

ENERGY CAPITAL & POWER · LIBERIA · OFFSHORE

Liberia Promotes 2026 Offshore Licensing Round at African Energy Week Cape Town

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The Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRA) is inviting investors to explore opportunities in Liberia's 2026 offshore licensing round, with a dedicated presentation scheduled during African Energy Week (AEW) 2026. The session will take place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) on October 14 at 11:00, on Day 3 of the conference.

The move signals Liberia's intent to attract fresh upstream capital into its offshore sector, using one of the continent's most prominent energy investment forums as the primary outreach platform. African Energy Week consistently draws senior decision-makers from international oil companies, national oil companies, and the full spectrum of energy service providers, making it a strategic venue for a country seeking to generate competitive interest ahead of a formal licensing process.

Liberia holds an Atlantic-facing offshore basin that has attracted periodic exploration interest over the years, though the country's upstream sector remains relatively underdeveloped compared to regional peers. A structured licensing round in 2026 represents a meaningful step toward converting geological prospectivity into exploration commitments. The LPRA's decision to present at AEW rather than through a standalone roadshow suggests the authority is prioritising broad investor reach and efficiency in its promotional efforts.

For the energy services industry, the timing matters. Licensing rounds typically precede exploration drilling by one to several years, meaning that companies

monitoring the Liberia round now are positioning themselves well ahead of any potential service demand. The presentation on October 14 is the earliest public opportunity to assess which blocks are on offer, what fiscal terms are being proposed, and which international operators may be moving to participate. Norwegian service companies with Atlantic margin expertise — accumulated through decades of work on the Norwegian Continental Shelf and deepwater West Africa campaigns — are well placed to engage early.

The broader West African offshore environment remains active, and Liberia's round adds another data point to a region where exploration appetite has been gradually rebuilding following the commodity cycle of the mid-2010s. Countries along the West African transform margin have seen renewed technical interest, and a credible licensing process from the LPRA could attract the kind of independent and mid-tier operators that Norwegian service companies have successfully partnered with elsewhere on the continent.

Norwegian companies attending AEW 2026 should prioritise the LPRA session on October 14 as an intelligence-gathering opportunity. Direct engagement with LPRA representatives at the conference would allow service firms to map the regulatory environment, understand local content expectations, and identify which operators are circling the round — all of which informs bid strategy and partnership planning well before any exploration campaign materialises.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should attend or monitor the LPRA presentation at AEW 2026 on October 14 to assess block offerings and fiscal terms before operators commit. Early engagement positions subsea, drilling, and well services firms to align with prospective licence winners during pre-FEED and planning phases. Liberia's round is at the monitoring stage now, but relationship-building with LPRA and incoming operators should begin at Cape Town.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Track which operators acquire Liberian licences post-round, as exploration well campaigns would follow within a multi-year window requiring jackup or drillship capacity.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Any commercial discovery offshore Liberia would trigger subsea production system and potential FPSO requirements — early conceptual engagement with licence winners shapes field development direction.
- **Service:** Well services and geophysical firms should approach LPRA at AEW to understand pre-drill data acquisition needs and local content obligations that could open near-term contract opportunities.
- **Pipeline:** If multiple blocks are awarded and cluster development becomes viable, export infrastructure planning — including subsea tieback or pipeline corridors — would require early-stage technical input.

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