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TotalEnergies farms partial Nigeria stake to SAPETRO ahead of Egina South appraisal

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TotalEnergies has farmed out a partial interest in an offshore Nigeria block to SAPETRO, clearing the path for an appraisal campaign targeting the Egina South prospect. Mike Sangster, SVP Africa Exploration and Production at TotalEnergies, stated the transaction "paves the way for a quick appraisal campaign and subsequent development of Egina South in the success case." The identity of the incoming partner — previously undisclosed in earlier reporting — is now confirmed as SAPETRO, a Nigerian independent with prior experience in deepwater Nigeria. Financial terms, equity splits, and the specific block designation remain unpublished.

The farmout is a partial interest transfer — not a full block award or signed development contract — meaning the arrangement redistributes risk and capital ahead of drilling, rather than committing to a defined development programme. TotalEnergies retains a stake and is positioned to move rapidly into appraisal once the transaction is formalised. SAPETRO's participation adds a Nigerian-domiciled partner to the venture, which may carry regulatory and local content advantages as the project advances toward drilling and, in the success case, development.

Egina South sits in the shadow of the producing Egina field, one of Nigeria's flagship deepwater developments operated by TotalEnergies and brought onstream in 2018. That operational track record lends credibility to the appraisal timeline Sangster references, since subsurface knowledge, existing infrastructure, and established contractor relationships in the area are already mature. A positive appraisal result at

Egina South could unlock a potential tieback or standalone development, though no commitment to either route has been made at this stage.

Nigeria's offshore sector has seen cautious but sustained operator interest despite fiscal and security headwinds affecting the broader Nigerian energy landscape. Farmouts of this type are a standard mechanism for majors to share appraisal-phase capital exposure while retaining operatorship and strategic control. TotalEnergies' decision to bring in a partner before drilling — rather than after a discovery — signals confidence in the prospect's commerciality and a desire to accelerate the timeline without shouldering the full well cost unilaterally. For the Nigerian upstream, a successful Egina South appraisal would represent a meaningful addition to deepwater inventory at a time when the country is working to stem production decline and attract new field development investment. The speed of progression from farmout to appraisal will depend on rig availability, regulatory approvals, and final agreed terms between TotalEnergies and SAPETRO.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Now that SAPETRO is confirmed as the incoming partner, Norwegian service companies should note that local content considerations will likely feature prominently in any future procurement process, making partnerships with Nigerian entities a practical entry strategy. Norwegian subsea and well services firms with existing Nigeria presence and familiarity with TotalEnergies' deepwater contractor ecosystem are best placed to respond quickly if appraisal results are positive. Saga recommends tracking TotalEnergies Nigeria procurement channels and maintaining visibility with both TotalEnergies Africa EP leadership and SAPETRO ahead of any formal tender process.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea equipment and installation contractors:** Egina's established deepwater infrastructure creates potential tieback opportunities; Norwegian subsea firms should position early with TotalEnergies' procurement team given the operator's stated intent to move quickly post-appraisal.

- **Drilling and well services companies:** An appraisal well campaign is the immediate next step; Norwegian well services companies with deepwater Nigeria experience should monitor rig contracting activity and engage TotalEnergies' drilling supply chain contacts now.
- **Local content and JV partners:** SAPETRO's involvement as a Nigerian partner signals the importance of local content compliance; Norwegian firms without an established Nigerian entity should explore teaming arrangements with local contractors to strengthen bid positioning.

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