

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & MINERAL RESOURCES - NEWS (EGYPT) · EGYPT

Egypt launches OBN seismic survey in Gulf of Suez

Saga deep read · 25 October 2026 · Score 50

Egypt's Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources has announced a new seismic survey in the Gulf of Suez using Ocean Bottom Node (OBN) technology, with the stated aim of maximising oil discovery opportunities and increasing production. The announcement was made by Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Eng. Karim Badawi.

OBN technology places individual recording nodes directly on the seabed rather than towing streamer cables behind a vessel, producing significantly higher-resolution subsurface images in areas where conventional acquisition is hampered by infrastructure, shallow water, or complex geology. The Gulf of Suez is one of Egypt's most mature producing basins, and the application of OBN in this setting signals an intent to identify remaining or bypassed reserves in a region with decades of existing wells and facilities.

The survey represents an early-stage data-acquisition initiative rather than a block award or exploration contract. No operator partners, contract values, survey dimensions, or timelines were disclosed in the ministerial announcement. As such, the programme sits at the reconnaissance and technical-evaluation stage of the upstream workflow, and any commercial opportunities downstream of this activity — drilling campaigns, well services, or production-enhancement contracts — remain contingent on what the seismic data reveals.

For the Norwegian service sector, the Gulf of Suez context matters: the basin is shallow and heavily infrastructured, meaning that discoveries, if confirmed, are more

likely to feed workover, infill-drilling, and tieback activity than greenfield deepwater development. Egyptian national and international oil companies operating in the basin would be the procurement decision-makers for any follow-on work. The ministerial framing around production increase — rather than purely exploration — suggests enhanced-recovery and production-optimisation services may be as relevant as purely exploratory drilling once results are available.

Norwegian companies active in seismic acquisition, node technology supply chains, or geoscience services should monitor this programme closely, as Egypt's track record in converting seismic campaigns into active licensing rounds and drilling programmes is well established. Relationship-building with the Ministry and with Egypt's key concession operators in the Gulf of Suez is the appropriate posture at this stage.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a reconnaissance-stage seismic programme with no contract, tender, or block award attached yet — partner outreach to procurement is premature. Norwegian companies with OBN technology, seismic processing, or geoscience capabilities should monitor progress and pursue relationship-building with Egypt's Ministry of Petroleum and Gulf of Suez concession operators. Watch for any follow-on licensing round or drilling campaign announcement as the data interpretation phase matures.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea/FPSO:** If OBN results confirm new accumulations, shallow-water tieback and production-system scopes could follow — monitor for any field-development announcements from Gulf of Suez concession holders.
- **Drilling:** A successful seismic campaign typically precedes infill or appraisal drilling; drilling contractors and well-services firms should track Egypt's concession activity in the Gulf of Suez for tender releases.
- **Service:** Norwegian companies with OBN node technology, seismic data processing, or reservoir-characterisation expertise are closest to the current programme stage and should engage with the Ministry and its survey partners now.

- **Pipeline:** The Ministry's emphasis on increasing production rather than pure exploration suggests potential for gathering-system and pipeline-infrastructure upgrades if new reserves are confirmed in this mature basin.

[Original source: Ministry of Petroleum & Mineral Resources - News \(Egypt\) →](#)

Saga Advisory

General: info@saga-advisory.com · saga-advisory.com

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN