

PIPELINE TECHNOLOGY JOURNAL · ANGOLA · SUBSEA

Saipem Wins \$350M Angola Deepwater Pipeline Contract for Azule Energy's West Hub

Saga deep read · 14 September 2026 · Score 100

Azule Energy Angola S.p.A., the joint venture between Eni and bp, has awarded Italian energy services contractor Saipem a \$350 million offshore contract to construct and install subsea pipeline infrastructure for the West Hub Tails project, part of the broader Agogo Integrated West Hub Development offshore Angola. The award confirms continued capital commitment to Angola's deepwater sector and signals active procurement activity in one of Sub-Saharan Africa's most technically demanding offshore environments.

The project is located approximately 180 kilometres off the Angolan coast in water depths reaching up to 1,750 metres. Saipem's scope covers engineering, fabrication, transportation, and installation of approximately 62 kilometres of flowlines, risers, and umbilicals. These subsea tie-backs will connect directly into the Agogo FPSO unit, expanding the field's transport and processing capacity. The full project campaign is expected to run for approximately two and a half years.

Fabrication work will be executed locally at Saipem's Ambriz yard in Angola, drawing on local suppliers and regional labour — a model consistent with Angola's localisation requirements and the broader industry push for in-country value. For offshore installation, Saipem will deploy two of its specialised construction vessels, the FDS and the Normand Maximus. The choice of vessels reflects the technical complexity of deepwater umbilical and flowline installation at these depths.

The contract reinforces Saipem's established position in West Africa's deepwater market, where the company has a long track record of executing complex offshore engineering projects. Globally, Saipem operates across more than 50 countries with a workforce of around 30,000 and a fleet that includes 17 offshore construction vessels, 12 drilling rigs, and five fabrication yards. The Angola award demonstrates that major integrated deepwater EPCI contracts in the region continue to flow to contractors with both the vessel assets and local fabrication infrastructure to meet operator requirements.

For the broader Angolan offshore sector, this contract is a marker of sustained development momentum around the Agogo field and the West Hub concept. Azule Energy, as a significant operator in Angolan waters, continues to drive project execution following its formation as a combined Eni-bp vehicle. Norwegian service companies tracking Angola should note that projects of this scale typically generate secondary procurement opportunities in specialised equipment, engineering support, inspection services, and logistics — particularly where the primary EPCI contractor relies on subcontractor networks to meet local and technical delivery requirements.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian subsea and FPSO service companies should monitor this project closely, as large EPCI contracts like this one regularly generate subcontracting opportunities in areas such as subsea equipment supply, inspection and integrity services, and specialist engineering. Companies with deepwater umbilical, flowline, or riser expertise may find entry points through Saipem's supply chain or directly through Azule Energy's vendor qualification process. Given the Ambriz fabrication yard's role, firms with Angola operational experience or existing local partnerships are best positioned to engage.



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- **Subsea:** Norwegian subsea equipment and umbilical technology suppliers should assess qualification opportunities within Saipem's supply chain for the 62-kilometre flowline and umbilical scope.
- **FPSO:** Companies offering FPSO hook-up engineering or topside integration support may find secondary scope as the subsea tie-backs connect into the Agogo FPSO unit.
- **Drilling:** Monitor whether additional well intervention or completion campaigns are required to support the West Hub Tails tie-back development, which could generate independent drilling services demand.
- **Pipeline:** Specialist pipeline inspection, coating, or installation-support contractors should approach Saipem's procurement team early, given the deepwater complexity and the two-and-a-half-year campaign timeline.
- **Service:** Integrity management, ROV services, and project management consultancies with West Africa deepwater credentials are well-placed to pursue support roles on a project of this duration and technical scope.

[Original source: Pipeline Technology Journal →](#)

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