ZITAMAR NEWS · MOZAMBIQUE · LNG

Mozambique clears key hurdle for Rovuma LNG

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Mozambique's government has cleared a major regulatory or approval hurdle for the Rovuma LNG project, marking a significant step forward for one of Africa's largest planned liquefied natural gas developments. The clearance represents meaningful progress for a project that has faced prolonged delays following a force majeure declaration in 2021 triggered by an insurgency in Cabo Delgado province.

The Rovuma LNG project, led by TotalEnergies alongside partners including ExxonMobil and ENH, is designed to monetise the vast natural gas reserves discovered in the Rovuma Basin off northern Mozambique. The project has been in a holding pattern while security conditions in Cabo Delgado were assessed and stabilisation efforts were undertaken. The latest governmental clearance signals that the pathway to eventual final investment decision is being rebuilt, though a date for FID has not been confirmed in the reporting.

Despite the milestone, analysts and observers note that the central challenge for Mozambique now extends beyond the technical and commercial viability of Rovuma LNG itself. The question of how the project's economic benefits translate into tangible improvements for the population of Cabo Delgado province — the area most directly affected by both the insurgency and the industrial footprint of LNG development — remains unresolved. Local communities have seen significant disruption, and the expectation that large-scale resource extraction will drive broad-based local development has historically been difficult to meet in comparable settings.

The Rovuma LNG project, if brought to FID and construction, would rank among the most capital-intensive energy infrastructure programmes on the African continent. It would require substantial marine, subsea, and onshore engineering work, as well as LNG plant construction, offshore loading systems, and long-term operational supply chains. The scale of procurement associated with such a project is considerable, though no contracts or tenders have been announced in connection with this latest clearance.

Mozambique's LNG sector has drawn sustained international interest given the size of its offshore gas resources. The Coral Sul FLNG vessel, operated by ENI under the adjacent Coral South project, has been producing and exporting LNG since 2022, demonstrating that the Rovuma Basin can deliver commercial volumes. Rovuma LNG is a substantially larger undertaking, and its reactivation would represent a transformative moment for Mozambique's export economy. For now, the government's clearance of this hurdle is a necessary but not sufficient step — further security assessments, commercial alignment among partners, and financing arrangements will all need to fall into place before construction can begin.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should monitor Rovuma LNG closely but not initiate procurement outreach at this stage — the clearance is a pre-FID milestone, and no tenders have been issued. Relationship-building with TotalEnergies, ExxonMobil, and ENH project teams is appropriate now to position for FEED and eventual EPCI, subsea, and marine scopes when the project formally reactivates.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **LNG:** Monitor TotalEnergies Rovuma LNG reactivation timeline; onshore LNG plant and marine offloading infrastructure will drive major procurement when FEED resumes.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Rovuma LNG offshore components, including subsea pipelines and marine loading systems, represent significant future scope — track project status for early engagement ahead of FEED.

- **Drilling:** Development drilling campaigns will follow any FID; monitor partner alignment and financing milestones as indicators of when rig demand will materialise.
- **Pipeline:** Subsea and nearshore pipeline scopes connecting offshore wells to the onshore LNG terminal are substantial; position early with engineering leads inside the project consortium.
- **Service:** Marine logistics, inspection, and support services will be required during construction and operations phases; build local-partner relationships in Mozambique now ahead of procurement.

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