

AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT · CAMEROON

Cameroon SNH Launches 2026 Bid Round Offering Six Exploration Blocks

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Cameroon's national hydrocarbons company, Société Nationale des Hydrocarbures (SNH), has formally launched the country's 2026 Bid Round, offering six blocks to international investors. The announcement was made at the African Farmout Forum, held during African Energy Week, marking Cameroon's return to the competitive licensing market approximately six months after its previous bid round activity.

The move signals renewed upstream ambition from Yaoundé at a time when West and Central African nations are competing aggressively for exploration capital. By choosing the African Farmout Forum as the launch platform, SNH is clearly targeting farmout partners and independent operators already active in the region, alongside the majors and national oil companies that typically anchor bid rounds of this nature. The six-block offering gives the round meaningful scale, providing prospective bidders with portfolio optionality rather than a single-asset decision.

For Norwegian oil and gas service companies, the timing matters. Bid rounds of this kind typically precede a 12-to-24-month award and negotiation cycle, followed by seismic acquisition campaigns and eventually exploration drilling. Companies that engage early — whether through relationship-building with SNH, dialogue with prospective operators, or positioning with farmout candidates — are better placed when work programmes are eventually sanctioned. Cameroon already has established offshore production infrastructure and an LNG export facility, which means any new discoveries in proximate acreage could benefit from reduced tie-back distances and existing processing capacity.

The six blocks have not been publicly characterised by the article in terms of location, water depth, or prospectivity type, so service companies should treat the round as one to monitor closely and seek technical documentation directly from SNH as it becomes available. What is clear is that SNH is signalling consistent and deliberate re-engagement with the international market after a period of relative quiet, which in itself is a positive indicator of institutional commitment to growing the upstream base.

For the broader investment climate, Cameroon's return to the bid round market reinforces a pattern seen across the Gulf of Guinea, where frontier and emerging producers are re-entering licensing cycles as oil prices stabilise and regional financing conditions gradually improve. Norwegian service companies with existing relationships in Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, or Gabon — all neighbouring or proximate jurisdictions — are geographically well positioned to extend their regional footprint into Cameroon as the round progresses. Monitoring SNH communications and maintaining a presence at forums such as African Energy Week will be the pragmatic near-term action for companies assessing entry.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should register this round as an active monitoring opportunity and engage directly with SNH for block data and work programme requirements. The existence of existing LNG and offshore infrastructure in Cameroon creates realistic near-term service entry points if exploration commitments are made by awarded operators. Companies with Gulf of Guinea footholds should use existing regional relationships to identify which operators are likely to bid and initiate early dialogue.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Jack-up and semi-submersible contractors should track which operators acquire blocks and engage early on exploration well planning timelines, given typical 18-24 month lead times from award to spud.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If any awarded blocks are offshore, proximity to Cameroon's existing production infrastructure creates potential tie-back and FPSO redeployment opportunities worth monitoring as work programmes are defined.

- **LNG:** Cameroon's operational LNG export facility means gas-prone discoveries from new blocks could have a credible commercialisation pathway, making LNG-related service and engineering companies relevant from an early stage.
- **Service:** Seismic acquisition and well services companies should position with likely bidders at the farmout and licensing stage to secure preferred vendor status ahead of exploration commitments.
- **Pipeline:** Pipeline and subsea tie-back specialists should monitor block locations once SNH releases technical data, as proximity to existing infrastructure could accelerate development timelines for any discoveries.

[Original source: Africa Oil+Gas Report →](#)

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