

AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER · LNG

Congo Minister Pushes FLNG Expansion and Deal Acceleration to Build Regional Gas Hub

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The Republic of Congo's Minister of Hydrocarbons, Stev Simplicite Onanga, has outlined an ambitious investment agenda following high-level discussions with the African Energy Chamber, centring on accelerating deal flow, strengthening the national oil company SNPC, enforcing local content requirements, and expanding the country's floating LNG capacity to establish Congo as a regional gas hub.

The FLNG expansion ambition is the most commercially significant signal for international service companies. Congo already hosts Africa's first operational FLNG unit — the Eni-operated Tango FLNG — and a second vessel, Likouala FLNG, has been in development. Minister Onanga's push to accelerate and expand this programme suggests that additional FLNG tranches or associated upstream gas development contracts could come to market in the near term. For a country where gas has historically been flared or reinjected due to limited monetisation infrastructure, FLNG offers the fastest route to export revenues without onshore pipeline dependency.

The minister's emphasis on fast-tracking deal flow points to a deliberate effort to compress the timeline between exploration acreage awards, development sanctions, and first production. Congo has struggled in recent years to attract the volume of upstream investment needed to offset declining output from mature fields, and Onanga's engagement with the African Energy Chamber signals a more proactive

commercial posture. Brazzaville appears willing to negotiate terms and move decisions through the bureaucratic process faster than has historically been the case.

Local content policy is the third pillar of the minister's agenda, and it carries direct implications for how international contractors structure bids and partnerships. A tightened local content regime typically requires joint ventures with Congolese firms, local workforce quotas, and in-country procurement targets. Companies entering Congo's market — or re-entering after periods of inactivity — will need to map compliant partnership structures before submitting bids. SNPC's strengthened role will likely mean the national company seeks greater technical and commercial involvement in new upstream and midstream projects, rather than functioning purely as a carried interest holder.

For Norwegian service companies, the combination of FLNG expansion and accelerated deal timelines creates a concrete near-term opportunity window. Congo's deepwater and ultra-deepwater acreage in the Congo Basin has subsea infrastructure requirements comparable to West African peers, and FLNG projects demand specialised mooring, offloading, and marine systems expertise. The local content push, while adding compliance complexity, also opens space for Norwegian firms to bring structured capacity-building offers — an approach that has worked well in Angola and Nigeria — as a differentiator during tender processes.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian FLNG, subsea, and marine services companies should treat this as an active monitoring situation with near-term bid preparation implications, particularly for firms with Eni or TotalEnergies framework relationships relevant to Congo's existing project roster. Local content compliance structures should be reviewed now, before tenders are formally issued. Companies without an existing Brazzaville presence should consider whether a local partnership identification exercise is warranted given the minister's stated timeline ambitions.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **LNG:** FLNG expansion creates direct opportunities for mooring systems, turret supply, and commissioning services on potential new floating units beyond Tango and Likouala.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Accelerated deal flow on Congo Basin deepwater acreage will drive subsea tree, manifold, and umbilical demand — Norwegian subsea contractors should pre-position with Eni and TotalEnergies operatorship structures.
- **Drilling:** Faster development sanctions on new blocks will require deepwater drilling capacity; rig contractors with West African operational track records should monitor upcoming tender schedules closely.
- **Pipeline:** Gas monetisation infrastructure connecting offshore fields to FLNG or potential onshore processing will require pipeline engineering and installation services if Congo pursues a broader hub model.
- **Service:** Strengthened local content rules favour Norwegian well services firms that can package technology transfer and local workforce training alongside technical service delivery.

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

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