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Shell starts Mina West gas tieback offshore Egypt

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Shell Egypt has achieved first gas from the Mina West field, a subsea tieback to the existing West Delta Deep Marine (WDDM) infrastructure in the Mediterranean offshore Egypt. Production from Mina West is ramping up to a plateau capacity of 160 million standard cubic feet per day (MMcf/d), with all output directed into Egypt's domestic gas grid.

Mina West is developed as a tieback to the WDDM hub, one of the largest operating natural gas complexes in the Mediterranean. The WDDM concession, in which Shell holds a significant working interest alongside operator Burullus — a joint venture with EGAS — has been producing for more than two decades and continues to anchor Egypt's offshore gas sector. The Mina West development extends the productive life of that hub by bringing additional reserves onto existing processing and pipeline infrastructure, reducing the need for standalone facilities.

Egypt has faced periodic domestic gas supply tightfalls in recent years, driven by rising power demand and the decline of mature fields. The addition of up to 160 MMcf/d from Mina West directly addresses grid supply and may reduce the country's LNG import requirements, which had re-emerged as a tool to cover shortfalls. The gas is routed onshore through the existing WDDM export system, connecting to the national grid operated by EGAS.

The Mina West tieback reflects a broader industry approach in the Eastern Mediterranean of maximising recovery from established infrastructure rather than sanctioning entirely new hub developments. Subsea tieback architecture allows

operators to accelerate first gas timing and limit capital expenditure by using existing risers, pipelines, and onshore processing trains. For Egypt, where government policy emphasises energy self-sufficiency and reducing the foreign-currency burden of fuel imports, each incremental offshore development carries both economic and strategic significance.

Shell's continued investment in the WDDM area signals confidence in the concession's remaining resource base and in Egypt's regulatory framework for offshore gas, even as the company globally rationalises its upstream portfolio. The Mina West milestone follows a sequence of subsea developments tied back to WDDM and positions the hub for continued relevance as Egypt seeks to stabilise and potentially grow gas export capacity in parallel with meeting domestic demand.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The Mina West tieback confirms active subsea development spending at the WDDM hub, creating openings for Norwegian subsea equipment suppliers, hook-up and commissioning contractors, and inspection and maintenance service providers. Norwegian companies with Mediterranean or Middle East presence should monitor Shell Egypt and Burullus procurement channels for follow-on intervention and integrity management work as the tieback enters plateau production. Additional tieback candidates in the WDDM area may generate further scopes worth tracking.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea:** Mina West tieback confirms active subsea tie-in and flowline work at WDDM; monitor Shell Egypt and Burullus for integrity management and intervention contracts as field enters plateau.
- **FPSO:** No FPSO scope on this tieback, but WDDM hub expansion activity signals broader offshore capex that could include future floating infrastructure studies.
- **Drilling:** Development wells drilled for Mina West represent potential well services and completions scope; track WDDM area rig contracting for follow-on infill campaigns.

- **Pipeline:** Tieback pipeline hook-up to existing WDDM export system may require inspection, pigging, and integrity services — a near-term entry point for Norwegian pipeline service firms.
- **Service:** Brownfield commissioning and offshore hook-up work at Mina West suits Norwegian specialist service companies; relationship-building with Shell Egypt and Burullus recommended now.

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