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South Sudan offers 14 blocks, targets 230,000 bpd

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South Sudan is seeking investment across 14 exploration blocks and a new 350-kilometre crude pipeline as the government pursues a production target of 230,000 barrels per day. The push represents a significant scale-up ambition for a country whose output has been constrained by conflict, infrastructure gaps, and limited upstream capital over the past decade.

The 14 blocks are being offered to prospective partners under what appears to be a formal licensing or investment solicitation — the article does not specify whether block awards have been made or whether a licensing round with a formal close date is currently open. Interested parties should treat this as an active investment solicitation at the block-offer stage, short of a formal block award or signed production-sharing agreement. The government is seeking upstream partners capable of funding exploration and development activity sufficient to close the gap between current production levels and the 230,000 bpd target.

Alongside the upstream opportunity, South Sudan is actively seeking partners to develop a 350-kilometre crude pipeline. This infrastructure component is critical: landlocked South Sudan depends on export routes through Sudan to reach Red Sea terminals, a dependency that has repeatedly disrupted revenue flows. A new or supplementary pipeline corridor could reduce that vulnerability, though the article does not specify the proposed route, capacity, or financing structure for the project. The pipeline partnership is presented as an open solicitation — no contract has been signed or ratified at this stage.

The timing of South Sudan's investment drive coincides with what the source describes as new African energy financing options emerging across the continent. While specifics are not detailed in the article, the reference suggests a broader regional shift in how upstream and infrastructure projects are being capitalised — potentially through African development institutions, sovereign wealth vehicles, or blended-finance mechanisms that have gained traction in other sub-Saharan markets.

South Sudan holds some of the largest proven oil reserves in sub-Saharan Africa, and production infrastructure — including processing facilities and existing pipeline links — was established during earlier development phases before political instability disrupted operations. Restoring and expanding that base to reach 230,000 bpd would require sustained capital commitment, security assurances for operators, and resolution of the transit arrangements with Sudan that govern existing export pipelines. For international service and infrastructure companies, the opportunity is real but carries a well-documented risk profile that will require careful due diligence before engagement.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is an early-stage investment solicitation — block offers and a pipeline partnership search, with no signed contracts or FID reported. Norwegian service companies should monitor the licensing round and pipeline tender closely and pursue relationship-building with the Ministry of Petroleum and any incoming block operators, but procurement outreach is premature until awards and contracts are formalised.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline:** The 350-km crude pipeline solicitation is the most concrete near-term infrastructure opportunity; pipeline engineers and EPC contractors should track tender publication and prequalification requirements.
- **Drilling:** If exploration blocks are awarded and development commitments follow, demand for drilling rigs and well services will emerge — monitor operator entry announcements for timing.

- **FPSO:** South Sudan is landlocked, limiting FPSO applicability; production facility and processing module suppliers are more relevant for any onshore field development scenario here.
- **Subsea:** No offshore component is indicated in this article; subsea suppliers should deprioritise South Sudan in favour of monitoring pipeline and surface facility tenders.
- **Service:** Well services and production optimisation companies should track which operators enter awarded blocks, as early-stage exploration programmes will require a full service-company ecosystem.

Original source: World Oil Africa →

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