

OIL & GAS JOURNAL · KENYA

Dangote taps EIL for Kenya 700k b/d Lamu refinery

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Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) has been appointed by Dangote to provide project management and engineering services for a proposed grassroots refinery at Lamu, Kenya, with a nameplate crude processing capacity of 700,000 barrels per day at startup. The engagement is structured as a project management and engineering services mandate — not a construction contract — placing this project in an early development phase that will require significant further investment decisions before ground is broken.

The Lamu refinery, if realised at its stated capacity, would rank among the largest refining facilities on the African continent, dwarfing most existing downstream infrastructure in East Africa. The choice of Lamu — a port location on Kenya's northern coast — positions the project to leverage marine crude import logistics and potential export access to landlocked East African markets including Uganda, South Sudan, and Ethiopia, all of which currently rely on expensive imported refined products transported overland from Mombasa or Dar es Salaam.

EIL, a Government of India-owned engineering consultancy with an extensive track record in large-scale refinery design and project management across South Asia and the Middle East, will bring its process engineering expertise to bear on the concept and early-stage design work. The appointment signals that the Dangote group — already the developer behind Nigeria's 650,000 b/d Dangote Refinery in Lagos — is pursuing a second major African downstream venture. However, the project remains at a pre-FID stage, and no construction timeline, financing structure, or offtake arrangements have been disclosed in the available information.

For the East African energy market, a facility of this scale would fundamentally alter regional refined product trade flows, reduce foreign exchange expenditure on fuel imports, and create substantial downstream and midstream infrastructure demand. Kenya's government has previously signalled interest in developing domestic refining capacity as part of its broader energy security agenda, and the Lamu corridor is already the anchor of a broader port and infrastructure development zone. The convergence of Dangote's capital and operational appetite with EIL's engineering capacity represents a credible early step, but stakeholders should note that projects of this complexity routinely face multi-year timelines between mandate award and financial close.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should monitor this project closely but hold procurement outreach — the engagement is a project management and engineering services appointment, not a signed construction or equipment contract, and no FID has been announced. Relationship-building with EIL as the appointed project manager and with Dangote's project development team is the appropriate near-term posture. When the project advances to FEED, EPC tendering, or equipment prequalification, segments including FPSO-adjacent marine terminal design, pipeline engineering, and process instrumentation supply will become actionable.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline:** A 700,000 b/d refinery at Lamu will require substantial crude import pipeline or marine offloading infrastructure — Norwegian pipeline engineering firms should begin early engagement with EIL as FEED scope develops.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Crude supply at this scale will likely involve offshore or nearshore mooring and offloading systems; subsea and marine terminal specialists should track the marine logistics design choices emerging from EIL's early engineering work.
- **Service:** Project management support services, specialist inspection, and commissioning expertise will be required as the project matures — Norwegian service firms with downstream refinery experience should register interest with EIL now.

- **LNG:** A large refinery complex of this type often incorporates fuel gas or LNG as a utilities feedstock; LNG infrastructure suppliers should monitor the utilities design phase for potential equipment or systems scope.

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