

OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY · DRILLING

Saipem Wins \$260m Eni Offshore Drilling Contract in Côte d'Ivoire

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Italian oilfield services company Saipem has secured an offshore drilling contract from Eni Côte d'Ivoire valued at approximately \$260 million. The award signals continued upstream investment activity by Eni in Côte d'Ivoire's offshore sector and confirms that international service companies are actively competing for and winning significant work in West Africa's emerging and established hydrocarbon basins.

The contract value of \$260 million places this among the more substantial single drilling awards seen in the West African offshore market in recent periods. While the article does not specify the number of wells, water depths, rig type, or contract duration, the scale of the award suggests a multi-well program of meaningful scope. Eni has maintained a consistent operational presence in Côte d'Ivoire and the broader Gulf of Guinea, and this contract reflects the operator's ongoing commitment to developing its Ivorian offshore portfolio.

For the broader Norwegian service industry tracking West Africa, the Eni-Saipem transaction is a useful market signal. It confirms that operators with acreage in Côte d'Ivoire are moving from exploration and appraisal phases into active drilling campaigns, generating demand for a range of associated services beyond the drilling contract itself. Well services, subsea equipment supply, logistics, and eventual production infrastructure are all downstream requirements that follow once a structured drilling program is underway.

Côte d'Ivoire has attracted renewed attention from international oil companies in recent years, driven in part by deepwater discoveries in the broader Gulf of Guinea

and improving fiscal terms. Eni's decision to commit a \$260 million drilling contract reinforces the country's status as an active frontier for offshore investment in Sub-Saharan Africa. Norwegian companies with Gulf of Guinea experience — whether in subsea systems, well intervention, or marine services — should treat this award as confirmation that the Ivorian market is generating real procurement activity, not merely exploration promises.

While Saipem has secured the primary drilling mandate, large offshore programs of this value typically require a supply chain that extends well beyond the lead contractor. Norwegian firms with relevant competencies in drilling support, subsea installation, or well services should monitor subcontracting opportunities that may emerge as the program progresses. Establishing relationships with both Eni Côte d'Ivoire and Saipem's local procurement teams at this stage would be prudent.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should treat this \$260m award as a concrete market entry signal for Côte d'Ivoire, where active drilling programs generate subcontracting demand for well services, subsea equipment, and marine logistics. Firms with Gulf of Guinea track records should engage both Eni Côte d'Ivoire and Saipem's procurement structures now, before the program moves into full execution. Monitor for follow-on tenders related to production infrastructure if the drilling campaign yields commercial results.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Saipem's lead contract creates subcontracting opportunities for Norwegian drilling support and rig services firms already active in West Africa.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** A multi-well offshore drilling program of this scale is a precursor to production infrastructure demand — Norwegian subsea and FPSO players should position early with Eni Côte d'Ivoire.
- **Service:** Well services companies (cementing, wireline, completion) should engage Saipem's local supply chain as the program moves toward execution.
- **Pipeline:** Successful wells from this campaign may require tie-back infrastructure, making early relationship-building with Eni's Ivorian team commercially relevant for pipeline and flowline suppliers.

[Original source: Offshore Technology →](#)

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