AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT · OFFSHORE

TGS Launches Deepwater 2D Seismic Reprocessing Offshore São Tomé and Príncipe

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TGS has commenced a large-scale two-dimensional (2D) Prestack Depth Migration (PSDM) seismic reprocessing project in deepwater offshore São Tomé and Príncipe, signalling renewed data-driven interest in one of the Gulf of Guinea's less-explored frontier basins. The project is regional in scope, indicating that TGS is building a multi-block or basin-wide subsurface dataset rather than targeting a single licence area.

Prestack Depth Migration reprocessing represents a significant upgrade over legacy datasets. By applying modern algorithms to existing seismic data, operators and licence applicants gain substantially improved imaging of deep geological structures — critical in deepwater environments where complex salt or sedimentary geometries can obscure prospectivity. For São Tomé and Príncipe, a small island nation whose offshore acreage sits within the highly productive Gulf of Guinea petroleum system, improved subsurface imaging could materially change how international oil companies assess exploration risk in the basin.

São Tomé and Príncipe has historically attracted interest from mid-sized and major explorers given its geological proximity to proven producing basins along the West African transform margin, including those offshore Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon. However, the country has struggled to convert interest into firm drilling commitments. A regional PSDM reprocessing campaign of this nature, led by a major geoscience data company such as TGS, typically precedes or accompanies a licensing

round or farmout process, as it provides prospective investors with a common, high-quality subsurface reference frame.

The timing is notable. Across the Gulf of Guinea, frontier and near-frontier jurisdictions are working to attract exploration capital as the global industry selectively allocates drilling budgets. A credible, modernised seismic package significantly lowers the barrier for companies considering entry into São Tomé and Príncipe's offshore blocks. If the reprocessed data delivers improved structural definition and de-risks potential prospects, it could catalyse interest from operators seeking deepwater exposure in an under-drilled but geologically compelling setting.

For Norwegian oil and gas service companies, this development is a leading indicator worth tracking closely. Seismic reprocessing campaigns of regional scale routinely serve as the precursor to exploration drilling decisions. Should the TGS dataset attract operator interest and lead to block awards or drilling programmes, demand for deepwater-capable services — including drilling rigs, subsea systems, well services, and FPSO solutions — would follow. The lead time between data release and first drilling is typically measured in years, making this the appropriate moment to begin relationship-building with potential operators and with São Tomé and Príncipe's national oil company, SNPA.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should monitor the TGS data release and subsequent operator interest as an early-stage pipeline signal for deepwater drilling activity in São Tomé and Príncipe. This is a monitor-and-engage phase: the immediate commercial opportunity lies with geoscience and data service providers, but rig contractors, subsea specialists, and FPSO players should begin mapping the regulatory and operator landscape now. Direct outreach to SNPA and attendance at relevant Gulf of Guinea licensing events would be a pragmatic next step.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Track TGS data commercialisation and operator uptake to position deepwater-capable rig assets ahead of any exploration drilling campaign that may result from improved subsurface imaging.

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Monitor whether the reprocessed seismic attracts major or mid-cap operators to São Tomé and Príncipe blocks, as any discovery in this deepwater setting would require subsea tiebacks or a standalone FPSO development solution.
- **Service:** Geoscience and well planning service companies can position themselves now to support operators who licence the TGS dataset and require integrated subsurface-to-well-design workflows ahead of exploration drilling.
- **Pipeline:** A frontier deepwater discovery would eventually require export infrastructure planning; early advisory engagement with SNPA on field development concepts could establish a foothold before commercial decisions are made.

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