

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

Shell launches 3D seismic public consultation on STP Block 4

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Shell has moved to the public consultation phase for a 3D seismic acquisition programme on Block 4 offshore São Tomé and Príncipe, according to documents published by the country's national petroleum regulator, ANP-STP. The consultations were held at two locations — in São Tomé and on the Autonomous Region of Príncipe — signalling that the environmental and social impact assessment process is formally under way before any seismic vessel is mobilised.

The published materials include presentations prepared by ERM, an environmental consultancy, alongside Shell's own public consultation decks, all dated to sessions held on 6 and 10 February 2026. The dual-session format, spanning both main islands, reflects regulatory requirements for inclusive stakeholder engagement ahead of intrusive geophysical operations. At this stage, the instrument in play is a pre-acquisition environmental scoping process — not a contract award and not a drilling commitment.

Block 4 sits in São Tomé and Príncipe's exclusive economic zone, an Atlantic frontier basin that has attracted renewed interest as regional exploration momentum builds. A 3D seismic campaign would be the next data-gathering step before any well investment decision. The involvement of ERM as the ESIA lead and Shell as operator places this squarely within a structured regulatory workflow, but the project remains at an early exploration stage. No seismic contract award, tender, or operator-confirmed work programme has been disclosed in the published materials.

For Norwegian service companies, the significance of this development is primarily forward-looking. Seismic acquisition in frontier Atlantic waters of this type typically requires specialised vessels, ocean-bottom node or streamer technology, and marine environmental monitoring capability — all areas where Norwegian players hold strong positions. However, with the project still in the environmental consultation phase, no procurement process is open at this time. The pathway from completed ESIA to a seismic contract award can take months to over a year, depending on regulatory approval timelines and operator scheduling.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

No procurement opportunity is open at this stage — the project is in environmental consultation ahead of a potential 3D seismic acquisition. Norwegian seismic vessel operators, ocean-bottom node specialists, and marine environmental monitoring firms should register interest with ANP-STP and monitor for a formal tender once Shell receives ESIA clearance. Relationship-building with Shell's regional exploration team and with ERM as the ESIA lead is the appropriate near-term action.

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- **Subsea/FPSO:** No subsea scope is live, but early positioning with Shell's exploration team in advance of any potential appraisal well decision is warranted given Block 4's Atlantic deepwater setting.
- **Service:** Seismic acquisition contractors and streamer/OBN technology suppliers should monitor ANP-STP for a formal tender following ESIA approval — Shell typically runs competitive seismic tenders at this project stage.
- **Drilling:** A successful 3D seismic campaign is a prerequisite for any drill decision on Block 4; drilling contractors should track the seismic timeline to anticipate potential rig demand 18–36 months out.
- **Pipeline:** No pipeline scope indicated at this stage; relevance is contingent on future commercial discovery and development concept selection.

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

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