

ANP-STP - AGÊNCIA NACIONAL DO PETRÓLEO DE SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE · SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

Petrobras takes operatorship of STP Block 3

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São Tomé and Príncipe's national petroleum agency, ANP-STP, signed the Second Addendum to the Production Sharing Contract for Block 3 of the country's Exclusive Economic Zone on 9 July 2026, formally installing Petrobras as operator of the block. The addendum follows Petrobras's acquisition of an interest that previously conferred operatorship on another party, and its signature at the ANP-STP level constitutes a ratified contractual amendment — not merely a memorandum of intent.

The move marks a significant upgrade in the quality of sponsorship behind Block 3. Petrobras brings deepwater technical capability and a substantial balance sheet, factors that historically accelerate a block's progression from exploration commitment to drill decision. São Tomé and Príncipe has long been regarded as an underexplored Atlantic frontier; its blocks sit in the same broad Gulf of Guinea hydrocarbon province that has produced major discoveries in Nigerian and Equatorial Guinean waters. With Petrobras now formally in the operator seat, the probability of a structured work programme — seismic acquisition, prospect maturation, and eventually a well — increases materially.

For the São Tomé and Príncipe government, the operatorship change is strategically important. Petrobras's track record in deepwater Brazil and its growing African portfolio gives ANP-STP a credible counterpart capable of financing and executing an exploration campaign without requiring immediate co-financing from the state. The Second Addendum formalises all rights, obligations, and carried interests that flow from the ownership transfer, providing the legal certainty investors and service companies require before committing resources.

Norwegian oil and gas service companies should treat this addendum as a monitoring trigger rather than an immediate procurement opportunity. Petrobras has not yet announced a work programme, drill schedule, or tender process for Block 3. The correct posture at this stage is to map the block's technical requirements, identify Petrobras's preferred supplier relationships in comparable Atlantic deepwater settings, and position Norwegian firms within those networks ahead of any formal solicitation. Companies with Gulf of Guinea project references — subsea equipment, marine surveys, or well services delivered elsewhere in the region — will carry the most relevant credentials when Petrobras moves toward procurement.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The ratified addendum confirms Petrobras as operator but no work programme or tender has been announced; Norwegian service companies should monitor ANP-STP and Petrobras procurement channels and begin early relationship-building with Petrobras's African business units. Firms with existing Gulf of Guinea deepwater references in subsea, geophysical services, or drilling support are best positioned to engage when a formal work programme is declared.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Map Petrobras's preferred deepwater subsea and FPSO contractors from its Brazilian and Angolan operations to identify partnership entry points ahead of any Block 3 FEED or concept-select phase.
- **Drilling:** Monitor for a future well commitment; Petrobras's deepwater drilling programmes typically engage Norwegian-affiliated rig owners and well-services providers early in planning cycles.
- **Service:** Geophysical and reservoir characterisation firms should approach Petrobras's exploration team now, as seismic acquisition or reprocessing is likely the first contracted work scope on Block 3.
- **Pipeline:** Premature for pipeline planning, but firms specialising in subsea flowline and riser systems should file Block 3 in their opportunity pipeline for review once a discovery is confirmed.

[Original source: ANP-STP - Agência Nacional do Petróleo de São Tomé e Príncipe →](#)

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