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EACOP Pipeline 93.9% Complete as Uganda and Tanzania Accelerate Final Delivery Phase

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Uganda and Tanzania have reaffirmed their commitment to accelerating the completion of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni disclosing in November 2026 that the project is now 93.9% complete. The announcement follows high-level talks between President Museveni and Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan, in which the two heads of state also addressed progress on the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and cross-border energy connectivity initiatives. The bilateral commitment was confirmed by multiple sources in November 2026, reinforcing the credibility of the milestone figure and the shared political will behind the project's final push.

EACOP stretches more than 1,400 kilometres linking Kabaale in Hoima, Uganda, to Chongoleani near the Tanzanian port of Tanga on the Indian Ocean, making it one of the most consequential pipeline infrastructure projects currently under development on the African continent. The project has faced prolonged delays tied to financing, environmental scrutiny, and contractual negotiations over the years, making the reported construction completion figure a significant milestone in the pipeline's progression toward first oil exports. The project is led by TotalEnergies as operator alongside the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), and CNOOC.

The political signal from both governments carries added weight given the advanced stage of construction now confirmed. With the pipeline physically near completion,

attention in the industry is shifting from construction mobilisation toward commissioning, operational readiness, and the above-ground infrastructure still required — including pump stations and the marine storage terminal at Chongoleani near Tanga. Cross-border permitting, land access, and logistics coordination between Uganda and Tanzania remain part of the bilateral agenda, and the renewed presidential engagement is intended to resolve any remaining coordination bottlenecks as the project moves toward operational status.

For the pipeline and energy services sector, the 93.9% completion figure changes the near-term opportunity landscape considerably. Whereas earlier political commitments raised questions about whether construction acceleration would materialise, the current phase points firmly toward commissioning services, pre-operational testing, integrity management systems, and marine terminal readiness works. The SGR and broader cross-border energy connectivity discussions continue to form part of the bilateral cooperation framework, though no specific projects or timelines beyond EACOP were disclosed in the meeting readout.

Industry observers will now watch closely for commissioning schedules and any outstanding procurement announcements from TotalEnergies and its joint venture partners. Once operational, EACOP will become sub-Saharan Africa's longest electrically heated crude oil export pipeline in service — a technically distinctive asset that demands specialist commissioning and long-term integrity management expertise from the outset.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The confirmed 93.9% completion figure, now corroborated by multiple sources, strengthens the case for Norwegian companies to prioritise engagement with TotalEnergies and UNOC procurement channels for commissioning-phase and pre-operational scopes. Norwegian firms with expertise in electrically heat-traced pipeline commissioning, integrity management, and marine terminal readiness are particularly well-positioned for near-term tendering activity. Saga should track procurement announcements from TotalEnergies' Uganda and Tanzania project offices closely over the coming months.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline integrity and inspection firms:** Pre-commissioning inspection, inline inspection tool runs, and integrity baseline assessments for a 1,400 km electrically heated crude pipeline represent a significant near-term scope as EACOP moves toward operational readiness.
- **Marine terminal and offshore loading specialists:** The Chongoleani marine storage terminal near Tanga requires commissioning and operational readiness works, offering entry points for companies with floating storage, single-point mooring, or marine loading expertise.
- **Commissioning and pre-operational testing contractors:** As a thermally insulated and electrically heated pipeline, EACOP requires specialist commissioning services that align with Norwegian subsea and flow assurance competencies developed in cold-climate and deepwater contexts.

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Saga Advisory

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

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN