

OFFSHORE ENGINEER · DRILLING

Equinor extends Deepsea Atlantic drilling into Q4 2027

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Equinor has exercised options for two additional wells on Odfjell Drilling's Deepsea Atlantic semi-submersible rig, extending the firm contract through the late fourth quarter of 2027. The decision locks in continued deepwater drilling capacity for Equinor and provides Odfjell Drilling with extended revenue visibility on one of its flagship ultra-deepwater assets.

The Deepsea Atlantic is a sixth-generation semi-submersible operated by Odfjell Drilling and has worked extensively for Equinor on the Norwegian Continental Shelf. The option exercise follows the terms already embedded in the existing firm contract, meaning no new negotiation or procurement process was required — this is a contractual option converted to firm scope, not a new award.

For Equinor, maintaining rig availability into late 2027 signals continued commitment to an active well programme. Option exercises of this nature typically reflect confidence in the near-term drilling schedule and a preference for locking in rig availability ahead of the broader market. Odfjell Drilling, as owner and operator of the rig, benefits from the extended firm backlog, which strengthens its contracting position as the semi-submersible market remains competitive.

While the article does not specify which country or basin the two additional wells will be drilled in, Equinor's global portfolio spans Norway, Brazil, the UK, the US Gulf of Mexico, and Africa — including Angola and Tanzania. Norwegian service companies tracking Equinor-led African programmes should note that rig availability decisions at the corporate level can directly affect well sequencing in frontier and producing

African acreage. However, no African connection is explicitly stated in this article, and partners should not assume African deployment without further confirmation.

From a market intelligence perspective, the extension reinforces the tightening of high-specification semi-submersible availability in Equinor's planning horizon to at least end-2027. Companies supplying well services, subsea tooling, or drilling consumables to Equinor or Odfjell Drilling programmes should treat this as a signal to engage early on crew, equipment, and service capacity for the extended campaign period.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is an option exercise within an existing contract — no new procurement process is open. Norwegian service companies should monitor Equinor's well programme announcements to determine which basins these two wells target, and maintain existing relationships with both Equinor's drilling organisation and Odfjell Drilling's operations team to position for well-service or subsea support scopes as the 2027 campaign is finalised.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Odfjell Drilling's extended backlog on Deepsea Atlantic signals stable operations into Q4 2027 — drilling service suppliers should confirm equipment and crew availability windows with Odfjell's operations team now.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If either of the two additional wells targets Equinor's African acreage, subsea tie-back or well-intervention service providers should track basin-level announcements to anticipate follow-on scopes.
- **Service:** Well services companies — cementing, completions, wireline — already on Equinor or Odfjell framework agreements should flag capacity for a late-2027 delivery window as the extended campaign is planned.
- **LNG:** Should the wells target Equinor's Tanzanian or other African gas acreage, LNG-adjacent service providers should monitor for any development drilling signals that could accelerate project timelines.

[Original source: Offshore Engineer →](#)

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