GABONREVIEW - ECONOMIE (GABON) · GABON

Gabon signs hydropower LoI for Comilog manganese plant

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Gabon, Eramet-Comilog and Sinohydro signed a letter of intent in Beijing on 5 November 2026 to explore electricity supply solutions for a planned manganese beneficiation plant in Gabon. Sinohydro is a subsidiary of the Chinese group PowerChina. The signing marks a new phase in Gabon's ambitions to process manganese domestically rather than export raw ore.

The letter of intent — a preliminary, non-binding instrument — covers the investigation of hydroelectric options that could power an industrial-scale beneficiation facility. No plant capacity, investment figure, project timeline, or specific hydroelectric site was disclosed in connection with the signing. The agreement commits the three parties to study the feasibility of an electricity solution; it does not constitute a contract award or a construction commitment.

Manganese beneficiation requires large and reliable power inputs, making electricity supply a foundational constraint for any smelting or refining operation. Gabon holds some of the world's largest known manganese deposits, with Eramet-Comilog operating the Moanda mine in the southeast of the country. The Gabonese government has signalled a strategic intent to capture more downstream value from the country's mineral resources, and securing dedicated power infrastructure is a prerequisite for that transition.

Sinohydro's involvement points toward a hydroelectric development model, consistent with PowerChina's portfolio of dam and power-generation projects across sub-Saharan Africa. The scale, financing structure, and location of any potential

hydroelectric facility remain undefined at this stage. Whether the electricity solution would be built as a dedicated industrial supply asset or integrated into the national grid has not been specified.

The three-party letter of intent initiates a study phase. Further instruments — including feasibility studies, MoUs with defined terms, and ultimately a project financing and construction agreement — would be required before any infrastructure development could proceed. The timeline for completing the exploration phase was not disclosed.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a letter of intent at an early study phase — no procurement is open and no contracts are imminent. Norwegian companies with experience in industrial power infrastructure or mine-to-port logistics should monitor the feasibility study outcomes and begin relationship-building with Eramet-Comilog and PowerChina's project development teams. If a hydroelectric and beneficiation project reaches FID, it would create demand for electrical systems, process plant equipment, and potentially port and conveyor infrastructure.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline:** Monitor whether a dedicated power or slurry pipeline corridor is scoped within the feasibility study, as Gabon's interior terrain may require specialist pipeline engineering.
- **Service:** Early-stage project development services — including feasibility support and EPCM advisory — could be relevant once the study phase is formalised with a defined scope.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** No direct subsea angle at this stage; monitor for any downstream export infrastructure that could connect a beneficiation plant to a coastal terminal.
- **Drilling:** No drilling relevance at current stage; track project development milestones for indirect infrastructure opportunities near the Moanda mining corridor.

Original source: Gabonreview - Economie (Gabon) →

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