OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY

BHEL Wins Largest-Ever Contract to Supply Eight Gas Turbines for Dangote Refinery

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India's Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has secured its largest-ever international contract, winning an order to supply eight gas turbine generator packages for the Dangote refinery and petrochemicals complex in Nigeria. The scale of the award underscores both the ambition of the Dangote project and the growing appetite for reliable power generation infrastructure within Nigeria's downstream energy sector.

The Dangote refinery, located in Nigeria, has been one of Sub-Saharan Africa's most closely watched industrial investments in recent years. Designed to be among the largest single-train refineries in the world, the complex requires substantial on-site power generation capacity to support refining and petrochemical operations. The eight gas turbine generator packages awarded to BHEL are intended to meet that internal energy demand, reducing dependence on Nigeria's notoriously unreliable national grid and ensuring operational continuity across the facility.

The contract represents a landmark for BHEL in terms of contract size, signalling that Indian industrial manufacturers are increasingly competitive in winning large-scale African energy infrastructure awards. For the Nigerian energy landscape more broadly, the deal reflects continued investment in the downstream and petrochemicals value chain, a segment that has historically been underdeveloped relative to Nigeria's upstream production capacity. Completing the refinery's power infrastructure is a critical milestone toward the facility becoming fully operational and commercially viable.

For Norwegian oil and gas service companies monitoring Sub-Saharan Africa, the Dangote refinery complex represents one of the most significant downstream infrastructure buildouts on the continent. While the gas turbine contract itself has been awarded to BHEL, the broader project encompasses a wide range of ancillary services — from utilities and instrumentation to maintenance contracts and operational support — that remain open to international service providers. Norwegian firms with experience in complex industrial facilities, rotating equipment services, process safety, and plant integrity management are well positioned to explore opportunities as the refinery moves toward full commissioning and ramp-up.

Nigeria's downstream sector is undergoing a structural shift as the Dangote facility moves closer to full operation. This transition creates demand not only for equipment suppliers but also for specialist service companies capable of supporting commissioning, operations, and long-term asset integrity. Norwegian companies with track records in demanding industrial environments — particularly those with LNG, gas processing, or large-scale petrochemical experience — should view the Dangote complex as an active monitoring priority, engaging with EPC contractors and the Dangote Group's procurement teams to position for upcoming service and maintenance tenders.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should actively monitor the Dangote refinery's commissioning phase, as the transition from construction to operations typically generates significant demand for specialist O&M services, integrity management, and rotating equipment support. Firms with petrochemical plant or LNG facility experience are particularly well placed to engage with EPC partners and the Dangote procurement team. This is a project to pursue now, not wait on.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Service:** Rotating equipment and turbine maintenance specialists should approach BHEL and Dangote's procurement teams ahead of commissioning to position for long-term service contracts on the eight gas turbine generator packages.
- **LNG:** Norwegian firms experienced in gas processing and utilities management at LNG or petrochemical facilities have directly transferable expertise for supporting Dangote's internal power and gas infrastructure.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Companies with FPSO topsides or offshore processing experience in instrumentation, safety systems, and process control can leverage that competency in the analogous complexity of a large refinery environment.
- **Pipeline:** The refinery's gas supply infrastructure and internal distribution networks may require specialist pipeline integrity and flow assurance services where Norwegian firms can compete.
- **Drilling:** While not a drilling play, Norwegian firms providing wellhead-to-refinery supply chain advisory or feedstock logistics optimisation could find an entry point as the facility scales up crude throughput.

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