

JEUNE AFRIQUE ÉCONOMIE · LNG

# Nigerian Tycoon Kola Karim Targets Algeria Gas Field to Boost European LNG Exports

Saga deep read · 06 May 2026 · Score 50

---

Nigerian entrepreneur Kola Karim is positioning himself as a central figure in Algeria's gas export ambitions, with plans to develop the Hassi Bir Rekaïz field and install a new central gas processing unit (CPU) that would anchor Algiers' broader strategy for strengthening energy supplies to European markets. The move represents a significant private-sector push into Algeria's historically state-dominated hydrocarbon sector, and signals growing continental investor appetite for Algerian upstream assets at a time when European buyers are actively seeking alternatives to Russian pipeline gas.

The planned central processing unit at Hassi Bir Rekaïz would serve as the operational backbone for aggregating and treating gas volumes before onward transmission. Such facilities are technically complex undertakings, requiring substantial engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) capacity, as well as specialist commissioning expertise in desert operating environments. The field's development would integrate into Algeria's existing gas transmission network, which feeds both domestic consumption and the major export pipelines — Medgaz and Transmed — connecting North Africa to Spain and Italy respectively.

Karim's strategic positioning reflects a broader dynamic in North African energy: as European governments accelerate efforts to diversify away from Russian gas, Algeria has emerged as one of the continent's most immediately scalable suppliers. Sonatrach, the state energy company, has already signed enhanced supply

agreements with Italian ENI and Spanish Naturgy in recent years. Private developers capable of accelerating field development and boosting throughput capacity therefore find themselves in a commercially attractive position, with ready offtake demand from creditworthy European buyers.

The Hassi Bir Rekaïz development adds to a growing list of Algerian upstream projects that will require significant service and technology input. From well drilling and completion in deep desert conditions, to gas processing plant construction and pipeline tie-ins, the project's execution phase will generate a range of procurement opportunities. Algeria has historically favored contractors with prior North African or Sonatrach-related experience, but the scale of current ambitions — combined with international partner involvement — is opening doors for technically credible new entrants.

For the wider Sub-Saharan and North African energy corridor, Karim's Algeria play is notable as an example of West African private capital moving upstream and northward, rather than relying on international majors as the primary vehicle for cross-border deals. It also underscores that the European energy security agenda is reshaping deal structures and timelines across the African continent, compressing development schedules that would previously have unfolded over decades. Norwegian service companies with LNG, gas processing, and pipeline credentials should treat this project as an early-stage but credible monitoring opportunity, particularly given Algeria's established infrastructure and proximity to premium European end-markets.

### **Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga**

Norwegian companies with gas processing technology, compression equipment, or EPC track records in arid/desert environments should register interest early, as the CPU installation at Hassi Bir Rekaïz will require specialist procurement. The European offtake rationale strengthens project bankability, increasing the likelihood of financed contracting packages. Partners with prior Sonatrach or North African references will have a structural advantage in qualification rounds.

## PARTNER ANGLES

- **LNG/Gas Processing:** Central processing unit installation requires gas treatment technology providers and commissioning specialists with desert-environment experience.
- **Pipeline:** Field tie-in to Algeria's existing export pipeline network will generate pipeline engineering and integrity management opportunities.
- **Drilling:** Hassi Bir Rekaïz field development will require drilling and well completion services suited to North African geological conditions.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Onshore-focused project, but surface facilities construction packages may include modular skid suppliers relevant to Norwegian process equipment firms.
- **Service:** EPC contractors and specialist maintenance firms should monitor procurement rounds, particularly those linked to international partner involvement alongside Sonatrach.

[Original source: Jeune Afrique Économie →](#)

---

### Saga Advisory

General: [info@saga-advisory.com](mailto:info@saga-advisory.com) · [saga-advisory.com](http://saga-advisory.com)

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN