

AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT · UPSTREAM

BW Energy Greenlights \$300 Million FID for Gabon Bourdon Offshore Oilfield

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Norwegian-linked upstream independent BW Energy has taken a Final Investment Decision (FID) for the development of the Bourdon oil field offshore Gabon, committing approximately \$300 million to the project. The FID marks a significant milestone for the company and signals continued upstream investment activity in Gabon's offshore sector despite the broader global energy transition pressures facing the industry.

BW Energy, which has built its identity around acquiring and developing mature or underdeveloped offshore assets, has positioned Bourdon as a core growth project within its Gabon portfolio. The company already operates producing assets in the country, giving it an established in-country footprint and operational familiarity with Gabonese regulatory and logistical conditions. The \$300 million capital commitment reflects the scale of infrastructure and well development work required to bring Bourdon into commercial production.

Gabon remains one of Central Africa's more stable upstream jurisdictions, with a long history of offshore production and an established services ecosystem. However, like many mature producers, the country is working to attract fresh capital into new and incremental developments to offset natural field decline. BW Energy's FID at Bourdon represents precisely the kind of brownfield-to-new-development progression that Gabonese authorities have been actively encouraging through licensing and fiscal frameworks.

For the broader sub-Saharan African upstream landscape, the Bourdon FID is a constructive data point. It demonstrates that smaller independent operators with focused regional strategies can still mobilise meaningful capital for offshore developments, even in a period when major international oil companies have been selective about sanctioning new African projects. BW Energy's Norwegian heritage and lean operational model have historically allowed it to move faster on FIDs than larger, more bureaucratic operators.

Execution timelines, production targets, and the specific development concept — whether a standalone facility, a tieback to existing infrastructure, or an FPSO solution — were not detailed in the available reporting. Norwegian service companies tracking Gabon opportunities should monitor BW Energy's subsequent procurement and contracting announcements closely, as the \$300 million budget will translate into discrete contract packages across drilling, subsea, topside, and marine logistics once execution ramps up.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

BW Energy's Norwegian ownership and operational culture make it a natural entry point for Norwegian service companies seeking to position on Bourdon's forthcoming contract packages across drilling, subsea, and marine services. Given BW Energy's lean model, early engagement at the pre-FEED and FEED stages is advisable before the procurement process becomes competitive. Norwegian companies with existing Gabon presence or Central Africa track records will carry a meaningful advantage in credibility conversations.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **FPSO:** If Bourdon adopts a floating production solution, Norwegian FPSO contractors and leasing specialists should engage BW Energy's technical team now to understand the development concept before a formal tender is issued.
- **Drilling:** A \$300 million offshore development will require a multi-well drilling programme; Norwegian drilling contractors and well services firms should map their rig availability against BW Energy's likely execution schedule.

- **Subsea:** Depending on water depth and development architecture, subsea tieback or manifold work could form a significant contract package — Norwegian subsea contractors should monitor BW Energy's engineering progress for early-bid positioning.
- **Pipeline:** Infield flowlines and export pipeline infrastructure are standard components of this type of offshore development; Norwegian pipeline engineering and installation firms should track Bourdon's FEED outcomes.
- **Service:** Well services, inspection, and marine logistics companies should register interest with BW Energy's Gabon procurement team, as the company's lean structure typically consolidates supplier relationships early in the project cycle.

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Saga Advisory

General: info@saga-advisory.com · saga-advisory.com

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