OFFSHORE ENGINEER · EGYPT · DRILLING

Saipem wins $181m Egypt, Suriname drilling deals

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Saipem has been awarded two offshore drilling contracts with a combined value of approximately $181 million, one of which covers operations in Egypt. Both contracts will be executed using the semi-submersible drilling unit Scarabeo 9.

The Egypt contract represents one of two awards announced simultaneously by the Italian contractor. While the article does not specify the client, the precise scope, or the individual value attributed to each contract, the aggregate figure of $181 million covers both the Egyptian and Suriname programmes. The Scarabeo 9 is a sixth-generation semi-submersible capable of operating in deepwater environments, though the article does not confirm water depth classifications for either contract location.

Egypt remains one of Africa's most active offshore drilling markets, with ongoing exploration and development work in the Mediterranean and Red Sea drawing repeated engagement from major international drilling contractors. The award continues Saipem's established presence in the country, where the contractor has executed multiple campaigns over successive years. The use of a high-specification semi-submersible unit suggests the Egyptian scope involves challenging well conditions, though no further technical detail is provided in the source.

The dual-contract structure — one African and one South American — reflects a broader pattern among major drilling contractors of packaging rig utilisation across geographically diverse programmes to stabilise mobilisation economics and maintain

asset uptime. For Saipem, the Scarabeo 9 award secures near-term revenue backlog across two regions simultaneously.

No start dates, contract durations, or client names are disclosed in the source article for either award.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The Scarabeo 9 mobilisation for Egyptian offshore operations creates potential demand for local marine logistics, well services, and subsea support depending on well scope and duration — Norwegian well services and subsea equipment suppliers should monitor contract commencement announcements for subcontracting opportunities. At this stage, the named buyer and procurement contacts are not public, so relationship-building with Saipem's Egypt operations team is the appropriate next step rather than direct procurement outreach.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Scarabeo 9 operations in Egypt may require drilling consumables, BOP services, or rig inspection support — monitor Saipem Egypt subcontracting pipeline.
- **Well Services:** Deepwater semi-submersible campaigns typically require mud logging, wireline, and cementing services; track Saipem's Egypt vendor qualification process.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Depending on well results, successful Egyptian drilling could trigger subsea tie-back or development FEED work — monitor exploration outcomes.
- **Service:** Marine logistics and offshore supply vessel support for a semi-submersible operating in Egyptian waters represents a near-term opportunity to engage with Saipem's local supply chain.

Original source: Offshore Engineer →

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