

AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER

Oregon Energy Adds Geoscientist Expertise to Advance Namibia Orange Basin Portfolio

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Oregon Energy has appointed experienced geoscientist Philip Birch to its strategic advisory board, reinforcing the company's technical capabilities as it moves to de-risk its acreage in Namibia's prolific Orange Basin. The appointment signals that Oregon is entering a more active phase of asset evaluation and development planning, seeking to build credibility and technical depth ahead of potential farm-out discussions or financing rounds.

The Orange Basin has emerged as one of the most significant frontier oil provinces globally following TotalEnergies' landmark Venus discovery in 2022, which is estimated to hold in excess of three billion barrels of oil equivalent. Subsequent exploration activity from Shell, Galp, and a cluster of smaller independents has confirmed the basin's prospectivity across both Namibian and South African waters. Oregon's focus on this acreage places it squarely within one of the most competitive and closely watched exploration theatres in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Philip Birch brings geological and subsurface expertise relevant to deepwater and frontier basin evaluation. His advisory role suggests Oregon is prioritising technical risk reduction — refining subsurface models, improving well location confidence, and potentially preparing data rooms to attract farm-in partners or project financing. For a smaller independent operating in a basin where well costs can exceed USD 100 million per deepwater exploration well, credible geoscientific advisory support is a prerequisite for serious investor and partner engagement.

Namibia's broader upstream landscape is rapidly maturing. The government has been actively courting international investment, and the Namibian state oil company NAMCOR continues to participate across multiple licence blocks. Infrastructure planning for Orange Basin developments is gaining momentum, with TotalEnergies progressing concept selection for Venus and early FPSO scoping studies underway across the basin. The regulatory environment has been broadly supportive, and Namibia's first offshore oil production — if Venus proceeds on schedule — could arrive before the end of this decade.

For Norwegian oil and gas service companies, the Orange Basin represents a medium-term opportunity pipeline that is beginning to take concrete shape. The entry of advisory talent like Birch into smaller independents such as Oregon indicates that a second tier of Orange Basin players is actively preparing assets for drilling or divestiture. Norwegian firms with deepwater subsea, FPSO integration, and well services capabilities should be monitoring this space closely, mapping which licence holders are moving toward final investment decisions and positioning early for pre-FEED and FEED engagements. The window to establish relationships before major procurement processes open is narrowing as basin-wide activity accelerates.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should treat Oregon's advisory board expansion as an early signal of intent to progress toward drilling or farm-out, warranting introductory engagement now rather than later. Firms specialising in subsurface data services, well planning, and deepwater drilling support are particularly well-placed to offer early-stage technical collaboration. Monitoring Oregon's licence status and upcoming work programme commitments will help identify the optimal moment to bid or propose partnership structures.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Track Oregon's exploration well planning timeline in the Orange Basin and position early for drilling contract or well services discussions as subsurface de-risking advances.

- **Subsea:** Orange Basin deepwater tiebacks and subsea infrastructure are still in concept phase, making this an ideal moment for subsea companies to engage independents like Oregan on early-stage technical input.
- **FPSO:** As Orange Basin development concepts mature across multiple operators, FPSO providers should begin mapping potential standalone versus shared infrastructure scenarios for smaller licence holders including Oregan.
- **Service:** Geoscience data acquisition, processing, and interpretation service companies can offer direct value to Oregan as it works to de-risk assets ahead of farm-out or financing.
- **Pipeline:** Long-lead infrastructure planning for Orange Basin gas monetisation and oil export routes is beginning — pipeline and export system specialists should engage Namibian stakeholders now to shape concept selection.

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

Saga Advisory

General: info@saga-advisory.com · saga-advisory.com

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN