HEAD TOPICS · NIGERIA · DRILLING

TotalEnergies deploys deepwater rig at Nigeria's Akpo

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TotalEnergies has deployed a deepwater drilling rig to the Akpo field offshore Nigeria, initiating a new drilling campaign at one of the country's major producing assets. The move signals continued operator investment in sustaining and potentially growing output from the deepwater block, which has been a significant contributor to Nigeria's offshore production profile.

Akpo is a deepwater field located in OML 130 offshore Nigeria, operated by TotalEnergies in partnership with other stakeholders including the Nigerian National Petroleum Company. The field has been in production for a number of years and the deployment of a rig for a new campaign suggests activity aimed at either production maintenance, infill drilling, or further field development, though the specific well programme objectives were not detailed in the available reporting.

The deployment of a deepwater rig represents a material operational commitment. Deepwater drilling campaigns in Nigeria typically involve complex well construction, subsea completion infrastructure, and extended mobilisation periods, all of which generate demand across the broader oilfield services supply chain. The scale and duration of the current Akpo campaign have not been specified in the source material, nor have contract details for the rig or associated services been disclosed publicly at this stage.

Nigeria remains one of Africa's largest oil producers, and deepwater assets such as Akpo are central to the country's production base. Sustained operator activity in this environment reflects ongoing confidence in the fiscal and operational viability of

Nigeria's deepwater sector, notwithstanding the broader challenges the country faces in maintaining and growing crude output. TotalEnergies' continued engagement at Akpo is consistent with the company's wider deepwater portfolio strategy across the continent.

The timing and scope of the drilling campaign beyond what has been reported remain unclear, and further operational disclosures are expected as the programme progresses. Industry observers will watch for any announcements regarding well results, production impacts, or additional rig requirements that could follow from the current activity.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is an active deepwater drilling campaign at a named field, making it appropriate to monitor procurement channels for well services, subsea tooling, and drilling support contracts that typically follow rig deployment. Norwegian service companies with deepwater Nigeria credentials should track TotalEnergies' contracting activity on OML 130 closely and ensure existing relationships with the operator's supply chain team in Port Harcourt and Paris are current. No open tender has been confirmed in the source material, so direct procurement outreach should await formal solicitation.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Rig deployment at Akpo creates demand for drilling services, well engineering support, and directional drilling — companies with deepwater Nigeria experience should position for subcontract opportunities as the campaign scope becomes clearer.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Infill or development wells at a producing deepwater field typically require subsea completion equipment, umbilicals, and tie-back hardware — suppliers should monitor for related procurement notices from TotalEnergies or its prime contractors.
- **Well Services:** A multi-well deepwater campaign at Akpo will require cementing, wireline, well testing, and intervention services — well services firms active in Nigerian deepwater should ensure approved-vendor status with TotalEnergies OML 130 operations.

- **Logistics/Marine:** Deepwater campaigns offshore Nigeria generate sustained demand for PSV and AHTS tonnage, ROV support vessels, and offshore logistics — operators should assess vessel availability and positioning in the region ahead of campaign peak.

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