CHEMANALYST · MOZAMBIQUE · LNG

Eni drills Coral North, targets Mozambique LNG by 2028

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Eni has commenced drilling operations at the Coral North prospect offshore Mozambique, targeting an expansion of the country's LNG production capacity by 2028. The move signals a push to build on the existing Coral South FLNG project, which has been operational and represents the first LNG production from Mozambique's deep offshore gas resources in the Rovuma Basin.

Coral North is positioned as a follow-on development to Coral South, with Eni seeking to unlock additional gas volumes from the Area 4 block. The drilling campaign marks a concrete step toward sanctioning a second FLNG unit or alternative export infrastructure, though no final investment decision has been reported in connection with this announcement. The 2028 target for expanded production capacity implies that project development, contracting, and construction phases would need to advance on an accelerated schedule relative to the timeline seen with Coral South.

Mozambique holds some of the largest natural gas discoveries made globally in the past two decades, with the Rovuma Basin estimated to contain substantial recoverable reserves. Eni's Area 4 block is one of two major concessions in the basin, the other being TotalEnergies-operated Area 1, where the Mozambique LNG onshore project remains suspended following a force majeure declaration in 2021 due to a security situation in Cabo Delgado province. Eni's offshore floating LNG approach on Coral South has proceeded independently of the onshore security constraints, giving the Coral North campaign a relatively more stable operating context.

The commencement of drilling at Coral North reflects broader industry interest in growing Mozambique's role as an LNG supplier to European and Asian markets, particularly following the energy supply disruptions of 2022 that accelerated European demand for alternative gas sources. Eni, which operates Area 4 in partnership with other stakeholders including Mozambique's national oil company ENH, has consistently framed Coral North as a logical extension of its established operational footprint in the basin.

No contract awards, vendor selections, or formal tender processes have been announced in connection with the Coral North drilling campaign at this stage. The project remains in its exploration and appraisal drilling phase, and commercial and engineering decisions regarding the development concept, FLNG vessel procurement, and subsea infrastructure would follow contingent on well results and reservoir confirmation.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Coral North is at the drilling phase only — no procurement or tender process has been announced, making this a monitoring and relationship-building moment rather than an active bid opportunity. Norwegian service companies with FLNG, subsea umbilicals, risers and flowlines (URF), and well services capabilities should track well results and position with Eni's Area 4 supply chain ahead of any development concept selection. Early engagement with ENH and Eni's project development teams in Maputo and Rome would be appropriate at this stage.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **FPSO/FLNG:** Monitor Coral North well results as a potential trigger for a second FLNG vessel contract — the development concept decision will determine whether floating or alternative export infrastructure is pursued.
- **Subsea:** Coral South's subsea tieback architecture provides a template; a Coral North sanction would likely require additional subsea umbilicals, risers, flowlines, and manifold systems — track tender readiness for when FID approaches.
- **Drilling:** Active drilling campaign at Coral North represents a near-term service demand; Norwegian drilling contractors and well services providers should confirm

whether Eni's rig and services supply chain has remaining capacity or upcoming retendering.

- **LNG:** If Coral North confirms commercial volumes, liquefaction train expansion or a second FLNG unit will require LNG process technology and cryogenic equipment vendors — begin mapping Eni's preferred contractor lists now.
- **Pipeline:** Depending on the development concept selected, gas gathering and infield pipeline infrastructure connecting Coral North to existing or new processing facilities may enter the contracting scope post-FID.

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