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ADES wins multimillion-dollar Nigeria drilling contract

Saga deep read · 14 May 2026 · Score 74

ADES has secured a multimillion-dollar drilling contract in Nigerian waters, with the work to be performed by a rig originally built in 1982. The contract represents a signed engagement, placing ADES among active drilling contractors currently operating or mobilising in Nigeria's offshore sector.

The award confirms continued demand for drilling services in Nigerian waters despite the age profile of some available rigs in the regional market. The 1982-built unit's deployment signals that operators in Nigeria are willing to utilise older, cost-competitive assets where operational requirements and certification standards are met. While the article does not specify the operator, the water depth classification of the location, or the precise contract duration and value beyond characterising it as multimillion-dollar, the deal represents a concrete, signed drilling contract rather than a letter of intent or framework agreement.

Nigeria remains one of Africa's most active drilling markets, with multiple operators maintaining development and appraisal drilling programmes across its offshore acreage. Contract awards at this level indicate sustained operator appetite for well delivery capacity, and the engagement of a rig of this vintage suggests the procurement decision was driven at least in part by commercial considerations and rig availability rather than newbuild specifications alone.

For the broader Nigerian drilling services ecosystem, the ADES contract adds to the evidence base that the market is absorbing available units. Contractors holding older but certified rigs remain competitive in environments where cost pressure is

significant and rig supply is regionally constrained. The multimillion-dollar characterisation, while imprecise, indicates meaningful contract value that justifies mobilisation and operational commitment from the contractor's side.

Norwegian oil and gas service companies tracking Nigeria should note this as a live drilling programme now at contract stage. The involvement of a specific contractor and rig opens visibility into the supply chain requirements that typically accompany active drilling operations, including well services, mud engineering, tubular running, subsea well intervention equipment where applicable, and logistics support. Companies with established Nigerian operational capacity or local partnerships are best positioned to engage as the programme moves toward execution.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a signed drilling contract, making it appropriate for Norwegian well services, drilling fluids, tubular handling, and associated oilfield services companies to initiate supplier and procurement outreach to ADES and the unnamed operator. Companies with Nigeria in-country presence or NCDMB-compliant local partnerships should act now, as drilling programmes typically build out their service vendor lists in the weeks following contract signature. Those without existing Nigerian operational footprint should monitor for operator disclosure and assess entry options before the drilling window opens.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** ADES is the contracted drilling contractor — Norwegian drilling services and rig inspection specialists can approach ADES directly regarding third-party well services and technical support for this Nigerian programme.
- **Service:** Well services providers covering cementing, wireline, directional drilling, and mud engineering should engage ADES and the operator's supply chain now that a signed contract is confirmed.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If the location proves to be offshore rather than shallow shelf, subsea well-control and riser equipment suppliers should monitor for operator disclosure and any associated subsea scope.

- **Pipeline:** Depending on the well's development context, pipeline and flowline tie-back specialists should track operator announcements for any associated infrastructure scope linked to this drilling campaign.

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