

PIPELINE TECHNOLOGY JOURNAL · LNG

Nigeria-Morocco \$25bn Atlantic Gas Pipeline Targets 2026 Definitive Agreement

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Nigeria and Morocco are targeting a definitive agreement on the African Atlantic Gas Pipeline before the end of 2026, officials have confirmed, marking a potential inflection point for one of the continent's most ambitious energy infrastructure undertakings. Formerly known as the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline, the project proposes a 5,600-kilometre coastal corridor designed to carry Nigerian natural gas northward along the West African seaboard, ultimately connecting into European energy grids via Morocco. The estimated project cost stands at \$25 billion.

For Nigeria, the pipeline represents a strategic vehicle to monetise its substantial domestic gas reserves, a long-standing national priority that has struggled to gain traction through earlier infrastructure proposals. For Morocco, a signed agreement advances Rabat's ambition to position itself as the primary energy gateway between Africa and Europe — a geopolitical objective that has gained urgency as European governments seek to diversify away from Russian gas supplies. Both governments have indicated that bilateral negotiations are progressing steadily, with the 2026 signing positioned as the critical milestone that would determine whether the project advances from planning into physical construction.

The pipeline's route spans more than a dozen West African jurisdictions, and this geographic complexity introduces two categories of risk that analysts highlight as structurally significant. The first is financing. Global capital markets have grown increasingly selective about funding large-scale fossil fuel infrastructure amid the energy transition, and securing \$25 billion from environmentally-conscious institutional lenders is widely regarded as the project's most consequential obstacle. Proponents counter that African natural gas should be recognised as an

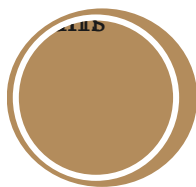
indispensable transition fuel necessary to support the continent's economic development trajectory before lower-carbon systems can be scaled at sufficient capacity.

The second risk category is security. A coastal pipeline traversing multiple West African nations — several of which contend with political instability, maritime piracy, and localised infrastructure threats — would require a level of cross-border security cooperation that has no established regional precedent. Energy analysts note that maintaining pipeline integrity across such a corridor over a multi-decade operational horizon presents logistical and diplomatic challenges that go well beyond what any single participant nation can manage unilaterally. Establishing credible, enforceable security frameworks across all transit jurisdictions will likely need to be resolved before major financiers commit capital.

The scheduled 2026 agreement will not immediately trigger construction, but it will establish the contractual and governance architecture — offtake arrangements, transit rights, cost-sharing mechanisms — that investors and contractors require before committing to detailed engineering and procurement phases. Whether that framework can satisfy the risk appetite of international project finance institutions remains the defining open question for a project that has spent more than a decade in high-level discussion.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should monitor the 2026 signing closely, as a confirmed definitive agreement would trigger demand for FEED contractors, pipeline engineering specialists, and integrity management services across a 5,600-kilometre corridor. The cross-border security and financing challenges mean near-term procurement is unlikely, but early positioning with Nigerian and Moroccan national energy entities — and with multilateral development finance institutions that may underwrite the project — would give Norwegian firms a competitive advantage when tendering opens. Companies with West African coastal infrastructure track records are best placed to engage now.



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- **Pipeline:** A 5,600-km subsea and onshore coastal pipeline corridor will require Norwegian pipeline engineering, integrity management, and cathodic protection expertise across multiple transit jurisdictions once financing is confirmed.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Offshore tie-in segments and any near-shore crossing infrastructure along the West African coast represent potential scopes for Norwegian subsea contractors with regional experience.
- **LNG:** If pipeline financing stalls, Nigerian gas monetisation may pivot toward additional LNG liquefaction capacity, sustaining demand for Norwegian LNG plant and marine loading technology providers.
- **Service:** Cross-border security risk management and operational readiness planning across 12-plus jurisdictions represent advisory and technical service opportunities for Norwegian firms with West African HSE and infrastructure experience.
- **Drilling:** Increased Nigerian gas production required to fill pipeline capacity will sustain upstream drilling activity, supporting demand for Norwegian well services and drilling management companies operating in the Niger Delta and offshore Nigeria.

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