

ENERGY CAPITAL & POWER · LIBERIA · OFFSHORE

Liberia President Boakai Makes Direct Case for Offshore Upstream Investment

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Liberian President Joseph Nyuma Boakai has made a direct, public appeal to international investors, arguing that Liberia is ready for responsible upstream oil and gas development. Writing in Energy Capital & Power, President Boakai framed the pitch around decades of exploration history, noting that companies have been searching for hydrocarbons offshore Liberia for more than seventy years, beginning with the first seismic surveys. The presidential-level advocacy signals that attracting upstream capital is now a top-tier political priority for the Boakai administration.

The significance of the intervention should not be understated. When a sitting head of state personally authors an investment case in an industry publication, it typically reflects one of two conditions: either a licensing round is imminent or recently launched, or prior investment efforts have stalled and the government is attempting to reset the narrative at the highest diplomatic level. In Liberia's case, the offshore sector has historically struggled to convert exploration interest into development commitments, and Boakai's article appears designed to address investor hesitancy head-on by emphasising the theme of 'responsible' investment — language that acknowledges ESG concerns prominent among international financiers and service companies.

Liberia's offshore geology sits within the West African Transform Margin, a frontier region that has attracted periodic exploration attention but has yet to deliver a commercial discovery that proceeded to full development. The country's exploration

history stretching over seventy years, as cited by President Boakai, underscores both the long-standing recognition of prospectivity and the persistent gap between early-stage interest and bankable project execution. For service companies evaluating frontier markets, that gap is precisely where preparation and early relationship-building create competitive advantage.

The 'responsible investment' framing in President Boakai's message is strategically important for Norwegian companies. Norway's own regulatory model — combining state participation, environmental standards, and transparent licensing — is internationally recognised and frequently cited by African governments seeking to position themselves as credible upstream destinations. Norwegian service firms entering dialogue with Liberian authorities carry implicit reputational capital from that association, which can ease both commercial and political entry.

For partners monitoring West Africa's frontier offshore segment, Liberia warrants active tracking. A presidential-level investment pitch of this nature is typically followed within six to eighteen months by concrete licensing activity, data room openings, or bilateral energy agreements. Companies that engage early — through industry events, bilateral chambers, or direct dialogue with the National Oil Company of Liberia — position themselves ahead of any competitive tender process that may follow. The article provides no specific block data, contract opportunities, or operator details, meaning the opportunity remains at the relationship-building and market-intelligence stage rather than active procurement.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should treat this as an early-warning signal to initiate country-level engagement with Liberia's upstream authorities, given that presidential investment advocacy of this type often precedes formal licensing activity. Firms with West Africa frontier experience — particularly in seismic acquisition, well services, and FPSO concept work — should begin positioning now rather than waiting for tender announcements. Saga recommends monitoring for National Oil Company of Liberia communications and any forthcoming licensing round announcements over the next 12–18 months.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Frontier offshore exploration activity, if it materialises from this investment push, will require mobile drilling units suited to deepwater or mid-water West African conditions — early vendor registration with Liberian authorities is advisable.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If exploration converts to discovery and development, FPSO and subsea infrastructure will be the likely production solution given Liberia's offshore context; concept-stage engagement now builds preferred-partner status.
- **Service:** Seismic reprocessing and new acquisition services are the most immediate near-term opportunity, as governments relaunching upstream programs typically begin with data room upgrades and fresh geophysical campaigns.
- **LNG:** Should associated gas volumes prove significant in any future discovery, LNG or FLNG monetisation options will need early-stage scoping — Norwegian LNG technology firms should monitor prospectivity data as it emerges.
- **Pipeline:** Onshore and nearshore gas infrastructure planning is premature but worth flagging for pipeline specialists tracking long-cycle West Africa frontier opportunities beyond the current decade.

[Original source: Energy Capital & Power →](#)

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