

DRILLING CONTRACTOR · ZIMBABWE · DRILLING

Invictus moves Exalo Rig 202 to Zimbabwe Musuma-1

Saga deep read · 21 October 2026 · Score 74

Invictus Energy has begun relocating Exalo Rig 202 from the Mukuyu-2 wellsite to the Musuma-1 exploration well location within its Cabora Bassa Project in Zimbabwe, with the well remaining on track to spud in November. The rig move follows completion of the Musuma-1 wellpad, including civil works and access road upgrades, earlier this month.

The Cabora Bassa Project represents one of the more active onshore exploration programmes on the African continent at present. Invictus Energy has been systematically drilling exploration targets across the basin, with Mukuyu-2 the previous well in sequence before attention shifts to Musuma-1. The timely completion of surface infrastructure — wellpad construction, civil works and upgraded access roads — kept the November spud schedule intact, a discipline that reflects organised project execution in a landlocked and logistically challenging environment.

For the drilling contractor, Exalo, the rig mobilisation between wellsites within the same project represents a continuation of an existing engagement rather than a new award. The scope and terms of Exalo's contract with Invictus Energy are not disclosed in this update, but the sequential deployment of Rig 202 across multiple wells within the Cabora Bassa Project indicates a campaign-style arrangement rather than a single-well commitment.

Zimbabwe's upstream sector remains at an early development stage, with the Cabora Bassa basin attracting attention as a frontier gas-prone province. Should Musuma-1 encounter commercial hydrocarbons, it would add to the derisking of the broader

acreage and could accelerate conversations around appraisal programmes, development planning and, ultimately, monetisation pathways — all of which carry implications for service and equipment demand further down the project lifecycle.

For now, the November spud represents the next material milestone. Norwegian service companies with exposure to onshore drilling campaigns, well services, and directional or measurement-while-drilling technologies should note the project's momentum. The Cabora Bassa programme is still at the exploration and appraisal stage, meaning procurement cycles for development-scale work remain some distance away, but early relationship-building with Invictus Energy and Exalo as the operating and drilling partnership is advisable for companies seeking positioning in sub-Saharan frontier markets.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Musuma-1 is an exploration well, meaning no procurement process for development-scale services is imminent. Norwegian companies active in onshore well services, drilling fluids, directional drilling, or wellsite logistics should monitor Invictus Energy's Cabora Bassa results and build early relationships with both Invictus and Exalo rather than pursue procurement outreach at this stage. A commercial discovery at Musuma-1 would be the trigger to escalate engagement.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Exalo Rig 202 is already mobilised and active; Norwegian drilling technology and well services suppliers should engage Exalo directly as the drilling contractor of record for the Cabora Bassa campaign.
- **Service:** Wellsite services including directional drilling, MWD/LWD, and cementing are live requirements for an active exploration campaign — monitor Invictus tender activity as Musuma-1 spud approaches.
- **Pipeline:** Onshore gas monetisation in a landlocked frontier basin will eventually require gas gathering and pipeline infrastructure — too early for outreach but worth tracking discovery outcomes.

- **LNG:** If Cabora Bassa proves up a commercial gas resource, small-scale LNG or compressed gas solutions may become relevant for stranded-gas monetisation in Zimbabwe's constrained infrastructure environment.

[Original source: Drilling Contractor →](#)

Saga Advisory

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

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN