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# Eni Secures Offshore Block A1 Exploration Licence in Gambia

Saga deep read · 08 June 2026 · Score 58

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Italian major Eni has been awarded a licence to explore Block A1 offshore Gambia, following a formal agreement signed with the Gambian government. The deal marks a notable step in Gambia's efforts to attract international oil and gas investment into its offshore acreage, and positions Eni as the operator driving exploration activity in the block.

Gambia remains one of West Africa's less-explored offshore frontiers, and the granting of this licence signals continued government intent to develop a hydrocarbon sector. Eni's entry brings the technical and financial weight of a major international operator into a jurisdiction that has seen limited exploration history compared to regional neighbours. The licence agreement formalises Eni's mandate to conduct exploration work on Block A1, though specific terms, work programme commitments, and block dimensions were not disclosed in available reporting.

For the broader West African offshore landscape, Eni's move is consistent with the company's established strategy of building frontier positions across the continent. Eni has a well-documented track record of exploration success in Sub-Saharan Africa, and its willingness to enter Gambian waters suggests internal assessments of the block's prospectivity are sufficiently encouraging to justify committing resources. Whether Block A1 sits in shallow or deeper water has not been specified in the available reporting, leaving the technical profile of the acreage open for further clarification as exploration progresses.

For Gambia, securing a credible operator for offshore acreage is a meaningful development. The country's petroleum regulatory framework and its capacity to manage a licensing relationship with a major will be tested as the programme

advances. Early-stage exploration — likely to involve seismic acquisition before any drilling decisions are taken — will determine whether the block warrants further investment and eventually development planning.

The timeline for exploration milestones, drilling commitments, and any potential appraisal activity will depend on findings from initial work programmes. Norwegian service companies tracking West African frontier opportunities should note this as an early-stage entry point, with commercial activity likely to materialise over a multi-year horizon rather than immediately.

### Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should monitor this licence award as an early-stage frontier opportunity, with Eni as the operator of record and a likely seismic and eventually drilling programme to follow. Companies active in well services, drilling support, and offshore logistics should engage Eni's regional procurement channels now to position ahead of any tender activity. Given Gambia's limited offshore infrastructure history, there may also be opportunities for consultancies and project support firms as the regulatory and operational framework develops.

#### PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Eni will require drilling services once exploration progresses beyond seismic — Norwegian drilling contractors should register interest with Eni's West Africa procurement teams early.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If exploration confirms commercial volumes, subsea infrastructure and FPSO solutions will be needed; Norwegian FPSO operators and subsea contractors should track block developments closely.
- **Service:** Seismic acquisition and well services will be the first activity phases — Norwegian geophysical and oilfield service firms should monitor Eni's tender pipeline for Block A1.
- **Pipeline:** Any future gas or liquids offtake from offshore Gambia will require subsea tie-back or export infrastructure planning — pipeline engineering firms should note this as a long-horizon opportunity.

[Original source: Offshore Technology →](#)

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## **Saga Advisory**

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