UPSTREAM ONLINE · NIGERIA · DRILLING

TotalEnergies drills critical Nigeria appraisal well

Saga deep read · 03 November 2026 · Score 58

TotalEnergies is set to drill an appraisal well in Nigeria, targeting the evaluation of a previously identified hydrocarbon discovery in one of Africa's most prolific upstream markets. The well is described as critical, indicating that results will carry significant weight in determining whether the discovery warrants further development investment.

Appraisal drilling follows an exploration success and is designed to delineate the size, quality, and producibility of a discovered reservoir. A positive outcome from this campaign would typically advance the asset toward pre-front-end engineering and design studies, while a disappointing result could lead TotalEnergies to reconsider its development pathway for the acreage. The specific block location, water depth, and estimated resource volumes have not been disclosed in the available reporting.

Nigeria remains one of TotalEnergies' core upstream territories in Africa. The company operates several significant assets across the country, spanning both onshore and offshore environments, and has maintained an active drilling program in recent years despite the operational and regulatory challenges that have historically affected the Nigerian upstream sector. The characterisation of this well as critical suggests TotalEnergies views the underlying discovery as potentially material to its Nigeria portfolio.

The appraisal campaign comes at a time when international oil companies are applying heightened capital discipline to their African upstream portfolios, prioritising assets with clear pathways to development sanction and competitive

break-even costs. A successful appraisal result in Nigeria would need to demonstrate sufficient resource volumes and reservoir quality to justify progression through engineering studies and, ultimately, a final investment decision. Contracting activity for drilling services, subsea equipment, and project management would follow at subsequent stages if the well results support advancement.

No timeline for spudding or completion of the well has been reported, nor have details of the drilling contractor or rig type been disclosed. The article does not specify whether the appraisal target is located in shallow water, deepwater, or an onshore setting, all of which would have distinct implications for the development concept and the service company ecosystem likely to be engaged if the project progresses.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is an early-stage appraisal campaign with no contract awards or FID reported; Norwegian service companies should monitor outcomes rather than pursue procurement outreach at this stage. If the well result is disclosed as positive, that would be the signal to begin relationship-building with TotalEnergies' Nigeria development and subsurface teams. Companies with appraisal drilling support capabilities — logging, well testing, coring — may wish to confirm their approved vendor status with TotalEnergies Nigeria ahead of any further campaign announcements.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Monitor well spud announcement and rig contract award; a positive appraisal result would accelerate demand for well-testing and completion services.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If the discovery proves deepwater, early concept-select studies will define the production system — position for FEED support and FPSO scoping when results are released.
- **Well Services:** Appraisal wells require wireline logging, coring, and drill-stem testing; confirm approved vendor status with TotalEnergies Nigeria now to be ready for contracting.

- **Pipeline:** Development of a new Nigeria discovery would require export infrastructure scoping; track results to identify when pipeline or flowline engineering studies are commissioned.

Original source: Upstream Online →

Saga Advisory

General: info@saga-advisory.com · saga-advisory.com

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN