

AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT · DRILLING

Angola Feeds Luanda Refinery 12,000 BOPD Amid Downstream Capacity Constraints

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Angola's National Oil, Gas and Biofuels Agency (ANPG) has confirmed that the country is supplying 12,000 barrels of oil per day (BOPD) to its only functioning refinery, the Luanda Refinery, as the country grapples with significant downstream processing limitations. The figure underscores both the continued productivity of Angola's upstream sector and the structural bottlenecks that have long constrained the country's ability to capture full value from its hydrocarbon resources domestically.

Angola remains one of Sub-Saharan Africa's largest crude producers, with output managed through a mature but capital-intensive offshore basin. The ANPG's role as upstream regulator positions it as a central authority overseeing allocation decisions — including how much domestically produced crude is directed toward refining versus export. The 12,000 BOPD figure directed to the Luanda Refinery represents a modest share of Angola's total production capacity, which has hovered around 1.1–1.2 million BOPD in recent years, reflecting the refinery's limited throughput capacity rather than any upstream supply constraint.

Angola has for years been dependent on refined product imports despite being a major crude exporter — a paradox shared by several African producer nations. The Luanda Refinery, with a nameplate capacity of approximately 65,000 BOPD, has operated well below its rated capacity due to aging infrastructure, deferred maintenance, and financing challenges. Efforts to rehabilitate the facility and develop

new refining capacity, including the long-discussed Lobito Refinery project, have faced repeated delays. The current 12,000 BOPD supply rate suggests the refinery is operating at a fraction of its potential, reinforcing the case for either a major rehabilitation programme or accelerated development of alternative refining infrastructure.

The broader context is one of strategic urgency for Angola. With fuel subsidies having placed significant strain on public finances in prior years, and with the government seeking to reduce import dependency, increasing domestic refining throughput is a stated policy priority. Sonangol, the national oil company, retains operational responsibility for the Luanda facility and has engaged in discussions with various international partners regarding refinery upgrades. Progress, however, has been incremental. The Cabinda and Soyo modular refinery projects have also been flagged as partial solutions, though their combined capacity remains limited relative to national demand.

For international service and engineering companies monitoring Angola, the supply figure is a signal that upstream crude availability is not the binding constraint — the bottleneck is processing infrastructure. Any credible rehabilitation or expansion programme at the Luanda Refinery, or acceleration of greenfield refining projects, would generate substantial demand for engineering, procurement, and construction services, as well as associated pipeline and storage infrastructure work.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian companies with downstream engineering, refinery rehabilitation, and pipeline infrastructure capabilities should monitor Angola's refining investment pipeline closely, as Sonangol and ANPG are likely to tender technical and construction contracts as upgrade programmes mature.

Companies in the broader oil field services space should note that Angola's upstream remains active and that any refinery expansion will require increased, reliable crude supply logistics. This is a market to engage now through relationship-building with ANPG and Sonangol rather than waiting for formal tender processes.

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- **Pipeline:** Refinery feed logistics and crude offtake pipeline infrastructure between offshore terminals and the Luanda Refinery present near-term scoping opportunities as throughput targets increase.
- **FPSO:** Higher domestic refining ambitions may require dedicated crude storage and offloading solutions closer to shore, a segment where Norwegian FPSO operators have established credentials in Angolan waters.
- **Subsea:** Sustained upstream supply commitments to the refinery reinforce the need for continued subsea infrastructure maintenance and potential tieback developments in Angola's mature offshore blocks.
- **Service:** Refinery rehabilitation programmes typically require third-party inspection, integrity management, and process engineering services — areas where Norwegian engineering firms can compete on quality.
- **Drilling:** Maintaining 12,000 BOPD domestic crude supply alongside export commitments requires sustained drilling activity in Angola's offshore blocks, supporting demand for drilling contractors and well services.

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