

AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT · SUBSEA

# NNPC Completes River Niger Crossing on Key OB3 Gas Pipeline

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Nigeria's state hydrocarbon company NNPC Limited has announced the successful completion of the River Niger Crossing, a technically demanding segment of the 130-kilometre Obiafu-Obrikom-Oben (OB3) gas pipeline project. The milestone marks a significant step forward for one of Nigeria's most strategically important domestic gas transmission projects, which has faced prolonged delays since its initial conception over a decade ago.

The OB3 pipeline is designed to connect gas-rich producing fields in the Niger Delta — specifically the Obiafu and Obrikom fields in Rivers State — to the Oben hub in Edo State, which feeds into the Escravos-Lagos Pipeline System (ELPS). Once fully operational, the pipeline is expected to significantly boost gas supply to domestic power generation facilities and industrial consumers across southern and western Nigeria, addressing chronic gas shortfalls that have hobbled the country's electricity sector for years.

The River Niger Crossing represents the most technically complex section of the OB3 route, requiring horizontal directional drilling (HDD) or similar trenchless pipeline installation techniques to pass beneath the river without disrupting navigation or causing environmental disturbance. Completion of this segment removes what had been considered the principal engineering bottleneck on the project, and signals that the remaining pipeline sections and tie-in works are likely to advance at a faster pace. NNPC has framed the achievement as evidence of renewed execution momentum under its commercialised structure following its conversion from a government department to a limited liability company.

The OB3 project feeds directly into Nigeria's broader Decade of Gas agenda, which positions natural gas as the transition fuel of choice for Africa's most populous nation. With domestic gas monetisation a stated priority for both NNPC and the Federal Government, completing OB3 is seen as foundational infrastructure that could unlock further upstream investment by making gas evacuation commercially viable for producers currently flaring or reinjecting associated gas in the region.

For international service companies tracking Nigeria's infrastructure pipeline, the completion of the crossing also raises near-term questions about what additional civil, mechanical, and integrity works remain before the pipeline enters commercial service, and whether NNPC will seek external technical partners for commissioning, metering, and operational maintenance phases.

## Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian pipeline and subsea service companies with HDD, pipeline integrity, and commissioning expertise should monitor this project closely, as remaining tie-in, testing, and operational maintenance contracts may come to market. The project's strategic importance to Nigeria's gas agenda means NNPC is likely to prioritise reliable international technical partners for the final execution phases. Companies active in West Africa through local content partnerships are best positioned to bid or provide embedded advisory support.



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## PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline:** Integrity inspection, commissioning support, and cathodic protection services for the completed river crossing and remaining OB3 sections represent near-term contract opportunities.

- **Subsea:** HDD and trenchless installation specialists can position for future river crossing scopes across Nigeria's expanding domestic gas grid, using OB3 as a reference project.
- **Service:** Metering, SCADA, and operational readiness consultancies should engage NNPC Gas as the pipeline moves toward commercial handover and operational phase.
- **LNG:** Improved gas evacuation infrastructure from Niger Delta fields strengthens the feedstock case for both existing LNG export terminals and proposed midscale LNG projects targeting domestic or regional markets.
- **FPSO:** Upstream producers with stranded or flared associated gas in the OB3 catchment area may accelerate field development plans, creating incremental FPSO and production vessel demand in the region.

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

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## Saga Advisory

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