directly underpins project bankability and operator confidence in new capital deployment. A more stable production environment strengthens the investment case for infrastructure maintenance, integrity services, and future field development — areas where Norwegian technical expertise is well established. The security technology layer being built out by Tantita is not itself a procurement opportunity for Norwegian firms, but the downstream effect — sustained and growing production volumes — increases the likelihood of operators advancing deferred projects and service contracts in Nigeria.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The improvement in pipeline security infrastructure supports Nigeria's production recovery, which is a precondition for operators committing to new upstream and midstream capital projects where Norwegian service companies compete. This is a monitoring situation — no procurement or contracting opportunity is directly opened by this announcement. Norwegian firms with Nigeria exposure should track whether sustained production gains translate into renewed operator investment decisions and tender activity.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline:** Improved security conditions reduce downtime risk for pipeline integrity and inspection service contracts in the Niger Delta corridor — monitor for operator RFQ activity as confidence builds.

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Sustained production recovery toward 1.8 million bopd strengthens the case for offshore operators advancing deferred tie-back and FPSO utilisation decisions — relationship-building phase.
- **Drilling:** A more secure operating environment improves rig mobilisation risk profiles for Nigeria onshore and shallow-water campaigns — watch for drilling programme announcements from active operators.
- **Service:** Technology-driven security models favour international operators with transparent HSE frameworks; Norwegian firms with existing Nigeria footprints should engage operator country managers on project pipeline status.

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