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Marine Platforms moves to full ownership of pipelay vessel

Saga deep read · 12 November 2026 · Score 74

Nigerian offshore services contractor Marine Platforms is advancing toward full ownership of the pipelay and heavy-lift construction vessel Zhong Fei Huan Qiu 1200, formerly known as the Global 1200 and previously operated under Technip. The company acquired a 51% interest in the vessel in 2025, with Chinese offshore engineering group DS Global retaining the remaining 49% stake. Marine Platforms is now moving to acquire the outstanding share and consolidate full ownership of the asset.

The Global 1200 — now operating under its Chinese designation — is a pipelay and heavy-lift construction vessel with a track record in offshore field development work. The vessel's history with Technip, one of the world's leading subsea and pipeline engineering contractors, points to its capacity for complex offshore construction operations. Its acquisition and pending consolidation under a Nigerian operator marks a notable shift in vessel ownership toward indigenous capacity in the West African offshore market.

Marine Platforms has been expanding its position in Nigerian offshore construction services, and the move to consolidate ownership of a vessel of this class represents a significant capital commitment. The transitional ownership structure — with DS Global holding a 49% interest — reflects the cross-border financing and technical partnerships that have characterised recent vessel acquisitions by Nigerian contractors seeking to meet local content requirements while accessing internationally capable assets.

Nigeria's offshore sector continues to see activity across brownfield tiebacks, subsea pipeline repairs, and new field development campaigns, all of which require heavy-lift and pipelay capability. Domestic ownership of such assets is increasingly relevant under the Petroleum Industry Act's local content provisions, which incentivise Nigerian operators to hold and deploy vessels within Nigerian waters. A fully Nigerian-owned pipelay vessel of this specification would strengthen Marine Platforms' competitive position for upcoming offshore construction tenders.

The timing of the full takeover bid aligns with a period of renewed offshore investment in Nigeria, as international oil companies and their partners progress development projects that require construction vessel support. The outcome of Marine Platforms' ownership consolidation will determine the vessel's commercial positioning and availability for third-party charters or dedicated project deployment in the near term.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is an equity consolidation in progress, not a signed contract or open tender, so the appropriate action is monitoring rather than procurement outreach. Norwegian offshore construction and pipelay service companies should track Marine Platforms' vessel deployment plans, as full ownership may lead to third-party subcontracting or technology partnership opportunities once the asset is mobilised for Nigerian campaigns. Relationship-building with Marine Platforms at this stage could position Norwegian subsea and pipeline specialists ahead of future tender rounds.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline:** Monitor whether Marine Platforms seeks Norwegian pipelay engineering or welding technology partners as it operationalises full vessel control.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Track the vessel's deployment schedule for Nigerian tieback and subsea construction campaigns where Norwegian subsea contractors may be invited to bid as subcontractors.
- **Drilling:** Limited direct relevance at this stage; monitor for any heavy-lift scopes tied to wellhead platform installation that could involve drilling support.

- **Service:** Norwegian inspection, maintenance, and repair service providers could position for vessel-based contracts once Marine Platforms achieves full ownership and mobilises the asset.

Original source: Splash247 →

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