- SAIPEC 2025 Spotlights Regional Opportunties
- France gaz Releases Latest Industry Report

THE ENERGY REPUBLIC

A SPECIAL EDITION FOR PETAN'S SAIPEC 2025 I JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2025 EDITION

#SAIPEC
SHOWCASING SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA PROJECT **OPPORTUNITIES** IN ENERGY SECTOR

Page 46

SHELL BONGA NORTH PROJECT
LATEST UPDATES **OPPORTUNITIES** INTERVIEWS

Page 51

THE GLOBAL ENERGY HYDROGEN **OIL AND GAS** TECHNOLOGIES

Page 05

NNPC LTD HISTORIC
GAS REVOLUTION I IN NIGERIA
Q & A

Page 35

ISSN 2705-2052

HEIRS ENERGIES **SUPER STORY**

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH ENGR. OSAYANDE IGIEHON

Heirs Energies

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GROWTH ACCELERATED

NIGERIA PETROLEUM INDUSTRY
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TOPIC

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Acceleration Imperatives

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CREATING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Industry Stakeholders,

Happy New Year!

On behalf of The Energy Republic, I'm pleased to release our first edition (magazine) for the year 2025.

We started this year with special publications for the 9th edition of PETAN's Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) held from 11 - 13 February 2025 in Lagos, Nigeria.

SAIPEC 2025 brought together prominent industry leaders, stakeholders, experts, and companies including government representatives to explore the Sub-Saharan Africa energy resources as well as identify key challenges hindering the continent from harnessing its abundant oil and gas resources for economic prosperity. The conference featured a diverse agenda that included a strategic conference, technical sessions, an international exhibition, and the prestigious SAIPEC Industry Awards.

The year 2025 presents an exciting opportunity for Africa's energy sector with a positive forecast pointing to the growth and project opportunities across the region.

In this edition, we featured some notable industry updates across the Sub-Saharan Africa region coupled with the latest announcement on the African Energy Bank set to officially commence operation in the first quarter of 2025.

Interestingly, we conducted an interview with Ronald Adams, Managing Director of Shell Nigeria Exploration & Production Company (SNEPCO), about the recent FID on Shell's Bonga North Project offshore Nigeria. Adams provided more insights about the Bonga North Project and its potential to unlock Nigeria's deepwater as well as create in-country opportunities for indigenous companies, among others.

Nigeria currently leads Africa as a 'Top Investment Destination' in the upstream sector following several reforms and policy developments to attract investments.

While Africa is prioritizing a just energy transition to utilize its oil and gas resources, the energy transition is making significant progress in developed nations. This magazine also featured the latest industry updates, innovations, and project development in the energy industry globally especially on hydrogen, coupled with other industry outlooks, etc.

We wish you all the best in this new year.

Please feel free to share your comments or contributions with us via email.

Best regards,

Micheal Obineme

Ndubuisi Micheal Obineme
Managing Editor
The Energy Republic Marketing and Communications Limited

EDITORIAL CONTENTS

THE ENERGY REPUBLIC
CREATING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

11 ‘Hydrogen Plays Key Role in Decarbonization of Transport and Power Sector in UK’ - Guthrie

20 Minister Al-Kaabi highlights the need for an inclusive and balanced global energy mix

18 ExxonMobil Energy Outlook 2050 Evaluates Oil, Gas, and Renewables as Components for Global Energy Security

France Gaz Launches Annual Report on Industrial Growth in Renewable and Low-carbon Gases

Frédéric Martin, President of France Gaz

By Ndubuisi Micheal Obineme

France Gaz and its partners have launched their bi-annual report focused on the renewable and low-carbon gas sector in the French territory. The report offers a comprehensive analysis of the challenges, and growth opportunities for the companies specialized in the conception, construction, development, and management of the renewable and low-carbon gas production units in France.

The result in the report is the first “Renewable and Low-Carbon Gases Barometer”, carried out with Xerfi Specifics and Blunomy. The Barometer aims to measure the growth dynamics of companies working in the design, construction, development and management of renewable and low-carbon gas production units in the French Territory.

According to the report, the French renewable and low-carbon gas companies makes 91% of their production in France, while 85% of the commodities were consumed in the French territory. The French companies studied by these reports use for their production 70% of national equipment, while 24% was imported from other European countries.

In a statement made known to The Energy Republic, the renewable and low-carbon gas companies generated an overall turnover of 1.1 billion euros, which is one-third of the global overall turnover, with the “production” part representing the other two-thirds (2.2 billion euros).

The report also highlighted that 2% of the and 34% of companies developed at least one patent, with a total of 400 patents have been proposed for methanization and in new production sectors.

Notably, the renewable and low-carbon gas sector contributed 11,000 direct and indirect jobs to the French economy since 2023, with an expected growth of 18.4% in terms of job opportunities by 2026, particularly for the recruitment of qualified executives and engineers.

France gaz forecasted that renewable and low-carbon gases will account for 20% of the French gas mix in 2030 and 100% in 2050, due to the rapid development of new production sectors, such as pyrogasification, hydrothermal gasification, and power-to-methane. These sectors will develop through the innovation capacity of large groups and hundreds of VSEs/SMEs and start-ups based in the French territory.

Speaking at a press conference in Paris, covered by The Energy Republic, Frédéric Martin, President of France Gaz said, “France has committed to an energy transition based on low-carbon, local, sustainable and innovative solutions. In the coming years, players in the renewable and low-carbon gas sector will play a growing and essential role in achieving the carbon neutrality objectives of France and Europe set by the Paris Agreements in 2015. Tomorrow’s gas mix will be 20% decarbonized in 2030 and 100%

decarbonized in 2050, thanks to the development of methanization and new production sectors, such as pyrogasification, hydrothermal gasification, and Power-to-methane.

"Our sector demonstrates that the energy transition is not just a challenge, but also a major economic opportunity to reindustrialize France. Above all, most of the production and value created remain on French territory and enable the development of the local economy.

"The expertise of French companies is increasingly recognized internationally, particularly thanks to the equipment manufacturing sector, present both in Europe and the North American market. With many companies involved and sustained annual growth, we are today building the energy ecosystem of tomorrow, creating industrial jobs and value for our territories.

"These companies have experienced

Frédéric Martin, President of France Gaz

significant growth in recent years, enabling the creation of a genuine green industrial sector "made in France" which, in 2023, will have contributed more than 3 billion euros to the French economy and created several thousand direct jobs".

In his words, Martin stated that the outlook for renewable and low-carbon gas is positive both in France and the country's capabilities to export these commodities to the international market.

However, he pointed out several measures to position France among the leaders of decarbonization in Europe, underscoring the need for government support in stabilizing the regulatory framework and creating dedicated training programs to enable the sector to achieve its ambitious target.

He noted that the last few years of regulatory instability have led to a slight slowdown in the commissioning of new projects, adding that several measures will also be necessary to keep France among the leaders of decarbonization in Europe and to strengthen a green, local, attractive and competitive French industry.

Martin called on the French government to provide an enabling environment, which includes more access to land, particularly within the framework of the ZAN law, develop a framework for a post-2028 CPB trajectory to ensure stability and visibility for industry players, simplify permitting procedures that generate significant additional costs during project development, and promote the development and use of biogenic CO_2, a co-product of mechanization.

France gaz, Biogas Vallée Signs Agreement to Boost R&D, Increase Renewable Gas Production in France

France gas and Biogaz Vallée have been working together to develop renewable gases in France for several years.

By signing this agreement on 28 January, 2025 in Paris, Jean-Philippe Burtin, President of the Biogas Vallée, and Frédéric Martin, President of France Gas, formalize their partnership.

The objective of the partnership is to increase the production of biomethane in France through the development of a methanisation creating value for its territories. This partnership concerns, inter alia, the event-based actions programmes envisaged by the two associations, as well as the mutual sharing of research, development and innovation.

Jean-Philippe Burtin, President of the Biogas Vallée, and Frédéric Martin, President of France Gas signing the partnership agreement at the press conference in Paris, covered by The Energy Republic

S&P Global Predicts Cleantech Investments to Reach $670 billion in 2025

S&P Global Commodity Insights, the leading independent provider of information, analysis, data, and benchmark prices for the commodities, energy, and energy transition markets, has released its latest report on the pivotal trends in clean energy technology for 2025.

"S&P Global Commodity Insights forecasts that cleantech energy supply investments, including renewable power generation, green hydrogen production, and carbon capture and storage (CCS), will reach $670 billion in 2025, marking the first time these investments will outpace projected upstream oil and gas spending. Solar PV is expected to represent half of all cleantech investments and two-thirds of installed megawatts," said Edurne Zoco, Executive Director, Clean Energy Technology, S&P Global Commodity Insights.

"The new year 2025 is not only bringing to the clean energy sector significant transformations that are reshaping energy production and consumption, but it promises to be pivotal for the clean energy sector, with significant advancements in corporate clean energy procurement and the integration of AI in energy management," said Eduard Sala de Vedruna, Head of Research, Energy Transition, Sustainability & Services, S&P Global Commodity Insights.

The S&P Global Commodity Insights report: Top Cleantech Trends for 2025, underscores the growing dominance of renewable technologies like solar PV, but also addresses the challenges and opportunities within the evolving clean energy sector.

The top trends identified in the report include:

◂ Clean Energy Investment Takes Center Stage

In 2025, cleantech energy supply spending is projected to reach $670 billion, surpassing upstream oil and gas investments for the first time. This shift underscores the growing dominance of renewable technologies, with solar PV expected to represent half of all cleantech investments and two-thirds of installed megawatts. However, despite this significant financial commitment, the overall investment levels remain insufficient to meet urgent climate goals, particularly the target of tripling renewable capacity by 2030. Capital efficiency varies by region, with China projected to add nearly twice as many gigawatts per dollar spent compared to the United States.

Tensions in Cleantech Supply Chains

The global cleantech landscape is shaped by an oversupply of equipment from China, particularly affecting the solar, wind, and battery sectors. Price declines may stabilize in 2025, but competition from Chinese manufacturers is expected to keep prices low, fundamentally altering industry pricing dynamics. A slowing domestic economy in China complicates the maintenance of its expansive supply chain, prompting efforts to control manufacturing growth and raise barriers for new entrants. Projections indicate that China's market share in PV module production will decline to 65% and battery cell manufacturing to 61% by 2030.

Storage Transforms the Power Markets

Battery energy storage is becoming essential for enhancing project economics and mitigating low wholesale electricity prices in regions with high renewable energy penetration. Despite reductions in solar PV costs, the decrease in capital expenditures has not translated into robust project development, largely due to low power purchase agreement expectations. The phenomenon of cannibalization, where excessive midday energy production drives prices down to negligible levels, further discourages project development in mature markets. To remain competitive, solar projects must integrate battery energy storage solutions, enabling developers to navigate price fluctuations and improve the economic viability of renewable investments.

AI Revolutionizes Clean Energy Technology

A recent report from S&P Global Commodity Insights highlights the growing influence of artificial intelligence (AI) in the cleantech sector, particularly in renewable generation forecasting and grid planning. As intermittent renewable energy sources become more prevalent, the need for accurate forecasts has intensified. AI-powered trading applications are emerging as critical tools to mitigate risks associated with discrepancies—potentially up to 700%—between forecasted and actual energy generation, thereby enhancing energy management and facilitating the integration of renewables into the grid. While AI has great potential to transform the clean energy sector, it also presents a range of risks that will require careful management like cybersecurity breaches, network compromises, anomalous behaviors, and unlawful or unethical practices, among others.

Edurne Zoco, Ph.D, Executive Director, Clean Energy Technology, S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Datacenters Drive Clean Energy Procurement

Datacenters are expected to significantly increase their role in corporate clean energy procurement, with expectations to source approximately 300 TWh of clean power annually by 2030. Currently, datacenters account for around 200 TWh, or 35%, of the global corporate clean energy procurement, a figure projected to rise dramatically over the next five years. North American datacenters are leading this transition, anticipated to represent approximately 60% of the global increase in clean energy procurement by 2030.

The Quest for Deeper Decarbonization

Ammonia is emerging as a key player in low-carbon hydrogen production, contributing significantly to both electrolytic and fossil fuel projects with CCS. In 2025, the CCUS sector is expected to secure approximately 70 million metric tons per year of CO2 capture capacity, bolstered by recent announcements of carbon management strategies that enhance clarity for CCUS projects. Despite the high costs associated with engineered carbon dioxide removal (CDR) technologies, the last three years have witnessed a surge in CDR offtake removal agreements, demonstrating increasing corporate interest and enhanced government policy support.

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Hyvolution PARIS

Hyvolution Paris 2025 Showcases Innovations, Projects, Business Developments with Increased Participation Globally

...as The Energy Republic covered the event live in Paris featuring the latest innovations and project developments across the hydrogen value chain.

The 8th edition of Hyvolution Paris, held from January 28 to 30 at Paris Expo Porte de Versailles in Halls 4 & 6, once again demonstrated its pivotal role in the global hydrogen ecosystem.

Hyvolution Paris 2025 covered by The Energy Republic, attracted 550 exhibitors and brands, over 15,000 professionals from 65 countries, and an exceptional business dynamic, the event stands out as a key catalyst for the development of a competitive and sustainable hydrogen economy.

A DRIVING FORCE FOR THE HYDROGEN INDUSTRY

Hyvolution Paris 2025 provided a unique platform for stakeholders across the entire value chain, from hydrogen producers to industrial players, as well as local authorities and investors, covering key target markets in mobility, energy, and industry. This year, discussions were particularly focused on the challenges of industrialization, financing hydrogen projects, and the acceleration of large-scale deployment.

Among the highlights, was the exclusive unveiling of the 2025 European Hydrogen Index, created in partnership with EY, which provided a crucial strategic framework for the development of low-carbon hydrogen in Europe.

A STRONGER INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

With a record participation of 12 international pavilions and visits from numerous ambassadors, Hyvolution Paris 2025 also reinforced its international dimension. Hydrogen-leading countries such as Germany, Japan, South Korea, Brazil, and the United Kingdom showcased their technological advancements and shared their vision for the large-scale development of hydrogen.

Moreover, the diversity of international visitors highlighted the growing attractiveness of the event. Delegations from South America, the Middle East, and Asia participated in discussions, fostering new partnerships and strengthening global cooperation on energy and climate issues.

A STRONG IMPULSE FOR REGIONS AND EMPLOYMENT

French regions also played a key role by supporting their local businesses. They were present to highlight their
initiatives and contribute to the growth of a well-structured hydrogen sector across the national territory.

RECRUITMENT AND EMPLOYMENT:

The 2025 edition was marked by a strong recruitment dynamic, with numerous job offers posted and dedicated meetings between companies and skilled talent. The growing demand for expertise in the sector reinforces Hyvolution Paris is a true accelerator for shaping the jobs of tomorrow.

Key Figures at Hyvolution Paris 2025

- ***550 exhibitors and brands (including 41% new participants and 33% international).***
- ***15,000 professionals, a 3% increase compared to 2024, with ¼ of them being international.***
- ***120 workshops and conferences, bringing together over 300 international experts and speakers.***
- ***The 2025 edition of the Hyvolution Summit participants include political and economic leaders.***

Upcoming Hyvolution Events in 2025:

Hyvolution also invites you to its international editions below:

- ***3rd edition of Hyvolution Chile 2025 – Santiago. Date: September 2, 3, and 4, 2025.***
- ***1st edition of Hyvolution Canada 2025 – Trois Rivières. Date: October 1 & 2, 2025***

TOWARDS HYVOLUTION 2026: A RENEWED AMBITION

With a continuously growing dynamic, Hyvolution is already setting the stage for a new, even more ambitious
edition in January 2026. The event will take a new step by moving to Pavilion 1 at Paris Expo Porte de Versailles, a larger space that will accommodate more exhibitors, enhance the visitor experience, and meet the expansion of the market.

The goal? To continue accelerating industrialization and strengthen international cooperation to make hydrogen a key pillar of the global energy transition.

Hyvolution Paris receives extensive media mobilization demonstrates the growing anticipation within the media ecosystem around hydrogen, a sector undergoing a significant transformation that is undoubtedly shaping a promising future.

Opmobility exhibition stand (no. 4P88) at Hyvolution Paris 2025

Opmobility Develops Cutting-Edge Hydrogen Technologies for Vehicles, Trucks, Others

Opmobility, a global energy company, has developed cutting-edge hydrogen technologies designed for commercial vehicles and heavy-duty trucks coupled with a pollution control system for thermal vehicles running on hydrogen.

OPmobility is an independent group that operates globally, with 152 production plants in 28 countries and 40 R&D centers.

At Hyvolution Paris 2025, Europe's leading hydrogen event, OPmobility showcased cutting-edge technologies to contribute to the development of hydrogen in the mobility sector.

The event, covered by The Energy Republic, brought together key stakeholders from the sector, providing a platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and showcasing the latest advancements in hydrogen technology.

The OPmobility's cutting-edge hydrogen products and solutions showcased at Hyvolution Paris 2025 include: The hydrogen storage system for light commercial vehicles; The FCM 150kW (Fuel Cell Module); The 304-liter hydrogen tank and The H2 ICE SCR for thermal vehicles.

In a statement obtained by The Energy Republic, OPmobility's hydrogen storage system for light commercial vehicles is the first to go into series production at OPmobility's plant in Lachelle, France. It consists of 3 or 4 high-pressure 47-liter hydrogen tanks, positioned on the floor of the vehicle and providing a range of almost 500 km.

The FCM 150kW (Fuel Cell Module) is the new-generation fuel cell system developed by OPmobility for heavy-duty mobility (trucks weighing 16 tonnes or more). It comprises an "NM12 Twin" fuel cell (developed by the EKPO Fuel Cell Technologies joint venture) and 160 other components providing complementary functions such as thermal control, electrical and electronic management, and air and hydrogen supply.

According to the company, the fuel cell system produces electricity instantaneously, from hydrogen and oxygen in the air, to power the vehicle's electric motor. Several systems can be connected to achieve a power capacity of 300kW or 450kW.

The 304-liter hydrogen tank includes (700 bar – type IV, with a carbon-fiber-coated plastic inner shell) and is designed for a wide variety of applications, including vans, and medium and heavy-duty trucks. This high-pressure tank holds around 12 kg of hydrogen and can store the energy required for vehicle autonomy. Several tanks can be integrated into a system, extending the vehicle's range.

Lastly, The H2 ICE SCR is a pollution control system for thermal vehicles running on hydrogen.

The hydrogen technologies highlight OPmobility's continued commitment to pioneering sustainable mobility solutions.

Image: civil engineering work in progress at the Lhyfe site in Croixrault (France)

Lhyfe starts construction of 5th green hydrogen production site in France

Lhyfe, one of the world's pioneers in the production of green and renewable hydrogen, has commenced construction on its first hydrogen site in northern France. The Lhyfe's new hydrogen production site located in the Somme region of Hauts-de-France will provide manufacturers and mobility players around the region with green and renewable hydrogen to decarbonize their operations.

In a statement obtained by The Energy Republic, the project is part of a wider ambition initiative of the Communauté de Communes Somme Sud-Ouest (local authority with 119 member communities) that aims to boost local employment and provide a favorable economic environment for companies wishing to set up in a dynamic environment.

Lhyfe is one of the pioneers of the green and renewable hydrogen sector in Europe. Founded in 2019, the company inaugurated its first site in 2021, and today already has four installed sites and several other sites under construction across Europe. Lhyfe produces its hydrogen locally through the electrolysis of water using renewable electricity.

By 2026, Lhyfe will have the capacity to produce and deliver up to two tonnes of green hydrogen per day at the south-west of Amiens, located in Mine d'Or business park near the A29 motorway in Croixrault.

As an energy carrier, green hydrogen is as powerful as it is clean and can replace the fossil fuels currently used in heavy mobility and industry. The green hydrogen produced locally by Lhyfe will contribute to both the region's energy sovereignty and its sustainable re-industrialization. With energy and the energy transition at the heart of the concerns of economic and industrial players, the creation of the Croixrault site will contribute to the region's industrial dynamics and attractiveness.

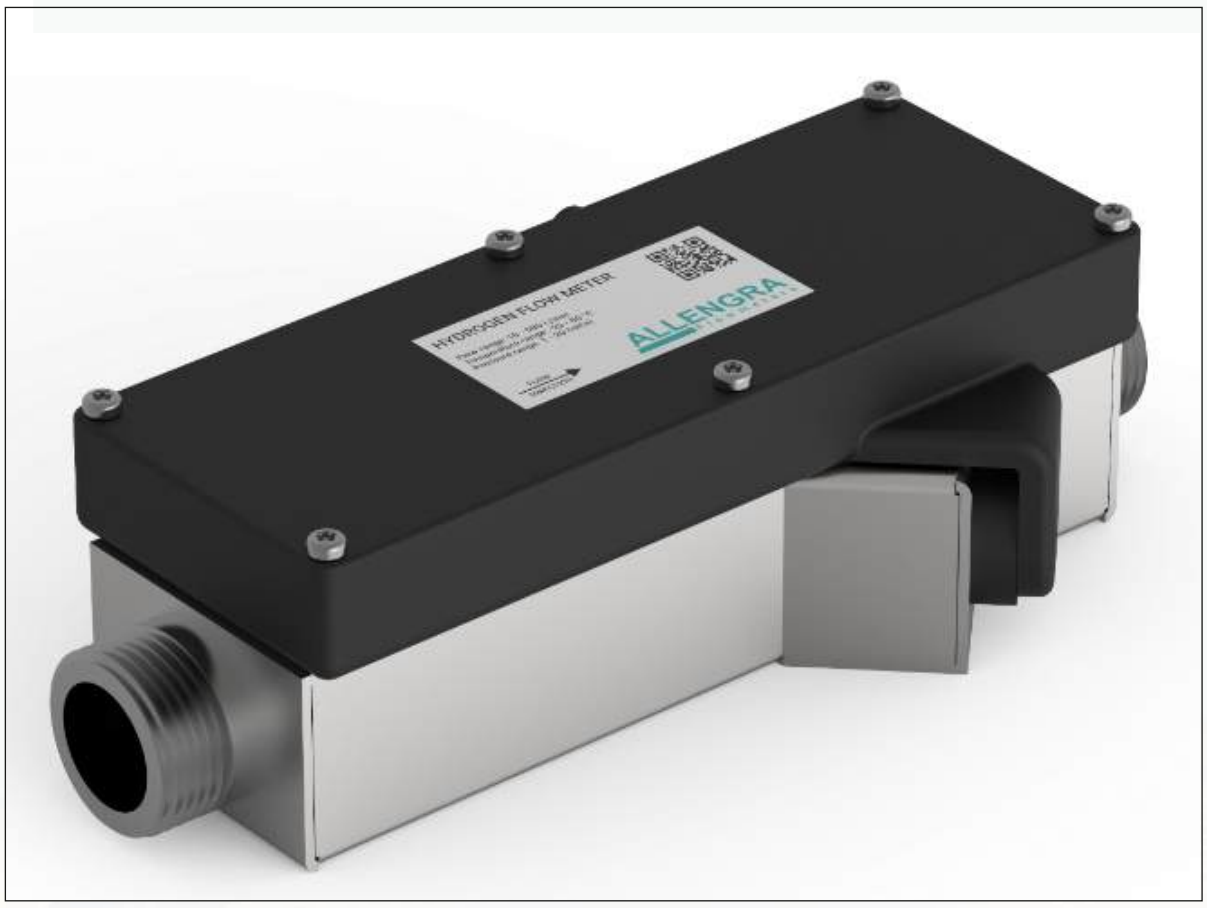
This site will complete Lhyfe's coverage of France as the company already covers the West (Pays de la Loire and Brittany), South-West (Occitanie), and East (site under construction in Auvergne Rhône-Alpes) of the country. The Croixrault site will be able to distribute its green and renewable hydrogen throughout the Hauts-de-France region. The region's manufacturers and mobility players wishing to decarbonize their businesses can now rely on this clean alternative to support their energy transition journey.

The Croixrault unit will be one of the sites that can help stabilize the power grid in the Hauts-de-France region. At the request of the power grid operator, Lhyfe will be able to modulate its electricity use upwards or downwards, enabling it to stabilize the grid in the event of peaks in power usage.

Alain DESFOSSES, President of the Communauté de Communes Somme Sud-Ouest said: "Lhyfe's green and renewable hydrogen production project is perfectly aligned with the ambitions of the Communauté de Communes Somme Sud-Ouest (CC2SO), and in particular our project site will create synergies and foster innovation using resources available in the Somme region. Thanks to this site, we'll be helping to build a regional ecosystem around locally-produced green and renewable hydrogen."

Maud Augeai, Sales Director France at Lhyfe commented: "We're delighted to announce this new production site in Croixrault. Green hydrogen is beginning to emerge all over Europe, to decarbonize activities that could not be decarbonized until now, both in the heavy or intensive mobility sector and in industry, both of which are particularly present in the Hauts-de-France region. As decarbonization is synonymous with competitiveness, we can't wait to use the hydrogen produced in Croixrault to contribute to the region's energy transition, reindustrialization, and energy sovereignty!"

Allengra's Sensors Optimize Hydrogen Performance and Lifespan



Allengra showcased ithe innovation at Hyvolution Paris 2025.

Allengra GmbH, headquartered in Germany and Romania, has developed a unique 'Hydrogen Flow and Concentration Sensor' to optimize performance and increase the Lifespan of hydrogen globally.

In a statement obtained by The Energy Republic, Allengra's hydrogen flow meter is the only sensor on the market that simultaneously measures mass and volumetric flow while analyzing gas composition in real-time. This significantly improves the performance of PEM fuel cells and other hydrogen-based applications.

By integrating advanced sensor technologies, including temperature, pressure, and humidity sensors, the device provides comprehensive data for optimal anode management.

The sensor is designed for operation at temperatures up to 85 °C and pressures up to 16 bar. Even at 100% relative humidity, it remains reliably functional and can even tolerate liquid water droplets to some extent.

The robust housing, made of highly resistant stainless steel 316L, ensures long-term compatibility with the humid hydrogen-nitrogen mixture and guarantees optimal integration into the fuel cell stack. At high hydrogen concentrations, it measures gas composition with an accuracy of < 0.5%, while volumetric flow measurement achieves an accuracy of 3% of the measured value.

All relevant parameters—volumetric and mass flow, temperature, pressure, humidity, and the concentrations of hydrogen (H_2), nitrogen (N_2), and water vapor (H_2O)—are transmitted along with additional diagnostic data via the integrated CAN bus and Modbus interfaces.

With just one device, all relevant measurements can be collected and easily integrated into fuel cell system controls.

The advanced features of the hydrogen flow meter make it an essential component of PEM fuel cells. By precisely measuring hydrogen flow and gas composition, it optimizes anode recirculation control, ensures an ideal hydrogen-nitrogen ratio, and maximizes efficiency.

Additionally, the sensor provides valuable data on nitrogen and water crossover, preventing excessive nitrogen and water accumulation in the stack. This ensures that the system remains in optimal balance between efficiency and longevity.

Allengra implements technological innovation in ultrasonic measurement principles for sustainable hydrogen propulsion systems—actively contributing to the energy transition. The hydrogen flow meter enables more efficient hydrogen utilization, supporting the shift to green energy solutions.

It can be used in versatile applications including:

- **Automotive** – particularly heavy-duty trucks, but also passenger cars
- **Stationary applications** – such as backup power supplies and decentralized energy networks
- **Aviation** – hydrogen-powered propulsion systems

For series applications, Allengra offers customized adaptations of the hydrogen sensor. This allows for cost-efficient production and optimal integration into the compact installation spaces of OEM fuel cell systems, including mechanical and electronic interfaces.

In addition, Allengra specializes in the development and production of ultrasonic flow sensors and control valves suitable for both high-end products and cost-efficient mass-production solutions. The company has provided customized solutions for various industries, including heat pumps, coffee machines, industrial automation, and motorsports.

Allengra showcased its innovations at Hyvolution Paris 2025, covered by The Energy Republic.

Established in 2005, with headquarters in Germany and Romania, Allengra specializes in the design and production of standard or OEM ultrasonic flow sensors and control valves for liquids and gases, tailored to meet the specific needs of clients.

FÉTIS Group OCEAN ECO 90 Project – Innovation for Sustainable Maritime Solutions

FETIS Group Develops Hydrogen Solutions to Decarbonize Maritime Industry

At the 2025 HYVOLUTION Paris trade show, covered by The Energy Republic, the FETIS group shared successful implementations of a marine hydrogen power system.

David Bartoletti – Marine Operations Director, FETIS Group presented the power solution behind OCEAN ECO 90 project at the Hyvolution exhibition. This fully decarbonized luxury catamaran is designed for environmentally conscious yachting enthusiasts, combining electric propulsion and hybridization to deliver optimal performance with extended range while minimizing CO2 emissions.

Key Features of the OCEAN ECO 90 include:

- Electric and hybrid propulsion powered by hydrogen.
- Hydrogen fuel cell range extender (REX H2).
- Tanks capable of storing 200 kg of hydrogen at 350 bar.
- Sustainable technologies
- Propulsion using Oceanwings® wing sails.
- 200 m² of solar panels generating 60 kWh.
- High-capacity batteries ensuring maximum range.
- Advanced safety system for onboard hydrogen storage and usage management.
- DNV certification for project management.

The OCEAN ECO 90 operates with zero CO2 emissions, helping to preserve marine ecosystems. It operates up to 300 hours powered by renewable energy system with a 500 KWh electric propulsion including solar panels and innovative sail propulsion.

FÉTIS Group continues to push technological boundaries to transform maritime mobility. By showcasing the OCEAN ECO 90 at the HYVOLUTION exhibition, the company reaffirms its role as a leader in integrating eco-friendly and innovative solutions.

As a decarbonization solutions integrator, The FÉTIS Group supports its clients in the design and implementation of electric, hybrid, or hydrogen-based projects. Its expertise is built on a rigorous approach that complies with safety standards in collaboration with classification societies, ensuring reliable and secure systems for optimal operation.

The Fétis Group is a privately-owned international engineering organization focused on the heavy mobility, marine and power generation industries. With a base in Nantes, France, the group now has more than 650 team members working in 9 countries. The group is investing in innovation to be a technology leader and catalyst in the industries that it serves. The company also delivers propulsion systems, power transmission, and decarbonized energy sources for off-highway mobility, including industrial vehicles, professional marine applications, and power generators.

JETRO Hosts Japan Pavilion at 'Hyvolution Paris 2025' to advance French-Japanese relations

JETRO organized the Japan Pavilion at 'Hyvolution 2025', to promote French-Japanese relations in the hydrogen sector. The event, covered by The Energy Republic, featured four Japanese companies operating in the hydrogen sector.

Japan was the first country to formulate a national hydrogen strategy, in 2017. The Japanese market is a global leader in hydrogen technology development, largely due to its strategic emphasis on hydrogen as a new energy carrier to secure its energy supply, reduce its CO2 emissions, and promote its economic and industrial development.

On June 3, 2024, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry(METI) and the European Commissioner for Energy held the "Japan-EU Hydrogen Business Forum", aimed at strengthening strategic cooperation between the European Union and Japan in this key sector of the energy transition.
On the side event of the Forum, a Memorandum of Understanding between Hydrogene Europe and its Japanese counterpart JH2A (Japan Hydrogen Association, the H2 association in Japan) was signed. It aims to facilitate the exchange of best practices and information, as well as strengthening bilateral cooperation in the industry, and collaboration at conferences and public-private meetings to raise hydrogen on the international stage.

JETRO launched the "EU-Japan Hydrogen Platform" to promote and intensify commercial, technological, and scientific alliances between Japanese and European companies.

European companies wishing to collaborate with Japan in the field of hydrogen are invited to use our "Japan Innovation Bridge (J-Bridge)" and "Invest Japan" services. JETRO will offer its support by providing information, facilitating contacts between foreign and Japanese companies, and hosting or sending company delegations.

The Japanese exhibitors that participated at the Hyvolution Paris 2025 Japan Pavilion include Asahi Kasei, Kobelco, Panasonic, and Yokogawa.

The Green Navy team: Charles Cardi – CEO, Guy Saillard – Designer & Naval Architect; Atila Pérez – Founder.

PROMETEO
Europe's first electro-hydrogen propulsion catamaran

Green Navy receives €1.5 million in funding for its hydrogen-powered passenger shuttle project

The Brittany Region has granted a subsidy of €1.5 million to Green Navy for its hydrogen-powered passenger shuttle project. Named PROMETEO, this initiative aligns with the regional roadmap for renewable hydrogen deployment, adopted in 2020. Green Navy, a company based in Finistère and a subsidiary of the Vallair Group, shares the ambitious goals of the Region in promoting clean and responsible maritime transport.

Green Navy is developing PROMETEO, its zero-emission catamaran for coastal passenger transport at its facility in La Forêt-Fouesnant, Brittany, France. Currently in its initial production phase, this vessel is equipped with optimized electric propulsion and hydrogen storage tanks. It will be offered as a bare-boat charter solution and could also, in the medium term, be sold to shipowners or public authorities responsible for inter-island, urban bay crossings, or leisure sea trips.

To address the challenges of decarbonizing maritime transport, Green Navy leverages its expertise in naval architecture and propulsion chain design, prioritizing safety and energy efficiency. Acting as a design office, project manager, and prime contractor, Green Navy develops the concept and selects the best components and subcontractors to ensure the vessel's reliability and performance.

The PROMETEO catamaran's propulsion system operates using high-efficiency electric motors and optimized propellers. These motors draw energy from buffer storage batteries. The onboard hydrogen serves as a complementary energy source, with a higher capacity than that of the batteries. By combining hydrogen with oxygen from the air within two fuel cells, electricity is produced, which in turn recharges the batteries.

"This innovative setup enables Green Navy to deploy a maritime transport solution that produces no CO2 emissions during navigation, operates without noise, odour, or vibration, and offers longer range and reduced docking times" explains CEO, Charles Cardi.

"As a pioneering but pragmatic company, Green Navy will test the vessel in real-world conditions, managing every phase of the project in collaboration with our partners (design, engineering, production, and testing) through to certification. This approach will generate precise and consolidated feedback that will benefit many other hydrogen-fuel project developers in Brittany's emerging sector."

He goes on to say that Green Navy welcomes the financial support, which propels the project to a new milestone. "It underscores the Company's integration into the highly dynamic local maritime industry.

PROMETEO meets three of the objectives outlined in the Brittany roadmap: decarbonizing maritime transport, developing economic sectors related to energy transition, and adapting mobility solutions to address climate change.

"The construction of PROMETEO, an electro-hydrogen powered catamaran, marks a significant step in the energy transition and regional dynamism goals outlined in the Breizh COP* strategy. This funding will enable Green Navy to develop and deploy its hydrogen solution on our first vessel, PROMETEO. For Green Navy, Brittany truly is the place to build!" Charles Cardi added.

As part of this endeavor, Green Navy participated at the Hyvolution Paris 2025 trade show at the Brittany Region. The event provided the platform for operators to discover more about the organization's PROMETEO project.

Based in Brittany, France, Green Navy is pioneering the design and construction of electro-hydrogen maritime transport for passengers and cargo.

The project will launch Europe's first zero emissions vessel in 2026 with an innovative transmission system for maximum efficiency. Silent, vibration-free, and odour-free, Green Navy's fleet will provide the solutions needed to address environmental concerns and shifting customer preferences.

Green NAVY
Designers of clean maritime transport

Chief Timipre Sylva

Hydrogen Energy Association

'Hydrogen Plays Key Role in Decarbonization of Transport and Industrial Sector in UK' - Guthrie

At the sideline of Hyvolution Paris 2025 in France, The Energy Republic speaks with Dr. Emma Guthrie, Chief Executive Officer of Hydrogen Energy Association UK, about the role of hydrogen in the country's energy transition journey.

Prior to her appointment, Guthrie was a Chemist with a consistent track record of over 15 years of experience in the chemical and industrial gas sectors. She has worked with Air Products and was involved in coordinating some major hydrogen projects in the UK.

Interestingly, Guthrie has also been involved in delivering filling stations to Heathrow Airport and has also worked on various hydrogen coordination projects. Excerpts:

Interview By Ndubuisi Micheal Obineme

Dr. Emma Guthrie, Chief Executive Officer of Hydrogen Energy Association UK

TER: Please briefly tell us about the association.

Guthrie: The Hydrogen Energy Association is the UK's trade association that represents the entire value chain of the hydrogen industry in the country.

We have over 110 members. Our members are multinational companies, electrolyzer providers, service companies, as well as small micro-companies on the entrepreneurial side that are exploring opportunities to develop projects or supply components, and equipment that are enabling the delivery of hydrogen projects.

Our members are working on projects to enable the development of the hydrogen sector in the UK.

Our role is to be the voice of the hydrogen industry in the United Kingdom engage in dialogue with the government in policy areas and facilitate networking opportunities.

TER: What is the role of hydrogen in the UK energy transition journey?

Guthrie: Hydrogen has developed from more than 40 years of experience in the industrial space where, I would say it wasn't always focused on low carbon, but more on the properties of hydrogen and how it could deliver value into major industrial applications.

The production and storage of hydrogen are very well known. But what's obviously making hydrogen popular is its potential to drive the energy transition and the potential of hydrogen to support industrial decarbonization.

In the UK, hydrogen is a key part of the government agenda. The UK government is working on driving the country's energy sector towards Net Zero, as well as exploring opportunities for decarbonization.

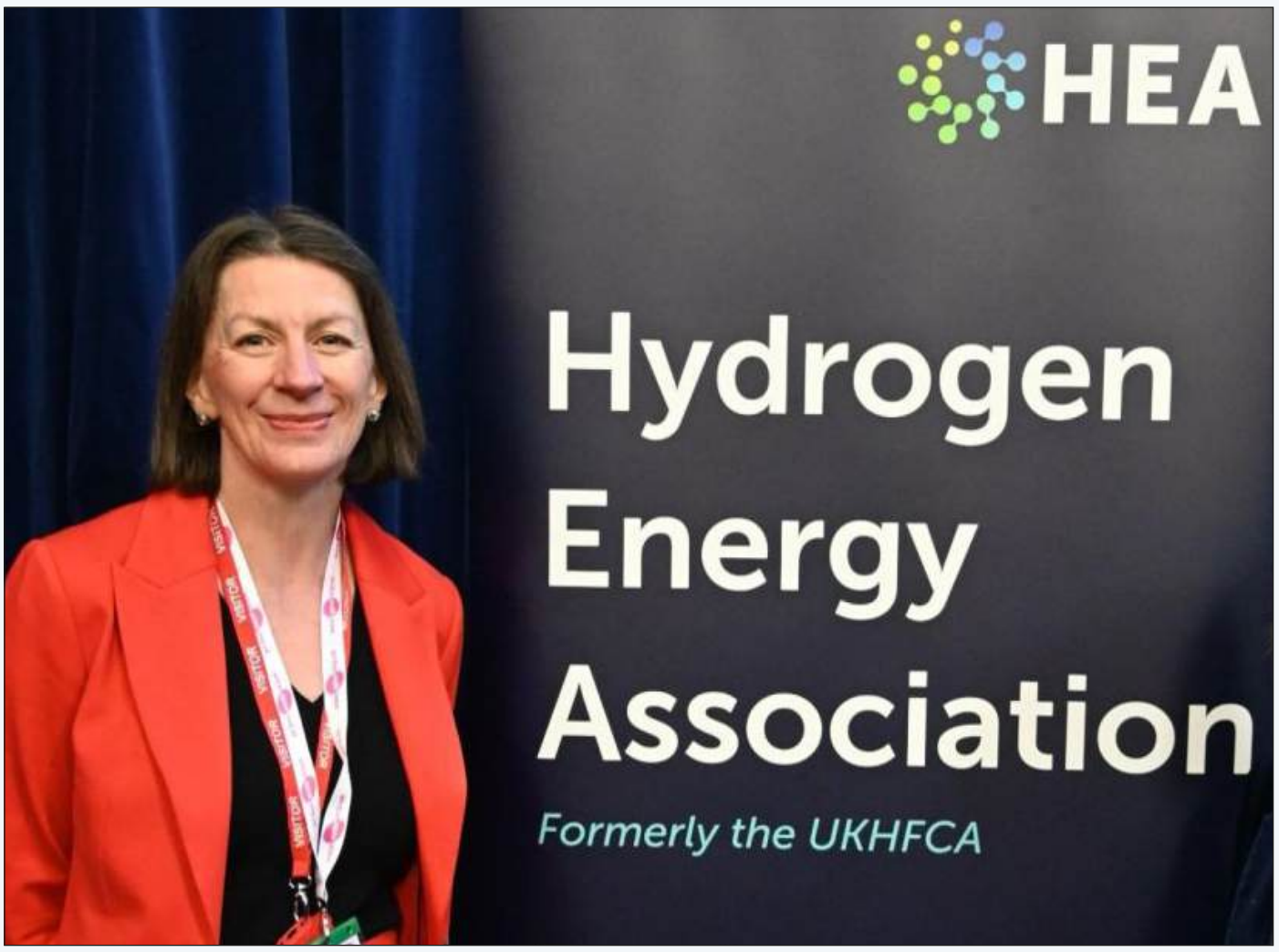
Hydrogen, I would say, has a role to play in the UK energy transition journey and the government understands the need to support the development of the hydrogen energy industry in the UK.

Our members are also exploring options to see how they can work alongside government policy in making that change using hydrogen.

TER: What are the challenges affecting hydrogen development in the UK?

Guthrie: I think the challenge is moving from hydrogen which was well used in an industrial setting during the period when the attention around the production of CO2 was less dominant.

Today, we are moving towards the environment to develop lower-carbon hydrogen. There's still a development cost to achieve it. So, we're still in a pre-commercial space on some of these hydrogen projects in the UK. There's a need for government policy support including funding mechanisms to



Dr. Emma Guthrie, Chief Executive Officer of Hydrogen Energy Association UK

deliver some of these initial projects that will improve and demonstrate the opportunities of hydrogen.

We need a strong connection with the government to show the potential, but also to access their support at the policy and funding level.

TER: Are there any specific policy the association would like the UK Government to focus on going forward?

Guthrie: We are in close dialogue around some of the existing policies. We are looking to see how the policies would deliver the much-needed value for our members.

We support the work that the government is doing so far. I would say the UK government is supporting the concepts of hydrogen and how it can contribute to the decarbonization of the energy sector.

There's a key initiative with the UK Government now called the 'Hydrogen Allocation Rounds', that is delivering projects into the UK, and many of our members are involved in it as well. We are in close dialogue with the government to support it.

TER: What are some of the key hydrogen projects that would drive growth in the UK energy sector?

Guthrie: There are two main areas, which include using hydrogen in the transportation and industrial sectors.

On the transport side, hydrogen can be used as a fuel for decarbonizing and replacing petrol or diesel. Hydrogen can be used in a combustion engine or used within a fuel cell to generate electrical power. So, I would say hydrogen can contribute on the transport side especially where there are limitations in the electric vehicle (EV) drive, such as in applications and drive cycles where the size and weight of the batteries can be an issue.

Hydrogen isn't replacing EVs, but there are several transportation areas where hydrogen can add value. Hydrogen can be used in heavy vehicles, buses, fleets, and trains that travel long distances. These are areas where battery technology can be limiting, and hydrogen can play a key role as well as contributing to the decarbonization of the UK's energy sector.

Hydrogen Energy Association

TER: What is your perspective on the outlook for hydrogen in the UK?

Guthrie: Hydrogen will continue to play a role in the industrial decarbonization programs that are effective in the UK.

We're all moving towards Net zero and there are several different pathways to do that. Hydrogen is one.

I think the challenge for us as an association is to highlight where hydrogen can truly add value versus maybe other forms of renewable energy or other energy pathways. And for sure, hydrogen is going to play an important role in the UK.

TER: What are the association's main priorities in 2025 and beyond?

Guthrie: There are two things. One is for us to work towards the benefit of our members. For any of our members who want to deliver successful projects, we are there to support them by connecting them with other companies they can collaborate with or being their voice in government regarding any concerns affecting the policy environment. And, then it's us being the voice of the sector so that the UK Government will see the HEA as a trusted ally in our dialogue with them.

TER: Are there any international relations between your association and other countries?

Guthrie: Yes, we do. We're mindful that the hydrogen sector is a global space, and we cannot work in isolation.

We are members of Hydrogen Europe, which covers the main national hydrogen bodies across Europe. But we also have collaboration with associations outside of Europe.

Chile is one, for example. We've had dialogues with colleagues in India, and Japan. Hopefully, we will expand our relations into Africa, which is a very exciting part of the world.

Certainly, our vision includes working in collaboration with other associations to deliver hydrogen projects across the world.

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ExxonMobil Energy Outlook 2050 Evaluates Oil, Gas, and Renewables as Components for Global Energy Security, Economic Growth

By Ndubuisi Micheal Obineme

ExxonMobil's latest report, **'Global Energy Outlook 2025,'** evaluates oil, natural gas, and renewable energies as essential components of the world's energy security and supply. The report underscores the need to sustain investment, especially in oil and natural gas, to balance energy supply and drive economic growth.

The Outlook analysis is based on the projection that the global population will increase from eight billion today to nearly 10 billion people in 2050. This will drive a 15% increase in total energy use worldwide between now and 2050, primarily to enable economic growth in developing countries.

The report projects that oil and natural gas will continue to make up more than 50% of the world's energy mix in 2050. The report also points out that even if all new cars sold worldwide in 2035 were electric, oil demand in 2050 would still be 85 million barrels per day, the same as in 2010.

"The world will be different in 2050, but the need to provide the reliable, affordable energy that drives economic prosperity and better living standards, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, will remain just as critical as it is today," the report highlighted. "Achieving this balance will require wind, solar, oil and natural gas, as well as nearly every other form of available energy – because access to energy drives human development and quality of life."

Key findings from the ExxonMobil Global Outlook include:

◂ Global oil demand will reach a plateau beyond 2030, remaining above 100 million b/d through 2050, making up >50% of the world's energy mix. While the demand for gasoline for passenger cars will drop, making gasoline a relatively small use for oil. The large majority of the world's oil is and will be used for industrial processes along with heavy-duty transportation like shipping, trucking, and aviation.

◂ Global carbon emissions will start to fall for the first time by 2030, even as developing economies grow and consume more energy. The Outlook sees carbon emissions to decline by 25% through 2050.

Five key takeaways of Exxon Outlook

- ***All energy types will remain in the mix***
- ***Renewables will grow the fastest***
- ***Coal will decline the most***
- ***Under any credible scenario, oil and natural gas remain essential***
- ***Lower-carbon technology needs policy support to grow rapidly but ultimately must be supported by market forces.***

Key elements of ExxonMobil's 2030 plan

- ***Increasing Pioneer acquisition average annual synergies by over 50% to more than $3 billion.***
- ***Growing new business earnings potential to $3b.***
- ***Adding $7 billion more in structural cost savings vs. 3Q 2024.***
- ***Increasing Upstream production to 5.4 million oil-equivalent barrels per day with >60% from advantaged assets.***
- ***Growing high-value product sales 80% vs. 2024 that contribute over 40% of 2030 earnings potential for Product Solutions.***
- ***Pursuing up to $30 billion in lower emissions investment opportunities.***

Investing $27-$29 billion of cash capex in 2025 and $28-$33 billion annually in 2026-2030 to progress attractive long-term opportunities, with base planned capex roughly flat and reinvestment rate declining to 40% from 50% over the plan period

Electricity use will grow by 80% by 2050. Solar and wind electricity will increase by more than 4× in the total energy mix, from less than 3% in 2023 to 12% in 2050. Coal will continue to be displaced by lower-emission sources, including natural gas.

However, the report revealed that global oil and natural gas supplies can virtually disappear without continued investment. The ExxonMobil report reflects oil production naturally declining at a rate of about 15% per year—nearly double the IEA's prior estimates of about 8%. This increase is the result of the world's shifting energy mix toward "unconventional" sources of oil and natural gas. These are mostly shale and dense rock formations where oil and gas production typically declines faster.

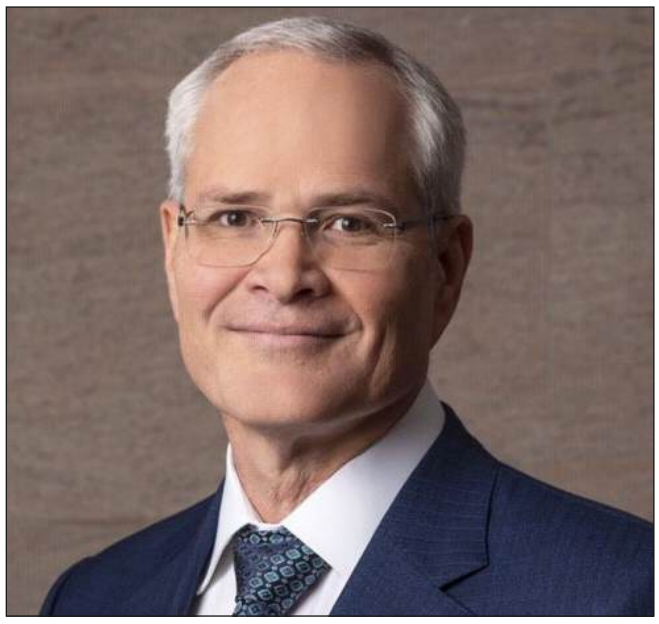
Accordingly, without new investment and new resources, global oil supplies would fall by more than 15 million b/d in the first year alone, the ExxonMobil report stated. At that rate, by 2030, oil supplies would fall from 100 million b/d to less than 30 million, that's 70 million barrels short of what's needed to meet demand every day.

ExxonMobil Corporate Plan to 2030

ExxonMobil has developed a Corporate Plan for 2030, creating a platform to further extend the company's track record of delivering growth potential of $20 billion in earnings and $30 billion in cash flow.

According to ExxonMobil, the company's projected earnings of $20 billion and $30 billion in cash flow will be driven by:

- Increasing Pioneer acquisition average annual synergies by over 50% to more than $3 billion.
- Growing new business earnings potential to $3 billion.
- Adding $7 billion more in structural cost savings vs. 3Q 2024.
- Increasing Upstream production to 5.4 million oil-equivalent barrels per day with >60% from advantaged assets.
- Growing high-value product sales by 80% vs. 2024 that contribute over 40% of 2030 earnings potential for Product Solutions.
- Pursuing up to $30 billion in lower emissions investment opportunities.
- Investing $27-$29 billion of cash capex in 2025 and $28-$33 billion annually in 2026-2030 to progress attractive.



Darren Woods, ExxonMobil Chairman and CEO

"ExxonMobil has a unique set of highly valuable competitive advantages that equip us to do what few companies have ever done – create world-scale solutions to society's biggest challenges, decade after decade," said Darren Woods, ExxonMobil Chairman and CEO. "Our steadfast commitment to strengthening these advantages, including an unwavering investment in technology, has led to a history of innovative solutions that meet society's critical needs, reduce costs, and grow high-value products. That's a formula for profitable growth and shareholder value through and beyond 2030 – no matter the pace and scale of the energy transition – that truly puts us in a league of our own."

"Through 2030, we plan to deploy about $140 billion to major projects and the Permian Basin development program," added Woods. "We expect this capital to generate returns of more than 30% over the life of the investments.9 Strong investment returns have driven 42 consecutive years of annual dividend growth, a claim only 4% of the S&P 500 can make. This is why, when we list our capital allocation priorities, investing in accretive growth always comes first."

The corporation's primary businesses - Upstream, Product Solutions and Low Carbon Solutions – provide products that enable modern life, including energy, chemicals, lubricants, and lower emissions technologies. ExxonMobil holds an industry-leading portfolio of resources, and is one of the largest integrated fuels, lubricants, and chemical companies in the world. ExxonMobil also owns and operates the largest CO2 pipeline network in the United States.

With advancements in technology and the support of clear and consistent government policies, ExxonMobil aims to achieve net-zero Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions from its operated assets by 2050.

HYCCO Unveils Innovative Testing Platform to Accelerate Hydrogen Fuel Cell Development

HYCCO, a manufacturer of next-generation carbon fiber bipolar plates, has launched a groundbreaking 60kW testing platform set to revolutionize hydrogen fuel cell development for heavy mobility applications. This innovation positions HYCCO as a key enabler in the rapidly evolving hydrogen market, addressing critical industry challenges and paving the way for more efficient, sustainable transportation solutions.

Romain Di Costanzo, CEO of Hycco, explains, "We recognized the challenges our customers face when integrating cutting-edge technology. Our goal was to provide a solution that reduces the inherent risks and uncertainties in this process."

In just six months, HYCCO's team designed, simulated, and manufactured a fully operational 200cm² LT-PEMFC stack, showcasing the company's commitment to innovation and deep understanding of industry needs.

Benefits of the testing platform:

- Allows evaluation of HYCCO's carbon fiber bipolar plates in real-world conditions.
- Reduces development costs and time-to-market.
- Enables accurate prediction of real-world performance.
- Aids in selecting the right technology partners.

"This platform is not just about testing; it's about empowering our partners to make informed choices and accelerate their journey towards sustainable energy solutions," Di Costanzo adds."

The testing platform complements HYCCO's advanced carbon fiber bipolar plates, known for their superior electrical conductivity, mechanical strength, and temperature resistance. These properties make them ideal for various electrochemical applications, including low and high-temperature PEM fuel cells.

Hycco showcased this technology at Hyvolution 2025 in Paris held on January 28-30, 2025 in Paris, France.

His Excellency Mr. Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, the President and CEO of QatarEnergy

Minister Al-Kaabi highlights the need for an inclusive and balanced global energy mix

Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs, and the President and CEO of QatarEnergy, Mr. Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi has stressed the importance of a realistic energy transition that utilizes a diverse and balanced energy mix that takes into consideration each country's economic growth plans, energy requirements, and environmental targets.

Speaking at the Ministerial Plenary Session of the India Energy Week 2025 in New Delhi, H.E. Minister Al-Kaabi said: "Energy poverty is a serious issue in the world, where over a billion people have no access to basic power. In addition, we are going to have an additional 1.5 to 2 billion people on our planet by 2050. On top of that, the global middle class is expanding. All of this results in an incremental demand for energy that we have to cater for."

"Therefore", H.E. Minister Al-Kaabi added, "we need more power, we need oil, we need gas, and we need more renewables to get a resilient energy mix for the long term. We need all resources on deck."

H.E. Minister Al-Kaabi stressed the importance of continued investments in the oil and gas sector to help meet the world's increasing energy demand and to avoid volatility in energy prices that result from supply shocks.

"Demonizing energy producers does not help in solving our environmental problem, nor does it help in securing affordable energy supplies", H.E. Al-Kaabi added.

Also taking part in the Ministerial panel were H.E. Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India, the Hon. Doto Mashaka Biteko, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy of Tanzania, and the Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband, the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero of the United Kingdom.

Verde Clean Fuels Formalize $50 Million Equity Investment with Cottonmouth

Verde Clean Fuels, Inc. has officially announced the closing of the previously announced $50 million equity investment by Cottonmouth Ventures, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Diamondback Energy, Inc. The investment consists of the purchase of 12.5 million shares of Verde's Class A common stock by Cottonmouth at a purchase price of $4.00 per share.

The investment represents the second investment by Cottonmouth in Verde over the past two years, for a total investment of $70 million, making Cottonmouth the second largest shareholder of Verde.

Proceeds from the investment are expected to be used to further the development and construction of potential natural gas-to-gasoline production plants and for other general corporate purposes. The proposed plants to be jointly developed by Verde and Cottonmouth would produce fully-refined gasoline utilizing Verde's patented (STG+®) process from associated natural gas feedstock supplied from Diamondback's operations in the Permian Basin.

"This investment is consistent with our commitment to efficiency and sustainability in oil and gas operations. Verde's technology provides an exciting opportunity to convert associated natural gas from our Permian Basin operations into gasoline, as well as an anticipated high value outlet for a volume of our natural gas with the added potential benefit of flare mitigation and production of a lower carbon fuel," said Mr. Dossey.

"We are proud and excited to announce the closing of Cottonmouth's second investment in Verde," said Ernest Miller, CEO of Verde. "Diamondback's continued confidence in our team and our technology is instrumental as we continue advancing our plans to deploy our technology. In addition, we are pleased to welcome Johnny as a director to our Board of Directors. We look forward to having him as part of our team as we look to finalize engineering and design and shift focus toward constructing and operating commercial production plants."

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QatarEnergy participates at the Indian Energy Week held from 11 - 14 February, 2025 in India.

قـطر للطاقة
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As “Your Energy Transition Partner”, QatarEnergy is committed to building a better and brighter future by helping meet today’s energy needs, while safeguarding our environment and natural resources for generations to come, bound by the highest standards of sustainable human, socio-economic, and environmental development.

قـطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy

Op-ed Feature

By

Ewa Abramiuk-Lete

General Manager,

Liquid Gas Europe

Poland's LPG Model: A Roadmap for Global Energy Partnerships

Poland's LPG sector is not just a European success story—it is a model for balancing energy security, affordability, and emissions reductions in ways that offer valuable opportunities for international collaboration.

As African nations expand their LPG infrastructure to enhance energy access and reduce emissions, Poland's experience building a resilient, diverse LPG market could be a foundation for stronger partnerships, knowledge exchange, and investment in the global LPG economy. The country is home to one of the largest LPG markets in Europe, with annual consumption consistently around 1.8 to 1.9 million tons.

An Autogas Powerhouse

Poland is Europe's undisputed leader in Autogas, with nearly 3.5 million LPG-powered vehicles—more than any other country on the continent. At a time when consumers are struggling with high fuel prices, LPG remains one of Poland's most affordable and widely available energy options.

With 7,400 refueling stations, Poland boasts one of Europe's most extensive Autogas networks, ensuring that millions of motorists can access lower-cost, lower-emission mobility.

Unlike many Western European countries, where LPG is often sidelined in favor of electric vehicles, Poland has embraced a diversified approach to transport decarbonization. The result? Lower transport emissions without burdening consumers with high costs.

A Critical Moment for Supply Security and International Partnerships

Poland's LPG market is successfully transitioning away from Russian imports following the EU embargo that came into force in December 2024. Polish authorities have assured that supply remains stable, with new imports being sourced from Kazakhstan, the Baltic region, and Western Europe.

This transition has led to an LPG price increase of about 35 groszy per liter over the past year, bringing current prices to around 3.15 PLN per liter. While this shift represents a necessary economic adjustment, it also enhances Poland's energy independence, reducing geopolitical vulnerabilities.

By partnering with countries investing in LPG expansion—whether in Europe, Africa, or beyond—Poland can offer valuable insights into building efficient LPG networks, ensuring fuel affordability, and maintaining supply resilience amid geopolitical shifts.

The Expansion of Renewable LPG: A New Opportunity for Collaboration

The expansion of renewable LPG is opening new avenues for international collaboration.

According to the latest Argus Media data, global renewable LPG production capacity grew by nearly 20% in 2023, with Asia-Pacific leading in production and Europe seeing increased spot market activity. Poland is uniquely positioned to benefit from this trend because of its strong LPG infrastructure and pioneering initiatives like the Ekobenz facility, which converts ethanol into LPG.

As more countries—particularly in Africa—seek to diversify their energy mix, Poland's experience integrating renewable LPG into established supply chains offers valuable insights. By leveraging its expertise, Poland can contribute to global decarbonization efforts and energy security strategies, ensuring that the transition to cleaner fuels remains cost-effective and widely accessible.

The European Liquid Gas Congress: A Hub for Global Partnerships

The European Liquid Gas Congress in Katowice on 20-22 May 2025, will be a central platform for fostering international LPG partnerships. As Poland solidifies its energy independence and diversifies its supply routes, the Congress will bring together industry leaders from Europe, Africa, and beyond to explore collaborative solutions for energy security, infrastructure investment, and sustainable fuel expansion.

For African nations developing their LPG networks, the discussions in Katowice will provide direct insights into market development, supply diversification, and energy accessibility at scale.

Poland's LPG evolution is more than just a national success story—it highlights how international cooperation can shape the future of clean, accessible energy.

Poland's LPG sector demonstrates that a well-balanced energy transition is within reach—if policymakers and industry players work together to make it happen.

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AFRICAN ENERGY STORIES

AFSIA Releases African Solar Outlook 2025

Africa Solar Industry Association, AFSIA, has released its annual African solar outlook 2025, featuring the latest development in the continent solar energy industry.

According to the report, solar installations have reached new heights across the globe in 2024 with a whopping 503 GWp of estimated capacity. This represents a 44% increase compared to 2023.

In Africa, the growth is more modest but new installations maintain a solid level at 2.5 GWp after 2022 and 2023 being record years for solar in Africa.

Thanks to new solar installations, Africa is now home to 19.2 GWp (excluding residential installations). This is the 3rd year in a row that more than 2 GWp are being installed, which is testament to the good health of the industry. But solar in Africa did however not grow as much as the global solar market and still represents less than 1% of all solar currently installed across the globe.

Solar continues to spread across Africa

More and more African nations are adopting solar in their energy mix. Some already install massively, while other are making their first steps with solar. In 2024, 2 African nations installed more than 100 MW (one more than 2023), 16 installed more than 10 MW (stable) and 29 installed at least 1 MW (2 more than 2023). The best performers in terms of installed capacity include South Africa with an estimated 1,235 MWp, Egypt with 707 MWp, Zambia with 74.8 MWp, Nigeria with 63.5 MWp and Angola with 53.8 MWp.

All these figures exclude residential installations as these are currently not tracked by AFSIA. It is estimated that these residential installations could represent 10% to 20% additional capacity.

But while solar conquers more African countries, the business nevertheless remains highly concentrated. In 2024, South Africa and Egypt represented almost 80% of all the new solar installed, respectively representing 50% and 29%. But with multiple projects already announced and at various stages of development in several countries which are new to solar, we may witness a more distributed spread of solar in Africa in the years to come.

If we look at the prevalence of solar in the overall national power generation, the Central African Republic still leads the ranking of countries where solar contributes the most to the overall electricity mix, with more than 40% of all grid electricity consumed in the country originating from solar. And another 6 African countries already have solar contribute more than 10% of their power consumption, which is a remarkable performance at global level. These countries are Mauritania (20.7%), Namibia (13.4%), Somalia (11.6%), Malawi (11.4%) The Gambia (10.6%) and Cape Verde (10.5%).
In terms of solar per capita, the 2024 top 5 remains almost unchanged. Wealthy islands Seychelles, Mauritius and Cape Verde are joined by African solar champions South Africa and Namibia. In the overall ranking, The Gambia lands at #16 and is the country that progresses the most (+25 spots) thanks to the commissioning of its 23 MWp Jambur Solar Plant Solar.

The boom of storage

Storage is becoming a key element of the African solar eco-system. From 2017 to 2022, storage in Africa represented on average only around 50 MWh per annum. In 2023 this capacity grew to 150 MWh+ and in 2024 it grew to more than 1,600 MWh.

This exponential growth is to thank to sharply decreasing prices for lithium-ion storage solutions. Industry-leading research firm Bloomberg NEF estimates that the cost of such storage has decreased by 20% in 2024, after decreasing 13% in 2023. This is the strongest price decrease in the last 7 years.

The reason behind this significant decrease is a combination of production overcapacity and heightened competition between manufacturers. Several gigawatt factories were put online across the globe in recent years to address the expected boom of electric mobility. These investments also benefit the market of stationary storage thanks to the economies of scale they have created. And because electric vehicles sales have not delivered as promised, production overcapacity has added an element of intense price competition between manufacturers.

Therefore, the market experiences a real boom of storage within African solar projects, and within the power generation landscape at

large. A few large-scale projects have been recently announced or have even started construction. Such projects include for example the 2nd phase of Soma Project in The Gambia with 100 MW / 130 MWh, the Lolda Solar Farm in Senegal comprising of 60 MWp of PV and 72 MWh of storage, and the impressive 900 MW PV / 720 MWh storage in Egypt developed by Masdar and Infinity Power.

Africa Solar Outlook report, a wealth of information country-by-country

Next to highlighting the most notable projects and trends, the Africa Solar Outlook 2025 report also provides a unique overview of the status of solar in each African country. The "Country Vignettes" describe the national eco-system of solar across its key parameters including country objectives for renewables energy, solar policies, current electricity tariffs, national electrification rate, key electricity institutions and current installed capacity in the country. These key parameters make it extremely easy to get familiar with the reality of solar in each country and compare national performance and opportunities.

The 2025 report can be downloaded at ***https://www.afsiasolar.com/data-center/outlook-report/***

Mission 300: African leaders pledge to advance clean cooking solutions for Africa

African countries have taken bold commitments to implement clean cooking energy solutions to offset the devastating effects of open fire cooking which kills roughly 600,000 women and children annually across the continent.

In energy compacts signed during the Mission 300 Africa Energy Summit, held in Tanzania 27-28 January, 12 African countries signalled their intent to accelerate the pace of access to electricity and clean cooking solutions on the world's fastest-growing continent, in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Commending these countries, Tanzanian President Suluhu Hassan stated in closing remarks: "I understand that the 12 governments have only pioneered, and many others will join us in the future." Earlier, at the opening speaking about the purpose of the summit she said, "This gathering is a platform to consolidate commitments, announce new partnerships and drive momentum towards the 2030 goal."

The two-day meeting was organized by the Government of Tanzania and Mission 300, an unprecedented collaboration between the African Development Bank Group, the World Bank Group and global partners, to address Africa's electricity access gap through the use of new technology and innovative financing.

Moderating a special panel on clean cooking on Monday, Rashid Abdallah, Executive Director of the African Energy Commission (AFREC) (apo-opa.co/40Es3JJ), noted that whilst 600 million Africans live without access to electricity, one billion -nearly double the number – were without access to clean cooking, relying on biomass fuels such as wood and charcoal, with severe economic, social and environmental impact. Conservative estimates put the cost of this across the continent to $790 billion a year, he noted.

Abdallah was joined by Dr. Richard Muyungi, Special Envoy to the President of Tanzania, Peter Scott, CEO of Burn Manufacturing (apo-opa.co/40Vxy8b), and Martin Kimani, CEO of M-Gas (apo-opa.co/3CtCZBZ), who each highlighted the significant health, environmental, and economic impacts of relying on polluting fuels for cooking, as well as the innovative approaches being developed to address this crisis.

Muyungi shared Tanzania's experience in launching a comprehensive National Clean Cooking Strategy, emphasizing the importance of high-level political commitment, coordinated stakeholder engagement, and the integration of private sector participation.

He praised President Hassan's role as a global champion bringing the issue to the highest level of African governments.

"It is important to elevate it to the highest level… She is the champion of clean cooking," he said. He stressed: "It's important that there is a champion who can elevate clean cooking in terms of partnerships and partner with others to address this issue. He added that Tanzania is on track to transition 80 percent of its population to clean cooking technologies by 2034, thanks to the efforts of President Hassan.

Scott, whose company Burn Manufacturing is the largest clean cooking manufacturer in Africa, discussed the diverse range of solutions being deployed across the continent, from fuel-efficient biomass stoves to cutting-edge electric cooking appliances with pay-as-you-go financing models. He stressed the availability of funding for clean cooking projects, pending the approval of carbon credit regulations by governments.

"This is the most exciting time in the history of clean cooking," Scott declared. "Now, there's a lot of money standing by to approve carbon credit regulations to allow carbon trading, carbon finance, to grow. "

Kimani's pioneering pay-as-you-cook LPG model has provided an innovative and affordable solution to enable households to transition to clean cooking. He shared the success of M-Gas in onboarding half a million households in Kenya and Tanzania within just three years, demonstrating the scalability of this approach. "One of the most important considerations is affordability, how do we close that gap?" he asked.

M-Gas has found an answer by installing IOT enabled smart meters which are fixed into gas cylinders without upfront payment.

"We mirror the (pay as you go) environment they can now cook using LPG. With 35 cents they can cook three meals in a day," he added.

Tanzania

Tanzania published its clean cooking strategy in 2024-2034 last year in response to its own challenges – 3,000 people dying annually and the effects of a devastating 400 hectares of deforestation annually from the use of charcoal and firewood.

The African Development Bank Group has pledged $2 billion over 10 years towards clean cooking solutions in Africa. The pledge represents an important contribution to the $4 billion per year needed to allow African families to have access to clean cooking by 2030.

OPINION PIECE

By

Wale Shonibare

Director of Energy Financial Solutions, Policy, and Regulation,

African Development Bank

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

The Critical Need for Energy Access in Africa: A Roadmap to Prosperity

Across Africa, the sunlight shines bright and natural resources abound. Yet despite that lies a pressing issue that threatens to stifle the continent's growth and prosperity: the lack of access to reliable and sustainable electricity. As we prepare for the Africa Energy Summit, taking place on January 27-28, 2025, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the urgency of addressing Africa's energy needs cannot be overstated. Without power, Africa cannot achieve its development aspirations and take its rightful place at the global first table. This summit is a critical step towards unlocking Africa's vast potential and empowering its people.

The Stark Reality of Energy Poverty and Africa's Power Sector

Today, nearly 600 million Africans—approximately half the continent's population—still live without access to electricity. For these individuals, daily life is a struggle illuminated by the dim glow of kerosene lamps or the intermittent hum of diesel generators. These stopgap solutions are not only expensive but also polluting, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and environmental degradation. At the current pace of electrification and with Africa's rapid demographic growth, the number of people without electricity will remain largely unchanged unless we take bold and immediate action.

What makes this challenge significant in Africa is that, for many decades, the power sector has faced numerous interlocking challenges which include inter alia, low access rates, lack of maintenance, lack of investment, non-cost reflective tariffs, unaffordable subsidies, and lack of financial sustainability. Most of Africa's public utilities are in financial distress - they struggle to cover their operating costs and cannot finance the required capital expenditure to maintain their operations, thus forcing them to rely on public subsidies.

At the same time, most of the financing available for energy projects today is in hard currency, which is not always sustainable because energy services are paid for by local populations in local currencies, thus resulting in a currency mismatch occasioned by the volatility of local currencies against international hard currencies. In addition, regulatory authorities are subject to political interference in most African countries, which affects their decision-making and ability to implement policies that support long-term sector development.

I believe passionately that without access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity, Africa will not achieve its development aspirations. Energy access is the cornerstone of economic transformation, unlocking opportunities for education, healthcare, gender equality, and income generation. It is a prerequisite for creating a green and resilient future, one where poverty is a relic of the past.

Mission 300: A Bold Vision for the Future

In response to this urgent need, the African Development Bank Group, the World Bank, and other partners have launched an ambitious initiative known as Mission 300. This initiative aims to provide electricity access to 300 million Africans by 2030. Mission 300 is not just a number; it represents lives transformed, economies revitalized, and communities empowered.

The plan focuses on accelerating electrification through a mix of grid extensions and distributed renewable energy solutions, such as mini-grids and stand-alone solar home systems. These solutions are particularly effective in reaching fragile and remote areas where traditional grid infrastructure is impractical. Complementing these efforts are investments in generation, transmission, regional interconnection, and sector reform to ensure that power supply is not only reliable but also affordable and sustainable.

Partnerships and Reforms: The Keys to Success

Mission 300 will only succeed with the collective efforts of governments, private sector stakeholders, and international partners. Governments must lead the charge by implementing critical reforms to make the energy sector more efficient and utilities more robust. Transparent and competitive tendering processes for new generation capacity, along with cost-recovery mechanisms for utilities, are essential. Regulators will have to respond with appropriate nimbleness and innovation to stay responsive to a fast changing technological and business environment. Governments and development partners must amplify the call for regional electricity trade to facilitate a shift away from the single-buyer model as well as allow the sustainable integration of Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) into weak grids to help shape the energy transition pathways of African countries.

Private sector participation is crucial for addressing Africa's energy challenges, especially considering Africa's rapidly growing population and the need for increased investment. The private sector is already playing a vital role in expanding renewable energy access, particularly through decentralized energy solutions, an area where traditional utility-scale projects face limitations due to infrastructure constraints. Meanwhile, multilateral development banks and philanthropic organizations must step up in unlocking private capital for the energy sector through targeted financing instruments, risk mitigation tools, technical assistance and policy advocacy.

The recently launched Technical Facility Accelerator Fund is a promising step in this direction, providing technical assistance to governments and helping streamline processes to achieve Mission 300 targets.

A Defining Moment: The Africa Energy Summit

The upcoming Africa Energy Summit represents a pivotal moment for the continent. Hosted by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, the African Union, the African Development Bank Group, and the World Bank Group, this summit will bring together heads of state, energy experts, and private sector leaders to forge a path toward universal energy access.

At the summit, several African governments will present their national energy compacts, outlining their commitments to reforms and near-term actions to achieve their energy targets. These compacts will showcase the innovative strategies and partnerships being deployed to advance universal energy access in a reliable, affordable, and sustainable manner. The summit will also highlight the critical role of international partners such as the Rockefeller Foundation, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), and the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), who are mobilizing resources and expertise to support this mission.

Significantly, the summit will unveil some new spending commitments and innovative initiatives designed to encourage African Countries to mobilize more of their domestic resources to finance the accelerated roll-out of green energy infrastructure across the continent.

Why Now?

The convergence of technological breakthroughs, digitization, and innovative financing models makes this the most opportune time to tackle Africa's energy challenges. Achieving Mission 300 will not only light up homes and businesses but also drive progress in education, healthcare, and gender equality. It will reduce emissions, enhance welfare, and boost income generation and financial inclusion across the continent.

As we gather in Dar es Salaam, let us be reminded that energy access is more than just a technical challenge; it is a moral imperative. By working together, we can transform the energy landscape of Africa and, in doing so, create a brighter, more prosperous future for millions.

Let us make Mission 300 a turning point. Let us make sure the 13 landmark compact agreements signed this week point the way to lighting up the rest of our continent.

South Africa's G20 Presidency for 2025: A Catalyst for Energy Investment in Africa

In 2025, South Africa will hold the rotating presidency of the G20. Given its position as Africa's most industrialized nation and an energy hub, South Africa's leadership could play a pivotal role in attracting investment to the continent's energy sector. By leveraging its G20 platform, South Africa can push for increased funding from global partners, particularly for natural gas projects, which are critical for Africa's energy security and economic development.

While renewable energy is rapidly expanding across the continent, Africa continues to rely heavily on coal, oil and natural gas to meet growing demand and drive economic growth. Gas is increasingly viewed as a cleaner transitional fuel in Africa's energy mix, and many G20 nations are leading investment in gas exploration and production across the continent.
For instance, the U.S. Export-Import Bank, U.K. Export Finance, China Development Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation, among other lenders, have played a key role in financing TotalEnergies' $20 billion Mozambique LNG project. Additionally, several G20 countries are driving further investment, with Italy's Eni developing new LNG facilities in the Republic of Congo, bp expanding operations in Senegal and Mauritania, Norway's Equinor advancing the Tanzania LNG development and ExxonMobil spearheading Rovuma LNG in Mozambique. South Africa can advocate for G20 nations to increase their financial backing for new gas projects, which have the potential to boost production, enhance energy security and attract much-needed investment to the continent.

The role of South Africa's G20 presidency in facilitating greater engagement between G20 nations and African energy markets cannot be overstated. South Africa could work closely with organizations like the World Bank, IFC, BRICS Bank, European Investment Bank and more to unlock financing mechanisms that reduce the risk for international investors.

African countries like Nigeria, Angola, the Republic of Congo, Senegal, Namibia and Mozambique stand to benefit from increased G20 support for their oil and gas sectors, and other African nations can follow suit by aligning their own energy priorities with the goals set forth by South Africa during its presidency.

This year's African Energy Week (AEW): Invest in African Energies conference in Cape Town serves as a key platform for attracting global attention and investment to Africa's energy sector, facilitating discussions among G20 nations, financial institutions and energy companies. AEW acts as a conduit for driving investment into critical energy projects, positioning South Africa as a catalyst for sustainable development across the continent while ensuring Africa's energy needs are met.

With South Africa's G20 presidency presenting a unique opportunity to secure crucial investments in Africa's energy sector, the 2025 edition of AEW is more significant than ever. By leveraging this platform to advocate for financing and foster partnerships between G20 nations and African energy producers, South Africa can play a pivotal role in advancing the continent's energy future and contributing to global energy security.

FEATURED CONTENT

By

Reshmi Theckethil

Lead Portfolio, Climate Action, Disaster Risk Reduction, Energy, and Resilience | Sahel Resilience Project Manager,
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The Sahel Can Revolutionize Renewable Energy Access and Affordability Up to the Last

Cognizant of the region's potential, UNDP is implementing the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), aiming to provide clean, affordable energy to over 150 million people by 2025

Imagine a Sahel region where every household, school, and hospital has access to clean, affordable energy—where renewable power not only serves homes but also drives economic transformation. Given the region's rich solar, wind, and hydro resources, this vision is achievable. With one of the highest potential for solar energy production globally, at 13.9 billion kWh/year compared to the global consumption of 20 billion kWh/year, the Sahel's renewable energy capacity remains underutilised. Currently, over 55% of energy production is dominated by fossil fuels like oil and gas, while renewable sources remain marginal.

Over the last two decades, primary energy demand in almost half of the Sahel countries has grown by more than 4% annually [1]. However, urban areas benefit disproportionately, leaving nearly half the population without electricity. Connectivity disparities are exacerbated by the high costs of power generation and infrastructure, with reliable electricity reaching only about 20% of the population.

Renewable Energy: A Driver of Human Development

Renewable energy in the Sahel is more than a technical solution—it's a catalyst for sustainable human development. Policies that localise green energy solutions can end energy poverty and foster resilience.

The transition from fossil fuels to renewables, as outlined in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), offers inclusive opportunities for growth, improved social outcomes, and environmental protection. Coordinated strategies can ensure climate resilience while prioritising human welfare outcomes.

For women and youth, renewable energy access is transformative. It reduces reliance on time-intensive manual labour, opening opportunities for innovation and increased productivity across sectors. Solar-powered agricultural hubs could allow farmers to process produce locally, boosting incomes and reducing waste. Solar-powered irrigation could regenerate arid lands, combat food insecurity, and create sustainable livelihoods.

International Commitment to the Sahel

Cognizant of the region's potential, UNDP is implementing the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), aiming to provide clean, affordable energy to over 150 million people by 2025. Since 2021, renewable energy initiatives have benefitted more than 70.7 million people in areas like the Lake Chad Basin [2] and Liptako-Gourma [3]. These efforts, supported by partners such as Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the African Development Bank, Norway, Japan, and local actors, leverage the productive use of energy to address structural energy poverty with climate and security considerations.

Initiatives like the Africa Minigrids Programme, the Regional Stabilization Facility, the Sahel Resilience Project and the Energy4Sahel initiative remain crucial to the region as they strengthen local regulatory capacities and empower communities to develop scalable, innovative solutions. For example, in Mauritania, Aziza Sidi Bouna, Founder and CEO of SB-GAZ, designs biodigester prototypes that supply homes with clean energy at a fraction of the cost of propane gas traditionally used for cooking. In Gambia, Jankey Jassey, a young renewable energy engineer, is at the forefront of creating space for young girls to work in the renewable energy sector. In Guinea, a young researcher, Marc Tambo, took on the bold task of mobilising his community to build a micro-plant that could power an electric plant, creating energy access for many and job opportunities for the community.

Strengthening Regional Collaboration

As the world shifts towards clean and equitable energy transitions, the region can spearhead sustainable and human-centred African green innovation. By working with development partners, the private sector, and the diaspora, Sahelian countries can adopt targeted green industrial policies to ensure and expedite necessary technology transfers and access to financing, as well as affordability and efficiency improvements. To create long-term solutions devoid of temporary market distortion, incentives for commercial investments must be considered. These investments must result in lasting customer-centric solutions that model cost-effective electrification scenarios and innovations aligned to socioeconomic development metrics.

Capitalising on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) opportunities, these nations can widen market access and promote cross-border energy interconnectivity and regional power pools.

However, bridging the gap between ambitious policies and ground-level implementation sustained political commitment and strategic investments.

Governments must ensure ministries and agencies prioritise energy access policies, with transparent public dashboards tracking progress. Civil society involvement in oversight and expenditure analysis is critical to achieving national electrification targets.
Through partnerships, innovative incentives, and public-focused investments, the Sahel can close the energy gap and bridge the rural-urban divide. Renewable energy offers a transformative path to sustainable, inclusive development.

By fostering innovation and effectively leveraging resources, the Sahel can become a model for climate resilience and economic revitalisation, achieving energy access and affordability up to the last mile.

Chevron Expands Namibia Presence, Signs farm-in agreement for PEL 82 offshore Namibia

US major Chevron completed a farm-in agreement with Custos Energy for PEL 82 in the Walvis Basin offshore Namibia. Under this transaction, Chevron acquired an 80% participating interest and operatorship, while Custos and the National Petroleum Company of Namibia each retained a 10% interest.

The transaction marks a significant step in the development of Namibia's offshore oil and gas sector. PEL 82, which covers blocks 2112B and 2212A, is considered one of the most attractive opportunities in the Walvis Basin. Notably, around 70% of the total block area is already covered by extensive seismic data – over 3,500 km of 2D and 9,500 km² of 3D data. Previous drilling activities on PEL 82, such as the Murombe-1 and Wingat-1 wells, have provided valuable insights into the potential of the area. Chevron's acquisition of an interest in PEL 82 complements its existing offshore exploration efforts in Namibia, where it operates PEL 90 in the Orange Basin. Chevron's entry into PEL 82 is part of its broader strategy to expand its exploration acreage in promising global geological plays and further solidifies Namibia's position as a leading frontier for oil and gas exploration.

Beyond Namibia, other African nations have been structuring PSCs that continue to draw in international investors. In Equatorial Guinea, the government signed agreements in June 2024 with Chevron for offshore Blocks EG-06 and EG-11. These contracts, established in partnership with GEPetrol, outline minimum investment requirements, detailed exploration programs, and commitments to sustainable development. The attractiveness of these PSCs is largely due to their location near the productive Block B, home to the Zafiro field, and the clarity of development plans that ensure both state benefits and commercial viability.

Farm-in agreements, like the one recently completed by Chevron, play a pivotal role in fostering collaboration and facilitating resource-sharing and risk mitigation in oil and gas projects. By acquiring stakes in existing exploration or production blocks, companies ensure that projects with high potential receive the necessary capital and expertise to move forward. Successful farm-ins typically focus on assets with proven reserves or strong geological prospects, as seen with Chevron's PEL 82 acquisition, which has extensive seismic coverage and previous drilling activity. This ensures that the project is not only viable but positioned for long-term success.

Algeria has also seen success in crafting appealing PSCs. In 2022, a consortium led by TotalEnergies and including Sonatrach, Occidental and Eni extended a 25-year PSC for Blocks 404a and 208 in the Berkine Basin. The agreement, worth an estimated $4 billion in investment, is set to unlock over one billion barrels of oil equivalent and is made possible under Algeria's updated hydrocarbon law, offering enhanced fiscal incentives and greater investor confidence.

Other notable farm-in agreements across Africa highlight the continent's growing appeal to IOCs. For instance, Azule Energy recently acquired a stake in Block 2914A in Namibia's Orange Basin, further reinforcing the country's emerging status as a key player in offshore exploration. Similarly, Africa Oil Corp has entered the offshore sector in Equatorial Guinea with PSCs for Blocks EG-18 and EG-31, signaling a revitalization of the country's offshore exploration.

The success of PSCs and farm-in agreements across Africa underscores the continent's ability to compete for investment in a rapidly evolving global energy market.

By maintaining investor-friendly policies, regulatory stability and fostering strategic partnerships, African nations can continue to attract capital and expertise to sustainably develop their oil and gas resources.

Discussions on structuring attractive PSCs and fostering high-impact farm-in agreements will take place at African Energy Week (AEW): Invest in African Energies 2025, bringing together industry leaders, investors and policymakers to explore strategies for maximizing Africa's hydrocarbon potential and establishing mutually beneficial partnerships.

With major players like Chevron expanding their footprint on the continent, AEW 2025 serves as the ideal platform for dealmaking, networking and shaping the future of Africa's energy landscape.

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'Africa Should Embrace Nuclear to Tackle Energy Poverty' - Collyer, Rosatom CEO

Ryan Collyer, who joined Rosatom Africa in October 2014 as the company's Communications Manager has moved through the roles of Communications Director and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, DCEO, to become the CEO of Rosatom Central and Southern Africa.

In this interview with members of the African Association of Energy Journalists and Publishers, AJERAP, ably moderated by Camara Sanna and Atwiine Allen, Collyer speaks on a wide range of issues, including the establishment, giant strides and potentials of nuclear in Sub-Saharan Africa's energy mix. Excerpts:

AJERAP: How was it like starting from communications manager to becoming a CEO?

Collyer: It has been an interesting journey to say the least. I come from a communications background. I was a manager and later director of a Public Relations agency. We used to focus on industrial Public Relations. When you are dealing with nuclear, communication is very important. Public acceptance of this technology is vitally important because you can have the best project, you can have the best financial outcomes and a safe industry. But, if you don't have public buy in, for a particular project, unfortunately, it's unlikely going to work. So, I entered the nuclear industry as a communications specialist. This is an industry that I absolutely fell in love with. This is an industry I don't think I could possibly leave.

So, my journey started in communications and slowly moved into business development and government relations. I was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Rosatom Central and Southern Africa, where I held forte for a number of years. Then, I had the opportunity to take on leading roles in Africa in general and Sub Saharan Africa in particular.
Coming from a communications background, public buying is still a vital aspect of my role. I think that is one of my strong points in promoting the industry in the Sub Sahara Africa.

AJERPA: When and why was Rosatom established?

Collyer: The company was established about 80 years ago and 2025 marks a monumental milestone for us in the Russian nuclear industry. We are celebrating 80 years this year. The industry started in 1954 with the commissioning of the first civil nuclear power plant.

It was essentially a small modular reactor then. But over the years, we have recorded many key milestones. The company was established to play vital roles in giving the world green base load electricity. These include a large scale nuclear power plants, which is our flagship and small modular reactors. We have six of them, contracted outside of Russia. We are very excited about our floating nuclear power plants.

Beyond the energy sector, we have also played in over the last eighty years, a role in nuclear medicine and nuclear research. We have built over 122 research reactors. Rosatom is a very large organization.

AJERAP: What have been the activities of the organization?

Collyer: As I mentioned earlier, we have big nuclear power plants with 1,200, megawatt, MW. We have played major roles in nuclear research, as well as nuclear medicine. So, we are able to offer full-fledged nuclear medicine centers. We are able to offer our customers, multipurpose radiation facilities for the life extension and sterilization of food and medical stuffs.
Also, we have the small modular reactors, which the world is looking at this point in time. We are also thinking about how to provide, green based load electricity to areas that cannot take on 1,200 megawatts. Furthermore, we also pay attention to the provision of 50 megawatt electrical reactors, which could either land-based or floating. We have a number of disciplines across our business.

Rosatom is made up of over 400 different companies, and employs over 400,000 people. So, when it comes to nuclear value chain, we have a business in each step of the way from uranium mining to other phases in the value chain. We enrich our own uranium. We fabricate our own fuel. We design and construct nuclear power plants and we operate them. In Russia, for instance, we operate under 30 gigawatts of nuclear power.

Ryan Collyer, CEO of Rosatom Central and Southern Africa

AJERAP: How has Rosatom impacted energy development in Russia and other countries?

Collyer: Rosatom plays key roles, especially in green electricity. These roles enable businesses, especially industrialization. In order to industrialize, we need large supply of electricity. So, whether you produce steel or other components, you want to be able to use a cleaner source of energy. It becomes quite difficult when you are looking at renewable sources in order to run large smelters. I really think that's where nuclear comes in and that's where, Rosatom, for instance, plays and would continue to play roles in Russia and other countries, including African nations.

For instance, we have a 4,800 megawatts project in Egypt. We have another project in Turkey, which is also 4,800 megawatts. We also have other units in 10 different countries that are being contracted at the moment.

AJERAP: Kindly comment on your medium and long term plans?

Collyer: In terms of the big nuclear power plants, we still see a very large market for them. I think there's a global resurgence when it comes to nuclear energy, which has been ratified, in the European Union, EU as green electricity.

So, obviously, we are going to play key roles. We are also looking at small modular reactors and the potentials inherent in floating

nuclear power plants, particularly in my region. We provide for countries that don't have well established grid infrastructure and cannot perhaps take on a 200 megawatts units at this point. We are also looking at the small modular reactors.

AJERAP: What is the future of nuclear energy on the African continent?

Collyer: We see more African nations in general and sub Saharan African nations in particular showing more interest in nuclear power. These include some West African countries and their East African counterparts that have made efforts over the years to implement nuclear projects. Ghana and Nigeria are very advanced in terms of their capabilities. They both, for instance, have, research reactors, very small research reactors, but still the experiences are there. They've worked through the International Atomic Energy Agency's key milestone approach to a point where they can go to the market now and find a vendor that they want to build nuclear power plants with. The same could be said of some East African nations, especially Kenya. Nuclear has very key roles to play in Africa. Even though I am an advocate of a diverse energy mix, including hydro, renewables and fossil fuels, I also believe that there is a place for nuclear power because of its affordability, sustainability, and environmental friendliness. It also has a unique place to play in South africa where I was born and raised because we need to industrialize through the use of large amounts of electricity.

AJERAP: What issues and problems have your organization encountered in this journey?

Collyer: We have encountered some issues and challenges, including geopolitical challenges. It is somewhat unfortunate, that they affect businesses, but we are a very robust and reliable partner. So, we haven't forfeited, for instance, on any of our contractual obligations on what our clients require. We remain the largest exporter of nuclear, in the world.

Also, we understand the challenges on our continent, particularly inadequate financing. But I think we are very flexible as well, and we are able to work with our counterparts and partners to help them achieve their goals. I think it's really important to understand that we partner with countries.

It should be noted that bringing nuclear into a country takes years to build not only infrastructure but also the legislations and competences.

AJERAP: What is your take on the global energy transition?

Collyer: If we look at energy transition, from a global perspective, it is about decarbonization. But if we look at it from a sub Saharan African perspective, it means transitioning from one energy source to another. We are transitioning from energy poverty to a mix that will allow us to grow our industries and economies.

As responsible vendors and governments, we need to consider it from that perspective. We need to be doing everything we can to transit from energy poverty to a sufficient, sustainable, environmentally friendly and affordable mix to grow our businesses and economies. From that perspective, nuclear energy has key to play.

AJERAP: What advice do you have for African nations, currently making efforts to tackle their energy poverty?

Collyer: I think pragmatism is something that needs to be at the forefront. So, countries need to look pragmatically at their options in terms of energy generation, weigh the options and come up with pragmatic and clear strategies. They should stick to their strategies and implement them.

The best time to have started building a nuclear power plant was ten years ago. But the next best time is to do it now.

Nigeria Leads Africa as Top Upstream Investment Destination

Nigeria ranks as Africa's leading destination for upstream oil and gas investment in 2024, according to Wood Mackenzie report. The country accounted for three out of four Final Investment Decisions (FIDs) announced by global oil and gas majors, totaling $13.5 billion.

The FIDs announced within the Nigerian market included Shell's $122 million investment in the Iseni Gas Project, TotalEnergies' $566 million commitment to the Ubeta Gas Project and Shell's approval of the Bonga North Tranche 1 project. The investments reflect Nigeria's ongoing efforts to unlock its hydrocarbon potential through investor-friendly policies and strategic global partnerships.

The African Energy Chamber (AEC), as the voice of the African energy sector, congratulates Nigeria for the milestone. The Chamber commends the Nigerian government for its proactive legislations aimed at attracting foreign investments, streamlining project implementation and reducing bottlenecks.

In 2024, Nigeria introduced several initiatives to create a conducive environment for oil and gas investors, including new tax incentives aimed at attracting up to $10 billion in natural gas investments – offering tax relief for gas investors, reducing corporate income tax and extending capital allowance benefits – for deepwater gas projects.

Other policies include the Presidential Directive on Local Content Compliance Requirements, 2024 to address reduction in oil and gas investments caused by high operating costs compared to global markets. The Presidential Directive on Reduction of Petroleum Sector Contracting Costs and Timelines, 2024 reduces time spent to award contracts for oil and gas projects.

In addition to the directives, Nigeria also launched its 2024 oil and gas licensing round, offering 19 blocks for exploration, demonstrating its commitment to continued collaboration with local, regional and international partners. With this momentum, further FIDs are anticipated, including TotalEnergies' expected $750 million commitment to the Ima Shallow Gas Project in 2025.

With 45% of the Nigerian population lacking access to electricity and affordable and reliable energy, the Chamber believes the FIDs and policies are a right step in driving the country's universal energy access and socioeconomic development targets.

"Nigeria continues to set a benchmark for investor-friendly policies, leveraging its hydrocarbon potential and government initiatives to drive sustainable development," states NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the AEC, adding "The Chamber commends President Tinubu, Special Adviser to the President on Energy Olu Arowolo Verheijen and Nigerian energy stakeholders for fostering an environment that attracts global investments, contributing to energy poverty eradication, sustainable development and global energy market stability."

Nigeria's Policies Accelerating Oil and Gas Investment

On March 6th 2024, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu signed Presidential Executive Directives 40, 41, and 42. The underlying reason is to improve the investment climate and position Nigeria as the preferred destination for oil and gas sector investments in Africa. The President initiated the amendment of primary legislation to introduce fiscal incentives for Oil & Gas projects, reduce contracting costs and timelines, and promote cost efficiency in local content requirements. **Recognizing the urgency to accelerate investments, the Executive Orders include:**

(1) Fiscal Incentives for Non-Associated Gas (NAG), Midstream and Deepwater Developments: Gas tax credits shall apply to non-associated gas (NAG) greenfield developments in onshore and shallow water locations, where the hydrocarbon liquids fall between 0-100 barrels per million standard cubic feet of gas.

- A 25 percent gas utilization investment allowance shall apply on qualifying expenditure on plant and equipment incurred by a gas utilization company in respect of any new and ongoing project in the midstream oil and gas industry.
- Implementation of commercial enablers for new brownfield and greenfield to incentivize investments for oil and gas projects in the deep water. These incentives address the lack of differentiation between NAG fields in PIA, yield competitive returns, and prevent value erosion for ongoing gas utilization projects, including NLNG Train 7 due to changes introduced by sections 6 and 9 of the 2023 Finance Act. It is anticipated that these investments will have a multiplier effect by catalyzing economic activity around these projects.

The projects are expected to relaunch economic activity and job creation in the sector, as well as stimulate activity in ancillary SMEs within local communities.

(2) Streamlining of Contracting Processes, Procedures, and Timelines: The President directed the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI) and the Ministry of Petroleum Incorporated (MOPI) to take steps to procure the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited to raise the contract approval thresholds for Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) and Joint Operating Agreements to not less than $10 million or the Naira equivalent.

These directives are aimed at compressing the contracting cycle to 4-6 months, ultimately reducing project schedules, expediting the delivery of oil and gas products to the market, and increasing value to the country.

(3) Local Content Practice Reform: The President has directed that the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board in its implementation of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 ("Local Content Act") shall consider the practical challenges of insufficient in-country capacity for certain services, and act in a manner that does not hinder investments or the cost competitiveness of oil and gas projects.

OLU VERHEIJEN, PRESIDENT BOLA TINUBU'S SPECIAL ADVISER ON ENERGY

Nigeria's Energy sector received $6.7 billion investment in 2024 – Verheijen

By Tobi Owoyimika

Olu Verheijen, special adviser to the Nigerian president on energy, says a total of $6.7 billion was invested in Nigeria's energy sector in 2024.

According to a report by the office of the special adviser, the oil and gas sector accounted for $5.5 billion of the total investment.

The report said $400 million was invested by the federal government in the presidential metering initiative, and $700 million went to clean mobility and cooking.

According to the special adviser, assets acquisition made up the $5.5 billion investment, which included Renaissance Consortium's acquisition of Shell Petroleum Development Company Limited at $1.3 billion.

"Seplat Energy Plc completed the acquisition of Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited MPNU from ExxonMobil Corporation ($1.3 billion (firm consideration)," the report said.

"Chappal Energies completed the acquisition of Equinor Nigeria Energy Company (ENEC), a subsidiary of Norway's Equinor ASA (US$1.2 billion).

"Chappal Energies completed the acquisition of TotalEnergies EP Nigeria's 10% interest in the SPDC JV licenses in Nigeria ($860 million).

"Oando Plc completed the acquisition of the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) ($800 million).

"These acquisitions unlock onshore fields for a new wave of ambitious indigenous companies, ready to invest and boost production.

"This shift strengthens local ownership, drives immediate growth in oil and gas output, and sets Nigeria on a path to a more stable and prosperous energy future."

Furthermore, the report highlighted key investments secured in the oil and gas sector through tax incentives for onshore and shallow water non-associated gas (NAG) and deep offshore oil and gas.

According to the report, SNEPCO invested $5 billion in the Bonga North Deep Offshore Project, the first greenfield deep offshore project in over a decade, with a production capacity of approximately 110,000 barrels per day.

For the gas industry, the report highlighted Total Energies and Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited's $550 million investment in the Ubeta non-associated gas project.

On the future outlook on the oil and gas sector, Verheijen said Nigeria is now positioned to attract $5 billion in gas investments by 2029, thereby enhancing gas availability for export and supporting the energy transition.

She also said Nigeria is positioned to tap into $30 billion in deep offshore investments by 2029.

The special adviser said efforts were geared towards achieving economic growth and maximising Nigeria's energy resources.

"In power, we launched, among other interventions, the new Presidential Metering Initiative (PMI)," Verheijen said.

"Our goal, working with all industry stakeholders across public and private sectors, is to improve the availability, affordability and reliability of on-grid power."

Verheijen also said the administration will continue engaging, collaborating and communicating with stakeholders across the energy sector.

Five Mini-LNG Plants Set to Transform Nigeria's Energy Landscape — Soneye, NNPC Spokesperson

NNPC Ltd's Chief Corporate Communications Officer, Olufemi Soneye speaks with members of the press, covered by The Energy Republic, where he shed light on the historic milestone in the Nigerian gas sector and what it means for Nigeria's gas-to-power aspirations. Soneye also spoke on the Company's several other gas and power projects that are currently on the verge of completion. Excerpts:

What is the wisdom behind the renewed focus on gas and power projects by the NNPC Ltd?

As you know, Nigeria is blessed with abundant natural gas, estimated at about 209 trillion cubic feet (tcf). Therefore, there is the need to harness this natural gas for industries and to generate power to enable prosperity and economic growth. It is safe to say that NNPC Limited's recent renewed vigour towards gas and power projects is informed by our unflinching commitment to support the Federal Government's drive towards improving Nigeria's power generation, engendering industrialization and fostering economic growth and development.

Everywhere you go in this country today, there is that urgent necessity to utilise natural gas in establishing industries and providing power to spur economic growth, to create jobs for our teeming youth and to drive prosperity among Nigerians.

Remember also that there has been a deliberate effort by the government to ensure that gas becomes an engine room for economic growth and development in the country. What we are doing is simple. We are deliberately keying into that agenda. And that is evident by the

Olufemi Soneye, NNPC Ltd's Chief Corporate Communications Officer

network of our gas pipeline infrastructure which is well-spread across the country.

Tell us a bit about some of these gas-to-power projects.

There are a lot of them. The Obiafu-Obrikom-Oben (Ob3), Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK) and Escravos Lagos Pipeline Systems (ELPS) gas pipelines are clear examples. They are all geared towards deepening domestic gas utilisation. We are building massive infrastructure in-country to ensure that gas reaches every nook and cranny of this country.

Last year, Mr. President commissioned the second phase of the AHL gas processing plant, the 300mmscuf/d ANOH gas processing plant, and the ANOH gas pipeline project. There are a few Independent Power Projects (IPP) that we are currently involved in too and we are working tirelessly with our partners to deliver them.

The Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline (NMGP) is also another strategic project we are working hard to deliver on behalf of the Federal Government. This is a regional onshore and offshore gas pipeline intended to deliver natural gas resources from Nigeria to about 13 countries in West and North Africa and, eventually, to Europe.

We have recorded some impressive milestones towards advancing the 5,660 kilometres long project. In pursuing this project, we are bringing to the fore the strategic importance of the project to all the 13 countries involved and by extension to the entire African continent. We are confident that the US$25bn project will be pivotal in stemming energy poverty on the African continent.

We are equally upbeat that all these gas pipeline projects will provide the necessary intervention required in revitalising manufacturing and other businesses across our industrial corridors and even beyond. We shall continue to deliver more strategic projects for the benefit of our country. We are not relenting until Nigeria attains the desired levels of industrialisation, power generation and economic prosperity.

We are also embarking on other initiatives which include the development of several gas-based industries in industrial hubs at strategic locations nationwide. This is also aimed at boasting fertiliser and chemical plants, among others.

Energy industry experts always talk about the difficulty in securing financing for projects, especially gas projects that require a lot of money to be executed. How have you been able to navigate this challenge?

Sure, funding is key in delivering these gas projects. In our own case, we try to let our partners understand the criticality of gas development for our country and the potential mutual advantages for both parties. A good example is our engagement with institutions like the African Export Import (Afrexim) Bank

and the proposed Africa Energy Bank in financing a critical energy infrastructure such as the NMGP.

In our interactions with these financiers, we let them understand that we are partnering to provide the gas volumes required for the economic growth and development that this country urgently needs. So far, we have provided enough incentives, equity facilities and investment opportunities for investors. In some cases, we have even gone to the extent of securitising the products that would be transported through these pipeline networks.

Aside from these big-ticket gas pipeline projects, the NNPC Ltd is involved in Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and mini-Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) projects. Is that move also part of the plan?

Yes, this is true. Considering the need to use gas as an alternative fuel for motorists across the country, we have since keyed into the Federal Government's Presidential CNG Initiative (PCNGI). CNG is primarily used as a transportation fuel for buses, trucks, and some cars. It is also a useful fuel source for power generation. Experts will tell you that the use of CNG in automobiles is 40 per cent cheaper than using Premium Motor Spirit (petrol).

Last year, we inaugurated the 5.2mmscuf/d Ilasamaja (Lagos) CNG mother station. Recall also that the NNPC Retail Ltd inaugurated 11 CNG stations across various locations in Abuja and Lagos. We have been working with our partners to deliver 100 more CNG stations this year.
These CNG stations represent a bold step in extending our CNG presence nationwide, and obviously in demonstrating our commitment to help diversify Nigeria's energy mix.

Through more collaboration, we have partnered with players such as NIPCO Gas Limited and other players to build more state-of-the-art CNG stations across the country, all in continuation of our quest to expand the nation's CNG infrastructure, improve access to CNG and accelerate the adoption of cheaper and cleaner alternative fuel for vehicles such as buses, cars, Keke NAPEP etc. This year, we shall take many more Final Investment Decisions (FIDs) to roll out additional CNG mother stations.

We have also upgraded scores of CNG refuelling stations nationwide. All these efforts will significantly reduce the cost of transportation and engender sustainable national economic growth and development.

How about the Mini-LNG projects?

Like the CNG, the LNG is a cleaner-burning alternative to traditional fuels such as petrol and diesel. It is used in power plants to generate electricity, while industries use it as a fuel source for various processes requiring thermal.
Since last year, we have gone into strategic collaboration with our partners, signing various agreements for the development of gas projects in line with the Federal Government's drive to deepen gas usage. The mini-LNG projects are some of these initiatives.
I am happy to inform you that this coming week, on the 30th January 2025 specifically, we are holding the ground-breaking ceremony of five mini-LNG projects in Ajaokuta, Kogi State. Five mini-LNGs in one fell swoop! This is unprecedented in the history of Nigeria; it has never happened before. Under the theme "From Gas to Prosperity: Catalysing Nigeria's Economic Growth", the epic ceremony will see Mr. President performing the groundbreaking for brand new five mini-LNG projects namely: NNPC Prime LNG, NGML/Gasnexus LNG, BUA LNG, Highland LNG and LNG Arete.

Again, why am I referring to it as unprecedented? This is because it is virtually the first time such engagements would be held. Imagine taking five Final Investment Decisions (FIDs) and holding groundbreaking milestones on these multi-million-dollar projects! The NNPC Ltd is proud to have led this development, with significant private sector participation. If anything, this response clearly demonstrates the private sector's positive response to Mr. President's and NNPC's vision on gas, which is aimed at fostering gas-fueled prosperity while making energy more accessible and affordable to our citizens.

What are the specifics of these projects?

The NNPC Prime LNG is a Small-Scale LNG (SSLNG) project aimed at supporting FGN's policy on Gas. Located in Ajaokuta, Kogi State on a 33 hectare of land, the project has been established as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to drive the implementation of the project. The SPV is jointly owned by NNPC Trading Limited (NTL), a fully owned subsidiary of NNPC Limited and Silver Peaks Limited with equity holding of 90:10 respectively. The NGML/Gasnexus LNG project involves the phased construction of a 20MMSCFD Mini-LNG plant with phase 1 being the development of a 7.5MMSCFD plant. Natural gas supplied via the existing Oben-Ajaokuta pipeline will be liquefied at the LNG facility, transported via CNG fuelled trucks (fitted with cryogenic tanks) and re-gasified at each customer location for use. The project aims to deliver a cost-effective, long-term, dedicated, secure and reliable natural gas solution to industrial and commercial customers.

The BUA LNG is a partnership between the NGML and BUA Industries Limited (BUA) to develop a 700TPD (using 35MMSCFD) Mini-LNG plant in Ajaokuta, Kogi State. Natural gas supplied via the existing Oben-Ajaokuta pipeline will be liquefied at the LNG facility, transported via CNG fuelled cryogenic trucks and regasified at BUA's Sokoto Cement plant.
Highland LNG is also a Small-Scale LNG facility which will provide natural gas to industrial and commercial customers not connected to Nigeria's pipeline network and support off-grid power generation under the Electricity Act 2023. The facility also supports the government's push for gas as a transportation fuel through the Presidential CNG Initiative (PCNGi) by enabling LNG-to-CNG conversion via the LCNG process.
LNG Arete Ltd, is a fully Nigerian-Owned Company with top-tier experience and expertise spanning the entire oil and gas value chain. Incorporated under Nigerian law in March 2023, LNG Arete Ltd envisions providing clean and secure liquefied natural gas as a cost effective and accessible alternative energy source.

What is your message to Nigerians in the wake of this groundbreaking?
Our message is very clear: We remain committed to utilising our natural gas resources to bring affordable energy to Nigerians. While we execute some of these small scale mini-LNG projects (usually about 30mmscuf/d), we are also taking the lead in the Federal Government's autogas initiative. We have also signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and project development agreements for floating LNG projects, another first in the country. So, many more good things from gas are coming.

All these initiatives are aimed at delivering turnkey gas solutions, equipment and infrastructure to the industrial, commercial, power generation, and automobile sectors. At the end of the day, we want to use gas to take us out of these challenges by providing access to electricity, clean cooking fuel, autogas and feedstock for other industries, thereby generating wealth and improving the wellbeing of Nigerians. We will not relent in our renewed focus to leverage the nation's gas assets to significantly generate value and opportunities for all Nigerians. The NNPC Ltd will take in-country gas utilisation to unprecedented levels. This is the promise.

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'How **Heirs Energies** Approach **Boost Production**, Operational Excellence in Nigeria's Oil, Gas Industry' - **Osayande Igiehon**

Engr. Osayande Igiehon, CEO and Managing Director of Heirs Energies

HEIRS ENERGIES SUPER STORY

...an indigenous firm that proved popular as Nigeria's leading energy company.

In this interview with Ndubuisi Micheal Obineme, Managing Editor of The Energy Republic, Engr. Osayande Igiehon, Heirs Energies CEO, speaks on his inspirational career journey in the global energy industry, as well as the super story behind the Heirs Energies operational excellence in the Nigerian energy, oil, and gas industry, coupled with the company's ambitious target to acquire additional assets and expand operations across Africa.

The story of Heirs Energies started in 2021 when it acquired OML 17, a prime acreage located onshore in the Niger Delta.

.The company was seen as a new entrant in Nigeria's energy, oil and gas industry.

Today, Heirs Energies has proved popular, and transformed from being a start-up company into Nigeria's leading indigenous energy company through the leadership of Dr. Osayande Igiehon. Excerpts:

TER: Happy New Year to Heirs Energies! Engr. Igiehon, you have had an exceptional career journey having spent 27 years with Shell, rising to the Group Vice President position, with postings in Nigeria, Netherlands, Russia, and Gabon. How would you describe your career journey and its impact on your current leadership role as the CEO and Managing Director of Heirs Energies? What inspirations would you like to share from your working experience in the energy industry?

Igiehon: My career journey has been both transformational and deeply instructive, shaped by the diverse environments and cultures I encountered over nearly three decades with Shell, both at the regional and International levels. During that time, I was privileged to be based in Nigeria, the Netherlands, Russia, and Gabon. Additionally, I worked on focused assignments in many other countries, to the effect that I either consulted, taught, or audited in countries on all continents except South America. Each of the diverse operational settings I went through presented unique operational demands, cultural nuances, and geopolitical contexts. Taken together, these experiences cultivated my belief in the power of diversity, resilience, and long-term thinking.

Perhaps the most defining period of my career occurred in Gabon, where I served as the Country Chair and Managing Director. The stakes could not have been higher: we faced severe financial pressures triggered by low oil prices, and our immediate challenge was to ensure business continuity while safeguarding jobs and fostering local economic benefits. To achieve a rapid turnaround, I engaged directly with multidisciplinary teams - ranging from technical leads to community liaisons - and consistently emphasized the importance of value delivery and bottom-line impact. In less than a year, we stabilized operations, restored the economic fortunes of the company, rebuilt stakeholder confidence, and demonstrated that strategic collaboration and disciplined execution could deliver tangible results against formidable market headwinds.

These lessons profoundly shaped my leadership style - one grounded in strategic value framing, persistent delivery, accountability, innovation, and empathy. At Heirs Energies, these principles underpin our approach to revitalizing mature assets, optimizing production, and integrating environmental stewardship with economic growth. In particular, I rely on cross-cultural insights gained from my time in Russia and the Netherlands, where I witnessed firsthand how inclusive leadership practices and respect for

Engr. Osayande Igiehon, CEO and Managing Director of Heirs Energies

local contexts can be a springboard for operational excellence.

When I reflect on the inspirations drawn from my work in the global energy sector, one theme resonates above all: people are at the core of any successful enterprise. Whether in the field or the boardroom, real progress happens when teams feel empowered to share ideas, learn from mistakes, and collaborate openly. The oil and gas industry, in particular, demands agility, resilience, and a willingness to rethink established norms. I have seen how even the most entrenched challenges can be overcome when individuals unite around a clear, shared vision.

My journey has also reinforced the power of aligning business imperatives with community aspirations. Energy projects do not exist in a vacuum; they affect people's livelihoods, local ecosystems, and national development agendas. Leading a turnaround in Gabon taught me that social and environmental commitments can - and should - be catalysts for operational success. Today, I carry that conviction into every aspect of Heirs Energies' mission, from our environmental safeguards to our community investment programs.

If there is one inspiration I'd emphasize, it would be that no obstacle is insurmountable if approached with clarity, conviction, and the right coalition of people. By embracing challenges as opportunities to refine our methods, empower our teams, and foster a culture of creativity, we not only enhance our immediate performance but also leave a lasting positive footprint in the communities where we operate. This outlook continues to guide my decisions and leadership approach at Heirs Energies, ensuring that our work delivers both robust returns and meaningful, sustainable benefits.

TER: Today, Heirs Energies has taken up the mantle as the operator of OML 17, accounting for 5% of Nigeria's oil production and another 5% of gas production. Since you came on board, Heirs Energies has demonstrated remarkable operational excellence in growing its oil production from 27,000 to 52,000 barrels per day as well as increased its terminal delivery from three percent in December 2021 to 85 percent presently. What have been Heirs Energies' driving force and cardinal focus areas leading to increased oil and gas production? What is your company doing to nurture these success stories?

Igiehon: Our remarkable operational gains at OML 17 - most notably, the increase in oil production from 27,000 to over 52,000 barrels per day and the boost in terminal delivery from 3% to over 85% - are the direct result of Heirs Energies' strong commitment to strategic innovation, disciplined execution, resilience and purposeful collaboration with all stakeholders. At the core of our approach is the Brownfield Excellence (BFE) methodology, which draws on the frameworks that I have developed during my career on how to most efficiently maximize production from brownfields.

Brownfield Excellence (BFE) in Action

BFE centers on optimizing existing fields using rigorous technical frameworks, advanced data analytics, and a profound respect for local contexts. In the case of OML 17, this has meant thoroughly assessing legacy infrastructure, identifying quick-win opportunities for production enhancement, and pursuing targeted well interventions.

We have also invested in:

Advanced Technologies: From well-completion techniques to digital field monitoring, we leverage cutting-edge tools to maximize output and minimize downtime.

Data-Driven Insights: Continuous reservoir surveillance and analytics inform decision-making, ensuring that interventions are both timely and cost-effective.

Operational Efficiency & Cost Optimization

A key priority has been the elimination of production bottlenecks and the reduction of non-productive time. By standardizing processes, embracing lean project management, and upskilling our workforce, we have significantly lowered operating costs without compromising on safety or environmental standards. This focus on efficiency is integral to delivering consistent, profitable growth despite market volatility.

Culture of Continuous Improvement

Underpinning our technical strategies is a workplace culture that celebrates innovation and accountability. Our employees are encouraged to question established norms, propose new solutions, and take ownership of results. This relentless drive for value and excellence fuels our ability to adapt quickly, correct course when necessary, and deliver sustainable outcomes that benefit both Heirs Energies, our Joint Venture partners, and our host communities.

Stakeholder Collaboration & Community Development

We recognize that true operational success extends beyond production metrics - it is equally about nurturing trust and fostering inclusive growth. Our close collaboration with community leaders, local businesses, and government officials has been pivotal in addressing shared challenges like crude oil theft and environmental risks. By partnering with these stakeholders and engaging them in constructive dialogue, we have built a sense of collective responsibility for safeguarding our operations.

Environmental Stewardship & Future-Focused Vision

Even as we grow production, we remain deeply committed to reducing our environmental footprint. Cutting-edge flaring reduction programs, the Nigerian Gas Flare Commercialisation Project, biodiversity conservation efforts, and responsible waste management are integral components of our operational framework. We see these measures beyond regulatory obligations but as strategic investments in the long-term viability of our fields and the well-being of the communities around them.

Engr. Osayande Igiehon, CEO of Heirs Energies receives SAIPEC 2025 Industry Awards

Nurturing Success for the Long Haul

Heirs Energies will continue to embed these practices in every facet of our business, from continued asset revitalization to new acquisitions and expansions. We firmly believe that when operational excellence, community empowerment, and environmental responsibility align, companies can unlock extraordinary value for themselves and the broader society. As we move forward, these principles will remain the cornerstone of our ability to deliver on our promises and create a lasting impact in Nigeria's energy sector.

TER: How integrated and transparent are Heirs Energies Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy and implementation process as well as its impact on stakeholders, especially communities?

Igiehon: At Heirs Energies, ESG is an integrated way of life. Our ESG strategy is fully integrated into every aspect of our operations, from planning and execution to monitoring and reporting. We believe that transparency and accountability are critical to building trust with our stakeholders, particularly the communities where we operate.

Environmental Stewardship: We are committed to minimizing our environmental footprint through sustainable practices and innovative technologies. For example, we have implemented measures to reduce flaring, manage waste responsibly, and protect biodiversity in our operational areas.

Social Responsibility: Our approach to community engagement is rooted in shared prosperity. We work closely with host communities to identify their needs and implement initiatives that promote education, healthcare, and economic empowerment. Our goal is to create a lasting positive impact and foster mutually beneficial relationships.

Governance: We adhere to the highest standards of corporate governance, ensuring that our operations are conducted with integrity, transparency, and accountability. Our governance framework includes robust risk management processes, ethical business practices, and regular stakeholder consultations.

The impact of our ESG strategy is evident in the strong relationships we have built with our stakeholders, and this has enhanced our operational performance and earned the trust and support of our communities.

TER: In 2022, Heirs Energies experienced the most challenging year when there were hard hit by crude oil theft at its operations in the Niger Delta region. What actions were taken to tackle the oil theft issue to a minimal level? What are the key lessons learned from the incident?

Igiehon: The year 2022 posed one of our greatest operational challenges, as crude oil theft in the Niger Delta threatened not only our revenue and production targets but also the social and environmental fabric of our host communities. Rather than view the crisis in isolation, we

approached it as a catalyst for deeper collaboration, systemic innovation, and more robust community engagement.

To address the issue, we took a multi-faceted approach:

1. Enhanced Security Measures: We partnered with Government security agencies and local communities to strengthen surveillance and protect our assets. This included deploying advanced monitoring technologies and increasing patrols in vulnerable areas.

2. Community Engagement: We recognized that sustainable solutions require the involvement of host communities. By engaging community leaders and stakeholders, we were able to build trust and foster a sense of collective responsibility for protecting our operations.

3. Operational Adjustments: We implemented operational changes to minimize vulnerabilities and improve infrastructure resilience.

4. Collaboration with Industry Peers: We worked closely with other operators industry bodies and Government security agencies to share intelligence and best practices for combating oil theft.

The key lesson from this experience is the importance of collaboration and proactive risk management. By working together with stakeholders and leveraging technology, we were able to reduce oil theft to a minimal level and ensure the continuity of our operations.

TER: How can the Nigerian government and indigenous players collaborate to resolve crude oil theft in the Nigerian oil and gas industry? What strategic initiatives would you recommend as a structure for industry collaboration in addressing crude oil theft and pipeline vandalism?

Igiehon: The enduring challenge of crude oil theft in Nigeria's oil and gas industry demands a cohesive strategy uniting government agencies, indigenous operators, host communities, and industry bodies. First and foremost, the government should champion collaborative

Engr. Osayande Igiehon, CEO of Heirs Energies

frameworks that bring together security forces, regulatory authorities, and private sector expertise in a coordinated response. By creating a dedicated task force with clear mandates, shared intelligence capabilities, and real-time data exchange, operators can systematically address the vulnerabilities in pipelines, storage facilities, and transport routes.

Stakeholder engagement must also extend to the grassroots level. Empowering local communities through education, vocational programs, and direct economic incentives helps transform them into proactive partners in the fight against oil theft, rather than passive bystanders. Government-led policies should reinforce these efforts by enacting stricter legal frameworks and penalties that serve as a deterrent for criminal activities, while simultaneously rewarding communities that exhibit tangible progress in safeguarding assets.

Indigenous players can further strengthen collective resilience by jointly investing in technologies that enable early detection of leaks or tampering. When supported by consistent policy reforms, these innovations bolster operational security and reduce response times to theft incidents. Additionally, periodic industry roundtables would allow operators to share best practices and align on standards for pipeline reinforcement, early-warning systems, and community relations.

Ultimately, building a secure, theft-resistant environment hinges on the interplay of good governance, inclusive community development, robust technology adoption, and purposeful collaboration across every stakeholder group. By adopting a cohesive, long-term approach that recognizes the mutual benefit of stable operations and inclusive growth, Nigeria can significantly reduce crude oil theft and foster a healthier, more sustainable industry for all.

TER: Do you think having a Joint Venture (JV) between Nigerian indigenous companies would enhance the production & asset management of critical oil and gas infrastructures in Nigeria?

Igiehon: Absolutely. Joint Ventures between Nigerian indigenous companies can be a game-changer for the industry. By pooling resources, expertise, and capabilities, indigenous operators can achieve greater economies of scale, enhance operational efficiency, and drive innovation. JVs also provide an opportunity to share risks and rewards, making it easier to undertake large-scale projects and invest in critical infrastructure.
At Heirs Energies, we are open to strategic partnerships that align with our vision of sustainable energy development. We believe that collaboration among indigenous players is key to unlocking the full potential of Nigeria's oil and gas sector.

TER: Beyond Nigeria, the African energy, oil, and gas industry has entered an era of growth opportunities following several developments across the oil and gas value chain in the continent. What are your projections on key factors to drive growth in Africa's oil and gas industry?

Igiehon: Africa's oil and gas industry is uniquely positioned to experience significant growth, thanks to abundant natural resources, a maturing regulatory environment, and rising demand for reliable, affordable energy across the continent. Several key factors will likely drive and shape this growth trajectory:

1. Resource Potential and Exploration
Africa's vast untapped hydrocarbon reserves both onshore and offshore present an immense opportunity for new discoveries and field developments. Strategic exploration investments, supported by more transparent licensing rounds, will continue to attract both indigenous companies and global industry players looking to diversify their portfolios.

2. Natural Gas as a Bridge Fuel
With global energy markets pivoting toward cleaner sources, Africa's considerable natural gas reserves can serve as a critical bridge in the continent's energy transition. By developing gas infrastructure such as LNG facilities, distribution networks, and power generation plants, countries can bolster domestic energy security, reduce flaring, and lower their carbon footprint.

3. Infrastructure and Logistics
Ongoing investments in pipelines, refineries, petrochemical plants, and export terminals are central to unlocking Africa's energy potential.

Improved infrastructure not only boosts operational efficiency but also expands access to new markets, both domestically and regionally. Public-private partnerships, supported by multilateral financial institutions, can fast-track these projects and address existing bottlenecks.

4. Local Content and Capacity Building
A strong focus on local content policies ensures that the wealth generated from the oil and gas sector circulates within African economies. By cultivating indigenous talent, encouraging technology transfer, and integrating local supply chains, African nations can strengthen their energy sectors from within and promote inclusive economic development. This approach also helps mitigate dependence on external expertise, making the industry more resilient over time.

5. Diversification into Renewables
Even as the oil and gas sector remains vital, many African countries are beginning to invest in solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources. This complementary path not only helps meet domestic power needs more sustainably but also lays the groundwork for a more balanced and flexible energy mix in the long term. Oil and gas operators that embrace renewables and low-carbon technologies can position themselves as leaders in the emerging energy landscape.

6. Regional Integration and Trade
Cross-border energy projects and harmonized regulatory frameworks can drive economies of scale, facilitate knowledge sharing, and accelerate industrial growth. Initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) create new pathways for collaboration and resource pooling. This regional focus is critical for smaller markets that may lack the scale to develop large energy projects independently.

Collectively, these factors underscore a dynamic moment for Africa's oil and gas industry, one that requires strategic partnerships, balanced policy reforms, and a shared commitment to local development. By capitalizing on resource endowments, strengthening infrastructure, and fostering talent, African operators can not only drive robust growth but also shape a more sustainable, inclusive energy future for the continent.

TER: Are Heirs Energies considering acquiring another asset and expanding its operations in Africa in the future?

Igiehon: Yes, we are actively exploring opportunities to acquire additional assets and expand our operations across Africa. Our goal is to build a diversified portfolio of high-quality assets that align with our vision of sustainable energy development that will meet the unique energy needs of Africans.

TER: Are there any projects Heirs Energies is involved in that you would like to share with us?

Igiehon: where we have already demonstrated substantial gains in production, operational efficiency, and community engagement. Our Brownfield Excellence (BFE) methodology, which integrates rigorous technical evaluations with streamlined project execution, has been pivotal in optimizing well performance, reducing downtime, and enhancing infrastructure reliability. As a direct result, we have doubled our daily oil output in a relatively short span, strengthening our position as a key player in Nigeria's energy landscape.

Beyond OML 17, we are actively investing in gas development to support Nigeria's broader energy needs. By capturing and commercializing gas that would otherwise be flared, we not only reduce our carbon footprint but also bolster local power generation and industrial growth. In parallel, we continue to explore renewable energy opportunities—such as solar and potential hybrid solutions—aimed at diversifying our portfolio and further aligning with global sustainability targets. These projects underscore our dual objective of maximizing near-term production while fostering long-term economic and environmental benefits for our stakeholders.

TER: What should the African Energy Bank prioritize to support indigenous companies in terms of project development? What funding strategy could be adopted to ensure the Bank's financial instruments are allocated efficiently on projects across the African continent?

Igiehon: To accelerate the development of indigenous energy projects across Africa, the African Energy Bank must strike a balance between commercial viability and developmental impact. This entails prioritizing affordable, long-term financing solutions; offering capacity-building programs tailored to local realities, and deploying risk-mitigation tools that encourage private sector investment.

Firstly, affordable access to capital is paramount. Energy projects often involve significant upfront costs with extended timelines before realizing revenue. Providing patient capital—through low-interest loans, longer repayment schedules, or equity-like instruments—enables Indigenous operators to commit to larger and more strategic projects while maintaining stable cash flows.
Secondly, capacity-building programs are critical for enhancing the technical, managerial, and governance capabilities of local companies. By collaborating with multilateral agencies, NGOs, and industry experts, the Bank can fund training initiatives and mentorship schemes that strengthen skills in areas such as project financing, engineering, environmental compliance, and stakeholder engagement. An ecosystem of capable local players fosters both innovation and resilience, ultimately supporting the Bank's own investment outcomes.

Thirdly, risk-mitigation instruments—such as guarantees, partial risk insurance, and co-financing mechanisms—help de-risk projects that might otherwise struggle to secure traditional financing. Leveraging these instruments to offset exploration, developmental, or geopolitical risks can attract broader participation from commercial lenders, private investors, and international partners, thereby expanding the pool of available capital.

Additionally, support for project pipeline development can streamline the identification and structuring of bankable ventures. By actively collaborating with governments, industry bodies, and local communities, the Bank can set clear eligibility criteria, align on permitting requirements, and facilitate regulatory approvals. This process not only reduces bureaucratic bottlenecks but also ensures investments are channeled toward initiatives with genuine social and economic value.

Finally, regional collaboration and an inclusive funding strategy are vital. Encouraging cross-border energy projects, harmonizing standards among neighboring countries, and fostering power-pooling agreements can maximize impact and promote regional integration. Such efforts unlock economies of scale, reduce duplication, and make the most of shared

Agbada Non-Associated Gas Plant

resources—including knowledge, infrastructure, and human capital.

Taken together, these measures position the African Energy Bank as a pivotal facilitator of sustainable growth. By tailoring financial instruments to local conditions, cultivating expertise on the ground, and incentivizing collaborative ventures, the Bank can ensure that indigenous African operators thrive—and, in turn, fuel broader economic and social development across the continent.

TER: What are Heirs Energies' main priority areas in 2025 and beyond?

Igiehon: Heirs Energies' strategic roadmap for 2025 and beyond revolves around several intertwined objectives that emphasize resilience, growth, and sustainability. First and foremost, we will continue to optimize our brownfield assets, leveraging our Brownfield Excellence (BFE) methodology to drive sustained production growth while maintaining a relentless focus on operational safety and efficiency. Building on the success of OML 17, we aim to scale up these proven practices, explore new fields, and deepen our capability to revitalize underutilized assets across Nigeria and the broader African continent.

Equally important is our commitment to advancing energy sufficiency by expanding gas development projects, reducing routine flaring, and investing in cleaner energy solutions. Although hydrocarbons remain integral to our near-term growth, we are strategically positioning ourselves to align with emerging low-carbon opportunities—both to reduce our environmental footprint and to ensure we remain competitive in a rapidly evolving energy landscape.

Another core priority is long-term stakeholder value creation, underpinned by a deep sense of social responsibility. This means continuing to build meaningful partnerships with host communities, investing in education and skills training, and fostering local entrepreneurship. Through these efforts, we aim to secure our social license to operate while creating a more inclusive, prosperous environment for all stakeholders.

Furthermore, innovation and technology adoption will be essential for delivering on our production and sustainability targets. We are committed to deploying advanced digital tools, data analytics, and automated systems that enhance well surveillance, reduce operational bottlenecks, and optimize resource recovery. This culture of continuous improvement—encouraging employees to challenge traditional methods and propose innovative solutions—will help us stay ahead of market fluctuations and regulatory demands.

Finally, we will continue to expand strategically, assessing acquisition opportunities and partnerships that align with our vision of sustainable energy development. Our goal is to cultivate a diversified and resilient asset portfolio, one that balances oil and gas projects with emerging renewable options. By marrying consistent operational performance with thoughtful ESG integration, Heirs Energies aspires to remain a frontrunner in shaping Africa's energy future well into the coming decades.

TER: You will be speaking at the Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) 2025 conference. What will be your major talking point?

Igiehon: At the 2025 Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC), my primary focus will be on how innovation and strategic collaboration can accelerate sustainable energy development across Africa. Drawing on Heirs Energies' successes - particularly our Brownfield Excellence methodology and experience revitalizing mature assets like OML 17 - I plan to illustrate the practical steps operators can take to drive near-term operational gains while simultaneously preparing for a more diversified, low-carbon future.

I will emphasize the importance of building robust partnerships, not only among industry peers but also with host communities, local service providers, and governmental bodies, as genuine collaboration is vital for tackling issues such as infrastructure gaps and crude oil theft. Moreover, I will discuss how to blend technological advancements such as digital well surveillance and data analytics with long-standing community engagement strategies to foster inclusive growth. By sharing these insights, I hope to inspire other African operators to pursue both financially viable and environmentally responsible solutions, ultimately bolstering the region's energy security and long-term competitiveness.

TER: How important is SAIPEC to your company's deliverables and what will Heirs Energies showcase at this year's SAIPEC?

Igiehon: SAIPEC holds significant strategic value for Heirs Energies, as it offers an influential platform to engage with industry peers, government officials, and potential collaborators across the African energy sector. By participating in this event, we can both share our insights on operational best practices and learn from others who are tackling similar challenges, whether that involves new technology deployment, community development, or sustainable energy initiatives.

This year, we will showcase the tangible outcomes of our Brownfield Excellence methodology, highlighting the work done at OML 17 and our broader commitment to operational excellence, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility.

Our goal is not only to demonstrate what we have achieved thus far but also to foster valuable partnerships that support continued growth and transformation across the entire African energy landscape.™

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

CEO, Osa Igiehon and ED/CFO, Sam Nwanze displaying the awards of recognition as the “Emerging Energy Brand of the Year” 2024 by Global Brand Awards

Manager, External & Government relations, Chidimma Ugbojiaku, receiving the awards for "Emerging Energy Company" of the Year at the Energy Times Awards 2024

Recognised as PETAN’s “Highest Patronized NOC Company” 2024

Executive Director/CFO, Samuel Nwanze giving a goodwill message at the Nigeria Gas Flare Commercialization Program, Investors Forum organised by the NUPRC in collaboration with USAID Power Africa

The formal on-boarding of OML-17 Host Communities Development Trust (HCDT) officially commenced a 2-day on-boarding for all committee and board of trustee members

Rural Electrification projects with distribution of transformers in Mbodo Community, Ikwerre LGA

Distribution of anti-malaria kit ro Health Centres for World Malaria Day

Tree planting exercise in commemoration of World Environment Day

Distribution start up kit to skills acquisition programme beneficiaries

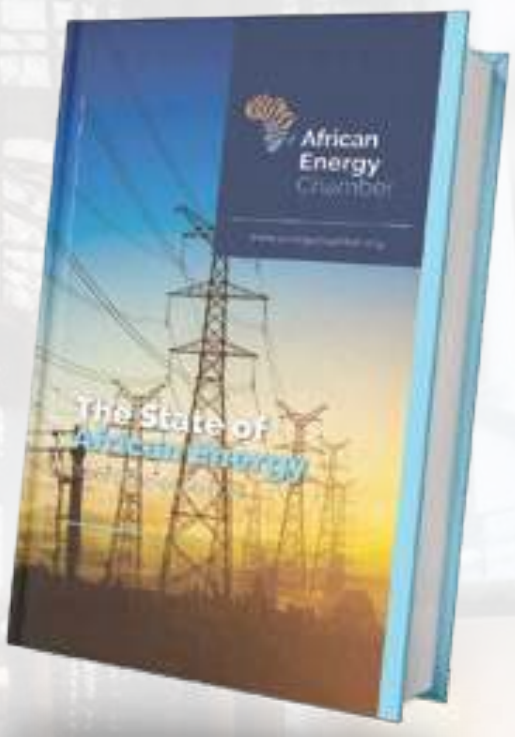
Road Rehabilitation projects across communities in Obigbo

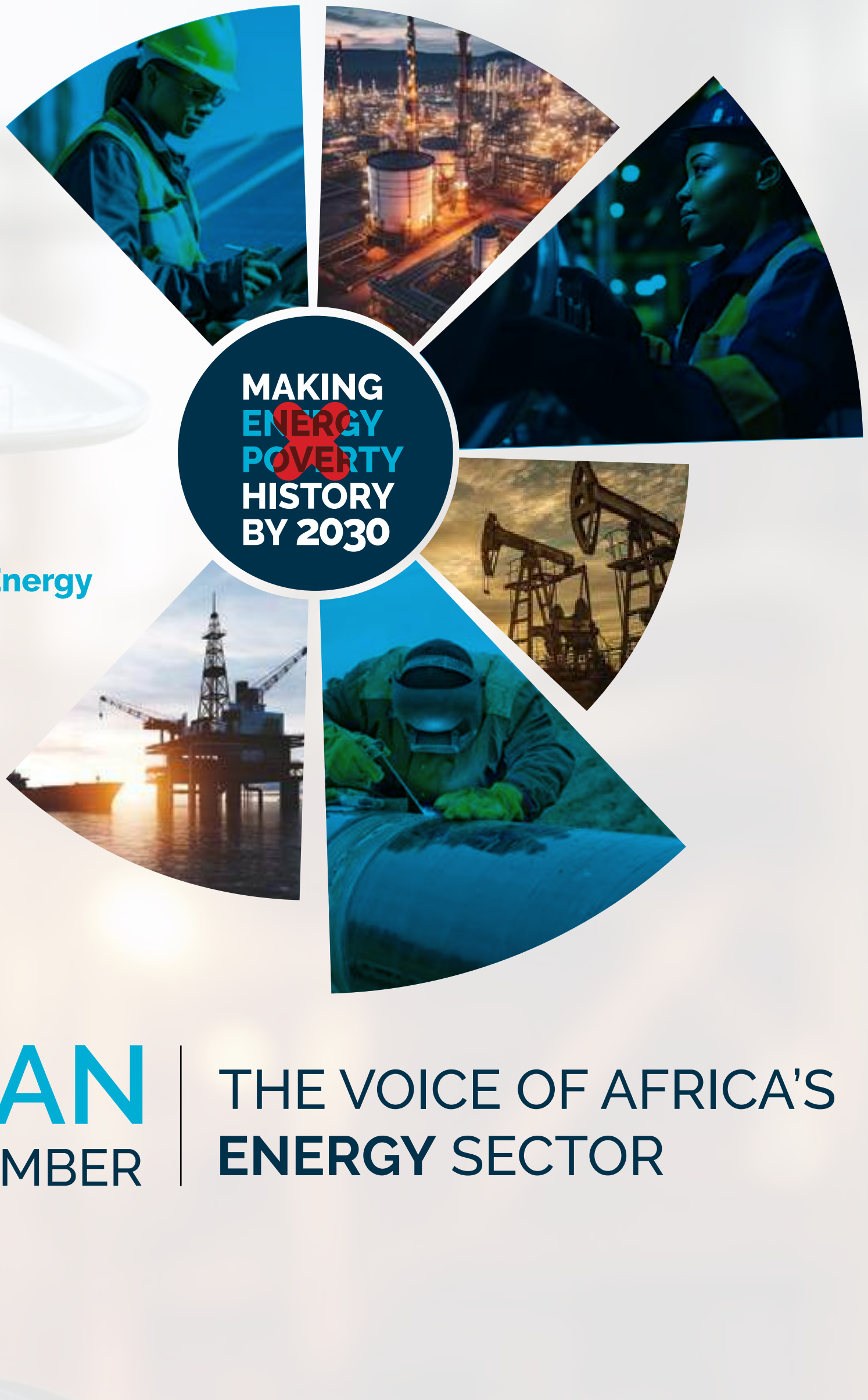
Medical Outreach Programme for residents of the Rukpokwu Host Community

Designated First Aider training for employees on first aid awareness

SCAN ME

African Energy Chamber





The State of **African Energy** 2025 **Outlook** Report.

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SAIPEC 2025 Spotlights Regional Energy Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa Oil, Gas Industry

By Ndubuisi Micheal Obineme

The 2025 Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) spotlighted the energy growth prospects and project opportunities across the Sub-Saharan Africa oil and gas industry, featuring more than 30 national oil companies and regulators from Africa to showcase in-country opportunities.

SAIPEC, organized by the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria, PETAN. in partnership with the industry regulators and players showcased multi-billion-dollar project opportunities across the Sub-Saharan Africa oil and gas value chain while highlighting key business development for service companies and opportunities for regional collaboration on local content development.

According to published reports, Africa will account for the majority of new oil and gas discoveries in the next 30 years and will become the last frontier for discoveries by 2060. While 85% of growth within the oil and gas sector will emerge outside developed economies, with Africa holding a large share.

Africa is also prioritizing a just energy transition to fully utilize its abundant oil and gas resources to address issues around energy poverty as well as the growing energy demand in the region.

The theme of the SAIPEC conference is, "Building Africa's Future: Advancing Local Content and Sustainable Development in the Oil and Gas Industry."
At the SAIPEC 2025 Conference, Nigeria, Gambia, Morroco, Mozambique, Uganda, and Côte d'Ivoire, coupled with other African countries showcased in-country opportunities that exist in the downstream, midstream, and upstream sub-sectors of the oil and gas industry in their respective countries.

Africa's Regional Growth Opportunities
Highlighting Nigeria's evolving energy landscape, the Chief Executive of the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), Engr. Gbenga Komolafe reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and robust investment growth in the oil and gas sector.

Represented at the conference by the Executive Commissioner for Development and Production, Engr. Enorense Amadasu, Komolafe lauded the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN) for hosting the event. He emphasized the pivotal role the exhibition plays in fostering regional cooperation, driving technological progress, and facilitating knowledge-sharing among industry stakeholders.
Komolafe pointed to strategic reforms – notably the 2021 Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) – as a transformative force. The PIA has enhanced governance, transparency, and efficiency in the sector, positioning Nigeria as an attractive destination for energy investments. He noted that advancements in oil recovery techniques, comprehensive field development programs, and resource optimization strategies further underscore the country's dedication to innovation and global energy leadership.
Speaking further, Komolafe underscored critical initiatives such as the Nigeria Gas Flare Commercialization Program (NGFCP), which aims to eliminate gas flaring by 2030. He also highlighted Nigeria's ambitious target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2060. These measures, combined with NUPRC's rigorous regulatory oversight, are creating a more favorable climate for investment in Nigeria's energy sector.

With proven reserves of 37.5 billion barrels of oil, 209.26 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and abundant potential in renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and biomass, Nigeria is well-positioned to remain a top contender in Africa's dynamic energy market.

In his opening remarks, PETAN Chairman, Engr. Wole Ogunsanya highlighted several major investment decisions that have bolstered Africa's energy sector. He pointed to Shell's $5.5 billion Bonga North deepwater project in Nigeria, the award of a construction license to UTM FLNG, and the issuance of ten new gas distribution licenses by the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA).

Beyond Nigeria, he referenced key projects including Senegal's Greater Tortue Ahmeyim LNG project, the Republic of Congo's LNG exports to Italy, and the continued expansion of renewable energy projects in South Africa, Egypt, and Morocco.

"As technical and professional service providers that have just marked three decades of excellence in the oil and gas industry, PETAN is excited about several final investment decisions that have been successfully closed, including Shell's $5.5 billion Bonga North deepwater project as well as, back home, the recent award of a construction license to Nigeria's UTM FLNG and the issuance of ten licenses for gas distribution across clusters by the NMDPRA. We also acknowledge notable developments in natural gas exploration and LNG exports with Senegal's Greater Tortue Ahmeyim LNG reaching its first gas production, and the Republic of Congo's first LNG exports to Italy from the Congo LNG project," he mentioned.

Speaking under the conference theme "Building Africa's Future: Advancing Local Content and Sustainable Development in the Oil and Gas Industry," PETAN Chairman stressed that robust partnerships, innovation, and strategic investment are key to navigating the evolving energy landscape and securing the continent's economic future.

Ogunsanya further applauded renewable energy initiatives led by South Africa, Egypt, and Morocco, emphasizing that Africa possesses both the human capacity and abundant natural resources needed to tap into its vast energy potential. He also highlighted the strategic partnerships being forged on the continent, citing the recent production-sharing contracts signed by Panoro Energy in Equatorial Guinea and BW Energy in Gabon as evidence of international collaborations accelerating energy development and creating new exploration and production opportunities.

SAIPEC 2025 African National Oil Companies Panel Session

Speaking in a one-on-one interview with members of the African Association of Energy Journalists and Publishers, AJERAP, the 'Official Media Association Partner' of SAIPEC 2025, Ogunsanya advocated for stronger regional collaboration between African countries including companies to build capacity as well as develop projects across the continent.

He said,

"Africa should prioritize regional collaboration, and form alliances to develop projects within Africa.

"With regional collaboration between African countries, you can learn faster and avoid making mistakes," Ogunsanya said in the interview with AJERAP members, emphasizing the need for African countries and companies to form alliances in developing projects across the region.

"If there is a project in Angola and there is an African company that already has the know-how compared to a company coming from abroad, the Angolan regulator should prioritize that African alliance to ensure that we're able to retain value in the continent. This speaks volumes."

He said PETAN sees a lot of growth opportunities in the African oil and gas industry in 2025 with a positive economic outlook.

"Uganda is very busy. The wells are being drilled. Uganda is one of the Sub-Saharan African countries we are very close to. The regulators in Uganda, the Uganda Petroleum Commission are very close to the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, NCDMB, and the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Board, NUPRC. They are essentially learning from us. They are attending the SAIPEC event.

"There are also lots of efforts going on in Mozambique to enhance investment.

"Deepwater operations will continue to grow in Africa.

"In Nigeria, we are working to increase our production.

"A lot of activities are also ongoing in Libya. Libya produces 1.4 million barrels of oil per day. They're sure that this year, they will produce 1.6 million bpd, which is the peak production. Libya is asking us to bring equipment to come and support them.

"PETAN sees a robust 2025 and 2026. This means that we have the opportunity to provide services with increased collaboration," he added.

In his words, PETAN Chairman said that its member companies have built capacity over time in the oil and gas industry ahead of many African countries, noting that PETAN is ready to transfer knowledge as well as support other African countries to retain value within the continent on project development.

"The same technology you find in North Sea, Aberdeen, Norway, Saudi Arabia, and Houston, is exactly what you will find in Nigeria.

"For us in Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa, we must match the requirements. We must match the know-how to ensure that we produce that barrel at the same rates. What we have added in PETAN is developing local know-how and local technology. We call it, home advantage," PETAN Chairman noted.

Across Africa, he said PETAN member companies are active with a consistent track record of providing exceptional services in African countries where they operate.

"With this cumulative experience that we have, we are seeing it in the industry in our service delivery. There is evidence that we've developed our capacities just as in other parts of the world.

"We are spreading capacities across the African continent. Some PETAN companies have experience more than the other members. We are now impacting the experiences that we have within the organization to make sure that most of our companies are as good as any other company in the world. They can deliver that service in Nigeria and any other place.

"Looking back over the past three to five years, I think a lot of advancement has been made when it comes to technology sourced from within the African continent.

He also acknowledged that PETAN is already collaborating with some African companies, especially on project development and technology transfer.

He confirmed that PETAN is collaborating with Ghana, Mozambique, and Equatorial Guinea companies to advance regional collaboration for local content development.
However, he called for stronger regional collaborations among stakeholders to drive Africa's energy development.

This year's SAIPEC event also featured a 'Buyer Programme' as part of its deliverables to enhance business development in the Sub-Saharan Africa oil and gas industry.

According to PETAN Chairman,

"The "Buyer Programme" is open to everyone, both African and international companies. Due to its growing popularity, this year's SAIPEC exhibition is the largest we have ever hosted. We sold out all available booths, requested for additional exhibition space to accommodate more participants.

"Buyer Programme is designed to facilitate collaborations between buyers and sellers, particularly those seeking specific technologies and services.

"Many international companies, including Chinese firms, are participating, bringing in equipment and technology that can be applied in multiple African countries, such as Angola, Mozambique, Uganda, and Nigeria.

"This is in line with global trade practices, where collaboration helps generate higher value for the host country."

"PETAN is also exploring financial models where banks and other institutions can support asset owners in scaling up production.

The 19th edition of SAIPEC held from 11-13 February 2025 in Lagos brought together prominent industry leaders, stakeholders, experts, and companies including government representatives to explore the Sub-Saharan Africa hydrocarbon resources as well as identify key challenges hindering the continent to harness its oil and gas resources for economic prosperity.

SAIPEC 2025 Conference also explored the role of local content and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in creating a seamless business environment for regional trade for goods and services, with strategic recommendations from industry stakeholders to boost trade and investment within the region.

With over 6,000 attendees from 50 countries, SAIPEC 2025 offers exceptional networking opportunities with key stakeholders and decision-makers across Sub-Saharan Africa's energy value chains.

The conference featured a diverse agenda that included a strategic conference, technical sessions, an international exhibition, and the prestigious SAIPEC Awards.

SAIPEC
Sub Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference

Book Launch

Local Content in the OIL AND GAS SECTOR & Mozambique Sustainable Development

The book author dives into the depths of the oil and gas (O&G) industry with the aim of bringing to the surface the technical secrets, policies and management of the industry as well as the strategies for achieving successful national participation. Although Mozambique is the focus of the book, it can be useful for any O&G sector emerging country, as well as potential investors.

Victor B. L. Tivane
Book Author

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H.E Heineken Lokpobiri, Nigeria's Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil)

Africa Energy Bank to Commence Operation in Q1 2025 - Minister Lokpobiri

Nigeria's Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), H.E Heineken Lokpobiri, has said that the Africa Energy Bank will commence operations in Nigeria in March 2025.

The minister made this known at the just concluded Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Conference hosted by the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria in Lagos.

According to him, the bank's headquarters building is almost ready in Abuja and final preparations are ongoing to officially kick start the African Energy Bank before the end of this first quarter 2025.

African Energy Bank was established through a partnership between the African Export-Import Bank and the African Petroleum Producers Organization with the objectives to fund oil and gas projects across the African energy sector.

"For us in Africa, the Africa Energy Bank is the solution. The African Energy Bank is good to go. This is a bank that will start with about $5bn, contributed between member countries and the Afrexim Bank. The Afrexim Bank has said they are going to, as part of the agreement, cede their oil and gas portfolio to that bank. The projections are that by the next four or five years, this bank will grow and ascend to $120bn. We want people to come and invest in that bank. We want sustainable investments, not promises that they can never be kept.

"And so we are very proud that as part of our commitments to host the African Energy Bank, the building is ready. We are putting the finishing touches to it. It's a beautiful building, the best you can find in Africa. And our own projections are that this bank will take off by this quarter.

Speaking further, Lokpobiri commended the pivotal role Nigeria is playing in Africa's energy sector and remains the continent's leading oil and gas producer due to deliberate technological advancements and sustained governmental commitment.

Highlighting the remarkable transformation of indigenous oil firms in Nigeria, the minister stated that these companies now rival international oil giants in scale and capacity.

He urged African countries to foster interdependence and collaboration rather than perpetuate outdated models of economic reliance.

The minister warned against excessive outsourcing within the industry, which led the Nigerian government to issue an executive order curbing 'middlemanism' in the sector.

According to him, the practice of individuals securing contracts they lack the technical capacity to execute, only to subcontract them to major corporations for a fraction of the value.

This inefficiency, according to him, undermines Africa's ability to harness its full economic potential and must be addressed through robust policy frameworks.

Assessing Africa's economic trajectory, the Minister underscored the distinct governance challenges the continent faces. "While other regions expand their investment portfolios, Africa remains disproportionately dependent on external assistance. "Africa does not need helpers; Africa needs investors and partners," he declared, urging African leaders and entrepreneurs to take charge of their economic destinies by investing in their own energy sectors.

Furthermore, he provided a thought-provoking commentary on the nature of political commitments, stating that while promises may be freely made, they often lack enforceability. Unlike contracts, which carry legal obligations, political pledges are seldom upheld with sincerity.

"A promise is not a crime," he remarked. "You cannot sue someone for failing to honour a mere verbal commitment, nor can you impose sanctions for a failure to act."

He lamented the absence of genuine intent behind many international commitments made to Africa, stressing that the continent must take ownership of its energy future rather than rely on unreliable pledges.

'Shell's Bonga North Project to Unlock Nigeria Deepwater Potential, Create Local Content Opportunities' – Ronald Adams

Ronald Adams, Managing Director, SNEPCO

In this interview, Ndubuisi Micheal Obineme, Managing Editor of The Energy Republic, talks to Ronald Adams, Managing Director of Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company, SNEPCO, about the potential of Shell's Bonga North deep-water project, and its impact on the Nigerian oil and gas industry coupled with the opportunities the project will create in contributing to the Nigerian Content growth.

In October 2024, Adams was appointed as the new Managing Director of Shell's deep-water subsidiary in Nigeria – SNEPCo. Adams replaces Elohor Aiboni, who is moving to an international role as Asset Director at Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP). Excerpts:

Please briefly tell us about your career journey and professional activities in the energy sector.

Adams: I'm a chemical engineer by background and took an MBA with a specialization in Strategic Planning from Herriot-Watt University, Edinburgh School of Business.

I've been around for a while, having spent more than 30 years across the upstream, midstream, and downstream sectors of the energy industry.

I've held leadership positions in general management, operations, engineering, and business development in organizations in Trinidad and North America.

I joined Shell Trinidad and Tobago Limited in 2019 and was appointed Managing Director of Atlantic LNG of Trinidad and Tobago in August 2021, the first local to hold the position in its 25 years of operation.

Incidentally, I took over from a Nigerian, Dr Philip Mshelbila.

Today, I'm in Nigeria!

TER: Welcome to Nigeria Ronald Adams. What was your first impression when you first arrived in Nigeria? Any surprises? And how has been your experience working in Nigeria as SNEPCO's Managing Director so far?

Adams: Interestingly, Nigeria, for me, is home and I'm not making it up! My first impression on arriving here? It's one word: People! This is a big deal considering that I come from a country of less than 2 million people. And, then when I got to work and met colleagues, I could see an amazing array of individual and collective brilliance; Nigerian talent working for Nigeria. Great people working for a great company and powering lives in a great country! That's my overall impression from my time here so far.

TER: Your appointment as SNEPCO Managing Director is coming at a time when Shell finalized the FID on the Bonga North deep-water project. How would you evaluate the potential of the Bonga North project?

Adams: The Bonga North project further consolidates the successes of Bonga and will deliver significant value to all stakeholders. We plan for the project to sustain our deepwater oil and gas production, ensuring that the capacity of the Bonga FPSO remains fully maximized.

We took FID on Bonga North in December 2024 and are currently executing the project towards first oil, but beyond the significant hydrocarbon potential of Bonga North, what I see is an important growth opportunity, not just for Shell in Nigeria but for Nigeria as a country and for the Nigerian service industry.

This will hopefully be the first of many investment decisions in the country that will unlock the significant potential of the offshore basin.
I'm also seeing the significant opportunity for Nigerian content and Nigerian professionals and contractors.

I see a further development of 21st-century deep-water engineers that will lead Nigeria through its production aspiration and economic prosperity.

And, in all, I see Shell continuing to be a force for good, working with its government and co-venture partners to power progress and bring value to all stakeholders.

I see impressive milestones ahead beyond our one billionth barrel production milestone recorded in February 2023.

So, Bonga North promises to be a game-changer and I can't wait to see the project produce its first oil.

TER: What are the challenges SNEPCO encountered and lessons learned during the development process of the Bonga North project?

Adams: The oil and gas business is challenging by itself. You are dealing with a resource underground, and it takes several studies to confidently identify potential and convince investors to commit to the project.

Bonga North was not different. The lessons are clear: careful planning, excellent stakeholder management, and smart decision-making underpinned by Shell's core values of honesty, integrity, and respect for people.

The forward-thinking character of Shell and its renowned global expertise in hydrocarbon exploration and production came in handy to put us over and above the usual and unusual challenges on the path to FID.

TER: In what ways will the Bonga North project impact the Nigerian oil and gas industry?

Adams: Bonga North currently has an estimated recoverable resource volume of more than 300 million barrels of oil equivalent (boe) and will reach a peak production of 110,000 barrels of oil a day.

No doubt, this will be a boost to Nigeria's overall oil output.

I believe the project also inspires confidence in foreign investors who are eyeing opportunities in the energy industry in Nigeria.

TER: What advice do you have for potential investors looking to invest in Nigeria?

Adams: Clear-headed thinking, determination, patience, and alignment with the dreams and aspirations of your hosts would be my advice to potential investors.

Ronald Adams, Managing Director, SNEPCO

TER: What should Nigeria do to drive more investment and project development?

Adams: Investors generally look for a stable polity, favorable fiscals, predictable regulatory frameworks, and a secure business environment with the right infrastructure and amenities. These are the basics anyone would consider before commiting their money and time in any viable investment opportunity.

TER: In what ways SNEPCo is planning to boost Nigerian Content development going forward?

Adams: Today, some 97% of the SNEPCo workforce are Nigerian, and overall, Bonga has helped to create a new generation of Nigerian deep-water professionals. Our efforts have helped to develop indigenous manpower for deep-water operations in Nigeria.

The Bonga success story has been led by Nigerians who have been managing directors of SNEPCo since it was established in 1993.

I'm the only exception in more than 30 years of its operations!

We also continue to make good progress in contract awards to Nigerian businesses.

In 2023 alone, SNEPCo together with two of our sister companies, The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited and Shell Nigeria Gas awarded $1.98 billion in contracts to Nigeria-registered companies. This is a 3% increase in value from the previous year.

We, similarly, continue to work with the NCDMB on human capital development (HCD) and other capacity development initiatives which shall grow in-country capacity in geosciences, marine, logistics, fabrication, IT, and more.

We don't just deal with contractors. We also invest in the future of our young ones through secondary school and undergraduate scholarship programmes that have helped hundreds of people across Nigeria.

SNEPCo realizes that the best investment in the future of our business is supporting Nigerians (individuals and businesses) to improve their potential.

TER: In the fourth quarter of 2024, Shell won its appeal against a landmark climate litigation that started in 2021 mandating the company to cut its carbon emissions by 45% by 2030. The Dutch Appeal Court in the Hague reversed the decision of the trial court on Tuesday 12th November 2024, stating that while Shell is required to reduce its emissions, "there is currently insufficient agreement on a specific reduction percentage that an individual company such as Shell should adhere to. The case against Shell, therefore, was dismissed entirely." Following this development, please could you shed more light on the Shell Energy Transition Strategy, with emphasis on the impact on SNEPCO's operations in the Nigerian offshore oil and gas industry?

Adams: Shell aims to become a net-zero emissions energy business by 2050, and between 2023 and the end of 2025, we're investing some $ 10 billion to 15 billion in low-carbon energy solutions globally. It shows that Shell is a significant investor in the energy transition.

Overall, we believe that smart policies from governments, along with investment and action across all sectors, will drive the progress towards net-zero emissions.

Shell believes that, while the world still relies on oil for secure energy, we will help produce it with lower emissions.

At SNEPCo we're determined to deliver value to stakeholders and at the same time, further reduce or eliminate carbon emissions from our operaϴons at a time of heightened concerns on climate warming.

We target efficient engines and turbines while addressing obsolescence and deploy excellent operational discipline in reducing our flares.

Our new Lagos office is also Edge Certified for energy efficiency.

Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company Limited (SNEPCo) BONGA FPSO

But let me add that the energy transition in Nigeria as elsewhere is rightly the collective effort of industry, government, and society.

TER: How integrated is SNEPCO's ESG strategy and its impact, especially on communities?

Adams: Our ESG strategy is anchored on our core values of honesty, integrity, and respect for people. We aim to operate responsibly, contributing to the development of Nigeria through the energy we produce and impacting lives directly through our social investments.

To give you an idea, our wide-ranging social investment porŋolio has improved lives and changed people's stories – from internally displaced persons camps to hospital wards and educational institutions, SNEPCo's intervention is helping people to rebuild their lives, enhancing treatment and care for cancer patients and supporting students to achieve their educational dreams.

Shell is in Nigeria for the long haul and will continue to contribute to the development of the country through our operations.

TER: What's your perspective on the global energy transition agenda and how can it be structured to meet the growing energy demand, especially in developing nations?

Adams: The developing world, especially Nigeria faces a dilemma. We require more energy due to our population growth, industrialization, and economic goals while the world is talking about transitioning from oil and gas.

We need to take urgent steps to optimize investments in oil and gas while concurrently exploring renewable opportunities like solar and hydro to help meet the energy demand of a rising population.

Shell already does this even in Nigeria with our All-On and Daystar businesses. Investing in renewable energy can reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and enhance energy security.

Thankfully, Nigeria has abundant renewable energy resources like solar, wind, and hydropower, which, if harnessed effectively, can provide a reliable and sustainable energy supply.

TER: SNEPCO is a major sponsor at PETAN's Sub-Saharan Africa International Exhibition and Conference, SAIPEC. How important is SAIPEC to Shell Nigeria? What will SNEPCO showcase at this year's SAIPEC event in Lagos?

Adams: SAIPEC is a key industry event we're proud to sponsor, and the conference host, PETAN, is our partner in the development of Nigerian content.

We value the opportunity for industry and government officials to interact and exchange ideas for the good of the country.

As usual, SNEPCo will mount a high-profile exhibition showcasing the technical and non-technical sides of our business while some of our staff will also participate in the strategic sessions.

TER: You will be speaking at the SAIPEC event as well. What will be your major talking point?

Adams: I look forward to sharing Shell's vision for the Deepwater business in Nigeria and how all stakeholders can come together to responsibly unlock the enormous potential in the basin.

WE ARE SHELL

$1.09B.
In taxes and royalties paid to the Federal Government of Nigeria by Shell companies.

$1.98B.+
In contracts awarded to Nigerian companies.

$142.5M.
Paid by Shell companies to NDDC

$751M.
SPDC fully funded its share of the Ogoni Trust Fund.

$42M.
Funded by Shell to 27 out of 33 community trusts (by end of 2023).

SINCE 2016...

3,450 secondary school grants, **3,772** university grants, and **1,062** cradle-to-career scholarship grants awarded

109
Students supported by Shell scholarships in the UK.

73
Businesses creating **97 jobs supported** by Shell's LiveWIRE programme.

150
Ogun State youths received business skills training from Shell.

2,500+
Nigerians directly employed by Shell companies.

5,550
People in Yobe/Borno helped by Shell to start businesses.

$5M.
Digital learning Centre donated to Niger Delta University by SNEPCo and partners.

$42.2M.
Spent by Shell companies on social investment programs.

1M+
People reached by Shell's mobile health programme.

50 MEGAWATTS+
Of solar power installed by Daystar Power.

$3M.
Invested by Shell companies in education programs.

98,000+
People benefited from Shell's community health insurance.

$27.9M.
Invested by All On, connecting over **8,600 people** to clean energy in 2023.

NEW ENGINEERING CENTRE COMPLETED...
By Shell at the University of Benin.

$4.1M.
Donated by Shell and partners to aid conflict victims.

1Billion
Barrels of oil export achieved in 2023 by The Bonga FPSO.

3,000+
Energy connections delivered by All On; **16.3 MWh** installed capacity through its investee companies.

...Powering Lives in Nigeria

Engr. Wole Ogunsanya, Chairman, Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN)

SAIPEC 2025: PETAN Pushes for $1.5 Billion in-Contract Awards on Shell's Bonga North Project

By Ndubuisi Micheal Obineme

The Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria, PETAN, is pushing for local content on Shell's Bonga North Project and proposed $1.5 billion in contract awards to indigenous companies.

Engr. Wole Ogunsanya, PETAN Chairman, made this known during his opening speech at the ongoing Sub-Saharan Africa International Conference and Exhibition, SAIPEC, with the theme "Building Africa's Future: Advancing Local Content and Sustainable Development in the Oil & Gas Industry", in Lagos.

Ogunsaya said PETAN is excited about the several Final Investment Decisions (FID) that have successfully been signed in Nigeria including Shell's $5.5 billion Bonga North deepwater project.

"As technical and service providers with three decades of operational excellence in the oil and gas industry, our member companies have the required capacity to develop major projects across the oil and gas value chain including in deepwater Offshore Nigeria and other African countries.

"PETAN represents 60 – 70 percent of local content capacity in Nigeria.

"At PETAN, we have over 100 companies. Each of our members is represented by a CEO and executive directors.

"Our members are working in India, the Middle East, and across other African countries. The capacity is there and it's now left for us to harness it," he stated.

Speaking about Shell's $5.5 billion dollar Bonga North project, the PETAN Chairman said, "We aren't asking for $3 billion dollar. But we are asking for $1.5 billion dollar in contract awards which is about 25% of the entire project value. That is what we are asking for".

However, he clarified that PETAN's drive towards local content development isn't in any way discouraging international partnerships for project development, noting that local content should be seen as a shared value between multinational companies and indigenous companies operating in the African oil and gas industry.

"What we are doing in local content isn't in any way discouraging international partnerships. In Nigeria, we are in collaboration with the international service companies in a way that it is a shared value," he reiterated.

He underscored the need to increase Indigenous companies' participation in Africa's oil and gas projects to retain value in-country as well as support the development of local content.

He said PETAN is looking forward to participating in Shell's Bonga North project and other key projects in the deepwater, shallow water, and onshore segments to continue to drive local content in Nigeria.

He also commended the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, NDCMB, for their continuous support of local content development.

He acknowledged that PETAN has been able to develop and build capacity through the support of the NCDMB.

He also added that the African continent has what it takes in human capacity coupled with its energy resources to develop the continent and provide the much-needed energy for the people.

About Us

Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN) is an association of Nigerian Indigenous Technical Oilfield service companies in the upstream and downstream sectors of the Oil industry. The association was formed to bring together Nigerian Oil & Gas entrepreneurs to create a forum for the exchange of ideas with the major operators and policymakers.

PETAN has been promoting the development of the oil and gas industry in Nigeria through the organization and participation of Nigerian Entrepreneurs in conferences, seminars, workshops, and creating opportunities for Nigerian companies to project themselves in the oil and gas industry.

PETAN, companies and their contractors employ over 20,000 Nigerians of which over 60% are graduates, This has a beneficial "domino" effect on the Nigerian economy.

PETAN Evolving in **Technologies**, Strengthening Partnerships for **Research** and **Innovation - Uzu**

Engr. Obidike Nelkon Uzu, Vice Chairman of the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria

Engr. Obidike Nelkon Uzu, Vice Chairman of the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria, PETAN, and Managing Director, Global Process & Pipeline Services Ltd, has emphasized the association's commitment to technological evolution in the oil and gas industry in Nigeria.

Speaking at the SAIPEC 2025 Conference, Uzu emphasized PETAN's commitment to technological evolution. Reflecting on the past 30 years, he noted that PETAN adopted technology, but looking ahead, the goal is for technology to adopt PETAN.

To prepare for this transition, PETAN companies are digitizing their operations, reducing paperwork, and ensuring well-structured data storage.

The association remains focused on technology transfer, sending Nigerian professionals for specialized training at institutions like Cambridge and Harvard and leading OEM training centers abroad.

In line with this vision, PETAN is also strengthening industry-academic partnerships with Nigerian institutions, particularly in research and innovation.

On energy transition, Obi Uzu remarked that under a Trump-era energy policy, decisions would be driven by economics, with each country focusing on the energy sources it can afford.

He said PETAN is aligning with this shift, with some of its companies already investing in lithium mining and gas development, positioning themselves for the evolving energy landscape.

"Beyond business, PETAN is committed to sustainable development by investing in host communities, enhancing corporate social responsibility (CSR), and prioritizing environmental sustainability and safety," he added.

In his presentation, Dr. Daere Akobo, Chairman of PANA Holdings emphasized that the oil and gas industry remains Nigeria's highest GDP contributor. Looking ahead, Akobo said PETAN should focus on shaping and implementing policies and regulations that drive industry growth.

"A critical concern is the need to eliminate cost inefficiencies caused by foreign exchange fluctuations," he made this known while delivering a speech at the SAIPEC 2025 Conference. "While AI has its place, it cannot physically tighten a bolt on a nut, meaning innovation must be applied in practical ways that enhance operational efficiency and environmental responsibility.

"International Oil Companies (IOCs) benefit from Nigeria's resources while channeling R&D investments abroad, leaving local companies disadvantaged.

"There is an urgent need to create platforms that support industry-wide technological advancements, including local solutions for cleaner cooking energy in rural communities.

He underscored the need to identify key industry enablers within Nigeria's regulatory framework to maximize opportunities.

Speaking about his company, Akobo highlighted that Pana Holdings has 150 employees, including global experts from countries like Saudi Arabia.

He stressed that Nigeria must take deliberate steps toward development, preventing a 'Youth Quake' by fostering innovation and digital solutions.

On global competitiveness, he added that the highest return on investment comes from nurturing and leveraging local talent.

With the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) committing $100,000 to innovative training, stakeholders must push for further investment in skill development.

Akobo concluded by stating that without people-centered policies, regulation alone will be ineffective, making it crucial for policymakers to align with the realities of the industry.

PHOTO STORIES:
PETAN Chairman, Engr. Wole Ogunsanya Presenting Plagues to Speakers at SAIPEC 2025

NCDMB Boss Outlines Pillars to African Collaboration Strategy on Local Content, Decries Fragmented Implementation

Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, Executive Secretary of NCDMB

The Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, has charged sub-Saharan African nations to keep pace with unfolding trends in the global oil and gas industry and adopt a unified approach in strengthening local content development, advancing industrialisation and fostering sustainable continent-wide economic growth.

In a Keynote Address at the 9th Sub-Saharan African International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC), in Lagos, on Tuesday, Engr. Ogbe said nations like Nigeria, Angola, and Ghana have made notable strides in local content development by boosting indigenous participation in the oil and gas sector, but expressed regret that "fragmented implementation continues to hinder collective progress."

He called for a collaborative strategy among petroleum-producing nations in sub-Saharan Africa that would foster the sharing of best practices and enhance cross-border partnerships that could drive the competiveness of indigenous players.

In his paper entitled "Sub-Saharan Africa Local Content Collaboration Strategy," Engr. Ogbe identified harmonisation of local content policies, human capital development, investment in infrastructure, funding for local companies and technology transfer, as key pillars to Africa's collaboration strategy.

He noted that "there is a need to develop a robust local content framework that positions the region for long-term economic prosperity," and that this could be fostered "through the collaborative efforts of APPO [African Petroleum Producers Organisation] and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union."

Engr. Ogbe also highlighted the importance of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) as a critical legal framework that could be leveraged to achieve collaborative local content strategy in Africa, given the free trade area it has created by integrating 1.3 billion people across 54 African countries with a combined gross domestic product of over $3 trillion.

On human capital development, which he described as "pivotal to the successful implementation of local content," he observed that approximately 60% of Africa's population is currently under the age of 25, and that this teeming population provides a unique opportunity to fast-track development. "A large, young workforce," he noted, "can drive expansion through increased productivity and expansion."

The NCDMB boss dwelt at length on how investment in infrastructure could catalyse regional economic growth, citing the 650,000-barrel-per-day Dangote Integrated Refinery and Petrochemical Company, which he noted would afford Nigeria and other African countries partnership opportunities for sourcing petroleum products and fertiliser.

Similar projects capable of leveraging collaborations include Kenya's Konza Technology City, Grand Ethiopian Dam, Lekki Free Trade Zone (Lagos), and facilities like the SHI-MCI FPSO Fabrication/Integration Yard in Lagos. Others highlighted by the Executive Secretary were NCDMB's Nigerian Oil and Gas Parks Scheme (NOGAPS) being developed in seven locations in Nigeria, to which he invited interested businessmen and investors seeking to manufacture industry-related equipment, components and spares to apply.

Speaking on funding, Engr. Ogbe said "A regional fund or financial framework that provides credit facilities, guarantees, and investment incentives would strengthen indigenous firms," noting with satisfaction that an African Energy Bank, established by APPO with the support of the NCDMB, which has taken equity investment in it, is soon to be operational.

In regard to technology transfer and innovation, he pointed out that "Encouraging

joint ventures, research collaborations, and technology-sharing agreements among African nations will drive the adoption of cutting-edge solutions and indigenous technological advancements in the African economy."

The overall strategy discussed by Engr. Ogbe envisages roles for the academia and research institutions, which must collaborate on industry-driven research, innovations, and skills development. In his words, "By working together, we can create a formidable and self-reliant petroleum sector that delivers long- term benefits for our economies, businesses, and people."

Earlier on Monday, in a Pre-Event Session, the Director, Monitoring and Evaluation of the NCDMB, Mr. Abdulmalik Halilu, delivered a paper on "Optimisation of Developed Capacities and Capabilities in Africa for the Growth of African Oil and Gas Industry."

In the presentation, with illustration from Africa's Hydrocarbon Map, he discussed Local Content Value Proposition for Africa, Concepts, and Way Forward. Under Local Content Value Proposition, he highlighted research and technology development, local employment, strategic partnerships, ownership and control of assets, while Supply Chain Optimisation threw light on sustainable operations, increased production and utilisation of locally made goods, and contribution to GDP.

Under Way Forward for Sector-Specific Industrialisation, Mr. Halilu charged petroleum-producing countries to "identify and develop niche industries, promote specialization and value addition, establish export-oriented economic zones." For trade and regional integration under AfCFTA, his suggestion was, "Harmonise trade policies and regulations, develop efficient transport and logistics networks, export expansion grant to companies promoting intra-Africa trade."

IGU's Secretary General delivers the Keynote Address at SAIPEC 2025

The International Gas Union's (IGU) Secretary General, Mr Menelaos (Mel) Ydreos, delivered the Keynote address at the 2025 Sub Saharan Africa International Petroleum and Conference Exhibition (SAIPEC) held in Lagos, Nigeria.

Mr Ydreos' keynote was delivered during the Strategic Conference on Unleashing Africa's Potential, and it highlighted IGU's perspective on the African energy and gas sector.

In his opening remarks, Mr Ydreos argued that "Gas has long been fundamental to human progress and global growth in both mature and developing energy markets. Its abundance, multiple applications, from heat to power to transportation, and role as a key feedstock to industries have enabled economies worldwide to grow and improve people's lives".

Joining IGU's Secretary General on SAIPEC's stage were H.E. Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim, Secretary General, African Petroleum Producers' Organization (APPO) and H.E. Hon. Heineken Lokpobiri, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Federal Republic of Nigeria, as well as other notable figures in the African energy industry.

Mr Ydreos further remarked that "we need to have tough conversations about the reality of the energy transition and decarbonisation, as well as about meeting the current climate targets on the path to net zero. Gas is an enabler of renewable energy and has a direct role in tackling its intermittency and reliability."

Menelaos (Mel) Ydreos, IGU Secretary General

Given that the IGU Council has recently elected the Union's first African President, the Chairman of the Egyptian Gas and Energy Association – Mr Khaled AbuBakr, Mr Ydreos' keynote address highlighted the critical importance that Africa has not just for the International Gas Union but, fundamentally, for using its abundant Gas resources as an energy poverty-break for the 56 countries across the African continent.

In particular, the IGU's Secretary General emphasized IGU's unwavering support of the African Gas industry and for Africa energy transition and decarbonisation journey:

"Leveraging natural gas is the first, the most important, or the fundamental first step towards solving Africa's energy crisis and its path towards a more sustainable future. Simply switching from coal to natural gas can result in as much as 50% CO2 emissions reductions.

We are never going to tell Africa what it needs; we are only asking Africa one question: what can we do to help?"

IGU Manifesto

In promoting 'Gas', the IGU fully embraces the potential of natural gas, LNG, low-carbon, decarbonised and renewable gases (including hydrogen, biomethane, synthetic gas, e-methane) to drive an even deeper decarbonisation of the energy system.

Gas supply, storage and infrastructure investments must happen in parallel with accelerated investment in renewable and low carbon gas, and CCUS technologies must be ramped up by orders of magnitude to be consistent with the climate targets. Only then can we ensure that the priorities of energy security and energy transition do not undermine each other.

Given their resilience, Gas and its vast infrastructure support renewables deployment, serving as critical, flexible and dispatchable sources to tackle intermittency and enhance grid stability. As a poverty-alleviation platform for underdeveloped and developing economies, from clean cooking to national industries, Gas would allow these economies to scale rapidly to meet their geographical and social potential, using an energy source much cleaner and more sustainable than coal or wood, ensuring that wild and endangered habitats remain protected.

CANY JOBE, DIRECTOR OF EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION, GAMBIA NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION (GNPC)

Gambia Seeks Investors, Partners for Exploration and Production Campaigns

...Guarantees favorable policies, enabling business environment.

By Ndubuisi Micheal Obineme

Gambia is looking to attract investors and partners to help develop the country's oil and gas exploration and production efforts as it moves to become a hubspot for oil and gas opportunities in Africa.

The Gambia is geologically located within the Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, and Guinea Conakry MSGBC Basin. The basin has been in the spotlight in recent years due to several World-Class discoveries – Greater Tortue, Marsouin, Teranga, and SNE among others. The discoveries opened new plays in the basin which have vast exploration potential.

Speaking at the SAIPEC 2025 Conference, Cany Jobe, Director of Exploration & Production at the Gambia National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), said Gambia's location around the MSBC basin positions the country as an emerging hub spot for oil and gas activities.

"Gambia has good prospects for oil and gas exploration and production.

"We have onshore and offshore blocks available as well.

"We have about eight offshore blocks and two onshore blocks. Our data coverage is about 80 percent offshore and 5 percent onshore.

"We are looking for partners and investors to drill our wells so Gambia can as well become the next story in Africa's oil and gas industry," she disclosed.

According to her, GNPC has established partnerships with operators such as PetroNor on Block A4 for technical works.

She explained that GNPC is a state-owned company that handles the upstream oil and gas operations in The Gambia on behalf of the government. This includes conducting seismic surveys, exploring hydrocarbon resources, developing discoveries into production, and managing the resulting oil and gas production.

At SAIPEC 2025, Cany Jobe spoke extensively about the Gambia's oil and gas potential, highlighting the prospects and opportunities for investments.

She reiterated GNPC's commitment to streamlining the project approval process, and the government's political will to support industry players.

She added, "We have also put in place decarbonization initiatives for our oil and gas industry."

Furthermore, Gambia has over 10,000 km2 of offshore acreage and preliminary resource estimates of three billion barrels. Three companies are currently exploring offshore Gambia, namely: FAR, PetroNor and NNPCL.

As the national oil company, GNPC plays a strategic role in helping The Gambia build up its petroleum industry.

The company is tasked with accelerating exploration efforts with partners to achieve new oil and gas discoveries. This will boost domestic exploration and production in other to support The Gambia's goal of greater energy self-sufficiency.

GNPC also aims to develop technical capabilities and human capital locally. By promoting training and technology transfer, GNPC helps to build Gambian expertise in various oil and gas technical specialties.

Overall, GNPC serves as a key vehicle for the Government of The Gambia to develop the nation's petroleum resources.

Didi Salwa, The Head of Offshore Evaluation Division, ONHYM, Kingdom of Morocco

SAIPEC 2025: ONHYM Showcases Morocco's Competitive Advantages in Oil, Gas Industry

By Ndubuisi Micheal Obineme

Morocco's state-owned energy company, Office National des Hydrocarbon et des Mines, ONHYM, showcased the country's energy prospects and its competitive advantages in the oil and gas industry at the 2025 PETAN's Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference, SAIPEC, held in Lagos.

Speaking on behalf of ONHYM, Didi Salwa, The Head of the Offshore Evaluation Division at ONHYM, said Morocco's oil and gas sector presents an enticing prospect for investors and industry players.

Salwa said Morocco also offers one of the most attractive oil and gas incentives in the world, with a reduced government interest rate of 25%.

She made this known during her presentation at the SAIPEC 2025 panel session focused on the African NOCs Country Showcase.

According to her, Morocco offers the lowest Royalty rates in the oil and gas industry coupled with a corporate tax exemption for two years after an operator commences production.

"Our hydrocarbon law is very attractive and an opportunity for investors and partners to invest in Morocco.

"We have a fixed contractual framework dedicated to exploration and production stages."

Speaking further, she stated that Morocco has three kinds of oil and gas contracts that provide frameworks for contractual agreements and acquisitions.

"It includes exploration permit documentation signed between the investor and government based on award programs such as Seismic and drilling activities.

"There is also exploration concession documentation which will be issued after commercial discovery."

Highlighting the role of ONHYM in Morocco's oil and gas industry, she said the company's key focus areas are centralized on mining exploration, hydrocarbon exploration, and midstream activities.

On exploration, she said ONHYM is focused on the exploration of hydrocarbons, mineral deposits, and any mineral substance as well as providing operators and partners with all the necessary support for oil and gas activities in Morocco.

For energy consumption, She revealed Morocco's primary energy consumption is approximately 23 million tons of oil equivalent and 93% of its energy is imported.

"Morocco has a high energy demand. By 2030, we will consume approximately 43 million tons of oil equivalent (TOE)," she revealed.

While highlighting other competitive advantages of Morroco, she stressed that Morroco is also a politically stable country with a unique geographic location of 3,500 KM of coastline on the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

She added that Morocco is 15km distance from Europe and No.1 in North Africa in terms of infrastructure development with 14 commercial ports open to international trade and 25 airports.

In addition, Morocco is strategically located close to major trading partners such as Spain, Italy, France, and other EU states.

ONHYM is also involved in the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline project.

As part of the 2025 Action Plan by the ONHYM, it launched tenders for the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline project.

These tenders cover the initial phases of the project. Besides Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal are also included in the first phase.

Morocco covers 1,672 kilometers of the 5,600 km-long pipeline that will also connect the Maghreb Europe Gas Pipeline and the European gas network.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited deployed the first compressor station for the far-reaching project which is set to motion across Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Ghana.

A second round of memoranda of understanding last year expanded the pipeline network to include Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, and Benin.

SAIPEC 2025 STORIES

Engr. Victor Bandele
Deputy Managing Director,
Deepwater Assets,
TotalEnergies

TotalEnergies Calls for Collaboration and Efficiency to Boost Africa's Energy Sector

Engr. Victor Bandele, Deputy Managing Director of Deepwater Assets at TotalEnergies, has called for greater efficiency and collaboration to enhance competitiveness in Nigeria's energy sector and attract investments.

Speaking at the Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) in Lagos on Tuesday, Bandele emphasized the importance of creating the right investment environment.

Bandele and other company executives shared perspectives on Driving Africa's Energy at a panel session during the Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference 2025.

The session highlighted how African IOCs and independents are navigating the complexities of the oil and gas industry, with insights on strategic developments and portfolio management. The theme of the three-day conference is Building Africa's Future.

Expressing optimism that oil and gas which Africa needs for its development would remain relevant, he noted the heightened level of competition for resources as it impacts the industry.

"There's a lot of competition going on worldwide. There is competition within us in the country. Extrapolate a bit, there is big competition for investments in Africa. There is that big competition playing around the world," he said, explaining that as a result, investment designated for one region could go to another. "So, we need to be desperate for projects that are ongoing to meet efficiency in costs, delivery and sustainability", he added.

Responding to a commendation from NLNG about the company's consistency in meeting its gas supply obligations, Bandele noted that TotalEnergies' had achieved zero routine gas flare over a year ago and was committed to fulfilling its supply obligations and offering more with the FID on UBETA gas project.

He indicated that the speed with which the FID on UBETA was taken, few months after an executive order with the right incentives, was an index to the fact that the right environment enables a large appetite for investments.

The panel had the Chief Executive of Tsavo Oilfield Services Limited, Engineer Elisabeth Rogo, from Kenya, as moderator. Other panelists were the Mr. Akeem Ariyo, Managing Director, AOS Orwell; Osayande Igiehon, Managing Director, Heirs Energies; Nnamdi Anowi, GM Production, NLNG; and the Chairman & Managing Director of Chevron Nigeria, Jim Swartz represented by the General Manager, Wells, Chevron Nigeria, Mrs Maureen Ikenedu.

TotalEnergies Investment in Africa

TotalEnergies acts as a key contributor to economic growth and tax revenues in the markets in which it operates, extending beyond its core oil and gas exploration and production activities. In Africa, TotalEnergies has activities in over 40 countries, where it contributes to both economic and social development across its portfolio.

In Uganda, TotalEnergies is spearheading the Tilenga and Kingfisher oil field development in the Lake Albert Basin – developed in partnership with China National Offshore Oil Corporation and the state-owned Uganda National Oil Company – which involves substantial investments in local infrastructure and community development.

TotalEnergies serves as the largest operator in Angola, with interests in Blocks 17, 32, 0, 14 and 14K. The company has made FID for the Cameia-Golfinho field development, and anticipates the Quiluma and Maboqueiro gas fields to come online in 2026, which will feed into the country's Angola LNG plant. The company holds a 41% market share and accounts for just short of 45% of Angola's production, as well as holds key stakes in Angola LNG and the New Gas Consortium. Its substantial investments in Angola reflect the company's historic contributions to the national economy through associated infrastructure development and export revenues, in addition to taxes, royalties and other levies.

In Namibia, TotalEnergies' light oil discoveries with the Mangetti-1X and Venus-1X wells in the Orange Basin present a major economic boost for the country. Once fully appraised, these discoveries hold the potential to stimulate creation, local procurement and an influx of foreign investments from other international players, thereby enhancing Namibia's economic growth and development

In Nigeria, the company's activities extend beyond oil and gas exploration and production to renewable energy, electricity, green gas and retail activities.

MALAM MELE KYARI, GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE NIGERIA NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY LTD (NNPCL)

NNPCL Reaffirms Commitment to Strengthening Collaboration with Stakeholders

By Tobi Owoyimika

The Group Chief Executive Officer of the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Ltd (NNPCL), Malam Mele Kyari, has reiterated the company's commitment to strengthening collaboration with stakeholders in the oil and gas sector.

He made this known at the just concluded Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) 2025 in Lagos.

The theme of the conference is "Building Africa's Future: Advancing Local Content and Sustainable Development in the Oil and Gas Industry".

Kyari, who was represented by Mr Udobong Ntia, Executive Vice President (EVP) of NNPCL's Upstream Division, Kyari emphasised the importance of timely investments and resilient energy systems for socio-economic development across Africa.

He assured attendees that NNPCL is focused on fostering collaboration, unlocking opportunities, and addressing challenges through shared goals.

He highlighted the conference's significance in facilitating discussions on investment prospects, cooperation, and advancing common objectives for the region's energy future, particularly regarding local content and sustainable growth.

According to him, the conference is a crucial platform for stakeholder engagement and opportunity identification.

Kyari showcased the progress of Nigeria's gas export market, citing the ongoing NLNG Train 7 Project, which he added, would boost Nigeria's LNG production capacity to 30 million tons per annum (MTPA).

He said the planned Nigerian-Morocco and Trans-Sahara Gas Pipeline projects would supply gas to neighbouring African countries and eventually to Europe, reinforcing Nigeria's position as a major global energy player.

Kyari also emphasised the need to balance energy transition with energy security, stating that the oil and gas industry remains a significant component of the global energy mix and would continue to be crucial for the next 50 years.

NNPCL, according to Kyari, is focused on increasing production, developing gas infrastructure, expanding refining capacity, and driving sustainability initiatives.

"Energy demand is projected to rise globally, driven by Africa's growing population.

"As part of our efforts to contribute to a cleaner energy future, Nigeria has declared the decade from 2021 to 2030 as the Decade of Gas, aiming to build a gas-powered economy," Kyari said.

He said that NNPCL is making substantial investments in critical gas infrastructure, including the Ajaokuta-Abuja-Kano (AKK) gas pipeline and the OB3 gas interconnector, designed to facilitate five billion standard cubic feet per day (Bscf/d) of domestic gas utilization and five GW of power generation capacity.

Kyari further stressed Africa's strategic advantage in meeting its energy needs and reducing reliance on energy imports.

He also underscored the importance of regional collaboration, innovation, and investment in energy efficiency, adding thqat it would be key to ensuring the continent's long-term energy sustainability.

SAIPEC 2025

RECOGNIZES BEST-PERFORMING COMPANIES AND STAKEHOLDERS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The SAIPEC Industry Awards unite the energy, oil and gas industry's most prominent, market-leading and innovative companies throughout the value chain together to celebrate Sub-Saharan Africa's developments and achievements.

This year's SAIPEC awards recognises the best-performing companies and individuals, who have made giant strides and developed key projects across the region.

Proscovia Nabbanja Honored as "National Oil Company Executive of the Year" at SAIPEC 2025

Proscovia Nabbanja, Chief Executive Officer of the Uganda National Oil Company Limited (UNOC), has been awarded the prestigious "National Oil Company Executive of the Year" at the SAIPEC 2025 Awards and Dinner event.

With over 24 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, Proscovia Nabbanja has been instrumental in shaping Uganda's petroleum landscape. She began her career as a Geologist with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, where she played a pivotal role in significant projects and led critical reviews of field development plans.

In 2019, Proscovia was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of UNOC, becoming the first woman to hold this position. Under her leadership, UNOC has achieved remarkable milestones, including:

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Negotiations: She successfully steered UNOC through crucial negotiations for the EACOP, securing agreements that solidified Uganda's position in the regional energy sector.

Final Investment Decisions: Under her guidance, both the Upstream and EACOP Projects reached their Final Investment Decisions, marking significant progress in Uganda's petroleum industry.

Exploration Initiatives: Proscovia's commitment to unlocking Uganda's natural resources is evident in UNOC's acquisition of an exploration license over the Kasuruban Contract Area during the second licensing round, aiming to capitalize on the country's oil and gas potential.

This award at SAIPEC 2025 is a testament to Proscovia Nabbanja's exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication to advancing Uganda's oil and gas sector.

Her strategic vision and impactful initiatives have not only positioned UNOC as a key player in the industry but have also contributed significantly to the country's economic development.

Patricia Simon-Hart Receives "Winning with Women" Award at SAIPEC 2025

Patricia Simon-Hart, CEO of Aftrac Limited, has been honored with the prestigious "Winning with Women" Award at the SAIPEC 2025 Awards and Dinner event.

This distinguished award was presented to her by Mrs. Proscovia Nabbanja, Chief Executive Officer of the Uganda National Oil Company Limited (UNOC), Republic of Uganda, who was also a past recipient of this prestigious recognition.

With over 30 years of experience spanning the oil and gas, ICT, water, and public service sectors, Patricia Simon-Hart has made significant contributions to Africa's energy landscape.

As the Founder and Managing Director of Aftrac Limited, an ISO 9001:2015 certified oil and gas service company established in 1998, she has led the company in delivering specialized technology and expertise for exploration and production projects across West Africa. Under her leadership, Aftrac has grown into a trusted indigenous service provider, strengthening local capacity in Nigeria's energy industry.

Patricia Simon-Hart is a champion for gender diversity and inclusion in the energy sector. As a Founding Member and Vice President (Upstream) of the Women In Energy Network (WIEN), she has provided a platform for women across the energy value chain to network, build confidence, and advance their careers and businesses. Through WIEN, she continues to drive initiatives that empower and support women in the male-dominated energy industry.

Patricia's impact extends beyond the corporate world into public service and governance. She served as the Commissioner for Water Resources and Rural Development in Rivers State (2009-2015), where she spearheaded critical water sector reforms, introduced the state's first-ever water policy, and secured international funding for urban water supply projects that benefited over 1.2 million people.

Currently, she serves as an Independent Non-Executive Director on the board of Aradel Holdings PLC, Nigeria's first integrated oil and gas investment company. She is also a council member of WEConnect International, supporting women entrepreneurs, and a

board member of the PETAN Petroleum Technology Association Nigeria), where she continues to advocate for the participation of local businesses in the energy sector.

This award recognizes Patricia Simon-Hart's exceptional leadership, commitment to local content development, and tireless efforts in advancing gender inclusion in Africa's energy industry.

Weafri Well Services Company Limited Wins "Local Content Company of the Year" at SAIPEC 2025

Established in 1988, Weafri Well Services has consistently demonstrated a steadfast commitment to advancing local content within Africa's oil and gas industry. Specializing in well cementing, coil tubing, nitrogen services, high-pressure pumping, and more, the company has been instrumental in integrating Nigerian expertise and resources into its operations.

Weafri's dedication to local content is evident through its significant investments in training and development programs, which have empowered numerous Nigerian professionals and fostered the growth of indigenous technical talent. By prioritizing the utilization of local resources and collaborating with Nigerian suppliers, Weafri has substantially contributed to the nation's economic development and the enhancement of its oil and gas sector.

This award underscores Weafri Well Services Co. Ltd's exceptional achievements in promoting local content and its unwavering commitment to excellence in the industry.

Regulator of the year: Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire has made significant progress and is ranked among the top ten business reformers in the world. The country has maintained steady growth in gas production and positions itself as an oil refinery hub.

NOC company of the year: ONHYM

The African Atlantic Pipeline is a major project in Africa and estimated to be a transformational USD 25 billion project. As Nigeria's partner behind this hugely important project, SAIPEC 2025 welcomed ONHYM from Morocco to SAIPEC for the first time. The winner of the SAIPEC National Oil Company of the year is ONHYM.

Proscovia Nabbanja Honored as "National Oil Company Executive of the Year" at SAIPEC 2025

Patricia Simon-Hart Receives "Winning with Women" Award at SAIPEC 2025

Weafri Well Services Company Limited Wins "Local Content Company of the Year" at SAIPEC 2025

African Local Content Regulator Champion of the Year

Presented by: Engr Ahmed Tejan Bah, Director Technical Services, Petroleum Directorate – Sierra Leone, Republic of Sierra Leone.

In line with establishing best practise and as champions of Local Content policy, NCDMB continues to grow from strength to strength in supporting the success of the oil & gas story in Nigeria and also in helping other African countries in the development of their local content policies. Under the leadership of the Executive Secretary, Engr. Felix Ogbe. The African Local Content Regulator Champion of the Year is NCDMB

Breakthrough NOC: Gambia National Petroleum Corporation

Gambia's energy sector has been gaining momentum, with the government actively seeking to attract investment in oil and gas exploration. The country's strategic location near significant oil fields offers promising prospects of up to 1.2 billion barrels. Gambia is advancing exploration through partnerships that are driven by GNPC. The breakthrough NOC award goes to Gambia National Petroleum Corporation.

SAIPEC 2025 appreciation award

Presented by: Peninah Aheebwa, Director Economic and National Content Monitoring, Petroleum Authority of Uganda, Republic of Uganda.

AOS Oilwell is a leading oilfield services provider committed to fostering strong partnerships that drive sustainable growth. The SAIPEC 2025 appreciation award winner is AOS Oilwell.

Future generation champion: Ibilola Amao

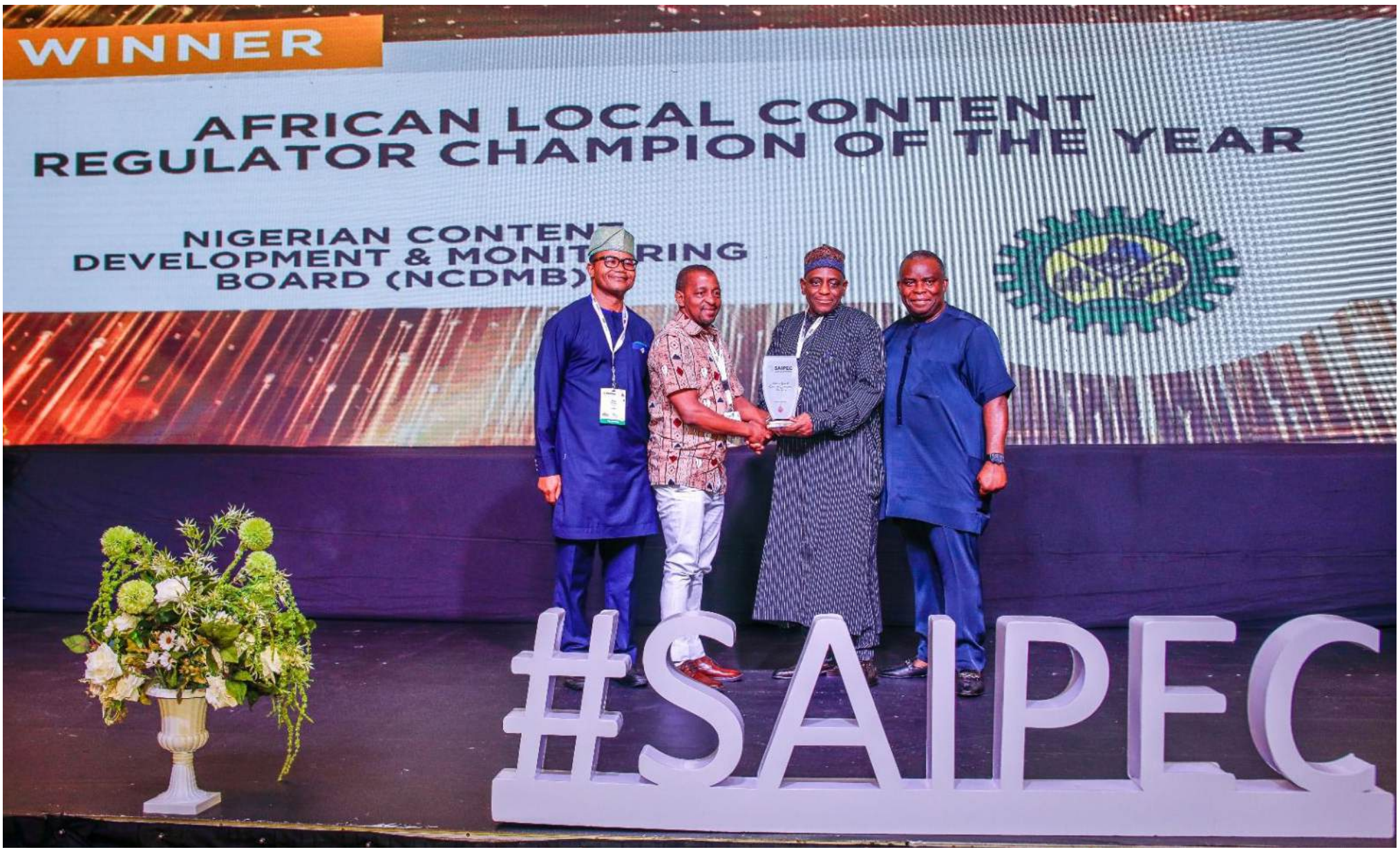
Ibilola Amao is a career counsellor, mentor, and coach. Having spent more than 3 decades dedicated to talent identification, development and engagement, she is committed to developing tomorrow's leaders, strategic thinkers and planners. The 2025 Future Generation Champion is Ibilola Amao

SAIPEC
Sub Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference

ONHYM wins NOC company of the year

Côte d'Ivoire wins Regulator of the year

Gambia National Petroleum Corporation wins Breakthrough NOC of the year.



NCDMB Wins African Local Content Regulator Champion of the Year

AOS Oilwell Wins SAIPEC 2025 appreciation award

Ibilola Amao Wins SAIPEC 2025 Future Generation Champion

TOTALENERGIES EMERGE AS "INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANY OF THE YEAR" AT SAIPEC 2025

TotalEnergies Wins 'IOC of the Year' at SAIPEC 2025

TotalEnergies has emerged winner of the International Oil Company of the Year award at the 9th Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC). The company was recognized for its outstanding contributions to the development of energy in Nigeria and other African countries. The company was presented with the award at the SAIPEC 2025 dinner and award event held at the Eko Hotel, Lagos on Wednesday, February 12.

TotalEnergies' Local Content Strides excites SAIPEC 2025

Meanwhile, TotalEnergies' Local Content Strides drew excitement at SAIPEC 2025 as Mr. Cyprian Ojum, Deputy General Manager, Nigerian Content, who represented the company at SAIPEC 2025 panel session on Local Content, highlighted TotalEnergies' trail-blazing contributions to local content development in Nigeria and the continent.

Ojum spotlighted the unique foresight of the company in setting up the Institute of Petroleum and Energy Studies (IPES) established in 2003 to develop world class manpower; exemplary Nigerian content in projects like O.U.R, OML 58 Upgrade, NOPL and Egina field development; the plastic recycling plant in Port Harcourt, and zero routine flare on all company operated sites amongst several local content and sustainability initiatives by TotalEnergies.

Explaining the commitment that made Total transit to TotalEnergies long before others started adopting "energies," he noted that sustainability is at the heart of the company's business and initiatives like the IPES, which has turned out 705 world-class graduates, were made long before the focus on Nigerian content today.

"Graduates from this school (IPES) are world class. They fit into the oil and gas industry on the day they start work; they hit the ground running because of the curriculum they are trained with," Ojum said.

TotalEnergies, he added, has continued to keep faith in Nigeria even at moments when it was doubtful to invest and today it is yielding results.

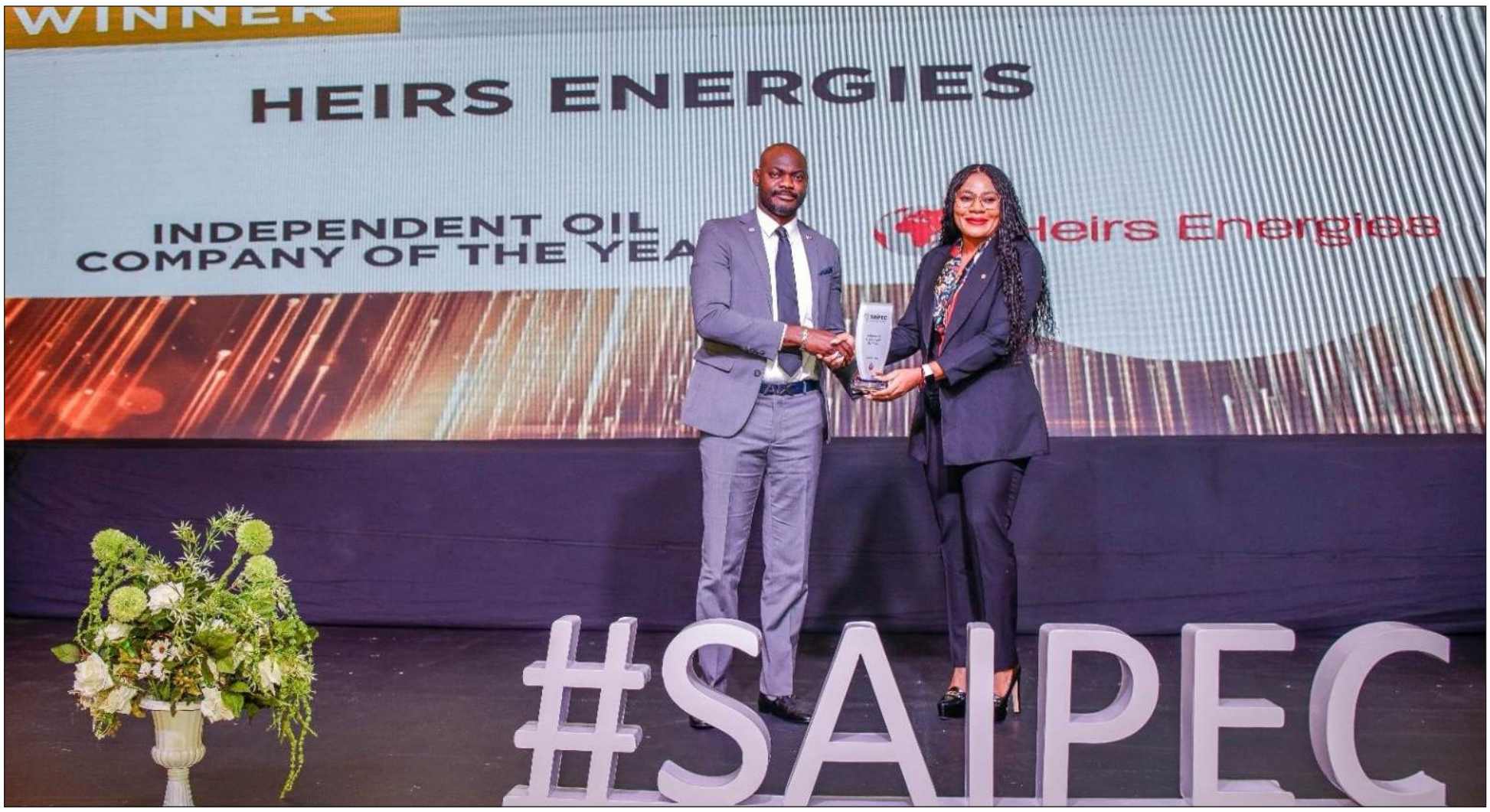
Over the past year, TotalEnergies has significantly bolstered its investment across Africa, underscoring its commitment to the continent's energy development and transition. Notable initiatives include:

Hydropower Projects Acquisition: In July 2024, TotalEnergies acquired a portfolio of hydropower projects in Africa, including a 28.3% stake in the operational 250 MW Bujagali hydropower plant in Uganda. The company also secured minority stakes in two projects under development in Rwanda (206 MW) and Malawi (360 MW), reflecting its dedication to sustainable energy solutions.

Investment in Nigeria's Gas Sector: TotalEnergies has been actively enhancing Nigeria's gas production capabilities. In early 2024, the company commenced production from the Akpo West field, aiming to produce an additional 140 million cubic feet of gas per day by 2028. Furthermore, plans are underway to invest $750 million in the offshore Ima gas project, expected to be sanctioned in 2025, to further boost LNG supply.

Commitment to Clean Cooking Solutions: In May 2024, TotalEnergies announced an ambitious plan to provide 100 million people in Africa and India with access to clean cooking solutions by 2030. The company has committed over $400 million to develop liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) infrastructure, aiming to improve health outcomes and reduce environmental impact.

This recognition at SAIPEC 2025 highlights TotalEnergies' unwavering dedication to advancing Africa's energy landscape through substantial investments in both traditional and renewable energy sectors.



HEIRS ENERGIES RECEIVES SAIPEC 2025 INDUSTRY AWARDS IN LAGOS

Heirs Energies wins 'Independent Company of the Year' at SAIPEC 2025

By Ndubuisi Micheal Obineme

Heirs Energies, Africa's leading indigenous integrated energy company, has been awarded "Independent Company of the Year" at the Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) 2025.

This recognition highlights Heirs Energies' commitment to operational excellence, innovation, and production growth, reinforcing its position as a leader in Africa's energy sector.

In a statement obtained by The Energy Republic, Heirs Energies said the award reflects the company's commitment to operational excellence, innovation, and production growth, reinforcing its position as a leader in Africa's energy sector.

"Four years ago, we took over OML 17 with a clear vision to transform a brownfield asset into a model of efficiency and growth.

"Today, we have doubled production to over 53,000 barrels per day, reactivated more than 60 wells, and expanded domestic gas supply to fuel industries, power plants, and communities.

"This achievement belongs to our exceptional team, our JV partner, our host communities, and all our stakeholders who have supported our journey.

"Heirs Energies is not just participating in Africa's energy future - we are shaping it," the company noted.

Speaking on the award, Engr. Osayande Igiehon, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Heirs Energies reaffirmed that this achievement serves as an impetus for more progress.

He emphasised that challenges in the sector are not obstacles but opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and bold execution.

He further reiterated the company's commitment to optimising production, ensuring that every molecule of energy contributes to Africa's economic and industrial growth.

The award is a validation of Heirs Energies' belief that Africa's energy future will be defined by action, not just dialogue.

This milestone also reflects the strong partnerships Heirs Energies has built with regulators, JV partners, host communities, and government agencies. The company remains dedicated to sharing its expertise in brownfield engineering, contributing to the growth of the broader industry.

Heirs Energies has also expanded its domestic gas supply, fueling industries, power plants, and communities, solidifying its role in Nigeria's energy security agenda.

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