AFRICA ENERGY INTELLIGENCE

AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT · DRILLING

PETROCI Plans Nine-Well Drilling Campaign Targeting First Gas Delivery by 2028

Saga deep read · 15 July 2026 · Score 58

Côte d'Ivoire's state hydrocarbon company PETROCI has announced an ambitious drilling and development programme centred on a nine-well campaign, with a stated target of delivering first gas by 2028. The announcement, reported from Abidjan, signals a meaningful acceleration of the West African nation's upstream ambitions and positions PETROCI as a more active operator in the country's hydrocarbon sector.

The nine-well campaign represents a significant operational commitment for PETROCI, reflecting the company's intent to move from exploration-phase activity toward tangible production milestones within a defined timeline. A 2028 first gas target implies that development planning, contracting, and well execution will need to be advanced in relatively short order, creating a near-term window for service and equipment providers to engage with procurement processes.

Côte d'Ivoire has long held recognised hydrocarbon potential, and renewed state-led momentum from PETROCI suggests that both government and company leadership are prioritising gas development as a strategic priority. Gas-focused development programmes of this nature typically require a broad range of upstream services — from drilling rigs and well services to subsurface engineering — alongside midstream infrastructure planning to bring produced volumes to market. The 2028 deadline adds urgency to what would otherwise be a multi-year procurement and execution cycle.

While the article does not specify the geographic or water-depth context of the individual wells within the campaign, nor does it detail contract structures or partner operators, the scale of a nine-well programme in a frontier-to-emerging market such as Côte d'Ivoire is noteworthy. Norwegian service companies with West Africa exposure and existing regional logistics infrastructure are well placed to monitor procurement developments closely as PETROCI moves from announcement to execution.

For Norwegian oil and gas service companies tracking Sub-Saharan Africa, Côte d'Ivoire represents a market that has historically received less attention than Angola, Nigeria, or Senegal, but one that is now signalling credible near-term activity. The combination of a defined well count, a named operator, and a specific first gas target provides a clearer commercial hook than earlier-stage exploration announcements. Companies active in drilling services, well completions, and associated gas infrastructure should treat this as an early-stage opportunity requiring active monitoring and, where relationships permit, direct engagement with PETROCI's procurement and technical teams in Abidjan.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The nine-well campaign creates a concrete near-term opportunity for Norwegian service companies to engage with PETROCI's procurement cycle ahead of rig contracting and well services tendering. Companies with existing West Africa logistics or regional offices should prioritise direct contact with PETROCI in Abidjan given the 2028 first gas deadline. Saga Advisory recommends monitoring for formal tender announcements and identifying any international co-venturers who may bring familiar procurement frameworks.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** A nine-well campaign will require rig contracts and associated drilling services; companies should assess PETROCI's rig procurement timeline and whether jack-up or semisubmersible capacity is required.

- **Well Services:** Cementing, completion, and well testing services will be needed across multiple wells; early engagement with PETROCI's technical team in Abidjan is advisable to position ahead of formal tenders.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If any wells within the campaign are offshore, subsea tie-back or floating production solutions may be required; monitor for field development plan disclosures that clarify offshore scope.
- **Pipeline:** A first gas target implies downstream offtake infrastructure; pipeline and gas handling contractors should track PETROCI's midstream planning for potential early engagement.
- **LNG:** Depending on Côte d'Ivoire's gas monetisation strategy, LNG or gas processing equipment suppliers should monitor whether produced gas is earmarked for domestic use, export, or both.

Original source: Africa Oil+Gas Report →

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