

AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER

Oregon Energy Appoints Geoscientist to Strengthen Namibia Orange Basin Position

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Oregon Energy has appointed geoscientist Philip Birch to its strategic advisory board as the company intensifies its activity in Namibia's Orange Basin, one of Sub-Saharan Africa's most consequential frontier exploration plays of the past decade. The appointment signals a deliberate push to reduce technical and geological risk across Oregon's asset portfolio ahead of what is expected to be an active drilling and appraisal cycle in the basin.

The Orange Basin has emerged as a globally significant hydrocarbon province following TotalEnergies' and Shell's landmark discoveries at Venus and Graff respectively, with recoverable estimates running into the billions of barrels. Smaller independents and junior explorers like Oregon are now racing to define and de-risk their own acreage positions before the basin's commercial framework fully matures. Bringing in a seasoned geoscientist at advisory board level reflects the industry-wide recognition that credible subsurface interpretation is the primary currency for attracting farm-in partners and project financing at this stage.

Philip Birch's appointment is specifically framed around asset de-risking, a process that typically involves integrating seismic data reprocessing, petrophysical analysis, and basin modelling to sharpen prospect inventories and resource estimates. For a company of Oregon's scale operating in a basin where geological analogues are still being established, this kind of technical leadership can materially influence the

quality of the prospect portfolio presented to potential co-venturers, lenders, or acquirers.

Namibia's upstream sector is progressing on multiple fronts simultaneously. The government is advancing its regulatory and fiscal framework to accommodate large-scale development, while TotalEnergies continues appraisal work on Venus with a final investment decision trajectory that will set benchmarks for the entire basin. Against this backdrop, junior explorers that can demonstrate rigorous subsurface work and a credible path to drillable prospects are better positioned to participate in the basin's next phase, whether through operated programmes, farm-outs, or strategic transactions.

For Norwegian service companies monitoring Orange Basin activity, Orogen's strategic moves are worth tracking. The company's focus on de-risking assets now is consistent with a timeline that could see exploration or appraisal drilling programmes materialise within the next two to four years, creating procurement and contracting opportunities across the well services, drilling, and subsea segments as Namibia's offshore infrastructure buildout accelerates.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should monitor Orogen's asset de-risking progress as a leading indicator of future drilling campaigns in the Orange Basin, where contracting activity is expected to intensify over the next two to four years. Well services and drilling contractors in particular should engage early with junior explorers like Orogen, as these companies will require technical partnerships and rig access as their prospect inventories mature. Subsea and FPSO players already tracking TotalEnergies' Venus development should also watch the junior explorer segment for incremental tie-back and infrastructure-sharing opportunities.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Track Orogen's appraisal timeline to position rig availability and drilling services ahead of competitive contracting windows in the Orange Basin.

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Monitor junior explorer progress in Namibia as future discoveries may require subsea tie-back solutions to existing or planned infrastructure on the Venus development.
- **Service:** Geoscience and seismic service firms can approach Orogen directly now, as the de-risking mandate implies active demand for data reprocessing and subsurface modelling.
- **Pipeline:** Early engagement with Namibia's emerging upstream cluster is warranted as infield pipeline and export infrastructure planning will need to begin well ahead of any FID.

[Original source: African Energy Chamber →](#)

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