

AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT · ANGOLA

ExxonMobil and TotalEnergies Each Announce Fresh Discoveries in Angolan Blocks 15 and 17

Saga deep read · 10 September 2026 · Score 50

Angola's upstream sector has recorded back-to-back discovery announcements within a 24-hour window, with ExxonMobil and TotalEnergies each confirming a find in Blocks 15 and 17 respectively. The rapid succession of positive results underscores the continued exploration momentum in one of Sub-Saharan Africa's most prolific hydrocarbon provinces.

ExxonMobil's discovery was recorded in Block 15, while TotalEnergies made its encounter in Block 17. Both blocks have long histories of production activity, and new discoveries in established acreage of this kind signal that the basins retain meaningful remaining resource potential despite decades of development. The article does not specify well names, estimated resource volumes, water depths, or the precise geological targets involved in either discovery, and those details remain to be disclosed by the respective operators.

For Angola, the timing is strategically significant. The country has been working to arrest a prolonged production decline and attract fresh capital into its upstream sector. Successive discoveries by two of the world's largest international oil companies in a short span reinforce confidence in Angolan acreage and are likely to support further investment decisions, both in these blocks and potentially in adjacent or frontier areas. Angola's national oil company Sonangol and the regulatory environment under the National Oil, Gas and Biofuels Agency (ANPG) have been

actively promoting exploration incentives, making these announcements a tangible early return on that policy effort.

The broader regional context matters as well. With global energy majors under investor pressure to demonstrate reserve replacement and production sustainability, discoveries in proven deepwater basins such as those offshore Angola offer a credible near-term path to sanctionable projects. Angola's existing infrastructure base — including FPSOs, subsea tiebacks, and export terminals — means that new finds in established blocks can potentially be developed with shorter lead times and lower greenfield capital requirements than frontier discoveries elsewhere on the continent.

For the Norwegian oil and gas service industry, these announcements represent an early-stage but concrete signal worth tracking closely. Appraisal drilling will follow any discovery of commercial interest, and development planning cycles in mature Angolan blocks tend to move relatively efficiently given the infrastructure already in place. Norwegian companies with subsea, FPSO, drilling, and well services capabilities should begin positioning for upcoming tender activity and monitoring operator announcements for appraisal well programmes, concept selection milestones, and FEED contract opportunities tied to these blocks.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should flag both blocks for near-term appraisal activity and monitor ExxonMobil and TotalEnergies Angola tender pipelines closely. Established infrastructure in these blocks shortens the path from discovery to development contract, favouring suppliers already present or pre-qualified in Angola. Companies not yet active in Angola should assess whether to initiate market entry steps now ahead of anticipated procurement cycles.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea:** Existing subsea tieback infrastructure in Blocks 15 and 17 creates realistic near-term opportunity for subsea equipment supply and installation services once appraisal confirms commerciality.

- **FPSO:** New discoveries in mature Angolan blocks with FPSO-based production history may require additional processing capacity or vessel modifications — an area where Norwegian FPSO operators and designers can engage early.
- **Drilling:** Appraisal drilling programmes will follow both discoveries, representing concrete near-term demand for drilling rigs and associated well services in Angolan waters.
- **Service:** Well intervention, completion, and reservoir evaluation services will be required as operators move from discovery announcement to appraisal — Norwegian well services firms should initiate contact with Angola procurement teams now.
- **Pipeline:** Depending on discovery locations relative to existing infrastructure, pipeline tie-in and flowline engineering services may be required during development concept selection.

[Original source: Africa Oil+Gas Report →](#)

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