

AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER · SOUTH AFRICA · SUBSEA

Orange Basin Gains Momentum as Navitas Leads Block 1 CKB Exploration Push

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Navitas Petroleum has assumed operatorship of Block 1 CKB offshore South Africa, following regulatory approval from the South African government, with the African Energy Chamber now highlighting the transition as a broader signal of accelerating momentum across the Orange Basin. The change comes after Eco Atlantic completed a farm-down of a 37.5% working interest in the license to Navitas, positioning the incoming operator to lead exploration activity on what is described as one of the Orange Basin's largest exploration blocks. The African Energy Chamber's coverage of the deal underscores that industry observers beyond the companies directly involved view this operatorship transfer as a meaningful inflection point for the basin as a whole.

The Orange Basin has emerged as one of Sub-Saharan Africa's most closely watched frontier exploration areas in recent years, attracting sustained interest from international upstream players drawn by the basin's scale and prospectivity. Block 1 CKB sits within this competitive acreage landscape, and the change of operatorship signals that the license is moving toward a more active exploration phase under Navitas's stewardship. The Chamber's framing of the development in terms of basin-wide momentum suggests that the Navitas move is being read by regional stakeholders as part of a broader positive trajectory for South African offshore exploration, rather than an isolated corporate transaction.

Eco Atlantic's decision to farm down a significant working interest while relinquishing operatorship is a common capital management strategy among junior explorers, allowing them to retain exposure to upside while transferring the operational burden and associated costs to a better-resourced partner. For Navitas, assuming operatorship of a block of this scale represents a meaningful strategic commitment to the Orange Basin and to South Africa's offshore sector more broadly.

The regulatory approval granted by the South African government underscores Pretoria's continued engagement with international upstream investment in its offshore acreage. South Africa's upstream licensing environment has attracted renewed attention following high-profile discoveries in the broader Orange Basin region, and the government's willingness to sanction operatorship transfers of this nature reflects an accommodating posture toward foreign capital and technical expertise in the sector. The African Energy Chamber's endorsement of the basin's momentum adds a layer of regional institutional validation to what has been an increasingly active period for Orange Basin acreage.

For Norwegian oil and gas service companies monitoring Sub-Saharan Africa opportunity pipelines, the Block 1 CKB operatorship change — now receiving prominent coverage from the African Energy Chamber — is a marker worth tracking with heightened urgency. Exploration campaigns on large offshore blocks of this nature typically require a broad suite of technical services, from seismic acquisition and interpretation through to drilling planning and subsurface evaluation, before any well commitment is made. The growing profile of the Orange Basin in regional energy media suggests that the competitive landscape for service and technology contracts will intensify as more operators signal active work programs, making early engagement with Navitas's technical and procurement teams increasingly time-sensitive.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The African Energy Chamber's framing of Block 1 CKB as part of broader Orange Basin momentum suggests the basin is entering a higher-profile phase that will attract more operator and investor attention, increasing competition for service contract opportunities. Norwegian service companies should prioritise early engagement with Navitas Petroleum's technical teams now, as operatorship assumption typically precedes structured work programs requiring seismic, drilling, and subsurface services. The growing regional visibility of the basin also makes this an opportune moment for Norwegian firms to position themselves through industry events and Chamber-affiliated networks active in South Africa.



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- **Seismic acquisition and processing firms:** Navitas will require seismic data evaluation and likely new acquisition ahead of any well commitment on a block of this scale; early technical dialogue can establish Norwegian firms as preferred vendors.
- **Drilling contractors and well planning specialists:** Offshore exploration drilling in the Orange Basin demands technically capable contractors familiar with deepwater or frontier conditions; Norwegian firms with Atlantic margin experience are well-positioned.
- **Subsea and subsurface technology providers:** As the basin gains momentum and multiple operators become active, bundled subsurface evaluation and subsea technology offerings become attractive to operators managing multiple work programs simultaneously.
- **Regional industry bodies and chambers:** The African Energy Chamber's active coverage of Orange Basin developments makes it a useful engagement channel for Norwegian companies seeking introductions to Navitas and peer operators active in South African waters.

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

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