

GOOGLE NEWS QUERY: PETROCI / BALEINE / CALAO · CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Eni accelerates Baleine development with Saipem

Saga deep read · 23 July 2026 · Score 58

Eni is pressing ahead with development of the Baleine oil project in Côte d'Ivoire, with Italian contractor Saipem playing a central role in the accelerated programme, according to reporting by Agence Ecofin. The article does not specify the instrument governing Saipem's involvement — whether a newly signed contract, an extension of an existing scope, or a frame agreement — but the acceleration signal indicates active execution momentum on one of West Africa's most closely watched recent discoveries.

Baleine has been a flagship project for Eni in Côte d'Ivoire, and the involvement of Saipem — a major EPCI and offshore construction contractor with a strong African track record — points to substantial subsurface and surface engineering activity. The pairing of Eni as operator and Saipem as a key execution partner is consistent with the integrated model both companies have deployed across other African deepwater developments. However, specific contract values, scope of work, water depth classifications, and milestone dates are not disclosed in the source article and cannot be confirmed at this stage.

For Norwegian service companies, the significance lies in the pace signal. An acceleration by a major operator typically compresses vendor qualification windows and pulls forward procurement cycles across drilling, subsea, and marine services. If Saipem holds a large EPCI mandate on Baleine, subcontracting and supply chain opportunities — including specialised subsea equipment, umbilicals, flexible risers, and well intervention tooling — become live considerations. Norwegian firms with existing relationships with either Eni's African procurement teams or Saipem's supply

chain organisation should treat this acceleration announcement as a prompt to re-engage and confirm positioning ahead of any forthcoming tender packages.

Côte d'Ivoire's upstream regulatory environment has grown more active in recent years, with PETROCI and the government keen to maximise in-country value while moving projects to production quickly. Baleine's development trajectory will likely attract further contractor and subcontractor activity as the project matures. Partners should monitor official announcements from Eni, PETROCI, and Saipem for specific tender or prequalification notices before committing business development resources, given the limited contractual detail available in current reporting.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Eni's acceleration of Baleine with Saipem compresses procurement timelines, making it important for Norwegian service companies to re-engage now with both Eni's African supply chain and Saipem's subcontracting organisation. The article does not confirm a signed contract or open tender, so the recommended action is relationship-building and monitoring for formal prequalification or EOI notices rather than direct procurement outreach. Firms in subsea equipment, umbilicals, flexible pipe, and well services are best positioned to benefit if subcontracting opportunities emerge under Saipem's scope.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Saipem's EPCI role on Baleine may generate subcontracting demand for subsea hardware, umbilicals, and flexible risers — Norwegian subsea suppliers should confirm their positioning in Saipem's vendor register now.
- **Drilling:** Project acceleration implies tightening rig schedules; Norwegian drilling contractors and well services firms should monitor Eni's Côte d'Ivoire drilling programme for upcoming rig requirements or well services tenders.
- **LNG:** Baleine has an associated gas component; Norwegian LNG and gas processing technology suppliers should track whether acceleration extends to gas handling and export infrastructure scope.

- **Pipeline:** Development-phase acceleration often pulls forward infield flowline and export pipeline work; Norwegian pipeline contractors should engage Saipem's West Africa supply chain team to understand scope boundaries.
- **Service:** Accelerated project timelines compress inspection, maintenance, and logistics windows — Norwegian marine and offshore service companies should assess whether Eni or Saipem require additional support vessel or inspection capacity off Abidjan.

[Original source: Google News query: PETROCI / Baleine / Calao →](#)

Saga Advisory

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

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN