DRILLING CONTRACTOR · EGYPT · DRILLING

Scarabeo 9 wins Egypt and Suriname drill contracts

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Saipem has secured two offshore drilling contracts for its semisubmersible rig Scarabeo 9, awarded by Burullus Gas Company in Egypt and TotalEnergies in Suriname, extending the rig's forward work program into 2027 and 2028.

In Egypt, Burullus Gas Company has contracted the Scarabeo 9 to drill three offshore wells. Burullus is a joint venture comprising Shell, PETRONAS, and the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC). The Egyptian campaign will keep the rig engaged under that contract before it moves to fulfil the separate TotalEnergies scope offshore Suriname, with operations collectively scheduled to run through 2027 and into 2028.

The back-to-back structure of the two awards provides Saipem with high rig utilisation across two distinct basins and operators. Egypt's Mediterranean offshore remains one of the more active drilling markets on the African continent, underpinned by large gas fields and ongoing development and exploration programmes. The Burullus joint venture structure — combining an international major, a national oil company from Southeast Asia, and Egypt's state hydrocarbons entity — reflects the multi-party financing model that characterises many of the country's offshore gas projects.

The Scarabeo 9 is a sixth-generation semisubmersible capable of operating in harsh and deepwater environments. Its deployment across Egypt and Suriname in sequential contracts signals continued operator appetite for high-specification floating drilling units, even as the broader rig market navigates supply and demand

cycles. The contract awards also reinforce Saipem's position as a preferred drilling contractor across both the Mediterranean and Atlantic basin frontiers.

For the Egyptian market specifically, the Burullus programme adds to a pipeline of offshore well activity that supports gas supply to domestic and export markets. Egypt has prioritised offshore gas development as a pillar of its energy security strategy, and contracted drilling campaigns of this scale — three wells under a single contract — indicate that development drilling, not merely exploration, is driving near-term rig demand. The Suriname contract with TotalEnergies, while outside Africa, further demonstrates that operators are committing multi-year programmes to the Scarabeo 9, lending visibility to the rig's schedule through the second half of this decade.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The Burullus three-well offshore drilling campaign in Egypt creates near-term demand for well services, drilling fluids, subsea equipment supply, and marine support — Norwegian well-service and subsea suppliers should monitor Saipem's and Burullus's procurement channels for subcontract opportunities tied to this campaign. Given the 2027–2028 timeline, supplier engagement and prequalification with Saipem's Egyptian operations would be timely now.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Saipem's Scarabeo 9 programme creates subcontract demand for drilling services, BOP maintenance, and rig consumables across the Egypt and Suriname campaigns.
- **Well Services:** Three-well offshore campaign for Burullus in Egypt opens opportunities for cementing, wireline, and completion services alongside Saipem's drilling scope.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Offshore well results from the Burullus programme may trigger subsea tie-back or infrastructure scopes — worth tracking field development plans from the Shell-PETRONAS-EGPC joint venture.
- **Service:** Marine logistics and offshore crew transfer services will be required to support the Scarabeo 9 during its Egyptian operations — a near-term commercial opening for vessel operators.

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