

GOOGLE NEWS QUERY: NUPRC · NIGERIA

Nigeria offers 40 blocks as output hits 1.82mbpd

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Nigeria's upstream regulator, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), is offering 40 oil blocks to attract fresh capital as the country's crude oil production rises to 1.82 million barrels per day. The licensing round represents one of the most significant block-offer exercises Nigeria has mounted in recent years, with the NUPRC framing the opportunity explicitly around the need for new investment to sustain and build on the current output recovery.

The production figure of 1.82 million barrels per day marks a meaningful improvement for Africa's largest oil producer, which has spent several years battling output decline driven by crude theft, pipeline vandalism, ageing infrastructure, and operator underinvestment. Reaching this level signals that some of those operational headwinds are easing, making the timing of the block offer commercially logical: rising output reduces country-risk perception and gives incoming investors a more stable base from which to plan development programmes.

The 40-block offer is a block award process at the licensing-round stage. No contracts have been signed and no final investment decisions have been announced in connection with this round. The NUPRC has not specified in the available reporting whether the blocks span onshore, shallow-water, or deepwater acreage, nor has it disclosed individual block details, minimum work programmes, or fiscal terms. Interested parties should monitor official NUPRC communications for the formal data-room and bid-round schedule.

For Norwegian service companies tracking Nigeria, the strategic importance is clear even at this early stage. A 40-block licensing round of this scale, if it converts into exploration and appraisal drilling campaigns and ultimately field developments, would generate substantial demand across the full service spectrum — well services, drilling rigs, subsea equipment, FPSO procurement, pipeline installation, and LNG-related infrastructure depending on the nature of discoveries made. The lead times from block award to development contract are typically long in Nigeria, but relationship-building and pre-qualification with likely operators begins well before FID.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

With 40 blocks on offer and production already recovering, Norway-based service companies should begin mapping which operators — IOCs and independents — are most likely to bid and establishing or reinforcing relationships now, ahead of any awards. This is a monitoring and engagement phase, not a procurement phase; outreach to procurement teams is premature until blocks are awarded and work programmes are confirmed. Saga Advisory can assist partners in identifying target operators and tracking the NUPRC bid-round timeline as details emerge.

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- **Drilling:** A 40-block round, if progressed, will require exploration and appraisal drilling capacity — rig contractors and drilling services firms should monitor operator award lists and pre-qualify early.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Deepwater or offshore blocks in the round could generate FPSO leasing and subsea tie-back demand; identify potential operators now to position for concept-select and FEED engagement.
- **Pipeline:** New block developments in the Niger Delta will require export pipeline or flowline solutions — track block locations once disclosed to assess infrastructure gaps.
- **LNG:** Gas-bearing discoveries from new blocks could feed Nigeria LNG expansion ambitions; LNG equipment and engineering firms should watch for gas-prone acreage in the round.

- **Service:** Well services, integrity, and production-optimisation companies should use the output recovery narrative to reinforce Nigeria client relationships ahead of an expected uptick in field activity.

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