THE ENERGY YEAR · MOZAMBIQUE · DRILLING

# ENH joins Coral Norte drilling campaign

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Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH), Mozambique's national oil company, has joined the Coral Norte drilling campaign, marking the first time the state-owned entity has participated directly in an operational drilling campaign of this nature. The development represents a meaningful step in ENH's evolution from a passive equity holder to an active technical participant in the country's upstream sector.

Coral Norte is part of the broader Coral LNG development cluster offshore Mozambique, building on the momentum established by the Coral Sul floating LNG project. ENH's participation in the drilling campaign signals that the Mozambican state is seeking to deepen its operational competence at the wellsite level, a priority that aligns with broader resource nationalism trends across sub-Saharan Africa, where governments are pushing national oil companies toward hands-on roles rather than purely financial stakes.

The timing is significant for Mozambique's upstream trajectory. The country's LNG ambitions have faced setbacks in recent years, particularly with onshore projects delayed by security conditions in Cabo Delgado province. Offshore developments, by contrast, have continued to advance, and ENH's direct involvement in Coral Norte drilling underscores the offshore corridor as the more operationally active front for Mozambican hydrocarbons in the near term.

For ENH, building internal drilling campaign experience has long-term implications beyond Coral Norte itself. National oil companies that develop operational competencies tend to become more influential counterparts in future licensing

rounds and field development negotiations, raising the bar for international partners and service providers who must demonstrate not only technical capability but also a willingness to transfer knowledge and integrate local institutional participants. ENH's move into the drilling campaign suggests that future project structures in Mozambique may increasingly require service providers to engage directly with the NOC at an operational, not just contractual, level.

The Coral Norte campaign adds to what is becoming a more active offshore Mozambique drilling environment, with implications for demand across the full service spectrum — from drilling rigs and well services to subsea equipment and marine logistics. How ENH performs and what roles it ultimately takes on within the campaign will shape perceptions of Mozambique's NOC capability and influence procurement and partnership decisions on subsequent wells.

## Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This story is at an early operational stage — ENH's direct participation in Coral Norte drilling is confirmed but no procurement windows or open tenders are referenced in the source. Norwegian service companies with drilling, well services, or subsea exposure should monitor the Coral Norte campaign closely and prioritise relationship-building with both the operating consortium and ENH directly, as the NOC's growing operational role will make it an increasingly important gatekeeper for future supplier access in Mozambique.

### PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** ENH's debut as an operational drilling participant may create demand for rig management support, drilling engineering services, or crew training programmes that Norwegian drilling contractors and well service firms are well placed to offer.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Coral Norte's offshore drilling activity sits within an LNG-linked development cluster, making early subsea infrastructure scoping and FPSO interface work relevant for Norwegian subsea and floating production specialists to track.
- **Service:** ENH's push toward operational competence signals an appetite for technical training and competency-development partnerships, an area where Norwegian well-

services and oilfield-technology firms have established credibility across African NOC relationships.

- **LNG:** Coral Norte feeds into Mozambique's offshore LNG value chain; Norwegian LNG technology and marine contractors should track campaign progress as a leading indicator of future topsides and offloading infrastructure requirements.

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