

AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT · GHANA · DRILLING

Tullow Oil Commits to Ten-Well Ghana Drilling Campaign for 2027-2028

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Tullow Oil has signed off on a ten-well drilling campaign in Ghana scheduled for 2027 and 2028, marking a significant forward commitment by the operator to its West African portfolio. The campaign, reported from Takoradi, will focus on near-field opportunities as well as what Tullow describes as infrastructure-led exploration prospects that have already been identified in the area. The formal step of signing a rig contract signals that the programme has moved beyond planning into active procurement, giving the supply chain a defined timeline to work against.

Ghana has been a cornerstone of Tullow's production base for over a decade, and a ten-well campaign represents a meaningful scale of activity for the country's upstream sector. Infrastructure-led exploration — targeting accumulations that can be tied back to existing subsea and topside infrastructure — is a capital-efficient strategy that typically shortens the path from discovery to first oil. This approach suggests Tullow is prioritising near-term production uplift and reserves replacement over frontier exploration, which is consistent with the company's broader effort to strengthen its balance sheet and demonstrate operational delivery to investors and lenders.

For the Ghanaian supply base, particularly Takoradi, a multi-year drilling campaign of this scope creates sustained demand for offshore support services, consumables, logistics, and specialist well services. Ten wells across two years implies a relatively continuous rig schedule, reducing the stop-start uncertainty that typically complicates workforce planning and local content compliance. Contractors and

subcontractors who can establish or maintain a local presence ahead of the 2027 mobilisation window will be best positioned to capture work.

The timing also matters for the broader West African drilling market. Rig availability across the region has tightened as operators in several countries accelerate post-COVID development programmes. Tullow's early rig signing is consistent with this tightening environment and suggests the company is securing its slot well in advance — a signal to other service providers that lead times for equipment and personnel are extending and that early engagement is essential.

Norwegian service companies monitoring Ghana should treat this announcement as a concrete planning anchor. The 2027 start date provides approximately two years of preparation time, which is sufficient for pre-qualification, local-content partner identification, and commercial positioning. Companies already active in Ghana through Jubilee or TEN field services will have a relationship advantage, while those seeking entry should begin engagement with Tullow's supply chain team and Ghanaian local content intermediaries without delay.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies have a credible two-year window to pre-qualify and position for well services, subsea intervention, and drilling support contracts tied to this campaign. Early engagement with Tullow's procurement team and identification of compliant local content partners in Ghana will be decisive. Companies already providing services on Jubilee or TEN should proactively seek scope extensions or new call-off agreements aligned with the 2027-2028 schedule.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Drill string, BOP services, and directional drilling providers should open dialogue with Tullow's well engineering team now, given the rig contract is already signed and lead times are tightening across West Africa.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Infrastructure-led exploration implies potential tieback engineering and subsea tie-in work; Norwegian subsea contractors should assess compatibility with existing Jubilee and TEN infrastructure configurations as described in the article.

- **Well Services:** A continuous ten-well schedule over two years creates stable demand for cementing, completions, and well testing services — an attractive volume for companies willing to establish a Takoradi-based presence.
- **Pipeline:** Near-field tiebacks may require short-run flexible or rigid pipeline connections to existing infrastructure, representing a focused but real scope for pipeline engineering and installation specialists.
- **Service:** Logistics, offshore marine support, and waste management providers should begin local content compliance planning in Ghana to meet Petroleum Commission requirements ahead of the 2027 mobilisation window.

[Original source: Africa Oil+Gas Report →](#)

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