AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER · CAMEROON · UPSTREAM

Murphy Oil takes four Cameroon blocks, $202M program

Saga deep read · 12 November 2026 · Score 64

Murphy Oil has assumed operatorship of four offshore blocks in Cameroon, triggering a potential exploration program valued at $202.4 million, according to the African Energy Chamber. The move marks a significant commitment to Cameroon's upstream sector and positions Murphy Oil as a leading exploration operator in the country's offshore acreage.

The four blocks represent a consolidated exploration footprint for Murphy Oil in Cameroonian waters. While specific block designations, water depths, and work programme timelines have not been disclosed in available reporting, the $202.4 million figure reflects the total estimated spend associated with the exploration commitments tied to the operatorship awards. The scale of the programme places this among the more substantial upstream exploration undertakings in Cameroon in recent years.

Cameroon's offshore basin has historically attracted interest from international oil companies drawn by proximity to prolific Gulf of Guinea geology, including hydrocarbon systems that extend across neighbouring Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea. The country's upstream regulatory environment has been subject to ongoing reform efforts aimed at improving the fiscal terms available to explorers, and block awards of this scale suggest those efforts are gaining traction with mid-major operators such as Murphy Oil.

Murphy Oil, a U.S.-headquartered independent, has an established track record in deepwater and offshore exploration across multiple international jurisdictions. Its

decision to take operatorship — rather than a non-operating participating interest — signals a high level of conviction in the prospectivity of the awarded acreage and a willingness to manage exploration risk directly. Operatorship also typically brings greater influence over drilling schedules, contractor selection, and technical programme design.

The $202.4 million exploration programme, if fully executed, would involve significant procurement activity spanning seismic acquisition, well planning, and potentially exploration drilling. The sequencing of these activities will depend on existing data coverage, regulatory approvals, and Murphy Oil's internal capital allocation priorities. No formal final investment decision or drilling contract announcement has been reported at this stage; the programme remains at the block award and work commitment phase.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a block award and work commitment, not a signed contract or FID, so procurement outreach is premature. Norwegian service companies with offshore Cameroon or Gulf of Guinea experience should monitor Murphy Oil's exploration timeline and begin relationship-building with Murphy's technical and supply chain teams to position ahead of seismic and drilling tenders. When a drilling campaign is confirmed, segments including well services, subsea, and marine logistics will become directly relevant.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Monitor Murphy Oil's well programme timeline; position rigs and drilling services ahead of any exploration well tender once a campaign is confirmed.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Track block data to assess water depth and production concept requirements; engage early if appraisal results suggest development potential.
- **Service:** Seismic acquisition and well planning services will likely be the first procurement wave — establish contact with Murphy Oil's Cameroon exploration team now.
- **Pipeline:** Subsea tie-back and pipeline infrastructure needs will only emerge post-discovery; monitor exploration results before allocating business development resources.

- **LNG:** Any gas discoveries on these blocks could feed into Cameroon's existing LNG infrastructure; flag for long-term tracking if exploration yields gas-bearing results.

Original source: African Energy Chamber →

Saga Advisory

General: info@saga-advisory.com · saga-advisory.com

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN