ENERGIES MEDIA · CÔTE D'IVOIRE · LNG

Côte d'Ivoire, Bénin, Togo sign LNG supply MoU

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Côte d'Ivoire, Bénin, and Togo have signed a memorandum of understanding to coordinate their liquefied natural gas supplies, pooling studies and demand forecasts to facilitate gas trade among the three West African states.

The MoU establishes a framework for joint procurement planning and shared analytical work, including coordinated demand projections. By aligning their import strategies, the three countries aim to strengthen their collective bargaining position in LNG markets and reduce the fragmentation that has historically limited West Africa's gas import capacity. The agreement marks an early-stage commitment to regional energy integration rather than a binding supply contract or infrastructure decision.

The initiative reflects growing urgency across coastal West Africa to secure reliable gas supplies as domestic power deficits persist and existing pipeline infrastructure — primarily the West African Gas Pipeline — has faced recurring supply interruptions from Nigeria. LNG imports have emerged as an alternative or complementary route for countries in the sub-region that lack significant indigenous gas production or whose reserves are not yet commercialised at scale.

Côte d'Ivoire has previously explored FSRU-based LNG import solutions and has existing gas-fired power capacity. Bénin and Togo, smaller markets with constrained domestic energy resources, have both sought to diversify away from dependence on hydropower and cross-border electricity imports. A coordinated LNG approach would

allow the three states to aggregate demand volumes, potentially making supply contracts more attractive to international LNG sellers and infrastructure developers.

The pooling of feasibility studies and demand forecasts under this MoU is a preliminary step. Concrete infrastructure decisions — including terminal siting, vessel specifications, and offtake agreements — will depend on the outcomes of those studies and on the ability of the three governments to maintain political alignment through subsequent negotiation phases. No timeline for completing the joint studies or advancing to a development agreement has been reported.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This MoU is at an early reconnaissance stage; Norwegian LNG and floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) specialists should monitor progress on the joint feasibility studies rather than approach procurement. If studies lead to a formal tender for FSRU supply, mooring, or regasification infrastructure, companies such as Höegh LNG, Golar, or subsea and marine service firms would have concrete bid opportunities. Relationship-building with energy ministries and state utilities in all three countries is advisable now to position ahead of any future RFQ.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **LNG:** FSRU owners and LNG terminal developers should track the joint feasibility study phase for early positioning on a potential Gulf of Guinea import terminal.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If a floating regasification solution is selected, subsea mooring and pipeline tie-in scopes could follow — monitor for tender release after study completion.
- **Pipeline:** Onshore or nearshore gas distribution infrastructure connecting a future import terminal to power plants in all three countries represents a downstream pipeline opportunity worth watching.
- **Service:** Marine and port engineering consultancies can seek engagement on the pooled feasibility and demand-forecasting work now under way across the three states.

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