

AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER · OFFSHORE

Eni Awarded 15 Offshore Blocks in Guinea, Expanding MSGBC Footprint

Saga deep read · 08 June 2026 · Score 58

Eni has been awarded 15 offshore blocks in Guinea, marking a significant expansion of the Italian major's presence in the MSGBC Basin (Mauritania-Senegal-Gambia-Bissau-Conakry). The move is being interpreted as a strong vote of confidence in Guinea's upstream potential and in the broader regional basin, which has emerged as one of West Africa's most actively pursued frontier exploration zones in recent years.

The scale of the award — 15 blocks in a single tranche — is notable by any regional standard and suggests that Eni has conducted substantial pre-award technical work and sees meaningful prospectivity across a wide acreage position. Guinea's offshore sector has historically attracted less capital than its MSGBC neighbours, but the Eni award signals that the country's fiscal and regulatory framework may now be competitive enough to attract a supermajor at this scale.

The MSGBC Basin has drawn sustained attention following material discoveries in Senegal and Mauritania, where gas and oil finds have moved toward development and first production. Guinea sits on the southern flank of this basin, and its offshore geology shares structural characteristics that have proven productive further north. The Eni award extends the exploration frontier southward and may encourage other operators currently holding watch-and-wait positions to accelerate their own entry strategies.

For the Guinean government, securing a partner of Eni's operational depth across 15 blocks in one agreement represents a significant upstream development milestone. The transaction implies a substantial forward exploration work programme, including seismic acquisition, data reprocessing, and potentially exploratory drilling within the

coming licence periods. The pace at which Eni moves from award to active drilling will be a key indicator of the basin's near-term commercial momentum.

The award also reinforces a broader trend of supermajors and large independents consolidating significant acreage positions across West African frontier basins before exploration risk is reduced by nearby discoveries. Whether Eni pursues this programme independently or brings in farm-in partners as technical and financial risk-sharing tools remains to be seen, but the size of the position makes some form of partnership structuring plausible.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should monitor Eni's exploration programme closely, as a 15-block position of this scale will require seismic vessels, drilling rigs, and well services capacity once the work programme is activated. Early engagement with Eni's Guinea exploration team — either directly or through established MSGBC-region relationships — would position Norwegian firms ahead of any competitive tender processes. Companies with existing MSGBC Basin credentials from Senegal or Mauritania operations are best placed to leverage that track record into Guinea conversations.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** A 15-block programme will eventually require mobile offshore drilling units; Norwegian rig owners and drilling contractors should track Eni's Guinea exploration schedule for early rig dialogue.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If exploration confirms commercial volumes, subsea infrastructure and FPSO solutions will be central to development planning — Norwegian contractors should begin technical positioning now.
- **Service:** Seismic acquisition and data processing services will be required in the near term as Eni characterises its new acreage; Norwegian geophysical service firms are well placed to compete.
- **Pipeline:** Depending on discovered volumes and proximity to existing infrastructure, infield and export pipeline design work could emerge — worth monitoring as exploration results materialise.

[Original source: African Energy Chamber →](#)

Saga Advisory

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

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN