

OIL & GAS JOURNAL · GHANA · UPSTREAM

TOR targets 200,000 b/d Tema refinery by 2029

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Ghana's Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) has proposed expanding its Tema facility to a combined 200,000 barrels per stream day (b/sd) by 2029 through a two-track development programme. The plan combines a brownfield capacity addition of 40,000 b/sd at the existing refinery with a greenfield grassroots plant adding a further 115,000 b/sd on the same site.

The brownfield component builds on TOR's current installed base, offering a lower-risk entry point to lift throughput within an established operational footprint. The grassroots unit is a substantially larger undertaking — more than double the incremental volume of the brownfield phase — and would represent one of the more significant refinery construction projects in West Africa if it proceeds to sanction. Together, the two phases would bring Tema's nameplate capacity to 200,000 b/sd, positioning Ghana as a meaningful regional refining hub capable of processing a larger share of the country's own crude output and reducing dependence on imported refined products.

At this stage, TOR's announcement constitutes a proposal rather than a sanctioned project. No final investment decision, financing structure, contractor awards, or EPC tender processes have been publicly disclosed. The timeline to 2029 is aspirational, and progression through feasibility, environmental approvals, and funding rounds will determine whether either phase reaches construction. Nonetheless, the scale of the grassroots element — 115,000 b/sd — signals genuine ambition and, if financeable, would require substantial engineering, procurement, and construction mobilisation across multiple disciplines.

Ghana's downstream sector has long been under pressure from ageing infrastructure and chronic underinvestment. TOR has historically operated well below its licensed capacity, and the refinery's rehabilitation has been a recurring government priority. A successful expansion would have knock-on implications for crude offtake from Ghana's offshore production fields, including Jubilee and TEN, as domestically refined volumes displace imports. For the broader West African market, additional Ghanaian refining capacity could also ease regional supply tightness in middle distillates and fuel oil.

Service and engineering companies with downstream refining expertise should track this programme closely. If the proposal advances to a formal feasibility study tender or EPC prequalification, the brownfield phase in particular — with its tighter site constraints and integration requirements — would favour contractors experienced in revamp and debottlenecking work on live refining assets. The greenfield grassroots unit, at 115,000 b/sd, would require full-scope EPCM capability including process units, utilities, tankage, and marine or pipeline offtake infrastructure.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a proposal with no FID or tender announced; Norwegian service companies should monitor for feasibility study procurement and EPC prequalification notices rather than initiating procurement outreach now. When the project advances, the greenfield grassroots unit at 115,000 b/sd will be the more consequential opportunity, potentially requiring process engineering, utilities design, and tankage contractors with large-scale refinery build experience. Partners with downstream EPCM or refinery revamp capabilities should map TOR stakeholders and Ghana's Ministry of Energy now to be positioned ahead of any formal procurement process.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **FPSO:** Increased domestic refining throughput could shift crude offtake patterns from Ghana's offshore FPSO-hosted fields, worth monitoring for any changes to lifting schedules or crude quality requirements.

- **Pipeline:** A 200,000 b/sd refinery will require expanded product distribution infrastructure; pipeline contractors should watch for offtake and distribution tenders linked to the expansion programme.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Higher onshore refining capacity may stimulate pressure to increase production rates at offshore fields, potentially accelerating well intervention or tieback projects on Jubilee and TEN.
- **Service:** The brownfield debottlenecking phase favours contractors experienced in live-asset revamp and systems integration — Norwegian engineering firms with refinery upgrade credentials should track feasibility tender notices.
- **Drilling:** If expanded refining capacity incentivises Ghana to accelerate upstream production, drilling contractors could see increased demand for development wells on existing offshore licenses.

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