

OIL FIELD AFRICA REVIEW · ANGOLA · DRILLING

Maurel & Prom confirms oil at Pacassa SW offshore Angola

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Maurel & Prom's Pacassa South West exploration well has confirmed the presence of oil offshore Angola, the company disclosed in its nine-month 2026 operational update — a result that underlines continued deepening of M&P's exploration commitment in the country even as group-wide African production declined year-on-year.

For the first nine months of 2026, M&P's 80% working interest in the Ezanga licence in Gabon averaged 13,710 barrels of oil per day, a figure that contributed to an overall dip in crude output across the company's African portfolio compared with the same period in 2025. The company did not specify the precise magnitude of the production decline in the source reporting, nor did it detail the technical specifications — water depth, block designation, or well depth — of the Pacassa South West well. What is clear is that management chose to accelerate exploration activity in parallel with the production softness, signalling strategic confidence in the Angola position.

The Pacassa South West result is the headline exploration event. An oil discovery at the well-confirmation stage is an encouraging but early-phase outcome: the next steps would typically involve appraisal drilling to establish commerciality before any development decision could be taken. No appraisal programme, development concept, or partners beyond M&P have been named in the available reporting. Norwegian service companies should treat this as a monitored exploration story rather than an imminent procurement opportunity.

Angola remains one of sub-Saharan Africa's most active offshore jurisdictions, and any appraisal or development programme following a positive exploration result would require a broad supply chain — from well services and drilling rigs through to subsea infrastructure and, depending on volumes and field architecture, potentially floating production assets. The scale and timeline of such requirements cannot be estimated from current information, but the direction of travel at Pacassa South West is positive for the offshore services market.

M&P's dual narrative — production under pressure at Ezanga while exploration yields results at Pacassa — is a pattern common among mid-tier E&P operators managing mature assets alongside frontier drilling. For service companies, the Ezanga production decline may separately create near-term demand for production optimisation, well intervention, and artificial lift services on that licence, even as the Angola exploration thread develops over a longer horizon.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The Pacassa South West oil confirmation is a reconnaissance-to-appraisal stage result; Norwegian service companies should monitor the asset and begin early relationship-building with M&P's Angola and Paris offices rather than approaching procurement. If M&P announces an appraisal well programme or moves toward a development concept, that will be the trigger for targeted outreach — particularly for subsea, drilling, and well-services providers. The Ezanga production decline in Gabon may offer a nearer-term opening for well intervention and production enhancement specialists.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Monitor M&P's appraisal drilling timeline at Pacassa South West; a confirmed oil discovery typically triggers one or more appraisal wells where rig and well-services contracts become available.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If Pacassa South West moves toward development, Angola's offshore environment favours subsea tie-back or FPSO solutions — position early with M&P's development engineering team.

- **Service:** The year-on-year production dip at Ezanga (Gabon, 80% WI) suggests potential demand for well intervention, artificial lift, or production chemistry services on a mature onshore licence.
- **Pipeline:** Future field development at Pacassa would require export infrastructure — track appraisal results to assess pipeline or flowline opportunity timing.

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