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Noble enters Norway floater market with *GreatWhite* award from Aker BP

Noble Corporation has been awarded a three-year contract by Aker BP for the harsh environment semi-submersible *Noble GreatWhite* for operations off Norway. The *GreatWhite* will be the first Noble floater to operate in Norway and the award represents a significant step in expanding Noble's presence on the Norwegian Shelf, the company says.

Noble on Monday (26 January) said the award is worth around \$473 million, including a mobilisation fee, but excluding integrated services and bonus potential, and operations are expected to kick off in the second quarter of 2027.

In preparation for the programme with Aker BP, Noble anticipates spending about \$160 million on the *Noble GreatWhite* in connection with reactivation and contract preparation activities.

The rig, a Moss Maritime CS-60E delivered in 2016 by Hyundai Heavy Industries, is currently in port in Feda, Norway.

Noble already has the jack-ups *Noble Integrator* and *Noble Invincible* operating for Aker BP in Norway under long-term contracts and another jack-up, the *Noble Interceptor*, is set to start a 150-day job in accommodation mode with the same operator later this year.

Meanwhile, among a batch of awards for nine rigs totalling about \$1.3 billion of backlog, Noble has also secured a contract from ExxonMobil for the drillship *Noble Gerry de Souza* for operations off Nigeria. The contract, which is expected to add an estimated \$292 million to Noble's backlog, is for two years, plus up to three years of optional extensions, with operations targeted to start in mid-year, subject to regulatory approvals and conditions.

Noble plans to upgrade the *Gerry de Souza* for managed pressure drilling ahead of the programme.

Noble also reported that the semi-submersible *Noble Endeavor*, which most recently worked for Shell in the UK North Sea and is currently in the Cromarty Firth, is set to leave the region after being awarded an 11-well contract by a so-far unnamed operator for work in South America. *(Continued on page 2)*