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Renergen targets September helium output in South Africa

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Renergen is targeting September as the start of helium production at its South Africa project, marking a concrete near-term milestone for the company's unconventional gas development in the country.

Helium is extracted as a by-product of natural gas processing, meaning Renergen's Virginia Gas Project involves integrated LNG and helium production from onshore gas resources in the Free State province. The company has been developing this project as the first commercial helium and LNG producer in South Africa, and the September target represents a significant operational step following earlier phases of construction and commissioning.

South Africa holds some of the world's highest-grade helium concentrations in its natural gas reservoirs, and Renergen's Phase 1 development has drawn considerable international attention. Helium is a critical industrial gas used in medical imaging, semiconductors, and aerospace applications, commanding strong global demand and premium pricing. Achieving consistent helium production would validate Renergen's resource base and underpin the economics of planned capacity expansions under Phase 2, which is designed to scale output significantly above Phase 1 levels.

The September production target comes as Renergen continues to manage commissioning timelines that have previously experienced delays. Reaching first commercial helium output would provide a meaningful proof-of-concept for the project and strengthen the company's ability to secure offtake agreements and project financing for further development. The LNG component of the project also

serves the domestic South African transport and industrial market, providing a secondary revenue stream alongside helium exports.

For the broader South African energy and gas sector, a successful Renergen ramp-up would demonstrate that unconventional domestic gas resources can reach commercial production, potentially encouraging further exploration and appraisal activity in the country's onshore gas basins. South Africa has faced persistent energy supply challenges, and indigenous gas development is increasingly viewed as a strategic priority alongside renewable energy investment.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a pre-revenue commissioning milestone for a small-scale onshore LNG and helium project; no procurement tender or signed service contract is referenced in the article, so direct outreach is premature. Norwegian service companies with LNG process equipment, small-scale gas treatment, or cryogenic technology capabilities should monitor Renergen's Phase 2 expansion plans, as a successful Phase 1 ramp-up is likely to trigger a larger capital programme with associated procurement activity. Relationship-building with Renergen's technical and project teams in this period is the appropriate near-term posture.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **LNG:** Renergen's Phase 2 scale-up will require additional liquefaction and cryogenic storage capacity, positioning LNG technology and equipment suppliers to engage as the Phase 1 proof-of-concept is established.
- **Service:** Well services and gas processing specialists should track Phase 2 drilling and plant expansion plans, as increased well count and processing throughput will drive demand for completion and production services.
- **Pipeline:** Expanded gas offtake from the Virginia field for the domestic transport market may require additional pipeline or distribution infrastructure, relevant for small-diameter pipeline and flow assurance service providers.

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