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Azule, Sonangol and Equinor Greenlight \$5.1bn Greater PAJ Angola Offshore Development

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Azule Energy, together with partners Sonangol E&P and Equinor, has taken a final investment decision (FID) for the Greater PAJ Project, a \$5.1 billion offshore oil development located in Angola's Blocks 31 and 31/21. The sanction marks a significant commitment to Angola's deepwater sector and signals continued operator confidence in the country's upstream potential despite the broader global energy transition pressures facing the industry.

The Greater PAJ Project represents one of the more substantial capital allocations to Sub-Saharan African upstream in recent years. With Azule Energy — the joint venture formed by bp and Eni in Angola — at the helm alongside state company Sonangol E&P and Norwegian major Equinor, the project brings together operators with deep regional experience and strong balance sheets capable of executing a multi-billion-dollar offshore program. The scale of the \$5.1 billion budget underscores the complexity and ambition of the development across the two licence areas.

Angola has been working to sustain and grow its hydrocarbon output as production from older fields continues to decline. Project sanctions of this magnitude are critical to the country's production trajectory and to the government's fiscal position, which remains heavily dependent on oil revenues. For Sonangol, participation as a partner rather than solely as regulator reflects the national oil company's ongoing commercial engagement in new development cycles. Equinor's involvement also reinforces the Norwegian major's long-term strategic presence on the Angolan shelf, a position the company has maintained for well over a decade.

From a service industry perspective, a project of this scale and offshore nature will require an extensive supply chain across multiple disciplines. Subsea infrastructure, floating production systems, drilling campaigns, and well services will all feature prominently in the project's execution phase. The FID itself is the trigger that typically initiates formal tendering processes, meaning that the contracting window for major scopes is likely opening now or in the near term. Norwegian service companies with established Angola track records — or those seeking to build a regional footprint — should treat this sanction as an active procurement signal rather than a project to monitor passively.

Angola's regulatory framework under the National Oil, Gas and Biofuels Agency (ANPG) has shown increasing openness to international service providers, and Luanda's port and logistics infrastructure, while demanding, is familiar territory for companies already operating in the region. The involvement of Equinor as a partner also creates a natural point of entry for Norwegian firms with existing relationships in the Norwegian major's supply chain, as procurement teams often look to proven vendors when mobilising for large deepwater campaigns far from home markets.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should treat the Greater PAJ FID as an active tendering signal, particularly those with deepwater Angola experience or Equinor supply chain relationships. Subsea, FPSO, drilling, and well services firms should initiate early engagement with Azule Energy and Equinor procurement teams now that the investment decision has been formalised. Companies without an Angola presence should assess whether a local partnering arrangement — required or preferred under Angolan content rules — is feasible ahead of major contract awards.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea:** A \$5.1bn offshore development across two blocks will require substantial subsea infrastructure; Norwegian subsea contractors should position for umbilical, flowline, and tie-back scopes now that FID is confirmed.

- **FPSO:** Offshore oil development at this scale in Angola typically centres on floating production; FPSO owners, integrators, and topside module suppliers should monitor tender releases from the Azule-led joint venture closely.
- **Drilling:** A multi-block development of this budget will involve a significant drilling campaign; Norwegian drilling contractors and rig owners with deepwater capability should engage Azule and Equinor procurement teams directly.
- **Service:** Well services companies — including cementing, completions, and intervention specialists — should use Equinor's partnership role as a relationship entry point to qualify for Greater PAJ scopes.
- **Pipeline:** Inter-field tiebacks and export infrastructure associated with a development spanning Blocks 31 and 31/21 may create pipeline engineering and installation opportunities worth tracking through the project's FEED progression.

[Original source: Offshore Technology →](#)

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