

OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY · SUBSEA

TechnipFMC Wins Azule Energy Flexible Pipe Contract for Angola West Hub Tails

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TechnipFMC has secured a contract from Azule Energy to deliver flowlines and risers for the West Hub Tails project, located offshore Angola. The award underscores continued upstream investment activity in Angolan waters and reflects Azule Energy's ongoing commitment to developing and extending production from its existing offshore hub infrastructure.

The contract covers the supply of flexible pipes — specifically flowlines and risers — which are critical components in subsea production systems. Flexible pipe technology is typically deployed to connect seabed wellheads and manifolds to floating or fixed production facilities, enabling the transport of hydrocarbons under the dynamic conditions found in offshore environments. The West Hub Tails designation suggests this project is focused on incremental or tail-end production from an established hub, a common strategy operators use to maximise recovery from maturing fields without the capital burden of entirely new infrastructure.

Azule Energy, the joint venture formed by bp and Eni in Angola, has been an active operator in the country's offshore sector. Angola remains one of Sub-Saharan Africa's most significant deepwater producing nations, and projects like West Hub Tails reflect a broader industry trend of sweating existing assets and extending field life rather than relying solely on greenfield development. This approach keeps capital expenditure manageable while sustaining production volumes.

For the subsea supply chain, this award demonstrates that Angola continues to generate contract flow even in a period when operators globally are balancing cost discipline with production maintenance targets. TechnipFMC's flexible pipe systems — covering both static flowlines on the seabed and dynamic risers connecting to surface facilities — represent a technically demanding product segment where a limited number of qualified global suppliers compete. The contract reinforces Angola as an active market for sophisticated subsea equipment procurement.

From a Norwegian service industry perspective, the West Hub Tails project is a relevant data point for companies tracking Angola as a near-term opportunity market. Angola's regulatory framework under the national oil company Sonangol and its licensing environment has historically been receptive to international service companies, provided they engage with local content requirements. Norwegian subsea specialists, FPSO systems providers, and flexible pipe adjacent technology suppliers should treat this award as a market signal — Azule Energy is spending on infrastructure extensions, and where one contract is awarded, complementary scopes in installation, inspection, integrity management, and intervention services typically follow.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian subsea and FPSO service companies should monitor the West Hub Tails project as a near-term market entry or expansion opportunity, particularly for installation, inspection, and integrity management scopes that typically accompany flexible pipe delivery contracts. Companies with flexible pipe handling, subsea installation vessel capacity, or riser integrity expertise should assess whether to approach Azule Energy or TechnipFMC as a subcontract or partnership route into this project. Angola's sustained offshore activity makes it a priority market to maintain active relationships with Azule Energy procurement teams.



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- **Subsea/FPSO:** Flexible pipe installation and hook-up scopes are likely to follow this supply contract — Norwegian vessel operators with West Africa track records should engage early with TechnipFMC and Azule Energy.
- **Service:** Inspection, maintenance, and integrity management of new flowlines and risers represent recurring revenue opportunities that Norwegian IRM specialists should position for ahead of first oil from the tails project.
- **Drilling:** Tail-end production campaigns often require infill or sidetrack drilling to access remaining reserves — Norwegian drilling contractors with Angola experience should monitor Azule's upcoming rig requirements.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If the West Hub Tails project ties back to an existing FPSO, Norwegian companies offering topside modifications, mooring inspection, or riser interface engineering should assess scope potential.
- **Pipeline:** Seabed flowline routing and pipeline engineering services associated with the West Hub Tails layout may present scopes for Norwegian pipeline engineering firms active in West Africa.

[Original source: Offshore Technology →](#)

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