OFFSHORE ENGINEER · MOZAMBIQUE · LNG

Eni launches Coral North FLNG drilling campaign offshore Mozambique in November

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Eni and its Area 4 partners have moved from planning to execution, launching the drilling and completion campaign for the Coral North floating liquefied natural gas project offshore Mozambique. Offshore Engineer confirmed the campaign start in a 3 November 2026 report, marking the transition of what had been a near-term mobilisation horizon into an active, live operation. The campaign had been anticipated since earlier reporting in October 2026 — corroborated across Zacks Investment Research, Yahoo Finance, and The Globe and Mail — which flagged a November start for up to six development wells required to supply gas to the Coral North platform.

Coral North is the second FLNG unit in Eni's Area 4 development sequence, following Coral Sul, which became Africa's first deepwater FLNG facility when it delivered its inaugural LNG cargo in 2022. The new platform requires a dedicated well campaign to reach production-ready status, and the confirmed commencement of drilling and completion operations means subsea and well-services supply chains are now actively engaged. Six development wells in a deepwater FLNG setting represent a substantial programme involving subsea wellhead systems, drilling riser equipment, well completion packages, and offshore support vessel activity.

Eni is simultaneously evaluating the potential for a third FLNG vessel in the Rovuma Basin, a concept that would represent one of the largest integrated deepwater-to-LNG developments on the African continent if sanctioned. No final investment

decision, contract award, or block designation for a third unit has been announced, and that workstream remains under evaluation rather than a committed project. Nevertheless, the successful execution of the Coral North drilling campaign will be a key datapoint informing any future FID on a third vessel.

Eni's floating offshore model continues to demonstrate resilience where the onshore alternative has stalled. TotalEnergies' Mozambique LNG project at Afungi remains suspended following a 2021 force majeure declaration linked to the Cabo Delgado insurgency, while the Coral series has advanced steadily through sanction, construction, first cargo, and now the next drilling campaign. The confirmed November launch reinforces the offshore FLNG model as Mozambique's practical near-term LNG delivery mechanism and signals that a second wave of capital expenditure into the Rovuma Basin is already underway rather than merely anticipated.

With the campaign now live, the procurement and contracting window for the Coral North drilling phase is effectively open. As the campaign progresses toward completion, attention will shift to hook-up, commissioning, mooring system work, and topsides integration — activities that follow well delivery and represent the next layer of service opportunity. The broader industry and investor attention generated by consistent multi-outlet coverage of the programme further underlines the case for Norwegian service companies to have supply chain engagement underway now rather than awaiting formal tender releases.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The confirmed launch of the Coral North drilling and completion campaign means Norwegian drilling and well-services companies should be in active supply chain engagement immediately, as the procurement window for this phase is now open rather than pending. Norwegian subsea and marine contractors with FLNG hook-up, commissioning, and mooring expertise should be positioning for the phase that follows well delivery, which will be the next procurement trigger as the campaign progresses. The third FLNG evaluation remains a watch item, but the live campaign execution now provides a concrete entry point for business development conversations with Eni's Area 4 project teams.



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- **Drilling and well-services contractors:** The active drilling and completion campaign for up to six deepwater development wells is an immediate opportunity for companies offering subsea wellhead systems, drilling riser equipment, and well completion packages.
- **Subsea and marine contractors:** As the drilling campaign progresses, hook-up, commissioning, mooring system installation, and topsides integration work will follow, representing the next procurement layer for FLNG-experienced Norwegian contractors.
- **Offshore support vessel operators:** A multi-well deepwater campaign requires sustained OSV support for logistics, ROV operations, and offshore personnel transfer, creating near-term vessel utilisation opportunities in the Rovuma Basin.

Original source: Offshore Engineer →

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