OFFSHORE MAGAZINE · NIGERIA · DRILLING

TotalEnergies, Chevron advance Nigeria deepwater drill campaigns

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TotalEnergies and Chevron are finalizing well targets for multi-well drilling campaigns at deepwater fields offshore Nigeria, according to Meren Energy's latest quarterly report. The campaigns span three fields: Akpo, Agbami, and Ikija, signaling renewed operator commitment to sustaining and potentially growing production volumes in Nigeria's deepwater basin.

The Akpo field, operated by TotalEnergies, and the Agbami field, where Chevron holds a leading position, are both mature deepwater assets that have historically required infill and development drilling to offset natural production decline. The inclusion of Ikija alongside these established fields suggests the multi-well programs may encompass both production maintenance and new development activity, though the quarterly report does not specify the breakdown between infill, appraisal, or development wells at each location.

Meren Energy's quarterly reporting provides one of the more granular third-party windows into Nigerian deepwater activity, tracking operator planning cycles ahead of rig contract awards and mobilization. The fact that target finalization is described as ongoing indicates the campaigns are in an advanced pre-execution phase, with well engineering and subsurface work substantially progressed. Rig selection, contracting, and logistics planning typically follow target lock-in within a relatively short timeframe for operators of this scale.

Nigeria's deepwater sector has faced a mixed operating environment in recent years, with regulatory reforms under the Petroleum Industry Act, ongoing fiscal

renegotiations, and infrastructure constraints all influencing operator investment pacing. Despite these headwinds, both TotalEnergies and Chevron have maintained active deepwater portfolios and signaled continued capital allocation to Nigerian offshore assets. Multi-well campaign announcements of this nature, covering more than one field across two major operators, reflect a degree of confidence in the fiscal and operational framework sufficient to commit to drilling expenditure.

The convergence of activity across Akpo, Agbami, and Ikija also points to a broader uplift in deepwater drilling demand in the Nigerian offshore market. When major operators move from planning to target finalization simultaneously, it typically precedes a clustering of rig demand that can tighten availability and elevate day rates in the region. Service providers across drilling, well services, and subsea segments will be watching the transition from target finalization to formal tender processes closely.

> ### Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga
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> This is a pre-contract planning stage — monitoring and relationship-building are appropriate now, not procurement outreach. Norwegian drilling and well-services companies should track the transition from target finalization to tender issuance, which typically follows within months. Establishing or refreshing relationships with TotalEnergies and Chevron Nigeria procurement teams ahead of formal RFQ processes is the priority action.

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- **Drilling:** Multi-well campaigns across three deepwater fields will require rig contracts and associated drilling services; monitoring for tender release at Akpo, Agbami, and Ikija is warranted now.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Infill and development drilling at mature deepwater fields often triggers subsea tie-back and intervention scopes; watch for associated subsea hardware and installation requirements as well programs are finalized.
- **Service:** Well services demand — including completion, cementing, and logging — will follow target lock-in; companies with existing Nigerian offshore mobilization capacity are best positioned to respond quickly.

- **Pipeline:** New development wells at Ikija in particular may require flowline or umbilical installation work if the field has remaining tie-back infrastructure needs; scope remains to be confirmed.

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