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Petrobras Enters Direct Talks for Four Ghana Keta Basin Offshore Blocks

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Petrobras has commenced direct negotiations for exploration contracts covering four offshore blocks in Ghana's Keta Basin, following approval of the Brazilian national oil company's application by Ghana's Ministry of Energy and Green Transition. The move marks a significant step in Ghana's effort to attract new exploration investment and expand its upstream portfolio beyond its established producing fields.

The Keta Basin, located along Ghana's eastern coastline, has long been considered an underexplored frontier with geological potential, and Petrobras's entry signals renewed international confidence in the basin's prospectivity. Direct negotiations — rather than a competitive licensing round — indicate that Ghanaian authorities have prioritised Petrobras as a preferred partner for this acreage, reflecting the Brazilian company's deepwater exploration credentials built across the South Atlantic.

For Ghana, the timing is strategically important. The country's existing offshore production base, anchored by fields developed over the past decade and a half, faces natural decline, and fresh exploration activity is critical to sustaining output and government revenues over the longer term. Bringing a technically capable operator like Petrobras into frontier acreage diversifies the country's upstream operator base and could unlock new reserves if exploration drilling proves successful.

The negotiation process will determine the specific terms of the exploration contracts, including work programme commitments, fiscal terms, and local content obligations — all factors that will shape the commercial attractiveness of the blocks for any future service and supply chain partners. No timeline for the conclusion of

negotiations or any subsequent exploration drilling programme has been disclosed at this stage.

For the broader West African offshore sector, Petrobras's interest in Ghana reinforces a wider trend of established deepwater operators looking to diversify their exploration portfolios along the Atlantic margin. Ghana's regulatory framework and its track record of managing offshore developments position it as a credible destination for this type of frontier exploration investment. How quickly the negotiations conclude and progress toward a formal exploration work programme will be the key variable to monitor in the months ahead.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should begin tracking this opportunity now, as Petrobras's deepwater exploration pedigree typically brings demand for high-specification drilling, subsea, and well services once contracts are formalised. The Keta Basin frontier setting suggests that if exploration drilling proceeds, it is likely to require advanced deepwater capabilities where Norwegian contractors are globally competitive. Partners should monitor the conclusion of contract negotiations as the trigger point for engaging Petrobras's supply chain and local content partners in Ghana.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Petrobras's deepwater exploration history suggests high-specification drillship or semi-submersible requirements once a work programme is confirmed — Norwegian drilling contractors should position early in Petrobras's vendor qualification process.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Frontier exploration in the Keta Basin could progress toward subsea tieback or FPSO solutions if discoveries are made; Norwegian FPSO and subsea firms should monitor exploration results closely to time any approach to Petrobras's project development teams.
- **Service:** Well services providers — including cementing, logging, and testing specialists — should assess Petrobras Ghana's local content and procurement framework as contract terms are finalised, to identify early entry points for preferred supplier status.

- **Pipeline:** Any commercial discovery in the Keta Basin would require export infrastructure planning; pipeline engineering firms should watch for field development studies that may follow successful exploration drilling.

[Original source: Offshore Technology](#) →

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