DRILLING CONTRACTOR · TANZANIA · DRILLING

ARA Petroleum signs rig for Tanzania Ntorya-3 well

Saga deep read · 10 November 2026 · Score 66

ARA Petroleum Tanzania (APT), operator of the Ruvuma Production Sharing Agreement, has signed a drilling rig contract for the Ntorya-3 well, with spud expected in late December 2026. The rig, previously released by Maurel & Prom, is scheduled to arrive on site in mid-December 2026, after which rig-up, commissioning, and mobilisation of drilling services will precede first drilling operations. The contract also includes options for additional wells, though the number and scope of those options were not specified in available reporting.

The Ntorya field, located in the Ruvuma basin in southern Tanzania, has been a focal point of domestic gas development ambitions. APT's progression to a third well at Ntorya signals continued operator confidence in the resource base following earlier appraisal activity. The Ruvuma PSA sits in a region that has attracted sustained interest from regional and international energy players given Tanzania's broader gas endowment, though development timelines in the country have historically extended beyond initial projections.

The engagement of a rig previously associated with Maurel & Prom — a co-investor in the broader Ruvuma acreage — reflects the interconnected nature of asset activity in this basin. The transfer and re-deployment of the rig unit to APT for the NT-3 campaign points to active coordination between parties holding interests in the area. No contract value was disclosed in available reporting.

With drilling services mobilisation forming part of the pre-spud programme, multiple service categories will be activated in the months ahead. The contract's option

provisions indicate APT may be positioning for a broader campaign contingent on results from the Ntorya-3 well. If NT-3 delivers commercially significant results, it could accelerate decisions on field development planning and associated infrastructure for the Ruvuma acreage, an area where gas monetisation pathways — including potential domestic supply and export options — remain under consideration by Tanzanian authorities and project stakeholders.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The signed rig contract and confirmed December 2026 spud window open an active procurement window for drilling services, wellsite services, and logistics providers ahead of mobilisation. Norwegian well services and drilling-fluids companies should monitor tender activity from APT and its subcontractors over the next two to three quarters. If NT-3 results support a development decision, subsea and pipeline specialists should begin early relationship-building with APT and any incoming development partners.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Rig contract is signed; directional drilling, MWD/LWD and drilling-fluids tenders are likely imminent for the December 2026 campaign.
- **Service:** Wellsite services — cementing, wireline, and testing — will be required ahead of and during the NT-3 spud; procurement outreach to APT is now appropriate.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** No FID reached yet; monitor NT-3 results before engaging on development infrastructure, but initiate early dialogue with APT on potential field development concepts.
- **Pipeline:** Gas monetisation and export infrastructure decisions are contingent on appraisal outcomes; monitor NT-3 results and maintain awareness of Tanzanian government gas policy developments.

Original source: Drilling Contractor →

Saga Advisory

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

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN