

OIL FIELD AFRICA REVIEW · DRILLING

ReconAfrica Resumes KW1X Horizontal Drilling in Africa

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Reconnaissance Energy Africa Ltd has received all required regulatory approvals to resume horizontal drilling and flow testing at its KW1X well, with flow test results expected before year-end. The company and its partners secured the final permits needed to restart operations, including an Environmental Clearance Certificate and an amendment to the horizontal drilling permit. With those approvals in hand, the whipstock has been set and sidetrack drilling is now under way.

The permit sequence matters for context. KW1X is a sidetrack operation, meaning the team is steering a new wellbore from an existing hole rather than spudding a fresh well. Setting the whipstock is the mechanical step that deflects the drill string onto the new trajectory, so the commencement of sidetrack drilling represents a genuine operational milestone rather than a preparatory one. Flow testing, which will follow drilling, is the critical phase that will indicate whether hydrocarbons can be produced at commercially meaningful rates.

ReconAfrica has faced a protracted regulatory and environmental scrutiny process in the basin where KW1X is located. The dual permit requirement — an environmental clearance alongside a specific horizontal drilling amendment — reflects the heightened oversight applied to unconventional or technically complex well designs in the region. Securing both simultaneously clears the last administrative hurdle before results can be generated.

The year-end timeline for flow test results gives investors and industry observers a near-term data point to watch. If results are positive, they would meaningfully de-risk

the acreage and could accelerate decisions on further appraisal drilling or partner farm-in processes. If results are inconclusive or disappointing, the company will need to assess whether sidetrack locations or different completion designs are warranted. Either outcome will be significant for the broader evaluation of the basin's commercial potential.

For the African drilling services sector, the resumption of activity at KW1X is a reminder that onshore unconventional and technically complex well programs on the continent require specialised horizontal drilling capabilities and rigorous environmental compliance management. The project is at an active drilling stage, and service and equipment requirements are already being met by contracted providers. The flow test phase will require well testing equipment and data acquisition services, which are shorter-cycle engagements that may involve competitive sourcing.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

KW1X is at active drilling and approaching flow testing, but no open tender or contract award is referenced in the article. Norwegian service companies with horizontal drilling, well testing, or environmental compliance expertise should monitor results closely — a positive flow test before year-end could trigger appraisal planning and new procurement cycles where early relationship-building with ReconAfrica and its partners would be advantageous.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Horizontal sidetrack drilling is under way at KW1X; monitor flow test results as positive outcomes could open appraisal well contracting opportunities.
- **Service:** Flow testing and downhole data acquisition services will be required in the near term; establish visibility with ReconAfrica's operations team ahead of that phase.
- **Service:** Environmental compliance management for technically complex well designs is a demonstrated need on this project; Norwegian firms with HSE and permitting track records should note the operator's regulatory profile.

[Original source: Oil Field Africa Review →](#)

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