

LIBERIA PETROLEUM REGULATORY AUTHORITY (LIBERIA) · LIBERIA · OFFSHORE

TotalEnergies moves toward Liberia Basin exploration

Saga deep read · 20 February 2026 · Score 74

TotalEnergies has held its first Joint Operations Committee meeting with the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority, signalling that offshore petroleum exploration in the Liberia Basin is moving from paperwork toward active field preparation. Senior TotalEnergies executives met President Joseph Boakai in Monrovia on 5 February 2026, a meeting the LPRA described as following the successful conclusion of that inaugural JOC — the formal governance body that coordinates exploration work between a licensee and the host regulator.

The JOC milestone is a meaningful procedural step: it indicates that the block award or license instrument is already in place and that both parties have established the technical and commercial committee through which work programmes, budgets, and data-sharing will be managed. However, no exploration well has been spudded, no seismic acquisition contract has been announced, and no final investment decision has been reported. The engagement at presidential level suggests Monrovia is keen to accelerate momentum and signal investor confidence in Liberia's offshore prospectivity.

Liberia's Atlantic margin has long been regarded as geologically prospective, sitting along the same West African transform margin trend that has yielded discoveries elsewhere in the region. The Liberia Basin has seen limited modern exploration, which means TotalEnergies' entry represents an early-stage commitment to a frontier or near-frontier setting. The scope of TotalEnergies' acreage position, water depths involved, and the specific work programme obligations have not been disclosed in the source material.

For the broader service industry, the significance of the JOC completion lies in what typically follows: a work programme that will include reprocessing or acquisition of 2D/3D seismic, environmental and geotechnical surveys, and eventually, if results warrant, exploration drilling. Each of these phases carries distinct procurement cycles. At this stage, however, no tender, expression of interest, or prequalification process has been announced, and the timeline to drilling remains unspecified.

Liberia has been working to rehabilitate its upstream investment climate after years of limited activity, and the Boakai administration's public embrace of TotalEnergies is consistent with efforts to attract and retain major operators. The LPRA's role as the regulatory counterpart in the JOC also indicates that institutional frameworks for oversight are active. Norwegian service companies with West Africa exposure should treat this as a monitoring situation: the operator is credible, the regulatory process is advancing, but procurement-relevant activity has not yet been initiated.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a pre-exploration stage engagement — the JOC has been formed but no work programme, tender, or drilling timeline has been announced publicly. Norwegian service companies should monitor TotalEnergies' procurement channels and the LPRA's licensing communications for seismic, geotechnical, and eventually drilling tenders, while using any existing TotalEnergies West Africa relationships to position early. No outreach to procurement is warranted at this point.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Too early for FPSO or subsea scoping — monitor for exploration results that could trigger concept selection studies.
- **Drilling:** Drilling contractors and well-services firms should track TotalEnergies' West Africa drilling schedules for when a Liberia exploration well enters the planning queue.
- **Service:** Geophysical and survey companies should watch for seismic acquisition or reprocessing tenders, which are typically the first procurement cycle after a JOC is established.
- **Pipeline:** No pipeline scope is relevant at exploration stage; revisit if a discovery is announced and field development planning begins.

[Original source: Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority \(Liberia\) →](#)

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