

AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER

Oregon Energy Adds Geoscience Expertise to Advance Namibia Orange Basin Position

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Oregon Energy has appointed experienced geoscientist Philip Birch to its strategic advisory board, signalling a deliberate push to reduce technical and geological risk across its Namibian asset portfolio. The move comes as the company deepens its exposure to the Orange Basin, one of Sub-Saharan Africa's most closely watched frontier hydrocarbon provinces following a series of landmark discoveries by major operators in recent years.

The Orange Basin has emerged as a focal point for global upstream investment after TotalEnergies' Graff and Venus discoveries, along with Shell's Jonassen find, demonstrated the basin's multi-billion-barrel potential. Smaller and independent operators such as Oregon are now positioning themselves to capitalise on this momentum, seeking to establish credible acreage positions and de-risked prospect inventories that could attract farm-in partners or strategic acquirers. The appointment of a dedicated advisory board geoscientist is a standard but important step in this maturation process for an emerging independent.

Philip Birch brings specialist geoscience capabilities that are directly relevant to the technical challenges of deep-water and frontier basin exploration. His role on the strategic advisory board suggests Oregon is prioritising subsurface confidence ahead of potential farm-out processes, funding rounds, or drilling campaigns. For the Orange Basin specifically, where reservoir characterisation and stratigraphic complexity remain active areas of technical debate, credible geoscientific advisory

representation materially strengthens a company's standing with potential partners and investors.

Namibia's broader upstream environment continues to attract attention at pace. The government has maintained a supportive licensing framework, and national oil company NAMCOR has been active in retaining equity participation across key blocks. Infrastructure planning for eventual development — including floating production solutions and subsea tie-back concepts — remains at an early stage, but the scale of discovered resources means that concept selection decisions are approaching for the major operators, with potential knock-on demand for service and technology providers across the basin.

Oregon's strategic advisory board expansion reflects a wider pattern among junior explorers in the Orange Basin who are investing in technical credibility to differentiate themselves in a competitive acreage and partnership market. Whether this appointment precedes a near-term drilling decision, a farm-out process, or a longer-range data acquisition programme remains to be seen, but it confirms that Oregon views its Namibian position as a serious medium-term development rather than a speculative holding. Norwegian service companies tracking basin-level activity should note Oregon as an emerging independent building the subsurface foundations typically associated with a company preparing for active field development engagement.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian companies with Orange Basin exposure — particularly those already engaged with TotalEnergies or Shell on Graff, Venus, or Jonassen — should monitor Oregon as a potential future client as the independent moves toward drilling or farm-out. Subsea and FPSO players can use this signal to track basin-wide concept selection timelines, while well services and drilling contractors may find early engagement opportunities if Oregon advances toward an exploration well campaign.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Track Oregon's subsurface maturation as a leading indicator of future FPSO and subsea concept selection activity in the Orange Basin.

- **Drilling:** Monitor Oregon's advisory board developments for signals of an upcoming exploration drilling campaign requiring rig contracting or well planning support.
- **Service:** Geoscience-driven de-risking typically precedes data acquisition programmes — seismic processing and reservoir characterisation service providers should register early interest.
- **LNG:** While oil-focused, Orange Basin scale discoveries may carry associated gas volumes; LNG and gas monetisation specialists should maintain awareness of Namibia's evolving upstream picture.

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

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