

OFFSHORE MAGAZINE · CAMEROON · DRILLING

Tower Resources preps NJOM-3 drill after Thali extension

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Tower Resources is advancing plans to drill the NJOM-3 well on the Njonji structure offshore Cameroon, following a government extension of the Thali license through October 2027. The extension gives the company a defined runway to complete three critical preparatory steps: finalising a farm-out agreement, securing a rig contract, and completing well preparations ahead of a 2027 spud target.

The Thali license extension is a block-award-level development — the acreage remains held, but no drilling contract has been signed and no farm-out has closed. Tower Resources is still in the process of bringing in a partner to share costs and risk, which means the project's commercial structure is not yet settled. The farm-out outcome will be a key indicator of whether NJOM-3 reaches the rig in 2027 or slips further.

For the Norwegian service sector, the sequencing here matters. Rig contracting is explicitly listed as a near-term milestone, placing this project on the radar for jackup or tender-assist operators active in the Gulf of Guinea. Cameroon's offshore environment is shallow to moderate water depth, and the region is already served by rigs cycling between Nigerian, Equatorial Guinean, and Cameroonian campaigns. A rig contract award — when it comes — could represent an entry point for drilling services companies tracking West African utilisation.

Well services demand will follow rig selection. Cementing, wireline, mud engineering, and directional drilling packages will all need to be tendered once a drilling contractor is locked in. Norwegian well services providers with Gulf of Guinea track

records should be monitoring Tower Resources' farm-out progress closely, as the partner that joins will likely influence procurement preferences and contracting timelines.

The broader context is that Cameroon remains a secondary but active frontier in the Gulf of Guinea upstream calendar. While the country does not generate the volume of licensing activity seen in Nigeria or Angola, targeted wells like NJOM-3 on the Njonji structure attract attention when a credible operator holds an extended license and is actively marketing equity. Tower Resources' ability to close a farm-out before late 2025 will be the most reliable signal that 2027 drilling is on track. Norwegian service companies should monitor the farm-out announcement as the practical trigger for deeper engagement, rather than moving to supplier outreach at this stage.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The project is pre-contract and pre-farm-out, so the recommended posture is monitoring and relationship-building rather than procurement outreach. Norwegian drilling and well services companies should track the farm-out announcement, which will signal when rig contracting and well services tendering become active. Establishing early visibility with Tower Resources and any incoming farm-out partner is the priority action now.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Rig contracting is an explicit near-term milestone — jackup and tender-assist operators should monitor Tower Resources' farm-out outcome as the trigger for rig solicitation in the Gulf of Guinea.
- **Well Services:** Once a rig contractor is selected for NJOM-3, cementing, directional drilling, and wireline packages will be tendered — Norwegian providers with West Africa credentials should position now with Tower Resources.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** No subsea or production infrastructure scope is confirmed at this stage, but a successful NJOM-3 result could open appraisal and development planning conversations on the Njonji structure.
- **Service:** Mud engineering and drilling fluids supply for a single-well Cameroon campaign is a realistic near-term scope — companies with Gulf of Guinea logistics infrastructure should flag this opportunity for 2026-2027 planning.

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Saga Advisory

General: info@saga-advisory.com · saga-advisory.com

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