

OFFSHORE MAGAZINE · CÔTE D'IVOIRE · FPSO

Murphy Bubale West appraisal confirms Côte d'Ivoire oil pay

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Murphy Oil has confirmed additional oil pay at the Bubale West-1X appraisal well offshore Côte d'Ivoire, a result the company says supports further development planning for the discovery. The appraisal outcome strengthens the case for advancing the block toward a development concept, though no final investment decision, development plan, or contract awards have been announced at this stage.

Appraisal drilling is a critical intermediate step between initial discovery and field development sanction. A positive result at Bubale West-1X means Murphy and its partners now have additional subsurface data to underpin resource estimates and inform decisions on development architecture — whether that involves a standalone FPSO-based solution, a tieback to existing infrastructure, or another concept. The article does not specify water depth, block designation, partner identities, or the scale of the oil pay confirmed, so those details remain publicly undisclosed at this point.

Côte d'Ivoire has been working to attract renewed offshore investment following a quieter period compared to neighbouring Ghana and deepwater West African producers. A confirmed appraisal success by an operator of Murphy's scale — the company is an established independent with deepwater credentials — adds credibility to the basin and may encourage further exploration licensing activity. For service companies tracking West Africa opportunity, Côte d'Ivoire is now a market to watch with greater conviction than twelve months ago.

From a development-planning perspective, the timeline between a successful appraisal result and procurement activity can span several years, encompassing concept selection, FEED, regulatory approvals, and financing. Norwegian service companies should treat this as an early-monitoring situation rather than an active bid opportunity. The story is, however, meaningful for companies seeking to build relationships with Murphy Oil and its co-venturers before formal procurement processes open, and for those tracking FPSO demand signals across the West African Atlantic margin.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a pre-FID appraisal result with no contracts, tenders, or procurement processes open; Norwegian service companies should monitor development planning progress and pursue early relationship-building with Murphy Oil rather than engaging procurement channels. FPSO designers, subsea contractors, and well-services providers active in West Africa should log Côte d'Ivoire as an emerging opportunity and track Murphy's next technical announcements. Saga Advisory recommends flagging this block in basin-monitoring frameworks and revisiting when concept selection or FEED engagement is announced.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **FPSO:** A positive appraisal result points toward eventual production infrastructure needs — FPSO owners and designers should monitor concept selection milestones and position early with Murphy's development team.
- **Subsea:** Depending on water depth and development concept chosen, subsea tieback or standalone manifold scopes may emerge; early technical dialogue with Murphy is advisable before FEED is awarded.
- **Drilling:** Appraisal success may trigger additional delineation or pre-development wells offshore Côte d'Ivoire; drilling contractors should track rig demand signals from Murphy in West Africa.
- **Service:** Well-services and reservoir characterisation companies should seek access to Murphy's technical teams now, ahead of any formal vendor qualification process that would accompany a development decision.

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