

JEUNE AFRIQUE ÉCONOMIE

Algeria Pushes Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline to Rival Morocco's Europe Supply Route

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Algeria is stepping up efforts to advance the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline (TSGP), a long-discussed megaproject that would carry Nigerian gas northward through Niger and Algeria before reaching European markets. The renewed push comes at a moment of heightened geopolitical urgency, as both Algeria and Morocco are competing to position themselves as the primary conduit for African gas to replace Russian supply in Europe.

The TSGP has been on drawing boards for decades, but the energy security concerns triggered by the war in Ukraine have injected fresh momentum into the project. Algeria, which already holds established gas export infrastructure and pipeline connections into southern Europe, is leveraging this advantage to press its case against Morocco's competing Trans-Maghreb corridor ambitions. The two North African rivals are essentially fighting for the same prize: locking in long-term relevance as Europe restructures its energy import strategy.

For Nigerian gas — Africa's largest proven reserves — the TSGP represents a potential overland export pathway that bypasses the need for additional LNG liquefaction capacity and shipping infrastructure. The pipeline would traverse some of the world's most challenging terrain, crossing the Sahara Desert and passing through Niger, a country that has experienced significant political instability. These factors mean that while commercial and diplomatic momentum may be building, substantial technical, financial, and security hurdles remain before any shovel enters the ground.

The competitive dynamic between Algeria and Morocco also reflects a broader realignment of African energy diplomacy, as producing nations and transit states seek to convert resource endowments into durable geopolitical leverage with European partners. For European buyers, diversification away from Russian pipeline gas has made even high-complexity African infrastructure projects worth serious evaluation, a calculus that was far less compelling before 2022.

For the Norwegian oil and gas service industry, the TSGP story is one to monitor rather than act on immediately. The project remains in an early, contested phase where route certainty, financing structures, and security arrangements are unresolved. However, the underlying driver — moving large volumes of Nigerian gas toward Europe — is a durable commercial theme that will generate real contract opportunities in pipeline engineering, compression, and gas processing as the project matures. Companies with existing Nigeria or Algeria footprints should track how the Algeria-Morocco competition resolves, as the winning corridor will define where service demand ultimately concentrates.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian pipeline and gas processing service companies should place the TSGP on a watch list, as the project's eventual advancement would create significant demand for large-diameter pipeline engineering, compression station design, and gas treatment expertise. Companies already active in Nigeria or Algeria are best positioned to engage early with developers and EPC contractors as feasibility and FEED work progresses. For now, the appropriate posture is informed monitoring — building relationships with Algerian and Nigerian NOCs — rather than active bidding.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline:** Onshore pipeline contractors with Saharan or West African experience should begin mapping potential consortium roles as TSGP moves toward feasibility and FEED stages.
- **LNG:** LNG service companies should assess whether TSGP progress affects Nigerian LNG expansion decisions, as the two export pathways compete for the same upstream gas volumes.

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Offshore operators in Nigeria should monitor whether TSGP diverts investment away from deepwater monetisation projects that would otherwise drive FPSO and subsea demand.
- **Service:** Well services and drilling companies in Nigeria have a stake in TSGP momentum, as confirmed pipeline offtake would support upstream gas development drilling programmes in the Niger Delta.

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