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MSGBC 2025 Highlights Phase-Two Gas, Deepwater Exploration and Renewables Integration

Saga deep read · 15 December 2025 · Score 58

Stakeholders gathered at the MSGBC 2025 conference have identified three strategic pillars shaping the near-term energy trajectory of the Mauritania-Senegal-Gambia-Guinea Bissau-Guinea Conakry basin: advancing phase-two gas development, accelerating deepwater exploration, and integrating renewable energy into the region's broader energy mix. The conference underscored that the MSGBC basin remains one of Sub-Saharan Africa's most actively developing hydrocarbon frontiers, with momentum building across multiple project stages and energy types.

Phase-two gas projects were a central theme, signalling that basin stakeholders are moving beyond first-phase development milestones and into the more complex, capital-intensive stages of gas monetisation. These phases typically involve expanded production infrastructure, gas processing facilities, and the commercial frameworks needed to route volumes to both domestic markets and export destinations. The emphasis on phase-two activity suggests that project sponsors and governments in the region are focused on translating proven reserves into sustained revenue streams rather than purely exploratory ambitions.

Deepwater exploration featured prominently in conference discussions, reinforcing the basin's reputation as a technically demanding but high-potential environment. The MSGBC region has attracted significant international operator interest in recent years, and the continued focus on deepwater activity at MSGBC 2025 indicates that exploration programmes are advancing rather than stalling. For service companies, deepwater exploration campaigns typically generate demand across the full project lifecycle — from seismic acquisition and well planning through to drilling, subsea installation, and eventually production system deployment.

The integration of renewable energy into the MSGBC energy framework reflects a regional policy trend that is gaining traction across West Africa. Governments in the basin are increasingly seeking to pair hydrocarbon revenues with domestic electrification strategies that include solar, wind, and other renewable sources. This dual-track approach — export-oriented gas development alongside renewable-led domestic power expansion — is shaping how energy ministries in the region structure both licensing frameworks and international partnerships. For service companies, this signals that energy clients in the MSGBC basin are becoming more complex counterparties, operating across multiple technology domains simultaneously.

Local content and capacity building were also flagged as key priorities emerging from the conference. Governments and operators in the MSGBC region are under increasing pressure to demonstrate tangible local economic benefits from energy development, which affects how international contractors structure their bids, workforce plans, and supply chain arrangements. Companies that can demonstrate credible local partnership strategies and skills transfer programmes are likely to be better positioned in procurement processes across the basin.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should treat MSGBC 2025 as a forward indicator for bid preparation and partnership scouting, particularly as phase-two gas and deepwater exploration programmes move toward tendering. Companies with subsea, FPSO, and drilling capabilities are well-positioned to engage early with operators active in the basin. Local content requirements make it advisable to identify credible regional partners now rather than at tender stage.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Phase-two gas development and deepwater exploration create a pipeline of potential FPSO and subsea infrastructure requirements that Norwegian FPSO operators and subsea contractors should monitor for upcoming tenders.

- **Drilling:** Continued deepwater exploration activity in the MSGBC basin points to sustained demand for deepwater drilling rigs and associated well services across multiple basin countries.
- **LNG:** Gas monetisation through phase-two projects implies growing LNG and gas processing infrastructure requirements where Norwegian LNG technology and engineering firms can seek early engagement.
- **Pipeline:** Expanded gas development phases typically require infield and export pipeline systems, creating opportunities for Norwegian pipeline engineering and installation contractors.
- **Service:** Local content obligations flagged at MSGBC 2025 mean Norwegian well services and oilfield service companies should prioritise identifying regional partners and structuring workforce localisation plans ahead of formal procurement processes.

Original source: Energy Capital & Power →

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