PIPELINE TECHNOLOGY JOURNAL · MOROCCO · LNG

NNPC seeks investors for $26bn Nigeria–Morocco pipeline

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Nigeria's state-owned NNPC Ltd. is actively soliciting international investors for the Nigeria–Morocco Gas Pipeline, a planned $25–26 billion infrastructure project designed to move up to 30 billion cubic metres of natural gas per year from Nigeria to Europe via the Atlantic coast. NNPC Chief Executive Officer Bashir Bayo Ojulari disclosed the investor outreach at the ADIPEC conference in Abu Dhabi, confirming that discussions are under way with potential partners including Abu Dhabi's ADNOC, following a multi-nation framework agreement signed in September.

The Nigeria–Morocco Gas Pipeline, also referred to as the African Atlantic Gas Pipeline, is jointly led by NNPC and Morocco's Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines (ONHYM). The proposed 6,800-kilometre route will follow the Atlantic coastline through 13 West African coastal nations, as well as Mauritania and three landlocked Sahel states, before connecting to European markets via Spain. Rather than building entirely new infrastructure, the project will be developed in phases by expanding the existing West African Gas Pipeline. Ojulari emphasised this incremental approach as a way to demonstrate operational progress to investors and offtakers: "We're not starting fresh," he said.

The pipeline is intended to monetise an estimated 20 trillion cubic feet of Nigeria's offshore gas reserves held under production-sharing contracts with major international operators including ExxonMobil, Shell, and TotalEnergies. Nigeria has set a broader production target of 12 billion standard cubic feet of gas per day by 2030, and the Atlantic corridor is positioned as a central plank of that ambition.

In parallel, NNPC is advancing a separate overland route — the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline — alongside Algeria's Sonatrach and Niger's SONIDEP. That project carries an estimated cost of $10–13 billion and would run 4,327 kilometres from Kano in northern Nigeria through Niger to Algeria's existing gas network, supplying more than 20 billion cubic metres per year to European buyers. Ojulari stated that the partner nations have aligned on a funding structure and anticipate a final investment decision (FID) on this route in 2025. As of publication, the Trans-Saharan project has not yet reached FID, while the Nigeria–Morocco pipeline remains at the active investor-solicitation stage — no FID timeline for that corridor was specified.

Together, the two corridors represent more than $36 billion in potential pipeline capital expenditure and reflect a sustained Nigerian strategic push to position the country as a primary gas supplier to Europe, particularly as European buyers seek to diversify away from Russian volumes. The phased construction model for the Atlantic route and the multi-sovereign governance structure of both projects will be key variables influencing the pace at which either advances toward bankable financing.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Both corridors are at pre-FID or investor-solicitation stage; Norwegian service companies should monitor financing milestones and relationship-build with NNPC, ONHYM, Sonatrach, and their international operator partners (ExxonMobil, Shell, TotalEnergies) now. The Trans-Saharan FID is targeted for 2025, making that the nearer-term trigger for procurement activity in pipeline construction, compression, and metering. The Nigeria–Morocco corridor's phased expansion of the West African Gas Pipeline may generate earlier, smaller-scope engineering and equipment opportunities ahead of full FID.



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- **Pipeline:** Phase-by-phase expansion of the West African Gas Pipeline creates near-term scope for pipeline integrity, compression station, and metering technology suppliers ahead of full FID.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Monetisation of approximately 20 Tcf of offshore Nigerian gas reserves under PSCs with Shell, ExxonMobil, and TotalEnergies points to upstream subsea tie-back and processing demand as gas volumes are developed for export.
- **LNG:** If Atlantic pipeline financing stalls, Nigerian offshore gas volumes may seek LNG as an alternative export route — worth monitoring as a contingency opportunity for LNG technology and FLNG providers.
- **Drilling:** Nigeria's 2030 production target of 12 bcf/day requires significant gas field development drilling; track NNPC and PSC operator activity for rig and well-services demand.
- **Service:** Multi-sovereign project governance across up to 15 nations creates demand for project management, FEED, and HSE consultancy services as both corridors advance toward bankable feasibility.

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