PIPELINE TECHNOLOGY JOURNAL · LNG

Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline Construction Begins, Opening Major African Corridor

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Algeria broke ground on its section of the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline (TSGP) in June 2026, when energy ministers from Algeria, Nigeria, and Niger convened in Algiers before marking the milestone at Algeria's Adrar Province. After decades of feasibility studies, delayed timelines, and recurring setbacks, the project is now showing tangible construction progress. Niger is expected to begin work on its own segment in early 2027.

Spanning 4,128 kilometres, the TSGP is designed to carry up to 30 billion cubic metres of natural gas annually from Nigeria's reserves, through Niger, to Algeria's Hassi R'Mel hub. From Hassi R'Mel, gas can feed into existing infrastructure — including the Trans-Mediterranean Pipeline — to reach European markets. The project's estimated cost sits between US$10 billion and US$13 billion, making it one of the largest and most complex energy infrastructure undertakings in Africa's history.

The concept dates to the 1970s but gained structured momentum in the early 2000s through a partnership between Nigeria's NNPC and Algeria's Sonatrach. A 2006 feasibility study confirmed viability, and a 2009 intergovernmental agreement initially targeted a 2015 operational start. Security concerns in the Sahel, financing gaps, and broader regional instability repeatedly pushed that timeline back. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 injected fresh urgency into the project, as European governments actively sought to reduce dependence on Russian pipeline gas and engaged African alternatives more seriously. Renewed diplomatic engagement through 2025 produced updated agreements, including efforts to refresh feasibility studies and resolve outstanding compensation and confidentiality issues. By

mid-2026, improved relations between the three signatory states translated into the construction launch now underway.

For Norway's oil and gas service sector, the TSGP represents a long-horizon but increasingly concrete opportunity. The pipeline's sheer scale — crossing some of the world's most logistically challenging terrain — will require significant engineering, procurement, and construction capacity across all three countries. Nigerian upstream gas development needed to feed the pipeline adds another layer of activity. Although the article does not specify current contract awards or detailed engineering scopes, the construction mobilisation phase in Algeria and Niger's planned 2027 start suggest that procurement and tendering activity will accelerate over the next 12 to 24 months. Norwegian companies with relevant pipeline, compression, and metering expertise should begin assessing entry points now, whether through direct bidding, local partnerships, or alignment with Sonatrach and NNPC procurement channels.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian pipeline and compression technology providers should monitor NNPC and Sonatrach procurement announcements closely, as the TSGP's construction mobilisation phase is now active in Algeria with Niger to follow in 2027. Companies in inspection, integrity management, and large-diameter pipeline construction services are particularly well positioned to engage, either directly or through regional EPC partners. Saga recommends initiating relationship-mapping with Sonatrach and NNPC project teams in the near term rather than waiting for formal tender publication.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline:** The 4,128 km trunk line will require large-diameter pipe supply, trench construction, and welding inspection services across three countries — Norwegian pipeline contractors and integrity specialists should assess subcontracting opportunities under Sonatrach and NNPC-led EPC packages.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Increased Nigerian gas offtake for the TSGP may accelerate upstream gas field development, potentially including offshore tie-backs and gas processing infrastructure where Norwegian subsea and FPSO operators have competitive standing.

- **LNG:** If TSGP construction faces further delays, Nigeria may seek to monetise pipeline-destined gas volumes through LNG instead — Norwegian LNG technology and marine loading providers should track the project schedule closely as a market signal.
- **Drilling/Well Services:** Supplying 30 bcm per year sustainably will require expanded well drilling and workover activity in Nigeria's gas fields; Norwegian well services companies should engage NNPC and its partners on upstream development planning tied to TSGP supply commitments.
- **Service:** The Saharan routing presents extreme logistical and corrosion challenges requiring specialised coatings, cathodic protection, and remote monitoring systems — Norwegian technology firms in asset integrity and digital inspection have a credible value proposition for this environment.

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Saga Advisory

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

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN