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Tanzania eyes gas reserves boost as Mnazi Bay offshore discovery yields preliminary estimates

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Maurel & Prom has confirmed a natural gas discovery at the Mnazi Bay licence in Tanzania, with preliminary reserve estimates now emerging from the Kasa-1X exploration well — a development that has drawn Tanzania's attention to the potential for a meaningful boost to the country's gas resource base. 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 immediate success on first penetration remains a positive technical signal for the licence's prospectivity, and the emergence of preliminary quantification marks a step forward from the initial discovery announcement.

Following the initial find, M&P sidetracked the well with a horizontal section to further appraise and characterise the reservoir. The decision to sidetrack immediately after discovery suggested strong operator confidence, and that confidence now appears to be translating into early-stage reserve framing. The horizontal sidetrack reflects modern well-design practice aimed at maximising reservoir contact and early flow-rate potential, and the data gathered from that section is likely informing the preliminary estimates now being reported. Specific reserve figures from available reporting remain incomplete at this stage.

For Tanzania, the Kasa-1X result and its associated preliminary estimates arrive at a strategically important moment. 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 any credible addition to the national reserve base carries policy significance. The Mnazi Bay area has historically supplied gas to onshore Tanzanian consumers, and a confirmed, quantifiable addition to reserves in this established fairway could support both local supply commitments and longer-term LNG or regional pipeline ambitions. Tanzania's visible interest in the discovery — reflected in coverage framing the find as a potential reserves boost — signals that government stakeholders are watching the appraisal process closely.

M&P's willingness to commit exploration and appraisal capital to Mnazi Bay underlines continued industry confidence in Tanzania's gas fairway, even as the broader East African LNG development landscape remains complex. The well's directional geometry, drilled from shore to a point under 400 metres of water, also allowed the operator to access offshore targets while managing logistical and regulatory complexity associated with fully offshore operations. Flow-test data and finalised reserve estimates have not been fully disclosed in available reporting, and the discovery remains in appraisal rather than development phase.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The emergence of preliminary reserve estimates at Mnazi Bay moves this opportunity one step closer to development planning, making it timely for Norwegian well services, directional drilling, and subsea intervention companies to begin early relationship-building with M&P. Tanzania's government interest in the discovery as a reserves boost also suggests regulatory and national oil company engagement will intensify, creating additional entry points for Norwegian firms with East Africa credentials. If reserve estimates firm up and a development concept is sanctioned, pipeline, subsea equipment, and LNG infrastructure specialists should be positioned to engage before formal procurement begins.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Well services and directional drilling specialists:** The Kasa-1X well's directional geometry and horizontal sidetrack design are consistent with Norwegian technical expertise; appraisal activity may require additional wells with similar profiles.

- **Subsea and offshore engineering firms:** As preliminary reserve estimates are defined, development concept studies will follow — early engagement with M&P on subsea tie-back or shallow-water development options is the right timing.
- **LNG and gas infrastructure suppliers:** Tanzania's framing of Mnazi Bay as a national reserves boost suggests government appetite for monetisation; Norwegian firms with LNG modular or pipeline experience should monitor for pre-FEED opportunities.

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