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**THE ENERGY REPUBLIC**  
CREATING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES



## SAIPEC Celebrates 10 Years Anniversary with Special Programme of Events

- ◀ African NOCs to Showcase In-country Opportunities at SAIPEC 2026
- ◀ Nigeria Leads Africa's Upstream Investment with \$8 billion FIDs
- ◀ PETAN Outlines Strategies for Regional Alliance on Local Content
- ◀ NCDMB Commences Nigerian Content Research Competition



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*Celebrating a decade of energy, oil and gas innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa*

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Our publication features the latest industry stories, including industry and country reports, conferences and exhibitions, business opportunities, interviews, articles, press releases, feature stories, training programs, sharing of market information for public-private sector partnership {PPP}, marketing and advertorial content for indigenous, international, companies, businesses and global investors.

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# SAIPEC

Sub Saharan Africa International  
Petroleum Exhibition and Conference

## SAIPEC 2026

# NEWSLETTER

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**THE ENERGY REPUBLIC**  
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Conference Theme

**Celebrating a Decade of Energy, Oil,  
and Gas Innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa**

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# SAIPEC

Celebrating a decade of energy, oil and gas innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa



SAIPEC Official Event Publication



## THE ENERGY REPUBLIC

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# SAIPEC At 10: Celebrating a Decade of Energy, Oil, and Gas Innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa

**P**ETAN's Sub-Saharan African International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference, SAIPEC, continues its strategic alignment across Africa, reaching unprecedented levels, reflecting the exceptional value SAIPEC offers to the African energy landscape.

The 2026 edition is set to celebrate its 10th anniversary with special programmes of events, highlighting the growth opportunities, local content milestones, and the sustainable transformation of the Sub-Saharan African oil and gas industry.

From 10 to 12 February 2026, SAIPEC will hold its 10th edition aimed at strengthening the competitiveness and sustainable transformation of the region's energy industry, while showcasing indigenous companies' capabilities across all segments of the African oil and gas landscape.

Notably, the SAIPEC's exhibition spaces are fully sold out and are expected to surpass 200 exhibitors from across Africa and other continents. The SAIPEC Conference will feature a 'Country Spotlight Sessions' showcasing the upstream, midstream, and refining project opportunities from key markets including Nigeria, Angola, Ghana, Namibia, Senegal, Mozambique, among others.

SAIPEC is consolidating its role as an international meeting place for regional collaboration, commercial opportunities, presenting new solutions, and connecting the African industry regulators, stakeholders, and operators in the African energy value chain.

Organised by Global Event Partners, and hosted by PETAN, SAIPEC 2026 is shaping up to be an edition defined by Innovation. The SAIPEC

## SAIPEC 2026 CONFERENCE FEATURES

- 1** A Country spotlight sessions on upstream, midstream, and refining projects from key markets including Nigeria, Angola, Ghana, Namibia, etc..
- 2** A regulatory panel session to assess the reforms and investment frameworks in Africa.
- 3** An Investment Forum on capital deployment, risk management, and financing mechanisms for new energy ventures.
- 4** A dedicated panel session on Africa's Gas Opportunity and the continent's LNG outlook, domestic gas Infrastructure.
- 5** A local content panel session focused on indigenous capacity building, policy frameworks, project implementation, and supplier development strategies.
- 6** A DEI Leadership Panel focused on women and youth advancing in technical and leadership roles, followed by the SPE Futures Forum
- 7** SAIPEC's 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner and SAIPEC Awards, honouring industry leaders and long-term partners driving Africa's energy growth.



10th anniversary conference theme, “Celebrating a Decade of Energy, Oil, and Gas Innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa,” will feature a special programme of events, which includes in-country roundtables, a Local Content Pitching Session, and an expanded technical conference, offering deeper insights into engineering, project execution, and technology trends across Sub-Saharan Africa. This reflects the SAIPEC’s growth in building industry confidence in Africa, as well as celebrating decades of history and being a driving force for collaboration and technological development.

Engr. Wole Ogunsanya, PETAN Chairman, said: “SAIPEC is focusing on consolidating these efforts by strengthening policies that promote local content and maximizing the in-country value chain. Our goal is to ensure that the capacity we have built in one area can be transferred to other areas, allowing value to remain within Sub-Saharan Africa. The emphasis at SAIPEC is on leveraging past achievements to create even greater value for African energy stakeholders.”



Above all, SAIPEC has become the globally recognized energy event that has helped Africa’s energy professionals to find and build solutions for Africa’s vast resources and industries, thereby actualizing its increasing population’s energy needs.

Furthermore, there will a dedicated panel discussion held by regulators and governments to discuss policy frameworks and the possibilities of navigating the risks around investments in the African continent.



Discussions will highlight how African IOCs and Independents will drive Africa’s Energy. They will share how they plan to maximize local capacity and ensure economic growth with their acquisition of new assets.



African Gas Strategies and Opportunities are another strategic topic to be discussed at the SAIPEC conference.

Notably, SAIPEC features the Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion session, a spotlight on the achievements of African Women in the Energy sector. While the SAIPEC Future Generation Conference will engage the youths with empowering insights from industry leaders as a youth empowerment program.

SAIPEC 2026 will once again unite policymakers, operators, investors, and innovators to define Africa’s energy future, ensuring growth that benefits its people and economies.



## PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

9 FEBRUARY	10 FEBRUARY	11 FEBRUARY	12 FEBRUARY	13 FEBRUARY
Pre-event workshop Hosted by NCDMB				PETAN golf day
	Strategic conference	Strategic conference SPECIAL FOCUS: African Content Series	Strategic conference SPECIAL FOCUS: Diversity, Equality and Inclusion	
	Technical conference	Technical conference	Technical conference	
	Welcome cocktail reception	SAIPEC Awards	SAIPEC 10th anniversary celebration event	

## SAIPEC Unveils Programs, Speaker Line Up for Landmark 10th Anniversary Edition

The Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) has unveiled the conference program and speaker line up for its highly anticipated 10th Anniversary edition, reinforcing its position as Africa’s leading oil, gas, and energy event.

The anniversary programme will convene regulators, national oil companies, operators, investors, and service providers from across Africa and the global energy industry, creating a platform for robust engagement on policy, investment, and technology.

A central feature of the 10th anniversary agenda will be Nigeria’s ongoing oil licensing round, with dedicated sessions offering regulatory updates, insights into available acreage, and perspectives on investment opportunities. These discussions will be complemented by country spotlight sessions, showcasing upstream, gas, and infrastructure opportunities across key African energy markets.

The opening day will feature welcome addresses from senior government and industry leaders, followed by keynotes reflecting on SAIPEC’s decade-long impact. A regulatory panel will assess how reforms and investment frameworks can unlock exploration and production growth across the continent. Country spotlight sessions will present upstream, midstream, and refining projects from key markets including Nigeria, Angola, Ghana, Namibia, Senegal, and Mozambique.

The Investment Forum will focus on capital deployment, risk management, and financing mechanisms for new energy ventures.

The second day will explore “Africa’s Gas Opportunity – A Pillar for Industrialisation and Export.” Sessions will evaluate the continent’s LNG outlook, domestic gas infrastructure, and regional collaboration. Panels on local content and indigenous capacity building will highlight policy frameworks, project implementation,

and supplier development strategies. The day will culminate in the 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner and SAIPEC Awards, honoring industry leaders and long-term partners driving Africa’s energy growth.

The final day will turn to the workforce of the future, opening with a keynote on diversity and leadership transformation. The DEI Leadership Panel will spotlight women and youth advancing in technical and leadership roles, followed by the SPE Futures Forum, connecting young engineers, academics, and entrepreneurs.

SAIPEC 2026 will close with a presentation of actionable outcomes, policy insights, and collaboration pathways for the next phase of Africa’s energy transformation.

### New Features for 2026

New for this edition, SAIPEC introduces in-country roundtables, a Local Content Pitching Session, and an expanded technical conference, offering deeper insights into engineering, project execution, and technology trends.

In addition, and as part of the extended 10th Anniversary Celebratory Week, the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) will host the Local Content – African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) Energy Summit on 9 February 2026, serving as a prelude to SAIPEC 2026.

The Summit will explore the opportunities AfCFTA presents for strengthening intra-African energy trade and advancing local content participation across the continent.

With vast hydrocarbon reserves, expanding gas potential, and a growing drive toward renewable integration, Sub-Saharan Africa remains central to global energy diversification. For ten years, SAIPEC has played a critical role in driving collaboration, investment, and knowledge exchange across the continent’s energy markets.



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in Sub-Saharan Africa*

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## Beyond the Conference: Business, Technology, and Networking

### SAIPEC Buyer Programme

SAIPEC features a 'Buyer Programme' as part of its deliverables to enhance business development in the Sub-Saharan Africa oil and gas industry.

The "Buyer Programme" is open to everyone, both African and international companies. Due to its growing popularity.

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

Many international companies are participating, bringing in equipment and technology that can be applied in multiple African countries. This is in line with global trade practices, where collaboration helps generate higher value for the host country.

### Speaker Line Up

The confirmed speakers bring together a distinguished group of senior policymakers, regulators, and National Oil Company (NOC) executives from across Sub-Saharan Africa. Many of them have been part of SAIPEC's journey since its inception, contributing to its steady evolution from a regional industry gathering into a globally recognised forum for policy dialogue, investment promotion, and regional cooperation.

### First Confirmed Speakers Include:

- ◀ Dr Emeafa Hardcastle, Acting CEO, Petroleum Commission Ghana (Ghana)
- ◀ Engr. Felix Ogbe Omatsola, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Nigeria
- ◀ Hon. Dr Eng. Caleb Makwiranzou, Deputy Minister for Mines and Mining Development / Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA), Zimbabwe
- ◀ Foday Mansaray, Director General, Petroleum Directorate, Sierra Leone
- ◀ Dr Ernest Rubondo, Executive Director, Petroleum Authority of Uganda (Uganda)
- ◀ Dr Amadou Hassane, Former General Director of Hydrocarbons, Ministry of Petroleum, Niger Republic
- ◀ Baboucarr Njie, Managing Director, Gambia National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), The Gambia
- ◀ Proscovia Nabbanja, Chief Executive Officer, Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), Uganda
- ◀ Fabian M. Lai, President & CEO, National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL), Liberia
- ◀ Engr. Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan, Chief Executive, Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), Nigeria

◀ Engr. Wole Ogunsanya, CEO, Geoplex Limited and Chairman, Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN), Nigeria

◀ Kwaku Boateng, Director, Economics and Local Content, Petroleum Commission Ghana

◀ Jean Michel Akossi, Director of Local Content, Directorate of Local Content, Côte d'Ivoire

Collectively, these leaders represent institutions and energy markets that have maintained consistent engagement with SAIPEC over the past decade, underlining the conference's credibility as a trusted platform for long-term industry collaboration and policy continuity across Africa.

### Ten Years of Growth, Partnership, and Impact

Since its inception in 2017 as WAIPEC – the West Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference with just 148 delegates and the participation of two National Oil Companies (NOCs), SAIPEC has evolved into a truly pan-African platform, engaging over 1,400 delegates and 23 NOCs in 2025, with even greater participation expected in 2026.

Over the past decade, SAIPEC has facilitated millions of dollars in contracts and partnerships, driving projects and investments across Africa's energy value chain. "From a regional platform to a continental force, SAIPEC has evolved into Africa's leading meeting place for oil, gas, and energy dialogue," said Mr. Ibe Chubby Ibe, PETAN/SAIPEC Conference Chairman. "Our tenth anniversary represents both a celebration and a call to action — to shape the next decade of sustainable growth through collaboration, innovation, and African content leadership."

Networking and deal-making remain core pillars of SAIPEC. The 2026 edition will feature curated business meetings, executive receptions, and high-level industry networking events, designed to facilitate partnerships and strategic collaboration.

The international exhibition—one of the largest energy exhibitions in Sub-Saharan Africa—will host over 150 exhibitors, showcasing cutting-edge technologies, services, and solutions spanning exploration, production, engineering, digitalisation, and the energy transition.

# SAIPEC 2026

## A DECADE OF DRIVING AFRICAS ENERGY FUTURE

**Celebrating ten years of collaboration, innovation and opportunity across sub-Saharan Africas energy landscape.**

As Africas energy sector stands on the threshold of a new era, the sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) returns to Lagos from 10-12 February 2026, marking its 10th anniversary edition.

Hosted by the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN) in strategic partnership with the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), NNPC Ltd, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) and AOS Orwell, SAIPEC 2026 promises to be the most ambitious and influential gathering yet for Africas oil, gas and energy community.

“From a regional platform to a continental force, SAIPEC has become Africas meeting place for oil, gas and energy dialogue. Our tenth anniversary marks both a celebration and a challenge to shape the next decade of sustainable growth through collaboration, innovation and African content leadership.

**Mr. Ibe Chubby Ibe**  
PETAN/SAIPEC CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN



### From humble beginnings to a pan-African powerhouse

When it debuted in 2017 as WAIPEC the West Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference SAIPEC welcomed 148 delegates and two National Oil Companies (NOCs).

Today, it has grown into a truly continental platform that draws more than 1,400 participants, 23 NOCs and senior government, regulatory and industry leaders from over 50 countries.

Its international exhibition has more than doubled in size from 35 exhibitors at its inception to over 150 exhibitors expected in 2026 spanning the full energy value chain, from exploration and drilling to digital transformation and decarbonisation technologies.

Over the past decade, SAIPEC has facilitated millions of dollars worth of contracts, partnerships and projects, driving local content growth and industrial capacity across the region.



Sen. Heineken Lokpobiri Ph.D, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Federal Republic of Nigeria delivers a keynote address at SAIPEC 2025.



# Charting Africa's energy future: the 2026 programme

The SAIPEC 2026 conference will explore Africa's evolving role in the global energy landscape, with a three-day programme designed to foster strategic dialogue and partnerships.

## Day 1 African oil and gas opportunities

The opening day will feature keynote addresses and a high-level regulatory panel assessing how policy and investment frameworks can unlock new exploration and production growth. Country spotlight sessions will showcase upstream and midstream developments from Nigeria, Angola, Ghana, Namibia, Mozambique and beyond while the Investment Forum will explore financing strategies and risk mitigation in regional projects.

## Day 2 Gas development and local content

With natural gas central to Africa's industrialisation and export ambitions, day two focuses on Africa's gas opportunity. Sessions will highlight LNG expansion, domestic infrastructure and regional collaboration, alongside panels dedicated to local content, technology transfer and capacity building. The day concludes with the 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner and SAIPEC Awards, honouring innovation, leadership and long-term industry contributions.

## Day 3 Diversity, equality and inclusion plus the next generation

The final day will spotlight the future workforce featuring keynotes and discussions on diversity, equality and inclusion, alongside the SPE Futures Forum, where young professionals, academics and entrepreneurs share visions for the next decade of African energy development.

## A platform for progress

As Africa seeks to unlock its full energy potential balancing oil and gas development with the global energy transition SAIPEC continues to provide the platform where policy meets practice, and strategy meets opportunity.

For ten years, it has united governments, NOCs, IOCs, investors and innovators around a single mission: advancing Africa's energy sector for the benefit of its people and economies.

## Join the conversation

SAIPEC 2026 takes place 10-12 February 2026 at the Eko Convention Centre, Lagos, Nigeria.

The full conference programme and exhibition details are available now at [www.saipec-event.com](http://www.saipec-event.com)

Be part of the continent's most influential energy gathering where Africa's energy future is shaped.



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## Expanded features and networking opportunities

Beyond the main conference, SAIPEC 2026 introduces several new features, including in-country investment roundtables, a local content pitching session and an expanded technical programme focused on engineering innovation and digital solutions.

Networking will remain at the core of SAIPEC's appeal with exclusive receptions, interactive lunches and PETAN's signature golf day offering unrivalled opportunities to build partnerships and explore collaboration.

The international exhibition will again be a focal point an active showcase of cutting-edge technologies, digital tools and sustainability innovations driving operational excellence across Africa's energy sector.



*Engr. Wole Ogunsanya, PETAN Chairman, and Managing Director of Geoplex*

## How Africa Can Form Regional Alliance on Local Content, Develop Project In-country - Ogunsanya, PETAN Chairman

*...says PETAN ready to transfer knowledge to support other African countries on project development*

Africa's oil and gas industry has entered an era of growth and project opportunities, driven by a surge in new licensing rounds, coupled with exploration and production activities in both onshore and offshore terrain. According to an industry report, there are over 471 oil & gas projects in the upstream, midstream, downstream, and petrochemical sector, expected to come onstream between 2024 and 2028 in Africa.

These development positions African-owned companies at the forefront of participating in the project execution to retain value in-country.

As Africa is gaining momentum with strong prospects on project opportunities, Wole Ogunsanya, Managing Director of Geoplex, and current Chairman of Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria, PETAN, has said African indigenous companies have what it takes in terms of human capacity and technical know-how to deliver projects successfully.

PETAN Chairman called on African indigenous companies to consolidate their capacities to boost indigenous companies' participation in ongoing projects in Africa.

He stressed the pivotal role of indigenous companies in accelerating local content development across the African oil and gas value chain.

He noted that PETAN companies have been able to build capacity over the years, in collaboration with the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, NDCMB, to consolidate on their success stories for project development.

"PETAN's drive towards local content development isn't in any way discouraging international partnerships for project development," he reiterated while speaking at the SAIPEC 2025 conference, 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 stated.

He said, "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.

"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.

"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."

PETAN is an association of Nigerian Indigenous Technical Oilfield Service Companies in the upstream and downstream sectors of the oil and gas industry. The association is the leading local content development in Nigeria and the African oil and gas industry.



Engr. Wole Ogunsanya, PETAN Chairman, and Managing Director of Geoplex

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In addition, he emphasized that PETAN member companies have built capacity over the years ahead of many African countries.

"PETAN is ready to transfer knowledge as well as support other African countries to retain value in-country on project development.

"What we have added in PETAN is developing local know-how and local technology. We call it home advantage.

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

"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.

However, he acknowledged that there has been substantial progress made on regional collaboration on local content over the past five years, particularly in specific areas where technologies were outsourced from within the African continent.

He also pointed out that PETAN is collaborating with some African companies, especially in project development and technology transfer.

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

"PETAN is collaborating with Ghana, Mozambique, and Equatorial Guinea to advance regional collaboration for local content development.

"There's a need to develop more stronger regional collaborations to drive Africa's energy development on local content," he added.

In 2025, PETAN proposed that contracts worth \$1.5 billion be awarded to Nigerian companies from Shell's \$5 billion Bonga North Project as further proof of the country's seriousness in promoting local content in the oil and gas industry. This represents only 25 per cent of the entire Bonga North project.

The 2026 edition of the Sub-Saharan Africa Petroleum Exhibition and Conference, SAIPEC, stands as a prominent platform for African indigenous companies to explore project opportunities across the region's oil and gas value chain. SAIPEC features African NOC Country Showcase panel session, with a spotlight on project opportunities across the Sub-Saharan Africa oil and gas industry.

The SAIPEC conference are featuring more than 30 African national oil companies and industry regulators, creating an opportunity for investors and indigenous companies to get more insights about the prospects of projects and investment opportunities in several African countries, such as Nigeria, Angola, Namibia, Ghana, Gambia, Morocco, Mozambique, Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire, and other African countries.

**How Africa can form a regional alliance to develop projects**

Speaking in a one-on-one interview with

members of the African Association of Energy Journalists and Publishers, AJERAP, the PETAN Chairman called for stronger regional collaboration between African countries and companies to develop synergies for project development within the continent.

He said, "Africa should prioritize regional collaboration and form alliances to develop projects in Africa.

"With regional collaboration between African countries, you can learn faster and avoid making mistakes.

"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."

According to him, PETAN sees a robust 2026 for Africa and opportunities for African indigenous companies to provide services through regional collaboration.

"A lot of activities are ongoing in the African oil and gas industry. Deepwater operations will continue to grow in Africa.

"Africa should prioritize regional collaboration and form alliances to develop these projects within the African continent," he reiterated.

# PHOTO STORIES: Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum and Exhibition Conference (SAIPEC)





## NCDMB Unveils \$100m Equity Investment Scheme as Nigerian Content Hits 61% in 2025



Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, Executive Secretary of the NCDMB

**T**he Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has unveiled a \$100 million Equity Investment Scheme among a raft of fresh initiatives to bolster indigenous capacity and participation in the oil and gas industry. The Executive Secretary of the NCDMB, Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe announced this at a conference in Yenegoa, Bayelsa state.

The capacity audience included three ministers of state, members of the Local Content Committees of the National Assembly, a representative of the Bayelsa State Governor, Special Adviser to the President on Energy, two former Executive Secretaries of the NCDMB, Managing Director, Bank of Industry, and captains of the oil and gas industry.

According to Engr. Ogbe, the \$100 million Equity Investment Scheme would “provide equity financing to high-growth indigenous energy service companies, while diversifying the income base of the Nigerian Content Development Fund (NCDF).”

In furtherance of the \$100 million Equity Investment Scheme, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed at the event between Engr. Ogbe and the Managing Director of the Bank of Industry, Dr. Olasupo Olusi, toward management of the scheme, which is a new product of the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCI Fund).

The NCDMB boss also announced that 61 per cent Nigerian Content level already attained in the oil and gas sector by the third quarter of 2025 from the projects being monitored by the Board.

Another major announcement was the Board’s readiness to onboard a new set of Project 100 Companies after the successful implementation of approved interventions relating to the first set of Project 100 Companies, launched in 2019, for which an exit plan is slated for April 2026.

Project 100 Companies is an initiative of the Ministry of Petroleum Resources and the NCDMB under which 100 indigenous companies in the oil and gas industry are nurtured and empowered to higher levels of competitiveness through capacity building and access to market opportunities.

He also said the Board has concluded plans to launch its NCDMB Technology Challenge in the first quarter of 2026 and to hold a Research and Development Fair in the second quarter of 2026. In addition, a review of the Board’s seven current guidelines is to be undertaken between the first and second quarter of 2025.

Engr. Ogbe further disclosed that the Board has completed the framework for issuance of NCDF Compliance Certificate, an instrument to confirm that a company in the oil and gas industry has complied with the one per cent remittance obligations.

The Certificate will become effective on 1st January 2026 and would be required to obtain key permits and approvals from the Board.

Among recent accomplishments of the Board announced by the NCDMB boss was the expansion of access to community contractors under the Community Contractors Scheme, with over 94 disbursements made in 2025 alone. In addition, the Nigerian Content Academy has commenced operation as a full-fledged division of the Board, with seven of its Lecture Series on key industry issues already organised.

On human capacity development (HCD), the NCDMB has rolled out its Oil and Gas Field Readiness Training Programme for top 10 skills in high demand, on the back of the surge in final investment decisions (FIDs) on big-ticket projects in the oil and gas industry and over 20 Field Development Plans recently approved by the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC). The Programme is to ensure availability of indigenous technical capacity at the take-off of the projects.

The construction of the multibillion-naira Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre (OMRC) at Otuabagi in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State has also taken off, with the execution of a contract between the construction firm, Julius Berger Plc, and OMRC Limited in December 2024, while mobilisation to site was achieved in July 2025. Jointly sponsored by the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), NCDMB, Shell Petroleum Development Company (now Renaissance Africa Energy Limited), and Bayelsa State Government, the project is expected to be delivered within 30 months.

As part of its efforts to deepen Nigerian Content, NCDMB has launched the Nigerian Content Research, Innovation and Technology Challenge 2025/2026 with a call on interested individuals, research institutions, academia, oil and gas industry suppliers, and members of the public with research innovations, to submit their proposals for evaluation.

The competition, which seeks to identify and develop new technologies to address specific challenges in the oil and gas industry and its linkage sectors, requires that proposals be in line with approved thematic areas and priority industry challenge, namely, Geological and Geophysical Studies, Local Materials Substitution Studies, Technology Development Studies, Health, Safety and Environmental Studies, Engineering Studies, and Renewable Energy.



# TWF Support Programs Are Deployable Solutions African Countries Can Adopt to Deepen Local Content - Adeniyi



Ayo Adeniyi, Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Institute of Welding (NIW)

*In this interview, Ayo Adeniyi, Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Institute of Welding (NIW), and a prominent stakeholder at The Welding Federation (TWF), speaks with The Energy Republic, on the role of the TWF for local content development in the African oil and gas industry. Adeniyi also shared his views on the challenges in the African manufacturing and welding industries, and what needs to be done to create an enabling environment for the welding industry to thrive in the oil and gas sector in Africa.*

*Adeniyi is an entrepreneur with over 20 years of professional leadership experience in manufacturing (welding) management, encompassing management system implementation, policy development, and implementation both in the Nigerian and African welding industry. Excerpts:*

**TER:** TWF is involved in several stakeholder dialogues and programs in Africa. What is the role of TWF in the African oil and gas industry?

**Adeniyi:** The role of TWF in Africa's oil and gas industry is domestication and domiciliation of capabilities deployable to increase the creation and capture

of value from welding and materials manufacturing activities in Africa's oil and gas industry. TWF, via its activities, is steadily building a platform of aggregated capabilities that is unbundling complexities associated with ownership of systems and solutions applicable to Africa's and gas industry.

**TER:** How would you evaluate local development in the African oil and gas industry, and what are the challenges affecting the industry?

**Adeniyi:** On reviewing the progress of local content development in Africa, there are varying points of special concern to take note. There is awareness, committed activities, methodical deployment, and perception.

In terms of awareness, there is remarkable progress. Thanks to the formation and impressive activities of local content agencies across all industrial spaces in Africa. There is almost no country in Africa without some visible sort of activities tailored to local content development.

However, in terms of commitment, methodical deployment, and war on faulty assumptions, there is much that needs to be addressed. The most notable point of concern is that, rather than follow market motivation, most African countries are over-politicizing local content.

The pillars of politics and economic reality seem to exert an overriding influence on most local content policies rather than market forces or projections. This error stems from a lack of a deeper understanding of the long-term objective of local content development for sustainable industrialization.

A proper understanding demands that the purpose and driver of local content policies must be sustainable performance that complements market forces and market location.

This is the basis why TWF develops and promotes African content. In the long run, its positive offshoot is much more sustainable.

A critical cause of concern is how African countries are beginning to nurse counterproductive local content ideologies. In the long run, they are not market-driven, and access to opportunities isn't sustainable.

**TER:** How can Africa build regional systems to develop local content across the oil and gas value chain, and what needs to be done to expand local content in the welding industry?

**Adeniyi:** Africa must, as a matter of urgency, establish a harmonized regulatory framework that effectively integrates the efforts of respective national state industries into an aggregated pot of solutions that addresses the commonality of challenges in its welding and materials manufacturing industries.

It is no longer a subject of debate that there is an established uniformity in the challenges limiting access to increased socioeconomic values from Africa's oil and gas industry. Several publications give an avalanche of analysis on the challenges, but offer fewer workable solutions.

TWF African Content support Program, TWF National Impact Series, TWF Code of Practice, and TWF Personnel qualification programs are some readily deployable solutions that African countries can readily adopt to deepen capacities.

TWF Code of Practice in Welding Technology is one of such policies that establishes layers of control mechanisms, which African countries can use to increase their local content performance targets sustainably.



Welding is the biggest driver for local content, which values can be created and captured in Africa’s oil and gas industry.

TWF communiqués 2023, 2024, and 2025 are good reference documents for governments, local content agencies, and manufacturers to get further insight into the workings and policy gaps on local content. This can be used to create access for increased value in Africa’s oil and gas industry.

**TER: How is TWF building capacities among its members, and what are the latest innovations developed by TWF members that are reshaping Africa's oil and gas industry?**

**Adeniyi:** TWF Annual Welding Assembly and International Conferences are held every year across different countries.

At TWF Assemblies, there are discussions on capacity building, experiences are shared, scientific insights are reviewed, and collaborations are established. The trail of its impact is evident from its continuity and outcomes.

TWF Annual Assemblies have earned a reputation as Africa’s table of solutions in welding and materials development. A reputation earned from nursing and unifying Africa’s welding community, and sustaining awareness on the need and urgency for domestication, domiciliation, and deployment of African content solutions as a competitive alternative in Africa’s welding industry.

TWF continental welding competition keeps expanding the elastic limit of welding skills in Africa, marketing the availability of high-level skills within and beyond Africa, and connecting Africa's welding populace to opportunities wherever they exist.

TWF Technical Network Body on education and research is perhaps one of the most functional regular gatherings of experts in welding. They meet monthly, reviewing trends, discussing key issues, and collaborating on research.

In 2025, there was a lot of transnational collaboration in welding research on the TWF platform.

In 2026, TWF set a much bigger target, which is being pursued vigorously.

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

**Adeniyi:** TWF's annual calendar is always filled with multiple open events at different times of the year, powered by its executive board and members.

This includes: TWF Annual Assembly and International Conferences. The Welding Federation 4th Annual Assembly and International Conference will be held from 23-25 March 2026 at SALA DE CONFERENCIA JOAQUIM CHISSANO, Maputo, Mozambique, with the theme: “Exploring Sustainable Manufacturing in Africa.”

TWF is pleased to invite leading service providers, manufacturers, OEM representatives, local content agencies, labor bodies, training bodies, and members of the materials research community from leading institutions, to join the intense knowledge gathering and experience sharing session focused on growing and deploying local content capabilities in all value chain opportunities in materials manufacturing, across all of Africa’s national manufacturing ecosystems.

TWF Assemblies has earned a reputation as Africa’s table of solutions in welding and materials manufacturing — from Kampala, Uganda (2022), through Cairo, Egypt (2023), to Lagos, Nigeria (2024), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2025), and in 2026, Maputo, Mozambique.

TWF is an established platform for knowledge gathering, experience sharing, and collaborations towards building capacities to increase value content creation and capturing.

**TWF-African Welding Content Support Program**  
The TWF-Cranfield University collaboration is a tailored partnership specifically curated to address core deficiencies in Africa’s human capacity potentials in welding and materials manufacturing research.

The program leverages partnerships and collaborations to provide valid inroads for Africans to deepen high-end research capacity development with guarantees on national value creation and retention.

In line with its purpose, TWF-African Welding Content Support Program domesticates a high level of both scientific and commercial values from this collaboration to the benefit of African member states. The likes of overseas scholarship sponsorship activities of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund, Petroleum Authority Uganda, and many leading intervention agencies can take advantage of this program.

TWF National Impact Series Program- Establishment of TWF Orbital Welding Technology Centre

TWF, in collaboration with Special Equipment Fabrication Group (SFEG) and Pipetech Ltd, has successfully established the first orbital welding technology demonstration centre in Nigeria. SFEG is a global leader in the provision of orbital welding technology. This center is a product of collaboration between TWF and



several partners and promises to deliver world-class demonstrations in orbital technology to serve the pipe fabrication needs in the oil and gas, pharmaceutical, and food industries.

TWF is gladly calling on pipe fabricators and asset owners to visit the TWF Orbital Welding Technology Centre in Nigeria and have a feel of what the technology offers through demonstrations, training, and research references

TWF ISO 3834 Certification Services- Rebuilding and Rebranding Africa's Manufacturing Ecosystems  
TWF, through its ISO 3834 services, is steadily rebuilding and rebranding the African manufacturing ecosystem to be driven more by competitive productivity than local protectionism.

TWF ISO 3834 certification service is beyond just helping your company achieve and maintain ISO 3834 certification in an easy, cost-effective, and productive manner. TWF walks the journey with African companies to provide them with tangible return on



investment - namely, connected industry updates, happy customers, and enhanced business opportunities and gains continentally and globally.

At TWF, the passion is more about increasing the creation and capturing of value for African manufacturers than just ISO 3834 activities.

Therefore, whether you decide to engage TWF or switch to TWF, it's a wise decision in the long run.

**TER: TWF is participating in this year's SAIPEC event. How important is SAIPEC to TWF, and what will TWF showcase at SAIPEC 2026?**

**Adeniyi:** The Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) will return to the Eko Convention Centre in Lagos from 10-12 February 2026, marking the 10th edition of Africa's largest energy, oil, and gas event. SAIPEC has become a very important event on the TWF annual calendar.

At SAIPEC 2026, TWF has a single focus: Show up, Listen, and Share in your pressing concerns as a manufacturer, and OEM representative, a local content body, an asset owner like national oil companies, etc.

We are therefore inviting you to visit us at the SAIPEC exhibition stand W2.





# TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN NIGERIA’S OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY: Compliance, Gaps, and Practical Solutions



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## Introduction

**T**echnology transfer is the sharing or disseminating of knowledge, skills, methods, technologies, equipment, intellectual property or innovations from one entity (often a foreign company, university or research institution) to another (often a local company, country, or individual) enabling the recipient to use, adapt, and apply it independently to foster innovation, economic development and improved capabilities. Technology transfer embedded in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry

Content Development Act, 2010 (the “Act”), is an instrument towards Nigeria’s local content aspirations of building indigenous technical capacity, reducing reliance on foreign expertise, and fostering sustainable industrial growth in the oil and gas industry.

The expectation is that International Oil Companies (“IOCs”) operating assets, alongside international oilfield service providers (together “International Companies”) operating in Nigeria, not only operate or provide services but also transfer the knowledge, skills, processes, and equipment necessary for indigenous

companies to independently execute operations in the oil and gas industry. However, the practical implementation of technology transfer has been uneven. Some international companies, prioritizing profit and proprietary advantage, limit transfers to basic or brief training while retaining advanced technical processes exclusively.

***This article examines the scope of technology transfer in Nigeria’s oil and gas sector, the regulatory framework, guidelines for execution, challenges facing Nigerian companies, and strategies for overcoming these challenges.***

# TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN NIGERIA'S OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

## Regulatory Framework for Local Content Implementation

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (“NCDMB” or the “Board”) regulates local content development in the oil and gas industry in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Key regulations and guidelines include:

- Nigerian Oil and Gas Research and Development Regulation, 2021
- Regulation for Training in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry, 2021
- Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Technology Transfer Regulation, 2021
- Guidelines for Nigerian Content Human Capital Development Implementation Strategy
- Guidelines on Deduction of 1% Nigerian Content Development Fund (NCDF) levy

These instruments collectively establish the framework for indigenous technical capacity development and enforce technology transfer obligations.

### 1. Operational Obligations in Local Content

The Act imposes specific operational obligations for operators as a condition for regulatory approval. They include technology transfer, employment and training of Nigerians, first consideration for Nigerians in the award of contracts and procurement, and the succession program for expatriate positions.

**i. First Consideration Requirement:** Nigerians must be given priority in contracts, procurement, and service provision, demonstrated through submission of a Nigerian Content Plan (“NCP”) to the Board for approval.

**ii. Employment and Training:** Operators must give first consideration to Nigerians for employment and training and submit an Employment and Training Plan to the Board, including measures to develop local expertise where expatriates are engaged.

**iii. Nigerians for Junior and Intermediate Cadre:** All junior and intermediate positions in oil and gas operations are reserved exclusively for Nigerians.

**iv. Succession Plan:** Operators are mandated to submit a succession plan. Nigerians must understudy

such positions for a maximum of four years, after which the roles must be fully Nigerianized.

**v. Threshold for Management Positions held by Expatriates:** Expatriates are permitted to occupy no more than 5% of management roles as may be approved by the Board.

**vi. Prohibition of Importation of Welded Products:** The Act prohibits the importation of welded products. All fabrication and welding activities in the oil and gas industry must therefore be carried out within Nigeria.

**vii. Research and Development (R&D):** Operators are required to submit an R&D plan to the Board and update it every six (6) months.

**viii. Technology Transfer:** Operators must prepare and submit a Technology Transfer Plan, ensuring that international contractors and service companies establish joint ventures, partnerships, or licensing agreements with Nigerian entities.

Collectively, these measures are intended to reduce overreliance on foreign expertise and guarantee that Nigerians derive maximum value from industry operations.

### 2. Financial Obligations in Local Content

Beyond operational obligations, the Act also imposes financial responsibilities designed to support capacity development and ensure sustained investment in local participation.

#### I. The 1% Nigerian Content Development Levy (“NCD Levy”)

Section 104 of the Act establishes a Nigerian Content Development Fund (NCDF) administered by the Board to finance projects and initiatives that enhance local content in Nigeria’s oil and gas industry, funded through a 1% levy on the total cost of upstream projects.

In 2023, the Incorporated Trustees of the International Association of Drilling Contractors, Nigeria Chapter (“IADC”) sued the NCDMB by challenging the collection of the 1% Nigerian Content Development Fund (“NCDF”) levy, arguing that it applied only to upstream contracts awarded directly by operators or entities actively involved in upstream projects.

The Board, relying on its Guidelines on the Deduction of the 1% NCDF Levy, maintained that the levy applies to every upstream contract or sub-contract emanating from an upstream oil and gas project. The court dismissed the suit at the preliminary stage, ruling that the Board acted within its statutory mandate and

that the action failed to disclose a reasonable cause of action.

#### ii. Project-Based Human Capital Development (PBHCD)

By the provisions of the Guidelines for Nigerian Content Human Capital Development Implementation Strategy, operators of projects at different thresholds (call off contracts, \$1m to \$100m, \$100m to \$500m and above \$500m ) are saddled with the obligation to set aside a percentage of the total project cost as training budget for Human Capital Development (HCD).

#### Implementation of Nigeria Content Human Capital Development Obligations

To translate the policy intent into measurable capacity development, the Board operationalized the Human Capital Development provisions of the Act through the Guidelines for Nigerian Content Human Capital Development Implementation Strategy, 2020 (the Guidelines).

These Guidelines bridge the gap between the Act’s broad provisions and their practical implementation by establishing four key initiatives for Human Capital Development:

**a. Direct Intervention Human Capital Development (DIHCD):** Under the DIHCD initiative, the Board directly sponsors the training of graduates and artisans in professional, technical, vocational, entrepreneurial, and soft/essential skills.

**b. Project-based Human Capital Development (PBHCD):** Candidates for the PBHCD are usually selected from the Nigerian Content Joint Qualification System (NOGIC JQS). The training lasts for 12 months or the duration of the project, whichever is longer.

**c. Collaborative Human Capital Development (CHCD):** This initiative is executed through partnerships between the Board and key industry stakeholders, including NNPC, PTDF, PETAN, OGTAN, PTI, ITF, NDDC, international and national oil companies, marginal field operators, service providers, and tertiary institutions, among others.

**d. Remedial/Non-compliance Human Capital Development:** This type of Human Capital Development is a remedial initiative targeted at operators, contractors, or project executors who have wilfully or consistently breached the provisions of the Act and Nigerian content-related matters.

# TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN NIGERIA'S OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

## Technology Transfer: Beyond Human Capital Development.

Nigeria's local content objectives extend beyond individual training to the development of institutions, systems, and industrial capability through technology transfer. Technology transfer entails the embedding of advanced processes, proprietary technologies, and technical know-how passed from international companies to indigenous participants.

The Nigeria Oil and Gas Industry Technology Transfer Regulations, 2021 (the "Regulations") defined "Technology" as the application of scientific, systematic, and commercially usable knowledge, information, and skills developed outside Nigeria to produce goods, materials, services, or processes utilized by an operating company for the purpose of achieving its operation.

### The regulations classify technology transfer into three broad categories:

- i. The transfer of hardware technology, such as machinery, equipment, products, and other forms of hardware technology;
  - ii. The transfer of information-based technology such as data, design, statistics, manuals, blueprints, software, processes, models, methods, and techniques;
  - iii. The transfer of intangible technology, such as technical skills and knowledge, i.e., skill-based training, by international companies to indigenous participants.
- Registration of Technology Transfer Agreements

All agreements involving the transfer of foreign technology, such as patented inventions, trademarks, know-how, the supply of machinery and plants, the supply of basic or detailed engineering, technical assistance, or management services to a Nigerian entity must be registered with the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP). The primary purpose of registration is to facilitate the repatriation of proceeds arising from such transfers, and not a condition precedent to the validity of the transfer.

Judicial interpretation of the effect of non-registration of technology transfer

agreements has evolved through case laws.

In *Limak Yatirim, Enerji Üretim İşletme Hizmetleri Ve Insaat A.S. & Ors V. Sahelian Energy & Integrated Services Ltd*, the Court of Appeal held that an unregistered agreement was void, creating the impression that non-registration invalidates such contracts.

However, in a more recent decision, the Court clarified that non-registration does not affect the validity of the contract itself; it only prevents the foreign party from legally repatriating funds arising from the agreement.

Consequently, parties remain bound by the terms of unregistered agreements, but any attempt to remit payments abroad without registration is prohibited and may expose the company or directors to liability. Registration with NOTAP is therefore a condition precedent for remittance of payments overseas.

### Challenges of the Implementation of Technology Transfer

Despite the existence of legal and institutional frameworks designed to promote technology acquisition in the Nigerian oil and gas sector, several persistent issues continue to hinder meaningful local technological development. These include:

- 1. Compliance Gaps:** Many international companies fulfil regulatory requirements only on paper. Training programs are often superficial, limiting genuine transfer of advanced skills and proprietary knowledge. As a result, indigenous operators remain dependent on expatriates and international contractors.
- 2. Reluctance to Share Proprietary Knowledge:** IOCs frequently guard critical technical know-how and sophisticated engineering processes, viewing them as competitive advantages. This perpetuates dependence on foreign expertise.
- 3. Weak Regulatory Enforcement:** The Nigerian government has historically been cautious in enforcing local content and technology transfer obligations, fearing that strict enforcement could discourage foreign investment and destabilize an oil-dependent economy.
- 4. Multiplicity of Laws and Overlapping Regulations:** Technology transfer obligations are fragmented across several statutes, regulations, and guidelines, including the NOGICD Act,

Technology Transfer Regulations, and NOTAP Act, making compliance cumbersome.

### Strategies to Tackle the Challenges

**1. Enhanced Board Oversight:** Oil company boards should go beyond verifying documents, instituting internal audits to monitor actual technology transfer and ensure commitments result in measurable capacity building and skills acquisition.

**2. Collaborative Training Initiatives:** In partnership with the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (the Commission), the Board may enter bilateral or multilateral training agreements with OPEC member states, crude oil off-takers, or strategic energy partners. A notable reference is the Norway-Ghana Oil for Development Programme (2007), which contributed to local content creation by strengthening Ghana's institutional, legal, and technical capacity to manage its petroleum resources and deliberately embed local participation into the oil and gas value chain.

**3. Mandatory or "Quid-Pro-Quo" Technology Transfer (The China Model):** China historically tied foreign market access to mandatory technology transfer through joint ventures or licensing. While potentially discouraging investment, it accelerated domestic technological advancement. Adapting this approach could ensure Nigerian operators obtain substantive technology transfer rather than mere procedural compliance.

**4. Legal Uniformity and Consolidation:** Fragmented laws and overlapping regulations make compliance difficult. Consolidating all local content provisions into a comprehensive law would reduce conflicts, simplify enforcement, and improve compliance incentives.

### Conclusion

To fully realize the benefits of local content, Nigeria must strengthen regulatory oversight, enforce compliance, and foster collaboration between government, IOCs, and indigenous firms.

Investment in R&D, structured apprenticeships, and incentives for genuine technology embedding are essential. Success in technology transfer depends not only on legislation but on all stakeholders' commitment to ensuring that knowledge, processes, and innovations are genuinely indigenized for sustainable growth in the oil and gas sector.



Dr. Mike Roshchin, Head of AI at AIQ

## AIQ Targets Africa’s Oil and Gas Industry for AI Deployment

**A**IQ, a UAE-based technology company, is targeting Africa to deploy its ENERGYai technology in the African oil and gas sector.

From predictive optimization, seismic analysis and interpretation, and intelligent asset management, AIQ’s ENERGYai is transforming the energy, oil, and gas sector and helping deliver maximum value for operators. The company’s pioneering agentic AI platform is currently in the deployment phase at ADNOC.

Dr. Mike Roshchin, Head of AI at AIQ, said in an interview with The Energy Republic that the company's ENERGYai technology can be integrated in the upstream sector to drive operational excellence, enhance production capacity, and reduce emissions in the oil and gas industry.

Notably, the company has developed 14 AI-enabled products deployed

across the energy value chain, which are being used for augmented solutions and autonomous operations. These solutions help humans become more efficient and run specific tasks autonomously, particularly in hazardous environments in the oil and gas industry.

Speaking about the AIQ ENERGYai features, Roshchin said ENERGYai covers almost 75% of all use cases related to subsurface and upstream operations.

"ENERGYai can conduct seismic analysis within 40 minutes for a 20,000-kilometre seismic cube. This is a dramatic difference, and the accuracy is up to 90%.

"ENERGYai also helps identify false horizons within the seismic cube and other characteristics.

"The second and third use cases are Geomodelling. ENERGYai takes our large language models and machine learning tools and combines them into one module to generate the final data within a couple of minutes.

"ENERGYai also incorporates tools for field development planning, which include reservoir modelling, safety implementation, and production levels, combined to make investment decisions, with analyses on the profitability of the fields. This is exactly what ENERGYai supports with," he explained.

On emission reduction, he stated that the ENERGYai helps optimize energy efficiency to reduce emissions even at the production level.

According to him, the AI technology provides information on how much energy will be produced, which enables producers to get insights into their production output.

He added, "ENERGYai is within the deployment phase in ADNOC facilities in their onshore and offshore operations. It helps enhance decision-making, sustainability, and operational efficiency.

"We are looking forward to integrating our AI technologies in the global energy market. The beauty of our technology is that it is scalable and adaptable to existing assets.

"AIQ is an agency of AI agents. If there is demand for seismic interpretation and field development planning, we deploy our AI agents to run the operations. It makes the process extremely straightforward.

"At AIQ, we want to scale globally, collaborating with companies on different continents, including Africa. Africa is one of our major focus areas in 2026 and beyond."

In the UAE, more than 20% of ADNOC wells are being run by AIQ's ENERGYai. These wells are running autonomously. It is the first time this has happened in the UAE.

All ADNOC’s reservoir analysis is done by AIQ’s AI tools.

AIQ has also established strategic partnerships with the companies such as SLB, Halliburton, Baker Hughes, and other major energy companies including technology providers.



## Nigeria Opens Bid for 50 Oil Blocks

The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) has launched the 2025 Licensing Round effective December 1, 2025.

In a statement made known to The Energy Republic, NUPRC is offering 50 oil and gas blocks across frontier, onshore, shallow water, and deepwater terrains for potential investors. The basins included Niger Delta basin, with 35 blocks, Benin (Frontier) with three blocks, Anambra (Frontier), with four blocks, Benue (Frontier), with four blocks and Chad (Frontier) with four blocks on offer.

The NUPRC Chief Executive, Mrs. Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan, has reiterated that a transparent, merit-based and competitive process will be carried out during the bidding process.

“The Licensing Round is an open call for committed partners, those ready to invest, bring technology and accelerate Nigeria’s assets from licence award to exploration, appraisal and ultimately, full production,” she said.



“Let me state clearly that the bid process will comply with the PIA 2021, promote the use of digital tools for smooth data access, and remain open to public, international, and institutional scrutiny, through partners like NEITI, and other oversight agencies. Indeed, transparency is an integral part of our process,” she said.

She stressed that since December 1, 2025, all licensing materials have been posted on the Commission’s portal, dedicated support channels created to enable prompt response to enquiries from applicants, noting that the pre-bid conference has provided an opportunity to clarify the requirements to promote a transparent, well-informed participation process.

In addition, she explained that the licensing process would follow five stages: Registration and pre-qualification, data acquisition, technical bid submission, evaluation, and a commercial bid conference, with only bidders that meet strong technical and financial criteria progressing.

According to her, the signature bonuses for the 2025 Bid Round are now set within a value-range that reduces entry barriers and places greater weight on what truly matters.

“The Nigerian 2025 Licensing Round is not merely a bidding exercise; it is a clear signal of a reimagined Upstream Sector anchored on the rule of law, driven by data, aligned with global investment realities, and focused on long-term value creation,” she added.

## NNPC announces new oil discovery in Niger Delta

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd) has congratulated Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL), operator of the NNPC Ltd/CNL Joint Venture, on the successful completion of the Awodi-07 appraisal and exploration well located in the shallow offshore western Niger Delta.



The Awodi-07 well was drilled as part of the Joint Venture’s ongoing efforts to further delineate and unlock hydrocarbon potential within its asset portfolio. Drilling operations commenced in late November 2025 and were concluded in mid-December 2025, with all activities executed safely, efficiently, and in strict compliance with approved operational and regulatory standards. Following the completion of comprehensive testing, logging, and data acquisition, the well was safely secured, bringing the programme to a successful close.

Commenting on the achievement, the Group Chief Executive Officer of NNPC Ltd, Engr. Bashir Bayo

Ojulari, commended: “Chevron Nigeria Limited for its operational excellence, technical competence, and consistent delivery of value.

He stated: “The success of the Awodi-07 well further reinforces the strength of the NNPC Ltd/CNL Joint Venture and our shared commitment to responsibly growing Nigeria’s hydrocarbon reserves. This achievement aligns squarely with our strategic priorities of increasing production, enhancing national energy security, and delivering sustainable value for the Nigerian people.”

Also speaking on the milestone, the Executive Vice President, Upstream, NNPC Ltd, Mr. Udy Ntia, described the Awodi-07 results as a clear demonstration of the value of sustained

collaboration, technical rigour, and a stable, enabling operating environment.

According to him: “This discovery underscores the importance of disciplined exploration programmes, strong partnerships, and the positive impact of the reforms introduced under the Petroleum Industry Act. We look forward to working closely with Chevron Nigeria Limited to mature this opportunity and progress it towards timely development and monetisation.”

NNPC Limited and Chevron Nigeria Ltd work together under a joint venture agreement to operate several oil and gas fields in Nigeria’s Niger Delta. In this partnership, Chevron owns 40 per cent of the assets, while NNPC Limited holds the remaining share. The arrangement allows both companies to combine resources, expertise, and investment to develop Nigeria’s oil and gas resources more effectively.

Through this collaboration, the partners aim to increase oil production to about 146,000 barrels per day, which would support government revenue, create jobs, and contribute to the country’s energy supply.



...Milestone Represents Nigeria's Dev't Aspirations, Says Ekpo

## NNPC launches Gas Master Plan 2026, targets 12bcf/day production by 2030, \$60 billion in new investments

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited has unveiled its Gas Master Plan 2026, tagged NGMP 2026, targeting 10 billion cubic feet of daily gas production to drive industrialisation and strengthen Nigeria's energy security.

The plan was launched at the NNPC Towers in Abuja recently, underscoring government's resolve to translate the nation's vast gas endowment into tangible economic value, infrastructure expansion, and global competitiveness, in alignment with its long-term development aspirations.

Government officials and industry leaders at the launch described the plan as a commercially driven roadmap aligned with national development goals.

"Today's launch is not merely the unveiling of a document; it represents a deliberate shift towards a more integrated, commercially driven and execution-focused gas sector aligned with Nigeria's development aspirations," said the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Gas), Rt. Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo.

"Nigeria is fundamentally a gas nation. With one of the largest proven gas reserves in Africa, our challenge has never been potential, but translation," Ekpo added.

The Group Chief Executive Officer, NNPC Ltd, Engr. Bashir Bayo Ojulari, described the NNPC Gas Master Plan 2026 as a bold, effective execution-anchored roadmap designed to unlock Nigeria's immense gas potential and elevate the country into a globally competitive gas hub.

Ojulari noted that with about 210 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of proven gas reserves and an upside potential of up to 600 Tcf, Nigeria possesses one of the most consequential hydrocarbon basins in the world; one reinforced by the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) and the Federal Government's gas-centric energy transition agenda.

"The Plan is structured not just to deliver - but to exceed- the Presidential mandate of increasing national gas production to 10 billion cubic feet per day by 2027 and 12 billion cubic feet per day by 2030, while catalysing over 60 billion dollars in new investments across the oil and gas value chain by 2030."

He explained that the Plan prioritises cost optimisation, operational excellence, and systematic advancement of resources from 3P to bankable 2P reserves, while strengthening gas supply to power generation, CNG, LPG, Mini-LNG, and critical industrial off-takers.

The Chairman of the Independent Petroleum Producers' Group, Adegbite Falade, said the plan would help bridge the gap between policy intent and execution.

The Chairman of the Oil Producers Trade Section, Matthieu Bouyer, commended NNPC Ltd for the ambition behind the roadmap.

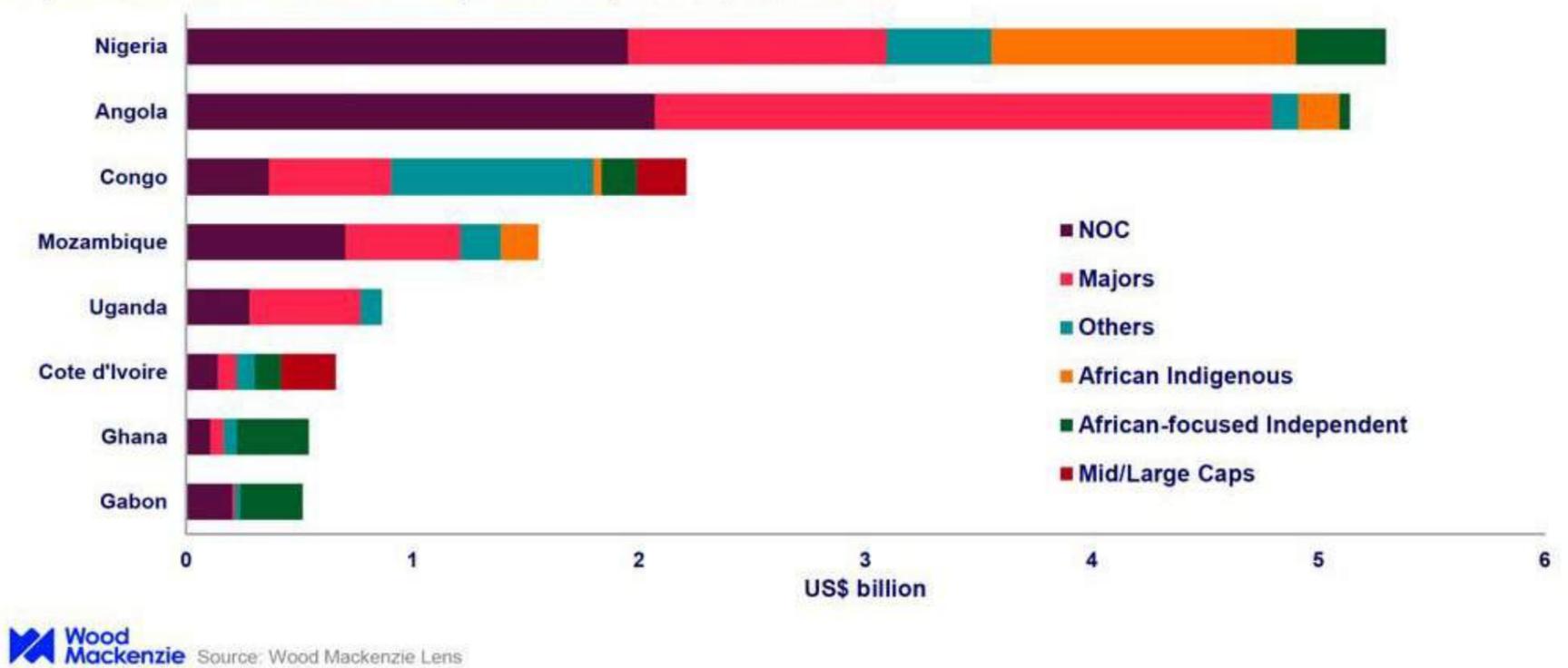
The comments underscore the emphasis on implementation, commercial viability and coordinated sector-wide action.

The Gas Master Plan 2026 is an offshoot of the Nigerian Gas Master Plan (NGMP) 2008, which is a strategic framework aimed at maximizing the economic benefits from the country's abundant gas resources. The Gas Master Plan 2026 is expected to serve as the definitive framework for coordinated gas sector development, execution discipline, and value creation over the next decade.

## Nigeria and Angola kept top spots, as both maintained investment momentum

With force majeure lifted, Mozambique's spend focused on LNG while Congo's diversified across all areas

Top SSA countries in 2025 with upstream capex >US\$500 million



SOURCE: WOOD MACKENZIE

## Nigeria Leads Africa's Upstream Investment With \$8 Billion

*...secures five FIDs from eight projects across Sub-Saharan Africa over the last two years.*

Nigeria has retained its position as the top destination for upstream investment across Africa for the second consecutive year, according to Wood Mackenzie's latest report.

The report highlights Nigeria's oil and gas investment landscape and its policy reforms and enabling business environment, providing both validation and renewed strategy to strengthen the oil and gas industry in 2026.

Only two Final Investment Decisions (FIDs) were recorded across Sub-Saharan Africa in 2025, with Nigeria securing one of them.

The investment includes the Shell-Sunlink HI Field (OML 144), a shallow-water non-associated gas development with 1.9 Tcf of gas and 14 million barrels of condensate, reached FID on the back of Nigeria's non-associated gas (NAG) incentives issued in 2024, which restored commercial viability and unlocked critical feedstock for NLNG.

Despite an 18% decline in upstream spending across Sub-Saharan



Olu A. Verheijen, Special Adviser on Energy to President Tinubu

Africa in 2025, Nigeria also retained the top spot for upstream investment in 2025, attracting \$5.3 billion in upstream capital investment.

This was driven by sustained development drilling across onshore, shallow-water, and deep-water assets, including Bonga and OML 28.

Speaking about this development, Olu A. Verheijen, Special Adviser on Energy to President Tinubu, confirmed that Nigeria secured 4% (\$5 billion) of sanctioned African FIDs, covering 6 of 44 projects between 2015 and 2023.

"In contrast, over the last two years, Nigeria has secured 38% (\$8 billion) of sanctioned FIDs, 5 of 8 projects across the continent," Verheijen explained.

She said this turnaround reflects the impact of decisive reforms implemented over the past 24 months.

"Nigeria now offers among the most competitive deep-water fiscal terms globally and the most attractive gas terms in Africa.

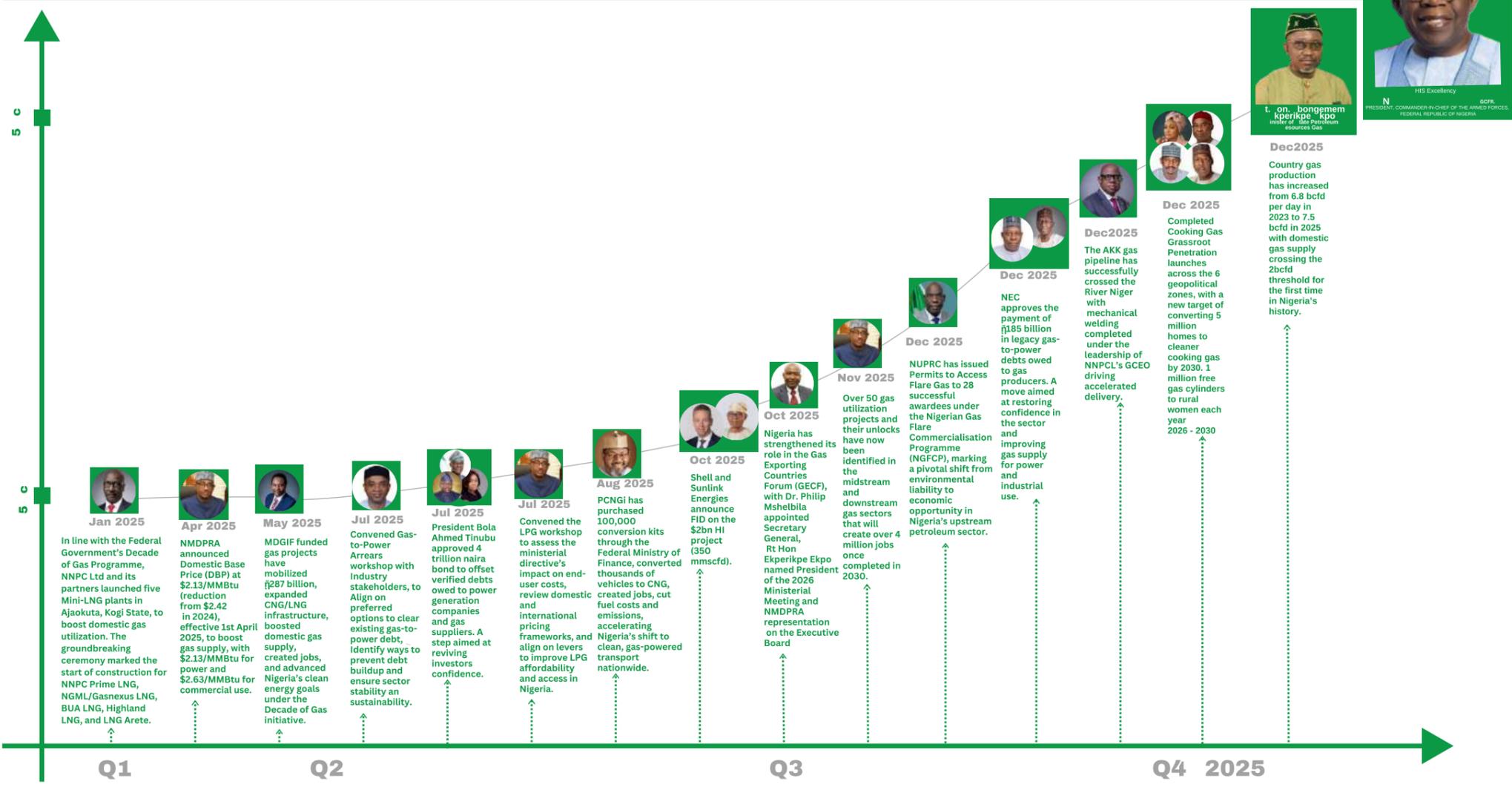
"Looking ahead, Nigeria expects additional FIDs, including in Non Associated Gas projects, supported by targeted NAG incentives and a stable, investor-focused policy framework," she added.



# ACCELERATING NIGERIA GAS DEVELOPMENT TO DELIVER PROSPERITY TO NIGERIANS DURING THIS DECADE



His Excellency  
Minister of State for Petroleum Resources



## Nigeria's Decade of Gas Gains Momentum with Increased Production and Investments

Nigeria's Decade of Gas programme has recorded remarkable milestones over the past two years, with increased gas production output, renewed investor confidence and increased infrastructure development geared towards the country's goal of becoming a gas-powered economy by 2030.

According to a data from a factsheet by the Decade of Gas Office, made available to The Energy Republic, reveals that gas production increased from 6.8 billion cubic feet per day (bcfd) in 2023 to 7.5 bcfd in 2025, while domestic gas supply crossed the 2 bcfd threshold for the first time in Nigeria's history.

In addition, over 1 bcfd of additional gas supply was also unlocked through final investment decisions and firm gas supply agreements, with export gas volumes returning to 2021 levels.

Since the Minister of State, Ekperikpe Ekpo, assumed office, several milestones have been recorded across key segments of the gas value chain.

Confidence in the gas-to-power segment has also improved following presidential approval for the settlement of approximately N185 billion, equivalent to over \$500 million, in outstanding debts owed by the power sector to gas producers for nearly 12 years.

Notably, upstream investment has also increased, with three final investment decisions, which include Iseni, Ubeta and H1 project, mobilising over \$2 billion towards a long-term investment target of \$30 billion by 2030.

Nigeria has strengthened its global gas advocacy profile by securing leadership positions within the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), including the presidency of the GECF Ministerial Meeting in 2026, the position of Secretary-General, and representation by the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) on the forum's executive board.

On the domestic front, 2025 recorded a reduction in the domestic gas base price from \$2.42 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) to \$2.13/MMBtu, reflecting efforts to balance affordability with sustained investment. A ministerial directive mandating increased liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) production was issued to deepen household supply, alongside the launch of two pilot export redirection programmes under the LPG grassroots penetration initiative.

Progress was also recorded under the Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund (MDGIF), with governing council approval secured to finance more than 20 critical gas infrastructure projects valued at over N287 billion. More than 50 per cent of the funds have been disbursed, with projects at various stages of construction.

Infrastructure delivery by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) advanced during the period, including completion of the Ajaokuta–Kaduna–Kano (AKK) gas pipeline river crossing and mechanical welding works.

The Escravos–Lagos Pipeline System (ELPS) recorded over 90 per cent availability in 2025, supplying gas to industries, while completion of the OB3 pipeline crossing is now projected for 2026.

In conclusion, there are over 40 gas projects identified across the midstream and downstream segments that can generate over four million jobs by 2030.



# Shell to invest \$20bn on Bonga South West, eyes 2027 for FID

Shell plans to invest \$20 billion in the Bonga South West deepwater project offshore Nigeria, citing improved political stability, policy consistency, and leadership as key factors driving its confidence in the country's energy sector.

The Chief Executive Officer of Shell Plc, Wael Sawan, disclosed the company's investment plans during a meeting with President Bola Tinubu in Abuja.

Sawan said that Nigeria now stands out as one of the most attractive destinations for capital allocation within Shell's global portfolio.

"We think there is more to invest here, and we understand the vision that you (President Bola Tinubu) have for the country, and so we are indeed working on a project, Bonga Southwest, that could potentially, if we get to an FID stage, see us, with the partners, invest around \$20 billion in foreign direct investment," Mr Sawan said.

Shell CEO explained further that half of the \$20 billion will be capital, and the other half will be the operating expenses and the likes that will come into the country.

Mr Sawan praised Nigeria's human capital, describing Nigerian professionals within Shell's global operations as one of the company's largest expatriate talent pools, many of whom, he said, are expected to return home to contribute to national development.

The proposed investments underscore a gradual return of confidence by international oil companies (IOCs) in Nigeria, Africa's largest oil producer, after years of declining capital inflows driven by regulatory uncertainty, security challenges and project delays.

Meanwhile, Chief Executive Officer of NNPC Limited, Bayo Ojulari, said the Tinubu administration's reform agenda has helped unlock long-standing bottlenecks in the oil and gas sector, paving the way for major investment decisions and stalled project approvals.

Ojulari noted that improvements in policy clarity, fiscal terms and regulatory processes have created a more predictable operating environment for investors, particularly in capital-intensive deep offshore projects.

"Reforms implemented by the current administration have addressed several structural constraints that previously hindered investment flows into the sector," he said. "This has enabled critical milestones, including asset divestments, project approvals and renewed engagement by international partners."

According to Ojulari, Shell has already taken a Final Investment Decision (FID) of \$5 billion on the Bonga North project, a deep offshore development expected to add significant production capacity once completed. In addition, the company has approved a further \$2 billion for gas-related developments,



*Wael Sawan, Chief Executive Officer, Shell*

reinforcing Nigeria's strategic focus on natural gas as a transition fuel.

Deep offshore assets account for a significant share of Nigeria's oil production and export earnings, making them critical to foreign exchange inflows and fiscal stability. Analysts note that renewed IOC activity in this segment could help reverse production declines and strengthen government revenues amid persistent macroeconomic pressures.

The Tinubu administration has repeatedly stated that its reforms in the oil and gas industry are designed to restore investor confidence, boost crude oil and gas production, and position Nigeria as a competitive destination for global energy capital.

Key measures have included streamlining regulatory approvals, improving fiscal terms, and strengthening the governance framework under the Petroleum Industry Act.

If fully realised, Shell's proposed \$20 billion investment could significantly strengthen Nigeria's upstream capacity, accelerate gas development and reinforce the country's role in global energy supply chains.

The investments are also expected to create jobs, deepen local content participation and support technology transfer across the oil and gas value chain.

Shell's renewed commitment may mark a turning point in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.



# Angola maintains momentum on upstream sector, shifts to gas to boost exports



Following the establishment of the National Oil, Gas & Biofuels Agency (ANPG) in 2019 and the subsequent launch of a multi-year licensing strategy, Angola has continued to build momentum for sustained investment across its deepwater margins. The country was able to attract sustained investment in undeveloped blocks. Between 2019 and 2025, 64 blocks were offered, of which 37 were awarded and 27 are currently under approval or negotiation.

Angola's FDI attractiveness is reinforced by IOC activity in the country's oil and gas industry. Leading operators continue to consolidate their portfolios, pursuing new acreage while reinvesting in mature blocks. Eni plans to invest \$5 billion in the market over the next several years, building on \$5 billion invested to date. TotalEnergies plans to invest \$3 billion through its Dalia Life Extension project, while ExxonMobil could invest as much as \$15 billion in Angola - contingent on exploration results. Shell's return to Angola in 2025 further reinforced the country's renewed appeal to global investors, with the company set to invest \$1 billion on new oil blocks in the country.

On the project front, TotalEnergies is developing the \$6 billion Kaminho deepwater development, targeting a 2028 start. Azure Energy is scaling operations at the Agogo Integrated West Hub Development and

New Gas Consortium project, following the start of operations at both in 2025. Meanwhile, Chevron is expanding oil production, with the South N'dola field delivering first oil in December 2025.

These advancements signal strong investor confidence in Angola's capacity to support large-scale, long-term hydrocarbon projects.

Angola's investment proposition is becoming structural: a mature deepwater ecosystem built over decades, a pipeline of investable acreage and greater clarity around licensing, contracting and development timelines.

Looking forward, Angola is redefining its energy strategy by placing natural gas at the centre of its economic future, according to the African Energy Chamber (AEC)'s State of African Energy 2026 Outlook.

The report notes that after decades of treating gas largely as a byproduct of oil production, Angolan policymakers are now positioning it as a key driver of exports, power generation and industrial growth.

The shift marks a significant departure from Angola's long-standing reliance on associated gas, much of which has historically been reinjected to maintain pressure in offshore oil fields. While this practice supported crude output, it left substantial gas resources underutilised.

The commissioning of Angola LNG in 2008 was the first major turning point, enabling the country to enter global LNG markets and reduce emissions by capturing gas that would otherwise have been flared or reinjected.

New supply sources are now emerging. Chevron's Sanha Lean Gas project, which delivered first gas in late 2024, is feeding additional volumes into Angola LNG, while the New Gas Consortium – led by Azure Energy with Sonangol, Equinor and Acrep – is advancing non-associated gas developments in the Lower Congo Basin.

The Quiluma and Maboqueiro fields are expected to help fill LNG capacity by 2026.

Exploration activity is also gaining momentum.

Azure's 2025 discovery at the Gajajeira-01 well and planned drilling in the Congo Fan and Namibe Basin signal renewed confidence in Angola's gas potential.

However, challenges remain: several pre-salt discoveries in the Kwanza Basin are stranded due to deepwater costs and the absence of pipelines needed to move gas to shore.

Infrastructure is the sector's biggest bottleneck.

AEC notes that unlocking Kwanza Basin resources would require new pipelines to Caboleto, onward links to Luanda for domestic use, and possible extensions to Soyo to supply Angola LNG.

The Angola Gas Master Plan outlines major power and industrial projects, including expansions at the Soyo combined-cycle gas plant and a 2,300-tonnes-per-day ammonia facility which began construction in 2025.

These developments could consume significant volumes of gas, supporting both energy security and industrialisation.

"Gas gives Angola the opportunity to industrialise, stabilise power supply and monetise resources that were previously wasted," said AEC executive chairman NJ Ayuk, who stressed that early investment in infrastructure and pricing frameworks would determine which countries succeed in the emerging African gas economy.



MINISTERIAL TOUR AT EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE (EACOP) PROJECT

## East Africa set to begin crudeoil exports by October 2026

*...as East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project progress has reached 79%.*

**E**ast Africa is gearing up to enter global crude markets as the \$5 billion East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project has reached 79 percent completion, setting an ambitious target for first crudeoil exports by October 2026.

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), also known as the Uganda–Tanzania Crude Oil Pipeline (UTCOP), is a 1,443 km crude oil pipeline in planning since 2013, under construction since 2017. Uganda is on track to achieve its first oil production by July 2026, following progress updates from the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

Officials from Uganda and Tanzania confirmed the update following high-level talks, revealing the \$5 billion pipeline is now 79% complete.

The project will transport crude oil from Uganda’s Lake Albert fields to Tanzania’s Port of Tanga, with technical start-up scheduled for July 2026.

Once operational, EACOP will officially place Uganda among Africa’s oil-

exporting nations, marking a major economic and strategic milestone.

Speaking during the supplier development forum organised by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Ltd at Sheraton Hotel in Kampala, Kamal Bouzalmata, the EACOP commissioning manager said the pipeline is at 79% completion, noting that this means it is ready for commissioning.

“When the project enters 70%, it is in completing phase. Therefore, the commissioning phase of EACOP marks a critical transition from construction to operation particularly electric infrastructure, and instrumentation, telecommunication and security,” Kamal said.

The Uganda Minister of Energy and Mineral Development Dr. Ruth Nankabirwa Sentamu reaffirmed the timeline during an inspection visit to Pump Station 1 (PS1) in Kabaale, Hoima District.

The visit, part of the ministry’s oversight of strategic energy infrastructure, assessed construction progress at PS1, the starting point of the 1,443-kilometre pipeline that will transport Uganda’s crude oil to the Indian Ocean port of Tanga in Tanzania.

The pipeline is intended to export crude oil from Uganda’s Tilenga and Kingfisher oil fields to the Port of Tanga, Tanzania on the Indian Ocean.

Addressing journalists after the inspection, Nankabirwa said progress in Uganda and Tanzania are closely aligned.

“What is happening in Tanzania and what is happening here in Uganda is different, but generally speaking, they are all moving towards the target in terms of completion. They are almost at the same level,” she said.

“Here in Uganda we are almost 100% at Kingfisher, while at the jetty in Tanga, the two-kilometre jetty into the sea is completed, the marine terminal and four marine tanks are done, electricity installation and water tanks are also in place.

“Ships are being aligned so that one loads within two or three weeks and another follows, to make sure we do not affect the tanks. These tanks are not meant to store crude for long, and there are logistical implications of holding crude in storage,” she explained.

EACOP is owned by TotalEnergies at 62 percent, Uganda’s National Oil Company (UNOC) at 15 percent, Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) 15 percent and CNOOC at 8 percent.



# Ghana moves to boost production output, awards two deepwater licences for extension of Jubilee and TEN fields

**G**hana's government has approved extensions to two deepwater licences covering the Jubilee and Twenboa-Enyenra-Ntomme (TEN) fields, paving the way for a larger state stake in production as the country seeks to boost long-term revenues and stabilise output.



Initial flowback results suggest J-74 will produce more than 10,000 barrels per day (bpd). With the new well online, gross production from Jubilee is projected to start 2026 at close to 70,000 bpd, up from an average of about 59,000 bpd in the fourth quarter of 2025.

The TEN project will also benefit from the revised terms. Partners have agreed final sale and purchase conditions to acquire the floating production, storage and offloading vessel used at TEN when its current lease expires in 2027. Owning the vessel is expected to lower operating costs and improve project economics.

Ghana's deeper participation in Jubilee and TEN seeks to maximise national returns from offshore petroleum resources at a time of fiscal strain. By locking in longer production horizons and a larger equity share, the state stands to earn higher revenues in the later years of the fields' lives.

The licence extensions now await parliamentary approval, after which the revised terms will take effect, anchoring Ghana's role in two of its most important oil-producing assets for the next 15 years.

In a statement obtained by The Energy Republic, the licences will be extended to 2040, subject to parliamentary approval. Starting in July 2036, the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation will get an extra 10% share in both the Jubilee and TEN fields. The joint venture partners will have their shares reduced by the same proportion.

over its remaining life, strengthening Ghana's future oil income.

Kosmos Energy said in a statement that the licence extension would lift the field's proven and probable reserves, adding that the amended development plan was designed to counter natural decline and unlock further value from the asset.

According to the statement, The government stated that it has approved updated terms for the West Cape Three Points (WCTP) and Deep Water Tano (DWT) petroleum agreements, which control the Jubilee and Twenboa Enyenra Ntomme (TEN) oil fields. These fields are managed by Tullow Oil along with other partners - Kosmos Energy.

The approval comes as fresh drilling activity begins to lift output at Jubilee. The second producer well in the 2025–26 campaign, known as J-74, has been successfully drilled and completed and is expected to come on stream shortly. The well encountered around 50 metres of net pay and was completed in three zones, mirroring an earlier well that began producing in mid-2025.

The extensions are linked to a revised development plan for Jubilee that includes up to 20 additional wells. The plan aims to sustain production at the mature field and increase recoverable reserves

# Liberia expects \$4.8 billion in new investment on mining and oil deals

**L**iberia's leader expects mining and oil deals with multinational companies to generate \$4.8 billion in new investment.



The contracts, which include a signature bonus of US\$12 million and an estimated investment value of US\$200 million per block, represent an important step in reviving Liberia's oil and gas sector after more than a decade of limited activity. They follow a recent agreement with TotalEnergies and further demonstrate Liberia's readiness to responsibly engage credible investors.

Mining and infrastructure agreements with US firm Ivanhoe Atlantic Inc. and Luxembourg-based ArcelorMittal SA are expected to spur investment of \$4 billion, and those with TotalEnergies SE and Nigeria's Oranto Petroleum about \$800 million, President Joseph Boakai said in a statement recently.

The economy is expected to expand by an average of 6% between 2026 and 2018, after growing 5.1% in 2025, he added.

"The government has strategically leveraged opportunities to attract credible investments and responsibly exploit natural resources for the benefit of Liberians," he said.

In September 2025, President Boakai welcomed the signing of four Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) between the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRA) and Atlas/Oranto Petroleum, granting exploratory rights over offshore blocks LB-15, LB-16, LB-22, and LB-24. The signing ceremony took place in Paris, France.

"Our goal is to ensure that Liberia's resources are managed with transparency and responsibility. These contracts will be implemented with strict standards of environmental protection, strong local participation, and clear accountability so that Liberians benefit directly from the opportunities created." The President added.



## President Barrow Appoints Cany Jobe to Head Petroleum Commission



Cany Jobe as the new Director General of The Gambia Petroleum Commission

**P**resident Adama Barrow of The Gambia has appointed Cany Jobe as the new Director General of The Gambia Petroleum Commission to manage the affairs of the organization.

The Petroleum Commission was established by the Petroleum Commission Act, 2021 as the Regulatory Body for Upstream and Midstream Petroleum activities and its objectives include regulating petroleum activities, managing petroleum resources, ensuring compliance with laws, policies and regulations and Promoting Local Content for sustainable national development.

In a statement confirming the appointment to the African Association of Energy Journalists and Publishers, AJERAP, Jobe disclosed her top priorities, stating that she would strengthen regulatory systems, build institutional capacity, reinforce transparency and ensure that the sector is managed responsibly.

"My focus will be on strengthening regulatory systems, building institutional capacity, reinforcing transparency and ensuring that the sector is managed responsibly and in the long-term interest of the Gambian people," Jobe reiterated. "As The Gambia continues to position itself within the MSGBC Basin, it is essential that our regulatory framework inspires confidence, balances investor

interest with national priorities, and upholds the country's sovereign rights over its resources.

"I look forward to working closely with the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, industry stakeholders, and our technical teams to ensure that petroleum development, when it occurs, delivers sustainable and measurable value for the Gambian people."

At SAIPEC 2025, Cany Jobe showcased Gambia's oil and gas prospects and project opportunities, calling on potential investors and partners to explore the opportunities across the country's oil and gas value chain.

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

"Gambia has good prospects for oil and gas exploration and production. We have onshore and offshore blocks available as well," Jobe said, noting that there are eight offshore blocks, two onshore blocks with data coverage of 80 percent offshore and 5 percent onshore.

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



## Senegal to Inaugurate National Gas Pipeline by 2027

**S**enegal has announced plan to inaugurate its national gas pipeline by 2027, a crucial infrastructure project designed to transport natural gas from offshore fields to domestic consumers.

The pipeline is currently under construction and represents a strategic move to leverage recent massive offshore discoveries, including the Yakaar-Teranga and Greater Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA) fields. Its primary purpose is to ferry gas to power plants, key industrial zones, and major urban areas across the country, significantly boosting Senegal's energy independence and domestic supply.

The project, valued at 650 billion CFA francs (approximately \$1.15 billion), is being developed by the state-owned company Réseau Gazier du Sénégal (RGS). RGS is building a network of approximately 400 kilometers, which is segmented into five major sections to cover various regions.

The "north" segment, an 85-kilometer line, will link the GTA hub to the Gandon power plant, with the "blue" segment, spanning 99 kilometers, connecting Mboro to the Cap des Biches region.

The "orange" segment, which runs 45 kilometers, will connect Sendou to Malicounda. The network also includes a 17-kilometer "red" segment, and a 110-kilometer "green" segment, which will interconnect the northern and southern parts of the network.

Minister Diop emphasized the transformative potential of the gas reserves to improve the lives of Senegalese households.

"The Yakaar and Teranga natural gas fields contain a world-class volume of gas, sufficient to meet Senegalese households' domestic gas needs," he stated.

The completion of the pipeline is expected to be a major milestone in Senegal's journey toward becoming a regional energy player.



# Mozambique, TotalEnergies relaunch \$20 billion LNG project

Mozambique and TotalEnergies has agreed to relaunch construction on the company's \$20 billion liquefied natural gas project, marking a major milestone for Mozambique LNG industry.

This restart of project activities onshore and offshore follows the decision made on 7 November 2025, by Mozambique LNG consortium to lift the Force Majeure that was declared in 2021 and resume project activities.

During the meeting, the government of Mozambique confirmed its commitment to work together with Mozambique LNG to support the restart of project activities and address the consequences of the Force Majeure period. In particular, the Government confirmed all measures taken to address the security and the continued cooperation with Rwanda.

Construction activities have now restarted both offshore and onshore at Afungi site, with over 4,000 workers currently mobilized of which over 3,000 are Mozambican nationals. First LNG is expected in 2029 as the project progress is currently at 40% - almost all engineering and procurement of main equipments have been executed during the force majeure period.

The Mozambique LNG project will bring significant economic

benefits to Mozambique during its development phase, notably through an ambitious local content plan. The project will provide up to 7,000 direct jobs for Mozambicans during construction, and contracts awarded to Mozambican companies are expected to amount to more than USD 4 billion.

In addition, Mozambique LNG has launched a large-scale socio-economic development program to support local communities in Cabo Delgado province. The Mozambique LNG Foundation, established in 2023 and endowed with a budget of USD 200 million, has already delivered tangible results, with over 8,000 jobs created and 7,000 farmers and fishermen supported by the Foundation in Cabo Delgado province.

“The full restart of project activities marks a major milestone for Mozambique LNG and the country. I want to thank President Chapo and all Mozambican authorities for their commitment to the project. We are now working together to make this project a great success for the people of Mozambique”, said Patrick Pouyanné, Chairman and CEO of TotalEnergies. “This landmark project will position Mozambique as a major LNG exporter. With its strong local content, it will also bring lasting economic benefits to Mozambican people.”

“The resumption of the project represents a significant milestone for the national economy and reaffirms the confidence

of international partners in Mozambique’s energy, institutional and human potential. It will have a direct and significant impact on job creation, both in construction phase and in the operational phase, stimulating the national labor market and promoting the capacity-building of Mozambican manpower. At the same time, it consolidates Mozambique’s positioning as a regional energy hub and reaffirms the country as a credible and relevant actor in the global Liquefied Natural Gas market, strengthening its geostrategic position and its role in global energy security”, said His Excellency Daniel Chapo, President of the Republic of Mozambique.

Mozambique LNG is a joint venture composed of TotalEnergies EP Mozambique Area 1 (26.5%, operator), Mitsui E&P Mozambique Area 1 (20%), ENH Rovuma Área Um (15%), ONGC Videsh Rovuma (10%), Beas Rovuma Energy Mozambique (10%), BPRL Ventures Mozambique (10%) and PTTEP Mozambique Area 1 (8.5%).

TotalEnergies is a global integrated energy company that produces and markets energies: oil and biofuels, natural gas, biogas and low-carbon hydrogen, renewables and electricity. Our more than 100,000 employees are committed to provide as many people as possible with energy that is more reliable, more affordable and more sustainable. Active in about 120 countries, TotalEnergies places sustainability at the heart of its strategy, its projects and its operations.



## SOCAR Acquires 10% Stake in Baleine Project in Côte d'Ivoire

The State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) has acquired a 10% stake in the Baleine oil and gas field located offshore Côte d'Ivoire and operated by Eni.

The Baleine field currently produces 62,000 barrels per day (bpd) and more than 75 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf/d) across its Phase 1 and 2 developments. A planned third phase will increase output to 150,000 bpd and 200 mmcf/d, cementing the project's position as a major production facility in West Africa.

The SOCAR deal comes as Eni consolidates its portfolio in Ivory Coast, bringing on new partners to drive future development opportunities.

These include the sale of a 30% stake in Baleine to Vitol in September 2025. Both the SOCAR and Vitol transactions align with Eni's strategy to optimize its upstream portfolio by accelerating exploration through divestment.



Eni has been present in Cote d'Ivoire since 2015. Baleine is Eni's first development in the country, and the first net-zero emission development in Africa. The giant Baleine field was discovered in 2021, two decades after the last commercial discovery in the country and it achieved production in record time, in 2023. Currently, Baleine produces over 62,000 barrels of oil and more than 75 million cubic feet of gas per day from Phases 1 and 2.

With the launch of Phase 3, production is expected to rise to 150,000 barrels of oil and 200 million cubic feet of gas per day, positioning

Baleine as a cornerstone in meeting the country's domestic energy needs.

Baleine is the largest hydrocarbon discovery made by an energy company in Côte d'Ivoire. Côte d'Ivoire is also strengthening its role as a regional energy hub for neighbouring countries. Baleine's gas production is therefore strategic since it will increase domestic and regional supply, while oil production will be instrumental in boosting exports.

Another innovative aspect of the project is the re-use of existing floating units for the project's Phase 1 and Phase 2 that have been upgraded and technologically enhanced to ensure accelerated deployment, thus optimising costs and schedules and minimising waste of raw and construction materials.

The closing of this transaction is subject to appropriate regulatory approvals and other customary terms and conditions.

## Uganda's \$4 billion oil refinery to start operation by 2030

Uganda Refinery Holding Company is set to commission its \$4 billion, 60,000-barrel-per-day oil refinery between late 2029 and early 2030. The ambitious project represents a significant investment in Uganda's energy infrastructure and industrial capacity.

Supporting infrastructure development — including roads, water facilities, and a 200 MW high-voltage power supply — is advancing through a \$3.4 billion, multi-investor-backed industrial park linked to the refinery, according to Michael Nkambo Mugerwa, General Manager, Uganda Refinery Holding Company

"This project goes beyond fuel production. We are looking at petrochemicals, kerosene, fertilizers and gas processing. The refinery is designed to capture the full value chain," Mugerwa stated. "The facility aims to process not only crude oil but also develop downstream products that will support various sectors of Uganda's economy."



Uganda Refinery Holding Company is providing 40% of the project financing, with UAE-based Alpha MBM Investments contributing the remaining 60%. The partnership demonstrates international confidence in Uganda's energy sector and the viability of the refinery project.



# Guinea-Conakry Emerges as West Africa's Promising Oil and Gas Frontier

**G**uinea-Conakry, long recognized as one of the world's leading bauxite exporters with nearly 100 million tons shipped in the first half of 2025, is now positioning itself as an emerging player in West Africa's oil and gas sector.



holds approximately 15,000 square kilometers of 3D seismic data and 45,000 square kilometers of 2D data, providing investors with a valuable foundation for exploration.

Early exploration results are encouraging, with wells such as GU-2B-1 and Sabu-1 confirming a working petroleum system in the Upper Cretaceous formations, with evidence of mature source rocks, quality reservoirs, and hydrocarbon shows.

SONAP has undertaken reforms aimed at positioning Guinea-Conakry as a competitive oil and gas destination. A national petroleum cadastre has been established, and 22 blocks have been identified for a potential bidding round.

In April 2025, SONAP launched two tenders: one for the development of a storage and product management platform, and another to achieve ISO 9001 and ISO 45001 certifications in quality and safety.

At SAIPEC 2026, Guinea-Conakry's national oil company will be showcasing the government reforms, incentives and project opportunities across the energy, oil and gas value chain.

Geologically situated within the MSGBC basin, which include Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Guinea-Conakry. The country lies in a frontier region attracting growing attention for its hydrocarbon potential.

Neighboring countries have already achieved significant milestones, with Senegal producing its first oil in June 2024 from Woodside's Sangomar field, while both Senegal and Mauritania began gas production in late 2024 from bp and Kosmos Energy's Greater Tortue Ahmeyim field.

As the region establishes itself as a strategic energy frontier, Guinea-Conakry is advancing its regulatory framework, seismic studies, and investor outreach to capitalize on this momentum.

According to a report, Guinea-Conakry has a geological history with Guyana and Suriname, situated along the Atlantic Equatorial margin. Its Cretaceous formations, marine source rocks, structural traps, and

sedimentary basins mirror those that enabled Guyana and Suriname to become prolific oil-producing regions, with more than 10 billion barrels discovered to date.

The country has amassed a portfolio of 2D and 3D seismic data covering 17,000 square kilometers, alongside historical borehole data, resources comparable to those that underpinned early exploration in Guyana and Suriname.

Guinea-Conakry's national oil company SONAP, established in 2021, stands central to the country's oil and gas ambitions.

Under the leadership of Dr. Lanciné Condé, Director General, SONAP, has strengthened its technical capabilities with advanced field equipment, including topographic, gas detection, and mapping tools, enabling more effective assessment of onshore and offshore acreage.

SONAP has also established its first national seismic data visualization center in collaboration with SLB and TGS. The center

# Congo's Upstream Sector Enters a New Era of Growth Opportunities

**T**he Republic of Congo's upstream sector has entered a new era of growth opportunities, driven by new LNG capacity, rising oil developments and regulatory reforms aimed at positioning the country as a Central African energy hub.



push to monetize gas resources at pace. Additional gas-led developments are advancing, including the integrated Bango Kayo project, led by China's Wing Wah, which targets LNG, LPG, butane and propane production for domestic and regional markets. Scalable infrastructure associated with the project could unlock up to 30 Bcm of gas over 25 years.

In addition, Congo is working toward a national target of 500,000 bpd. TotalEnergies is investing \$600 million in upstream activity, primarily at Moho Nord, while Trident Energy continues to expand its Congolese portfolio following its 2024 acquisition of Chevron's assets. Perenco's Kombi 2 platform is on track for early-2026 startup, and Wing Wah has deepened its footprint with a \$23 billion agreement to develop the Bango Kayo, Holmoni and Cayo permits.

Notably, the country is also preparing a new licensing round that will offer strategic offshore and onshore acreage.

Meanwhile, Congo LNG Phase 2 began operations in December 2025 — six months ahead of schedule, adding 2.4 million tpa of capacity and bringing total project output to 3 million tpa.

The phase includes three production platforms, the Scarabeo 5 gas treatment and compression unit, and the Nguya FLNG facility, with first cargo expected in early 2026. The milestone follows the late-2023 startup of Phase 1, marking Congo's emergence as an LNG exporter and underscoring the government's



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