

AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER · OFFSHORE

# Petrobras Secures Eight Offshore Blocks in Ivory Coast Exploration Push

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Brazilian state-controlled major Petrobras has secured eight offshore blocks in Ivory Coast, marking a significant frontier exploration commitment in West Africa. The move signals continued and growing investor appetite for deepwater and offshore acreage along Africa's Atlantic margin, according to reporting by the African Energy Chamber.

Ivory Coast has been positioning itself as a competitive destination for offshore investment, and the scale of Petrobras's block acquisition — eight positions in a single move — is notable. While the article does not specify block classifications, water depths, or financial terms attached to the deal, the breadth of the commitment suggests a strategic long-term exploration play rather than a purely opportunistic entry. Petrobras brings substantial deepwater expertise from its operations in Brazilian pre-salt basins, making its interest in frontier African acreage a credible and technically grounded signal for the region.

For the broader West African offshore market, Petrobras's move adds momentum to a basin that has seen incremental interest from international operators in recent years. Ivory Coast sits within a geologically prospective zone along the West African Transform Margin, and a major such as Petrobras committing to eight blocks simultaneously can serve as a confidence signal to other prospective investors and service companies evaluating entry timing.

The African Energy Chamber framed this acquisition as evidence of growing investor appetite for frontier acreage across Africa's deepwater basins more broadly. This framing matters for service companies: frontier exploration commitments of this scale typically precede multi-year work programs involving seismic acquisition,

exploration drilling, and eventually appraisal and development phases — each requiring specialized contractors and service providers.

For Norwegian oil and gas service companies, Ivory Coast represents a market worth active monitoring. The country's regulatory and commercial environment for offshore investment will be tested as Petrobras advances its block positions. Norwegian firms with established West Africa footprints — particularly those already active in Nigeria, Angola, or Senegal — are well placed to engage early as Petrobras's exploration program takes shape. The timeline from block award to drilling activity in frontier settings can span several years, meaning now is the appropriate moment to establish relationships rather than wait for tenders to be issued.

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

Norwegian service companies should move from passive monitoring to active market engagement in Ivory Coast, particularly those with existing West Africa infrastructure or Petrobras relationships from Brazil or Angola. Petrobras's eight-block position indicates a multi-phase work program ahead, with seismic, drilling, and subsea services all potentially required over the coming years. Early-stage engagement with Petrobras's local and regional procurement teams is advisable before formal tender processes are initiated.

#### PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Petrobras's eight-block offshore position will require exploration and appraisal drilling campaigns — Norwegian drilling contractors and well services firms should initiate contact with Petrobras's West Africa procurement teams now.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If exploration confirms commercial volumes, subsea tieback and FPSO solutions will be central to any development — Norwegian subsea and floating production specialists should track this campaign from its earliest stages.
- **Service:** Seismic acquisition and data processing services will likely be among the first contracted work programs across eight frontier blocks, representing near-term revenue opportunity for geophysical service providers.

- **Pipeline:** Multi-block offshore positions of this scale may eventually require infield and export pipeline infrastructure, warranting early mapping of potential corridor and tie-in options by pipeline engineering firms.
- **LNG:** Should gas discoveries emerge across the block portfolio, Ivory Coast's existing and planned gas infrastructure context will shape commercialisation routes — LNG-capable Norwegian firms should monitor discovery announcements closely.

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

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## Saga Advisory

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