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

Egypt expands fracking to revive low-output wells

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Egypt's Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources has announced a programme to expand the use of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling techniques across the country's oil and gas fields, with the stated goal of boosting production from low-producing wells and reviving underperforming assets.

The minister outlined the initiative as a strategic response to declining output from mature fields, positioning advanced well-stimulation and directional-drilling technologies as central tools for extracting additional hydrocarbons from reservoirs that have seen reduced flow rates under conventional production methods. Hydraulic fracturing — which involves injecting fluid at high pressure to create or widen fractures in rock formations — and horizontal drilling, which allows a single wellbore to contact a larger section of a reservoir, are both established techniques in global petroleum operations but represent an expanded application within Egypt's upstream sector.

No specific production targets, field names, budget figures, or contractor appointments were disclosed in the ministerial statement. The announcement signals a policy direction rather than a fully detailed operational plan, and no contracts or tenders have been publicly associated with the initiative at this stage.

Egypt has been managing production challenges across several of its mature onshore and offshore basins in recent years. The government has consistently emphasised the need to maximise recovery from existing licensed acreage as a complement to new exploration activity. Horizontal drilling and well-stimulation services represent a

relatively capital-efficient route to incremental barrels compared with greenfield development, making the approach consistent with Egypt's broader objective of maintaining output while managing fiscal pressures on its national energy budget.

The expansion of these techniques will require well-services capacity, including specialist equipment for fracturing operations, directional drilling tools and crews, and associated engineering and reservoir evaluation expertise. The scale and pace of deployment will depend on how the Ministry and its concession-holding partners — including international oil companies operating in Egypt — structure procurement and field-level implementation going forward.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a policy announcement — no contracts or tenders are yet associated with the initiative. Norwegian well-services and drilling companies should monitor Egypt's upstream procurement channels and engage with both the Ministry and established concession operators to position for forthcoming stimulation and directional-drilling campaigns. Early relationship-building with Egyptian national oil company affiliates and international operators active in Egypt is the appropriate step at this stage.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Directional drilling specialists should track upcoming well programmes from Egyptian concession holders, as horizontal well campaigns will require MWD/LWD services and rotary steerable systems.
- **Well Services:** Hydraulic fracturing equipment suppliers and pressure-pumping service companies should map existing in-country capacity gaps and position for stimulation contracts as the programme matures.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If the initiative extends to offshore mature fields, intervention and well-stimulation vessel operators may find openings once field-level scopes are defined.
- **Service:** Reservoir engineering and well-performance evaluation firms can offer production optimisation studies to operators seeking to prioritise candidate wells for fracturing and horizontal redevelopment.

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