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Petrobras Secures Eight Offshore Exploration Blocks in Côte d'Ivoire

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Brazilian state oil company Petrobras has entered into eight production sharing contracts (PSCs) for offshore exploration blocks in Côte d'Ivoire, marking a significant expansion of the company's footprint in West Africa. The move signals renewed interest from major national oil companies in the country's offshore acreage and adds a well-capitalised operator to Côte d'Ivoire's exploration landscape.

Côte d'Ivoire has been steadily working to attract international investment into its offshore sector, and the award of eight blocks to a single operator of Petrobras's scale and deepwater expertise represents a meaningful vote of confidence in the country's prospectivity. Petrobras brings considerable experience in operating complex offshore environments and is well known for its technical capabilities in frontier and deepwater exploration, skills that are directly transferable to West African geology.

For Norwegian oil and gas service companies, the entry of Petrobras into Côte d'Ivoire is a development worth tracking closely. Petrobras is a familiar client to much of the Norwegian supply chain, having engaged Norwegian subsea, drilling, and FPSO companies extensively in Brazilian waters over several decades. That established commercial relationship provides a natural opening for Norwegian firms to position themselves early in what could become a multi-year exploration and development programme across eight blocks.

The scale of the award — eight PSCs simultaneously — suggests Petrobras is approaching Côte d'Ivoire as a strategic basin entry rather than a speculative single-block test. If exploration drilling confirms commercial hydrocarbons across even a

portion of this acreage, the downstream service requirements — from well services and drilling rigs to subsea infrastructure and potential FPSO deployment — could be substantial. Norwegian companies with active relationships with Petrobras in Brazil or elsewhere should treat this as an early-stage monitoring opportunity with the potential to convert into concrete bids within a three-to-five-year horizon, depending on exploration outcomes.

Côte d'Ivoire's proximity to established West African oil provinces, including Ghana's Jubilee and TEN fields and deepwater acreage in Nigeria and Senegal, reinforces the region's geological appeal. The government's willingness to award a large block package to a single operator also suggests a pragmatic, investor-friendly regulatory posture that Norwegian companies may find encouraging when assessing market entry risk. Service firms already active in the Gulf of Guinea — whether through offices in Abidjan, Accra, or Lagos — are best positioned to move quickly if Petrobras accelerates its exploration timeline.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies with existing Petrobras relationships in Brazil have a credible pathway to early engagement on this programme, given Petrobras's familiarity with the Norwegian supply chain. Firms specialising in offshore drilling, subsea engineering, and FPSO integration should register this as a monitored opportunity and initiate or strengthen Petrobras account contacts now. Those already operating in the Gulf of Guinea should consider proactive outreach to Petrobras's West Africa business development teams.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Petrobras will require offshore drilling rigs and well services for exploration across eight blocks; Norwegian drilling contractors with existing Petrobras frame agreements are well-placed to bid early.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If exploration confirms commercial discoveries, subsea tieback and FPSO solutions will be required; Norwegian FPSO and subsea integrators should begin pre-positioning technical proposals with Petrobras's project teams.

- **Service:** Well services, geophysical surveying, and reservoir characterisation companies with West Africa capacity should engage Petrobras's exploration division as the seismic and appraisal phase is likely the immediate next step.
- **Pipeline:** Depending on block locations and any future gas monetisation strategy, export pipeline or riser infrastructure may be required; Norwegian pipeline specialists should monitor block announcements for geographic detail.
- **LNG:** Should any blocks prove gas-prone, Côte d'Ivoire's existing gas infrastructure and regional demand make LNG or gas processing solutions relevant; Norwegian LNG technology providers should track exploration results closely.

[Original source: Offshore Technology →](#)

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