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NLNG, NCDMB launch $9m university research endowment

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Nigeria LNG Limited (NLNG) and the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) have jointly launched a $9 million research endowment programme distributed across six Nigerian universities, with each institution receiving $1.5 million. The programme is designed to generate applied research aligned with the operational priorities of Nigeria's energy sector.

Research themes designated under the programme span natural gas processing, pollution control, digital engineering, automation, asset integrity management, and satellite intelligence. The selection of these topics reflects the technical demands of Nigeria's existing LNG infrastructure and the broader ambition to deepen local capacity in high-skill engineering and monitoring disciplines.

NLNG operates the Bonny Island liquefaction facility, one of the largest LNG export terminals in the world, and has been a central vehicle for Nigeria's gas monetisation strategy for over two decades. The NCDMB, established under the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, has a mandate to increase the proportion of goods, services, and expertise sourced domestically within the oil and gas sector. The joint endowment represents a convergence of those two mandates — commercialising Nigeria's gas reserves while building the technical workforce capable of sustaining and expanding that effort.

By anchoring research funding in universities rather than direct industry training schemes, the initiative takes a longer-term view of local content development. Asset integrity and automation, two of the stated research priorities, are areas where

international service companies currently supply significant expertise to Nigerian operators. Building domestic academic capacity in these fields signals a policy intent to progressively localise knowledge that has historically been imported. Pollution control research is similarly significant given regulatory scrutiny of flaring and emissions across the Niger Delta.

The $9 million total endowment is structured as a capital allocation, suggesting the universities will draw on investment returns or staged disbursements to fund research activities over time rather than spending the full sum immediately. No timeline for research outputs or commercialisation pathways was specified in the announcement. The programme adds to a pattern of NCDMB-backed initiatives that use co-funding arrangements with major operators to steer technical development toward sectors identified as strategically important for Nigeria's energy industry.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is an early-stage capability-building initiative, not a procurement event — Norwegian service companies should monitor rather than engage procurement contacts. The focus on asset integrity and automation is directly relevant to subsea and well-services firms operating or seeking to operate in Nigeria, as these are domains where Norwegian companies hold strong positions that localisation policy may eventually affect. Relationship-building with NCDMB and NLNG through industry associations or technical workshops is the appropriate near-term action.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Asset integrity research at Nigerian universities could over time create domestic competition in inspection and monitoring scopes currently served by international contractors at Bonny Island and offshore facilities.
- **Drilling:** Automation and digital engineering research themes may eventually feed into well-operations localisation requirements — worth tracking as NCDMB expands its content targets.
- **LNG:** Natural gas processing as a designated research theme suggests NLNG and NCDMB are building toward greater domestic expertise in liquefaction and gas

treatment — relevant for companies providing technical services to Train 7 and future expansions.

- **Service:** Pollution control research directly relates to emissions and flaring monitoring services; Norwegian environmental-tech firms with Niger Delta exposure should note the policy direction.

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