

AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER · CÔTE D'IVOIRE · OFFSHORE

Petrobras Signs Eight Offshore Exploration Deals Across Ivory Coast Blocks

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Brazilian national oil company Petrobras has significantly expanded its footprint in Ivory Coast by concluding eight offshore exploration agreements, according to the African Energy Chamber. The move signals a deepening of Petrobras' commitment to the West African nation and reinforces Ivory Coast's growing status as a priority exploration destination on the continent.

The African Energy Chamber has expressed support for the investment, framing it as a positive development for Ivory Coast's upstream sector. The deals are expected to attract not only capital but also technology and operational expertise into the country's offshore acreage. While specific block designations, water depths, and financial terms were not disclosed in the available reporting, the scale of the package — eight agreements concluded in a single tranche — points to a structured and deliberate exploration strategy by Petrobras rather than opportunistic entry.

Ivory Coast has been working to position itself as a competitive destination for upstream investment in West Africa. The country's offshore basin has attracted interest from a range of international operators in recent years, and Petrobras' expanded presence adds a major technically capable operator to that roster. For a national oil company with deep experience in complex offshore environments, the commitment carries credibility beyond what a smaller independent might signal to the market.

For the broader West African upstream landscape, this development is worth tracking carefully. Petrobras brings a well-established approach to offshore exploration and production, including expertise in subsurface evaluation and project execution at scale. Where Petrobras deploys exploration capital, a substantial supply chain and technical services requirement typically follows — particularly if any of the eight agreements progress toward appraisal or development phases. The timeline for that progression will depend on exploration results, but the groundwork is now being laid.

Ivory Coast's regulatory environment and fiscal terms will be tested by this engagement. How the government manages these agreements — in terms of local content requirements, data sharing, and work program obligations — will shape whether the country can convert exploration interest into production activity over the coming decade. The African Energy Chamber's endorsement suggests the deal structure is viewed as broadly favorable to Ivory Coast's development objectives.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should monitor this closely as Petrobras exploration campaigns of this scale typically generate demand for seismic acquisition, drilling services, and subsea survey work in the early phases. If any blocks progress to appraisal or development, FPSO and subsea installation expertise — areas where Norwegian firms hold strong competitive positions — become directly relevant. Partners should consider engaging Petrobras' West Africa supply chain teams now to establish vendor relationships ahead of any formal tendering.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Petrobras' eight-block exploration program will require drilling rigs and well services support; Norwegian drilling contractors and well service providers should register interest with Petrobras' procurement channels in West Africa.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Should any blocks move to development, Petrobras has a strong track record of deploying FPSOs — Norwegian FPSO operators and subsea contractors should position early in the project lifecycle.
- **Service:** Seismic acquisition, geotechnical surveying, and subsurface data services will likely be required across multiple blocks; Norwegian technology firms with relevant

capabilities should monitor upcoming contract notices from Petrobras Ivory Coast operations.

- **Pipeline:** Early-phase infrastructure planning for any discovered resources may include subsea tie-back or export pipeline scoping, representing an entry point for Norwegian pipeline engineering firms.

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

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