INVESTIR AU CAMEROUN - ENERGIE (CAMEROON) · CAMEROON · DRILLING

Murphy Oil signs four offshore Cameroon PSCs covering 2.6 million acres

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Murphy Oil Corporation has signed four production sharing contracts (PSCs) with Cameroon, covering approximately 2.6 million acres offshore the Central African country. The agreements, valued at a conditional drilling programme of 112 billion FCFA (approximately USD 185 million), mark a significant expansion of the US independent's offshore footprint and signal renewed upstream interest in Cameroonian acreage, according to reporting by Investir au Cameroun and Offshore Technology.

The confirmation that all four contracts are offshore is a material clarification to earlier reporting, which had not specified whether the blocks were onshore or offshore. The combined acreage of 2.6 million acres is substantial, indicating Murphy is pursuing a broad portfolio position across multiple offshore blocks rather than concentrating on a single licence area. This scale of acreage, spread across four PSCs, is consistent with a frontier exploration strategy in which the operator seeks to maximise geological optionality before committing to specific drill targets.

The drilling obligations attached to the contracts remain conditional, meaning they are contingent on the fulfilment of defined technical or financial milestones rather than representing firm, unconditional well commitments at this stage. The 112 billion FCFA figure therefore represents a potential drilling envelope across the four blocks, not an immediately deployed capital sum. Cameroon's upstream regulator, the Société Nationale des Hydrocarbures (SNH), acts as the state counterpart in such

petroleum contracts, overseeing work programme compliance and state participation. The article does not detail SNH's equity stakes in the new agreements, the duration of the exploration periods, or specific work programme commitments beyond the conditional drilling value.

The simultaneous execution of four PSCs rather than a single agreement underlines Murphy's portfolio approach, spreading geological risk across a wide offshore area while securing a broad position ahead of any exploration drilling. This structure is common among independents seeking optionality in frontier or emerging basins, where seismic interpretation may still be maturing. No timeline has been provided for when conditional drilling obligations would need to be exercised or when spud dates might be targeted. In a typical offshore exploration sequence, seismic acquisition or reprocessing phases would precede any well activity.

For Cameroon, attracting a mid-sized US independent with technical drilling commitments of this scale across 2.6 million offshore acres represents a meaningful vote of confidence in the country's prospectivity. Several West and Central African states are competing aggressively for exploration capital, and new offshore contract signings of this nature position Cameroon as an active destination for upstream investment. The outcome of any exploration drilling under these contracts will be a key determinant of whether Cameroon can sustain and grow its offshore upstream activity over the next decade.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The offshore confirmation is significant: all four blocks will require marine logistics, offshore drilling contractors, and subsea or well services when drilling obligations are triggered. Norwegian companies with offshore drilling, well intervention, subsea, and vessel support capabilities should initiate contact with Murphy Oil's regional procurement and subsurface teams now, ahead of any seismic programme or well announcement. The 2.6 million acre position suggests a multi-year exploration campaign that could generate sustained demand for Norwegian offshore service expertise.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Offshore drilling contractors:** Four offshore PSCs covering 2.6 million acres represent a potential multi-well drilling campaign; positioning with Murphy Oil's regional drilling team ahead of rig procurement decisions is advisable.
- **Seismic and geophysical services:** Large frontier acreage positions of this scale typically require new seismic acquisition or reprocessing before wells are sanctioned; early engagement with Murphy's subsurface team could yield near-term survey opportunities.
- **Marine and offshore logistics providers:** Offshore operations across four blocks will require vessel support, supply base logistics, and marine coordination; the Cameroon coastline and existing port infrastructure make this a near-term planning consideration.

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