

GOOGLE NEWS QUERY: NUPRC · NIGERIA

Nigeria targets 250,000 bopd from 22 new blocks

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Nigeria's upstream regulator, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), has set a target of 250,000 barrels of oil per day from 22 oil blocks within five years. The announcement signals a deliberate push by Abuja to translate recent licensing activity into measurable production gains, at a time when Nigeria's overall output has struggled to meet its OPEC quota.

The 22 blocks represent a significant licensing portfolio, though the article does not specify whether these acreages are onshore, shallow-water, or deepwater, nor does it identify which operators or investors have been awarded the individual blocks. What is clear is that NUPRC is framing the 250,000 bopd figure as a concrete regulatory objective, not merely an aspirational target — placing accountability on both the regulator and eventual block operators to move from award to active development within a defined timeframe.

For Nigeria, 250,000 barrels per day would represent a material addition to current production levels, which have been hampered by crude theft, infrastructure degradation, and operator divestments from onshore and shallow-water assets. The five-year horizon implies that NUPRC expects appraisal, development planning, and early production activity to commence promptly across the 22 blocks — an ambitious schedule given Nigeria's historical project cycle times.

The absence of further detail in the available reporting means the exact split between block types, geographies within Nigeria, and named participants remains unclear. However, the scale of the ambition — 22 blocks contributing a combined quarter-

million barrels per day within five years — suggests the regulator anticipates a mix of fast-track tie-back opportunities on already-explored acreage and greenfield developments. Investors and service companies watching Nigeria will need to track NUPRC's subsequent communications to identify which blocks are moving toward firm work programme commitments and which operators are engaging drilling contractors or subsurface service providers.

Norwegian energy service companies should note this announcement as an early-stage signal rather than an actionable procurement opportunity. No contracts have been signed, no tenders published, and no FIDs reported. The appropriate posture at this stage is to monitor NUPRC's licensing round communications closely, engage Nigerian in-country partners for block-level intelligence, and position ahead of the project definition phases that will follow if operators commit to work programmes. The pipeline of 22 blocks, if it progresses, could generate meaningful demand across drilling, well services, subsea infrastructure, and topside processing over the 2025-2030 period.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a licensing-level announcement with no signed contracts or open tenders, so direct procurement outreach is premature. Norwegian service companies should monitor NUPRC's block-by-block progress reports and engage Nigerian-based partners to identify which operators are moving toward work programme commitments. Relationship-building with likely operators and in-country agents now will position firms advantageously when drilling and development contracts are eventually tendered.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** A 22-block development programme implies a multi-rig drilling campaign over five years — monitor which blocks attract operators with existing rig access or drilling service agreements.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If deepwater or offshore blocks feature in the 22, Norwegian FPSO operators and subsea integrators should track operator identities as they emerge to position for early FEED engagement.

- **Well Services:** Rapid production ramp to 250,000 bopd in five years will require intensive well completion and stimulation activity — well services companies should map their Nigeria capacity now.
- **Pipeline:** New block production will need evacuation infrastructure; pipeline and flow assurance specialists should assess whether existing trunk lines can absorb incremental volumes or whether new tie-ins are required.

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