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SeaBird lands OBN source contract offshore West Africa

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SeaBird Exploration has secured a multi-month ocean bottom node source assignment off the coast of West Africa, marking another active deployment for the company's seismic fleet in the region. The contract will utilise the firm's 2009-built seismic vessel in a source role supporting ocean bottom node acquisition operations.

Ocean bottom node surveys involve placing individual recording nodes on the seabed while a separate source vessel generates acoustic signals above. This two-component approach delivers higher-resolution subsurface imaging compared to conventional towed-streamer methods, making it increasingly preferred by operators seeking detailed reservoir characterisation ahead of development or infill drilling decisions. SeaBird's vessel will serve as the source component in this configuration, working in coordination with a node-handling operation.

The assignment is described as multi-month in duration, indicating a campaign of meaningful scale. West Africa remains one of the most active seismic acquisition markets on the continent, driven by ongoing exploration activity and operators' efforts to optimise production from maturing fields. Ocean bottom node technology has gained particular traction in complex geological settings and in areas where existing 3D data requires uplift ahead of investment decisions.

SeaBird Exploration has maintained a consistent operational presence in African waters across various survey types. Winning a source role in an OBN campaign reflects both the technical requirements of the acquisition design and the competitive positioning of the company's vessel assets within the current market. Source vessels

for OBN work must meet precise navigational and acoustic specifications to ensure data quality across the node array.

No client name, geographic sub-region, block identity, or contract value has been disclosed in connection with this assignment. The article does not specify the exact start date, though the multi-month characterisation suggests a sustained operational period rather than a short mobilisation. As exploration and appraisal activity in West Africa continues to draw investment from international operators, demand for high-specification seismic acquisition services, including OBN campaigns, is expected to remain a consistent feature of the regional services market.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a confirmed contract but covers seismic acquisition services rather than drilling, subsea construction, or FPSO work, limiting direct procurement opportunities for most Norwegian oil and gas service segments. Norwegian companies with positioning or navigation technology, acoustic source equipment, or vessel support capabilities relevant to OBN campaigns should monitor SeaBird's West Africa pipeline and consider relationship-building with the operator once client identity is disclosed. For broader subsea and drilling players, this survey activity is worth tracking as a leading indicator of potential appraisal or development tenders in the region.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea:** OBN campaigns often precede subsea tie-back or field development planning; monitor this survey's client and block location when disclosed.
- **Drilling:** High-resolution OBN data acquisition typically feeds directly into appraisal or infill drilling programmes; track survey outcomes for future rig demand signals.
- **Service:** Companies supplying acoustic source arrays, positioning systems, or vessel services for seismic operations should explore SeaBird's West Africa procurement contacts.
- **FPSO:** Elevated seismic investment in West Africa is a leading indicator of potential FID activity; watch for field development announcements from operators active in the survey area.

- **Pipeline:** No immediate pipeline relevance, but OBN data quality improvements may accelerate development decisions on fields requiring export infrastructure.

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