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Tanzania confirms 223 bcf Mnazi Bay discovery with production expected by November 2026

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Maurel & Prom has confirmed a natural gas discovery of 223 billion cubic feet (bcf) at the Mnazi Bay licence in Tanzania — the country's first significant gas find since 2015 — with Tanzania's Minister for Energy personally confirming the reserve figure at the Kasa-1X ST2 well in Mtwara. The well encountered a gas-bearing reservoir on first penetration, having been drilled directionally from the coast to a subsea target approximately 4.5 kilometres offshore under 400 metres of water. The confirmed reserve quantum moves the project decisively out of early appraisal framing and into a credible development narrative, with the 223 bcf estimate providing a concrete basis for project planning and government resource accounting.

Following the initial discovery, M&P sidetracked the well with a horizontal section — the ST2 designation confirming at least a second sidetrack — to further appraise and characterise the reservoir. That decision to pursue multiple sidetracks immediately after discovery reflected strong operator confidence, and the resulting data has now underpinned the reserve estimate announced by the Energy Minister. Critically, M&P has indicated it expects the well to produce up to 50 million cubic feet per day (mmcf), with first gas potentially arriving as early as November 2026. That near-term production timeline is a material development, suggesting the operator views the reservoir as sufficiently appraised to move rapidly toward initial offtake.

For Tanzania, the Kasa-1X result carries both resource and political significance. Confirmed at ministerial level, the 223 bcf figure and the prospect of 50 mmcf from

a single well represent a meaningful addition to the national gas base in the Mnazi Bay area, which has historically supplied gas to onshore Tanzanian consumers. The country is actively working to develop its considerable natural gas resources for domestic power generation and as a potential feedstock for export infrastructure, and the first significant discovery in over a decade — announced at senior government level — signals renewed momentum in the country's upstream sector. Government stakeholders are clearly watching the appraisal and development process closely, and the ministerial confirmation raises the political profile of the project.

M&P's willingness to commit exploration and appraisal capital through multiple sidetracks at Mnazi Bay underlines continued industry confidence in Tanzania's gas fairway. The well's directional geometry, drilled from shore to a point under 400 metres of water, allowed the operator to access offshore targets while managing logistical and regulatory complexity associated with fully offshore operations. With reserve estimates now confirmed and a production timeline publicly stated, the discovery has shifted from appraisal to imminent development, compressing the window for service industry engagement ahead of procurement activity.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The confirmation of 223 bcf and a November 2026 production target at Mnazi Bay significantly accelerates the development timeline, making immediate engagement by Norwegian well services, directional drilling, and production equipment companies a commercial priority rather than a relationship-building exercise. Ministerial-level confirmation elevates TPDC and government involvement, creating entry points for Norwegian firms with East Africa credentials to engage both the operator M&P and national stakeholders. With 50 mmcfd expected from a single well, gas processing, pipeline, and flow assurance specialists should be actively positioning now before formal procurement for surface and downstream infrastructure commences.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Directional drilling and well services companies:** Multiple sidetracks at Kasa-1X demonstrate active drilling operations; Norwegian directional drilling firms should

engage M&P on well services for any follow-on appraisal or development wells in the Mnazi Bay licence.

- **Gas processing and production equipment suppliers:** With up to 50 mmcfd targeted from November 2026, compression, separation, and metering equipment procurement is imminent; Norwegian suppliers should approach M&P's procurement teams now.
- **Subsea and pipeline contractors:** The directional well geometry connecting onshore infrastructure to an offshore reservoir creates potential demand for subsea inspection, intervention, and pipeline services as the field moves to production.
- **Government and NOC advisory firms:** Ministerial confirmation and Tanzania's first major discovery since 2015 will intensify TPDC and regulatory activity; Norwegian consultancies with East Africa upstream advisory experience can offer resource management and capacity-building support.

[Original source: Drilling Contractor →](#)

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