

AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER · LNG

# Congo Hydrocarbons Minister Pushes FLNG Expansion and Deal Acceleration to Establish Regional Gas Hub

Saga deep read · 18 May 2026 · Score 58

---

Republic of Congo Hydrocarbons Minister Stev Simplicie Onanga has outlined an ambitious investment agenda following high-level discussions with the African Energy Chamber, centring on accelerated deal-making, strengthened local content frameworks, and the expansion of floating LNG infrastructure. The initiative signals Brazzaville's intent to position Congo as a dominant gas hub in Central Africa, leveraging existing offshore assets and the country's emerging FLNG capabilities.

At the core of the minister's agenda is the acceleration of agreements with international energy partners, a signal that the government is prepared to fast-track licensing rounds, production-sharing contract negotiations, and joint venture structures. This posture is notable given that Congo has historically experienced protracted timelines in bringing upstream deals to financial close. A stated ambition to streamline these processes would, if followed through, materially reduce the pre-project risk that has deterred some international oil and gas service companies from committing resources to the market.

Local content strengthening is the second pillar of the initiative. Minister Onanga specifically referenced the role of Société Nationale des Pétroles du Congo (SNPC), the state oil company, as a vehicle for deepening in-country participation. For international service companies, this means future contracts are increasingly likely to require local partnership structures, workforce localisation commitments, and

technology transfer arrangements. Companies entering or expanding in Congo without credible local content strategies will face growing commercial and regulatory headwinds.

The FLNG expansion component is arguably the most consequential element for the Norwegian service sector. Congo already hosts operational FLNG capacity through the Eni-operated Marine XII concession, and the minister's remarks suggest ambitions to scale this infrastructure to handle additional gas volumes, potentially drawing in stranded or associated gas from surrounding blocks. FLNG as a development model is well-suited to Congo's deepwater and mid-water offshore environment, where pipeline-to-shore economics are often unfavourable. Expanding this capacity would require significant subsea tie-back engineering, mooring and hull services, topside modifications, and ongoing marine and well intervention support.

The broader strategic context matters here. Congo sits within a Central African gas corridor that includes Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon, all of which are pursuing LNG or gas monetisation strategies. A more investment-friendly Congo, with simplified deal structures and growing FLNG infrastructure, adds competitive pressure on regional peers while also creating opportunities for service companies already active across multiple West and Central African markets to consolidate their presence. For Norwegian companies tracking portfolio allocation across Sub-Saharan Africa, Congo is moving from a monitoring position toward an active-engagement opportunity, particularly in the LNG and subsea segments.

## Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

---

Norwegian subsea and FPSO specialists should monitor Congo's FLNG expansion closely, as any capacity increase at Marine XII or new FLNG tie-backs will require subsea engineering, mooring services, and well intervention expertise where Norwegian companies hold strong competitive positions. LNG equipment and marine services firms should engage SNPC and Eni's local procurement channels now, ahead of formal tender processes, to satisfy anticipated local content requirements. The deal-acceleration agenda suggests a contracting window could open within 12–24 months, making early relationship-building with the ministry and SNPC commercially worthwhile.

---



YOUR SAGA CONTACT

**Bjørn Kahrs**

*Partner, Oil & Gas & Industry*

### PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea:** FLNG capacity expansion will likely require new subsea tie-backs and flow assurance engineering, a segment where Norwegian firms can bid on Eni-led or SNPC joint-venture scopes at Marine XII.
- **FPSO:** If Congo pursues additional FLNG vessels beyond the current Marine XII unit, Norwegian FPSO/FLNG hull and mooring specialists are well-positioned to offer conversion, leasing, or technical management services.
- **LNG:** Norwegian LNG technology and process safety companies should engage early with SNPC and Eni to position on potential topside upgrades or new FLNG unit scopes tied to stranded gas monetisation.
- **Drilling:** Accelerated deal-making and new block awards could trigger appraisal and development drilling campaigns; Norwegian drilling contractors with Central African track records should monitor licensing round timelines closely.
- **Service:** Strengthened local content obligations mean Norwegian well services and inspection companies should identify credible Congolese partners now to structure compliant joint ventures before tender documents are issued.

[Original source: African Energy Chamber →](#)

---

## **Saga Advisory**

Partner contact: [bjorn@saga-advisory.com](mailto:bjorn@saga-advisory.com) · General: [info@saga-advisory.com](mailto:info@saga-advisory.com) · [saga-advisory.com](https://saga-advisory.com)

*STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN*