BUSINESSDAY NIGERIA — ENERGY · NIGERIA · DRILLING

TotalEnergies deploys ultra-deepwater rig at Nigeria's Akpo

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TotalEnergies SE has mobilised an ultra-deepwater drillship to Nigeria's Akpo field, initiating a new drilling campaign at one of the country's major offshore producing assets. The move signals a renewed operational push at Akpo, which has been a significant contributor to Nigeria's deepwater oil and gas output since it came onstream.

Akpo is a deepwater field located offshore Nigeria and operated by TotalEnergies, with the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) and other partners holding participating interests. The field produces both crude oil and associated gas, and has historically been among the higher-volume deepwater producers in Nigeria's portfolio. The dispatch of an ultra-deepwater drillship indicates that the new campaign is targeting reservoir intervals that require specialist high-specification drilling equipment capable of operating in significant water depths.

The timing of the drilling push reflects broader momentum among international oil companies to sustain and grow production from established Nigerian deepwater assets, where infrastructure is already in place and incremental barrels can be brought onstream with comparatively lower lead times than greenfield developments. Infill and development drilling at mature deepwater fields such as Akpo can arrest natural production decline and, in some cases, unlock adjacent accumulations tied back to existing subsea and topside infrastructure.

No specific well count, campaign duration, contract value, or drillship identity has been disclosed in available reporting. The scope of the programme — whether it

comprises development wells, water injection wells, or exploration targets — has also not been confirmed. TotalEnergies has not publicly detailed the contractor engaged for the drillship, nor the precise start date of drilling operations.

Nigeria remains one of TotalEnergies' core upstream positions in Africa, with the company holding operatorship or equity stakes across several deepwater blocks in addition to Akpo. Sustained capital allocation to drilling at producing assets such as Akpo is consistent with the company's stated strategy of optimising output from its existing African deepwater portfolio while managing overall capital discipline. The campaign will be watched closely by industry observers tracking Nigeria's ability to stabilise crude production, which has faced headwinds from infrastructure constraints and periodic operational disruptions in recent years.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The campaign is at an active drilling stage, making it appropriate for Norwegian well-services and drilling-support companies to begin direct monitoring of contractor appointments and procurement notices from TotalEnergies Nigeria and its drillship operator. Subsea suppliers with deepwater completion and intervention tooling relevant to Akpo-type reservoirs should position for potential scope as well results become available. Until contract specifics are disclosed, the priority action is relationship-building with TotalEnergies' Nigerian upstream procurement team and tracking of any tender releases.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Monitor the drillship contractor appointment for well-services subcontracting opportunities — mud logging, directional drilling, and wellbore integrity services are typical scopes at this campaign stage.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Infill drilling at Akpo may require additional subsea tie-back hardware or flowline modifications; subsea equipment suppliers should track well results and any announced tie-back scopes.
- **Service:** Cementing, completions, and intervention specialists should engage TotalEnergies Nigeria procurement as the campaign progresses, given the ultra-deepwater environment requiring high-specification tooling.

- **Pipeline:** If new wells prove productive, there may be downstream need for subsea pipeline and jumper installation services to connect additional wellheads to Akpo's existing infrastructure.

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Saga Advisory

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

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