

AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT · UPSTREAM

TotalEnergies Gains Namibia Approval for Mopane Stake as Venus FID Advances

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The Namibian government has approved TotalEnergies' deal to acquire a 40% working interest and operatorship in the Mopane discovery, farming into an asset previously held by Galp. The transaction represents a significant consolidation of TotalEnergies' position in Namibia's emerging upstream sector, adding Mopane to its existing portfolio in the country. Separately, discussions around a Final Investment Decision for the Venus development are reported to be progressing, signalling that Namibia's two flagship deepwater discoveries are moving — at different speeds — toward commercialisation.

The Mopane farm-in approval from the Namibian authorities confirms that the regulatory pathway for large-scale upstream transactions in the country remains open and functional. TotalEnergies taking operatorship is a material development: it places one of the world's most experienced deepwater operators at the helm of what has been described as a substantial discovery, and it concentrates execution capability in a single major with the balance sheet and technical capacity to move toward appraisal and development drilling without undue delay. For service companies watching Namibia, operatorship changes of this kind typically precede accelerated procurement activity.

On Venus, the language from TotalEnergies is cautious but directional — discussions are described as "progressing" toward FID. Venus has long been regarded as one of the most significant frontier discoveries on the African Atlantic margin in recent

years, and a positive FID would trigger one of the largest offshore development programmes the region has seen in the current cycle. The parallel advancement of both Mopane and Venus means that Namibia is not a single-project story; it is shaping up as a multi-asset deepwater basin requiring sustained service industry engagement over an extended timeline.

For Norwegian oil and gas service companies, the combination of a newly appointed operator at Mopane and a Venus FID process underway represents a concrete planning horizon. TotalEnergies' procurement practices in comparable deepwater environments are well understood by the Norwegian supply chain, and early engagement — whether through framework discussions, pre-qualification, or technology positioning — is strategically sensible now rather than after FID is formally announced. The Namibian content requirements and local partnership expectations should also be factored into any market-entry strategy.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should treat the TotalEnergies operatorship at Mopane and the Venus FID progression as a dual entry signal — pre-qualification and early commercial dialogue with TotalEnergies' Namibia procurement teams is now timely. Companies with deepwater FPSO, subsea, and well services credentials should prioritise Namibia in their Africa business development calendars for 2025-2026. Monitoring the Venus FID timeline closely will allow partners to calibrate bid readiness and local content partnership structuring.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **FPSO:** Venus and potentially Mopane will require FPSO solutions; Norwegian FPSO owners and integrators should initiate early concept dialogue with TotalEnergies given the operator's known preference for engaging contractors ahead of formal tender processes.
- **Subsea:** Deepwater subsea infrastructure across two major Namibian developments creates a substantial pipeline for subsea umbilicals, risers, flowlines, and installation services — Norwegian subsea contractors should begin pre-qualification now.

- **Drilling:** Appraisal and development drilling campaigns at both Mopane and Venus will demand high-specification deepwater rigs; Norwegian drilling contractors with available ultra-deepwater units should engage TotalEnergies' Namibia planning teams.
- **Well Services:** Cementing, completions, and well intervention services will be required as Mopane moves into appraisal drilling under TotalEnergies operatorship — a concrete near-term opportunity for Norwegian well service providers.
- **Pipeline:** Subsea pipeline and tie-back engineering for a multi-asset Namibian development programme warrants early scoping by Norwegian pipeline engineering and installation companies.

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

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