

PETROLEUM COMMISSION GHANA · GHANA

Halliburton signs \$15m KNUST training deal in Ghana

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Halliburton Ghana Operations Limited has signed a partnership agreement with Ghana's Petroleum Commission and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) valued at an estimated US\$15 million, committing the upstream service company to a sustained programme of academic and technical capacity development in the country's oil and gas sector.

The deal — structured as a signed partnership agreement rather than a preliminary memorandum of understanding — will see Halliburton donate industry-leading petroleum engineering software, deliver specialist training, and provide broader academic support to KNUST. The primary objective is to strengthen local capacity and develop Ghana's next generation of upstream petroleum professionals, aligning with the Petroleum Commission's mandate to grow indigenous technical competence across the value chain.

The partnership is a direct signal of confidence in Ghana's long-term upstream trajectory. By anchoring the investment at KNUST, one of West Africa's most established engineering institutions, Halliburton and the Petroleum Commission are targeting the pipeline of talent that will eventually staff exploration, development, and production operations across Ghanaian acreage. Petroleum engineering software access at university level is particularly significant: it means graduates enter the industry already familiar with commercial-grade tools used on live assets, compressing the gap between academic qualification and field-ready competence.

For the Petroleum Commission, the arrangement advances a regulatory priority that has gained traction across sub-Saharan Africa — ensuring that licence conditions and local content frameworks are backed by a workforce capable of delivering on them. Ghana's upstream sector, anchored by producing deepwater assets, continues to require specialist skills in reservoir engineering, well design, and production optimisation. Building that capability domestically reduces long-term dependence on expatriate technical staff and strengthens Ghana's negotiating position with international operators and service companies.

The \$15 million commitment, delivered in-kind through software licences and training programmes rather than as a cash transfer, represents one of the more substantial single-institution capacity investments disclosed in West Africa's upstream education space in recent years. The structure — a tripartite agreement between a global service major, a national regulatory body, and a public university — may serve as a template for similar arrangements elsewhere on the continent as operators and service companies look to meet tightening local content requirements.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a capacity-building and local content initiative rather than a procurement event, so direct supplier outreach is premature. Norwegian service companies with strong HSE training, subsea engineering education, or workforce development programmes should monitor how KNUST's upgraded capabilities evolve, as a more technically proficient Ghanaian graduate pool will directly affect future local-hire and local-partner requirements on offshore projects. Relationship-building with the Petroleum Commission of Ghana and KNUST at this stage positions firms well ahead of any future local content compliance discussions tied to new licence rounds or field development approvals.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling/Well Services:** A stronger KNUST petroleum engineering curriculum means future Ghanaian drilling crews and well-site engineers will arrive with greater baseline competence — Norwegian well services firms planning local hiring or joint-venture staffing on Ghanaian assets should factor this into workforce planning.

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Deepwater assets offshore Ghana will require locally certified subsea and FPSO engineers over time; Norwegian FPSO operators and subsea contractors should track KNUST's curriculum development to identify potential local graduate recruitment pipelines.
- **Service:** Norwegian firms offering specialised upstream training, simulation, or competency assessment services could explore co-delivery arrangements with KNUST or the Petroleum Commission as the Halliburton programme matures and demand for complementary technical modules grows.
- **Pipeline:** As Ghana's upstream and midstream infrastructure expands, pipeline engineering skills will be increasingly needed; Norwegian pipeline service companies could explore academic or technical collaboration with KNUST to embed relevant competencies early in the curriculum.

[Original source: Petroleum Commission Ghana →](#)

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