

WORLD OIL AFRICA · EGYPT · LNG

Eni enters full execution on Cronos, contracts cover EPCI and drilling

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Eni has moved the Cronos gas development offshore Cyprus into full execution after finalising key contracts covering engineering, procurement, construction, installation, and drilling. The contract signings represent a firm commitment beyond earlier planning stages and place Cronos among the more advanced gas-to-LNG schemes in the Eastern Mediterranean, with first gas targeted for 2028. The confirmed scope — spanning EPCI and drilling — gives a clearer picture of the work packages now in active procurement and the range of specialist contractors being engaged.

The contracted volumes are intended to flow via pipeline to Egypt, where up to 500 MMscfd will be processed for liquefaction at the Damietta LNG terminal on Egypt's northern coast. By routing Cypriot gas to an existing Egyptian liquefaction facility, Eni avoids the cost and timeline risk of constructing a new LNG train offshore or onshore Cyprus. The 500 MMscfd figure represents the upper end of the targeted throughput, giving the project meaningful scale relative to Damietta's existing processing capacity. Egypt's role as a regional gas aggregation and liquefaction centre is reinforced by this arrangement, with the country effectively monetising its infrastructure as a transit and processing corridor for third-party gas.

The project underlines the strategic importance of the Cyprus-Egypt gas corridor that has been taking shape over several years. For Eni, Cronos is part of a broader Eastern Mediterranean gas portfolio, and the 2028 start-up target sets a defined schedule against which contractors and suppliers will now be measured. The confirmed inclusion of drilling within the execution contracts confirms that upstream

well delivery is proceeding in parallel with surface and subsea infrastructure work, compressing the overall timeline and increasing the number of concurrent workstreams.

For the LNG value chain, the integration of upstream Cypriot gas with Egyptian liquefaction infrastructure creates a cross-border supply arrangement that depends on reliable subsea pipeline connectivity, upstream well delivery, and plant feed-gas management. The project's execution phase — now confirmed to encompass EPCI and drilling — requires services across subsea engineering, pipeline installation, and offshore drilling, all areas where Norwegian companies carry proven capability in comparable deepwater and mid-water gas environments. With main contracts finalised, tier-one and tier-two service providers should already be engaging with Eni's supply chain teams, as active procurement is underway rather than pending.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The confirmed EPCI and drilling scope clarifies the specific work packages now in live procurement, giving Norwegian subsea, pipeline installation, and drilling services companies a defined entry point for direct outreach to Eni's contractor and supply chain organisation. Partners with existing Eni frame agreements or Eastern Mediterranean project references are best positioned to engage immediately at tier-two and tier-three levels beneath the primary EPCI and drilling contractors. LNG plant services firms should also monitor the Damietta-side scope, as increased feed-gas throughput from Cronos may require plant upgrades or additional equipment at the Egyptian terminal.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea EPCI contractors:** Confirmed EPCI scope makes this a live opportunity for Norwegian subsea engineering and installation firms with deepwater Mediterranean experience; primary EPCI contracts may already be awarded but subcontract and equipment supply opportunities remain open.
- **Offshore drilling companies:** Drilling is now a confirmed part of the execution contracts; Norwegian drilling contractors and well services firms should identify which rig or drilling management contracts have been let and pursue subcontract or services roles accordingly.

- **LNG plant services and equipment suppliers:** Increased feed-gas volumes flowing to Damietta may drive plant upgrades or capacity modifications; Norwegian process equipment and maintenance services firms should engage with the Egyptian operator side of the value chain.
- **Pipeline and flow assurance specialists:** The Cyprus-to-Egypt subsea pipeline remains a critical enabler; Norwegian firms with gas pipeline design, installation support, and flow assurance expertise are well placed to participate in this segment of the EPCI scope.

[Original source: World Oil Africa →](#)

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