

OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY · NAMIBIA · SUBSEA

TotalEnergies Takes 40% Operated Stake in Namibia's Mopane Discovery via Galp Swap

Saga deep read · 04 September 2026 · Score 50

TotalEnergies has completed a swap transaction with Galp, acquiring a 40% operated interest in Namibia's PEL83 licence, which hosts the significant Mopane oil discovery. The deal marks a notable shift in operatorship for one of Sub-Saharan Africa's most closely watched exploration assets in recent years.

The completion of this swap places TotalEnergies in the operator seat for PEL83, signalling the project's progression toward a more structured development phase. TotalEnergies brings substantial deepwater operating experience across Africa, and its assumption of operatorship is widely interpreted as a step toward accelerating appraisal and eventual field development planning for Mopane.

For the Norwegian service industry, the operator transition is a material development. TotalEnergies maintains longstanding procurement relationships with several Norwegian subsea, drilling, and FPSO contractors, and its operational preferences and vendor frameworks will now directly shape how Mopane's development supply chain is structured. Norwegian companies that have existing frame agreements or preferred supplier status with TotalEnergies are better positioned than those approaching the project cold.

Mopane has attracted considerable industry attention since early drilling results indicated substantial resource potential offshore Namibia. With TotalEnergies now at the helm, the project enters a phase where appraisal planning, environmental and social impact work, and early FEED scoping are likely to become more active. The

Orange Basin, where PEL83 is located, has emerged as one of Africa's frontier deepwater provinces, and Mopane represents one of its flagship prospects.

For Norwegian service firms, the window to establish relationships and position for upcoming scopes is open but not indefinite. As TotalEnergies moves through appraisal and toward development sanctioning, contracting decisions for long-lead items — drilling vessels, subsea production systems, and ultimately an FPSO — will progressively close. Companies that engage now, both directly with TotalEnergies and through Namibia's emerging local content framework, will be better placed when formal tender processes commence. Monitoring TotalEnergies' upcoming appraisal drilling schedule and any FEED contractor appointments will be the clearest leading indicators of the project's pace.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian companies should treat the TotalEnergies operatorship assumption as the trigger to initiate or deepen engagement with TotalEnergies' African supply chain and procurement teams. Given the likely deepwater development trajectory for Mopane, subsea and FPSO specialists in particular should be tracking appraisal milestones closely. Saga recommends mapping existing frame agreements with TotalEnergies against Namibia-specific scopes and identifying gaps requiring new prequalification.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea:** TotalEnergies' operatorship opens a direct procurement channel for Norwegian subsea system suppliers with existing TotalEnergies frame agreements to position for Mopane appraisal and development scopes.
- **FPSO:** A deepwater discovery of Mopane's scale will ultimately require an FPSO solution; Norwegian FPSO owners and designers should initiate early concept dialogue with TotalEnergies' development planning teams.
- **Drilling:** Appraisal drilling activity is the immediate next step under TotalEnergies operatorship, making this a timely moment for drilling contractors to confirm rig availability and engage on upcoming well programmes.

- **Service:** Well services and subsurface data companies should approach TotalEnergies' Namibia asset team now, as appraisal campaigns generate demand for logging, testing, and reservoir characterisation services.
- **Pipeline:** Depending on development concept selected, subsea tieback and export pipeline scopes may arise; Norwegian pipeline contractors should monitor FEED appointments as the earliest signal of preferred development architecture.

[Original source: Offshore Technology →](#)

Saga Advisory

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

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN