

AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT · DRILLING

TotalEnergies Confirms New Hydrocarbon Discovery on Moho License Offshore Congo

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TotalEnergies EP Congo has announced a hydrocarbon discovery on the Moho license, located offshore the Republic of Congo, following the completion of a new exploration or appraisal well. The find is described as incremental — characterised by Africa Oil+Gas Report as topping up existing output — rather than a transformational basin-opening discovery, but it nonetheless adds reserves to one of West-Central Africa's most productive deepwater acreages.

The Moho license sits in the established deepwater fairway off Pointe-Noire and is anchored by the Moho Nord development, which began production in 2017 via a dedicated floating production unit. TotalEnergies operates the license and holds a majority stake alongside the Congolese state company SNPC and, in certain blocks, Chevron. Any incremental discovery in this area would logically feed into existing tiebacks or prompt a modest subsea extension rather than a standalone development, keeping capital requirements contained while extending the productive life of infrastructure already in place.

For the Republic of Congo — where hydrocarbons account for the overwhelming share of government revenue — even a modest volume addition carries fiscal significance. The country's legacy fields are in decline, and Brazzaville has been actively encouraging operators to drill in order to arrest output erosion. This discovery, however small relative to a frontier find, signals that TotalEnergies

remains committed to sweating its Congolese portfolio rather than simply managing decline.

From a technical standpoint, the Moho complex has demonstrated stratigraphic and structural complexity that rewards careful reservoir characterisation. A new well result adds data that can recalibrate resource estimates across adjacent fault blocks, potentially unlocking further near-field targets that were previously sub-economic or uncertain. Tieback economics in a brownfield deepwater setting are typically far more attractive than greenfield thresholds, meaning even modest volumes — in the low tens of millions of barrels range — can achieve sanction if subsea tie-in distances are manageable.

The broader context matters for service companies monitoring West Africa. Congo has a relatively small upstream market compared with Angola or Nigeria, but it punches above its weight in deepwater activity given TotalEnergies' sustained operational presence. Activity levels on the Moho license directly drive demand for subsea inspection, maintenance and repair, well intervention, and potential tieback installation scopes. A confirmed discovery, even an incremental one, starts a clock ticking toward front-end engineering and — if volumes justify it — a subsea production system award.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies with existing West Africa deepwater mobilisation capacity should monitor this discovery closely, as tieback and near-field development decisions on Moho typically move within 12-24 months of a well result. Subsea contractors and well services firms in particular should engage TotalEnergies EP Congo and its FEED contractors early, given the brownfield nature of the opportunity and the preference for proven Moho-experienced vendors. Companies not yet present in Congo should assess whether partnering with a locally established operator or agent is cost-effective given the market's smaller scale relative to Angola.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea:** Near-field tieback to existing Moho Nord infrastructure is the most probable development route — subsea equipment suppliers and installation contractors should position for a potential FEED or FEED-to-EPC scope.
- **FPSO:** If discovered volumes prove sufficient for a standalone floater, the existing Moho Nord FPSO operator relationship gives a reference point, but incremental volumes more likely mean FPSO modifications or throughput optimisation contracts.
- **Drilling:** Additional appraisal drilling is likely before any development sanction — drilling contractors with deepwater rigs already operating in the Gulf of Guinea should track rig-call timing from TotalEnergies EP Congo.
- **Service:** Well services firms providing logging, completion, and reservoir characterisation should engage TotalEnergies EP Congo now, as brownfield discoveries require intensive data acquisition before development concept selection.
- **Pipeline:** Any tieback scenario will require flexible flowline and umbilical engineering — Norwegian pipeline and flexible pipe specialists should assess fit within TotalEnergies' existing Moho vendor framework.

[Original source: Africa Oil+Gas Report →](#)

Saga Advisory

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

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