

ENERGIES MEDIA · CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Murphy Oil hits 88ft oil pay on Côte d'Ivoire CI-103

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Murphy Oil has reported a positive well result on block CI-103 offshore Côte d'Ivoire, encountering approximately 88 feet (27 metres) of net oil-bearing pay, with additional hydrocarbons identified in a deeper reservoir interval. The American independent announced the finding on 12 October, marking a meaningful data point for the block's prospectivity.

The dual-zone result — a shallower interval with confirmed net pay and a second, deeper reservoir showing additional hydrocarbon presence — gives Murphy Oil reason to continue evaluating CI-103. The deeper discovery in particular suggests the block may hold more resource potential than a single-objective well programme would have indicated. However, no production volumes, reserves estimates, FID decision, or development concept have been announced at this stage. The well result remains an exploration finding that will require further technical work before any commercial conclusions can be drawn.

Côte d'Ivoire has been working to reinvigorate its upstream sector after a period of relatively modest exploration activity. Block CI-103 sits in a jurisdiction where the government has sought to attract international operators by updating its contractual and fiscal terms. Murphy Oil's willingness to drill and its positive characterisation of the result signals continued appetite from mid-tier international companies for West African Atlantic margin exploration, where deepwater and frontier plays have periodically delivered material discoveries.

For the broader service and supply chain community, this well result places CI-103 on the map as a block that could move toward appraisal drilling if Murphy Oil's internal subsurface review confirms the commercial case. An appraisal phase would typically involve at least one additional well to de-risk reservoir continuity and refine volume estimates, potentially followed by a development study if results are encouraging. No timeline for any such follow-on activity has been disclosed by the company.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should monitor CI-103 closely but hold outreach for now — this is an exploration well result, not a signed contract or FID. If Murphy Oil announces an appraisal programme or formal development study, that would be the trigger for relationship-building with the operator's subsurface and procurement teams. Companies with West African deepwater drilling or well-services track records are best positioned to engage early once the block moves toward appraisal.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** An appraisal campaign on CI-103 would require a rig contract; drilling contractors and well-services firms with West Africa credentials should track Murphy Oil's next steps on this block.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If the deeper reservoir interval proves commercial, a subsea tieback or standalone FPSO concept could follow — too early for bids, but the right moment to map Murphy Oil's concept-selection process.
- **Service:** Well logging, reservoir testing, and wireline service providers with Gulf of Guinea experience should note CI-103 as a near-term appraisal candidate and position accordingly with Murphy Oil's technical teams.
- **Pipeline:** Any future field development on CI-103 will require export infrastructure planning; pipeline and flowline specialists should monitor the block's progression toward development sanction.

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