

SONANGOL · ANGOLA

Sonangol wins AOG 2026 Explorer of the Year award

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Sonangol has been named Explorer of the Year at the 2026 Angola Oil & Gas Awards, recognising the state company's hydrocarbon exploration and appraisal work in Angola. The award was presented at the AOG gala ceremony held on 9 September. The distinction is directly linked to appraisal operations carried out at the Katambi-2 well, which formed the centrepiece of the submission.

The AOG Awards are an established industry recognition event within the Angolan oil and gas calendar, and an Explorer of the Year citation from that body carries weight in signalling which assets and operators are attracting technical and commercial momentum. For Sonangol, the Katambi-2 appraisal result appears to represent a meaningful data point in the company's ongoing effort to demonstrate that Angola's exploration frontier still holds material upside — an argument that has grown more important as the country works to reverse a decade-long production decline.

The source article does not disclose water depth, block designation, resource volumes, or partner details for the Katambi-2 well. Nor does it specify whether the well is onshore or offshore, or confirm any commerciality declaration. The award recognises the appraisal work itself rather than any subsequent development decision. Sonangol's role as operator or co-venturer is also not stated in the available text.

For service companies and international partners tracking Angola, the significance lies less in the award itself and more in what it implies: Sonangol is actively conducting appraisal drilling, generating subsurface data, and building a case for

future development phases at Katambi. Awards of this type typically precede — sometimes by several years — the procurement cycles that follow a commerciality declaration, field development plan submission, and eventual final investment decision. The Angolan upstream remains one of West Africa's most active markets for intervention, well services, and offshore infrastructure, and any confirmed appraisal success at a new prospect adds to the pipeline of potential projects.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

At this stage the Katambi-2 result is an appraisal well recognition with no disclosed commerciality, FID, or procurement process. Norwegian service companies should monitor Sonangol's follow-up announcements on Katambi-2 closely and use relationship-building channels — including Angola Oil & Gas conference networks — to position ahead of any future development tender cycle.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Sonangol's active appraisal programme at Katambi-2 signals continued well-drilling demand; drilling contractors should track block and operator details as they are disclosed.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If Katambi-2 appraisal confirms commercial volumes, subsea tie-back or standalone FPSO requirements could follow; early engagement with Sonangol's development planning teams is advisable.
- **Well Services:** Appraisal operations at Katambi-2 create near-term demand for wireline, logging, and testing services; well service companies should confirm Sonangol's current contractor roster.
- **Service:** Sonangol's growing exploration profile in Angola supports a broader services market; Norwegian companies should map the Katambi area against their existing Angola in-country presence and frame capability discussions accordingly.

[Original source: Sonangol →](#)

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