

SONATRACH - NEWS & PRESS RELEASES (ALGERIA) · ALGERIA

Sonatrach courts ExxonMobil, Devon and Halliburton in Houston

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Sonatrach, Algeria's national oil company, held meetings with ExxonMobil, Devon Energy and Halliburton in Houston during a working visit to the United States running from 12 to 16 October 2026. The engagements form part of Sonatrach's ongoing effort to deepen partnerships with major American energy players, signalling the company's continued push to attract international expertise and capital into Algeria's hydrocarbons sector.

The details disclosed in Sonatrach's press release are limited to the fact of the meetings themselves and the identity of the three counterparts. No blocks, acreage, contract values or specific project scopes have been announced at this stage. The instrument here is best characterised as high-level diplomatic and commercial engagement — well short of a signed agreement or block award — meaning concrete procurement opportunities have not yet materialised from these discussions.

Nevertheless, the choice of counterparts is instructive. ExxonMobil brings major upstream exploration and development capability; Devon Energy is a technically sophisticated independent operator; and Halliburton is one of the world's largest oilfield services providers. Sonatrach engaging all three in a single working visit suggests the Algerian company is pursuing conversations across the full value chain, from exploration and production through to well services and field development support. Algeria holds some of the largest proven hydrocarbon reserves on the African continent, and Sonatrach has been working to modernise ageing fields and bring new acreage into development.

For the broader energy services market, the Halliburton meeting is particularly worth noting. As a direct oilfield services competitor, Halliburton's engagement with Sonatrach underlines that Algeria remains an active commercial theatre for international service companies. Any upstream activity that results from Sonatrach's partnerships with ExxonMobil or Devon would generate downstream demand for drilling, well services, subsea engineering and related contracting work — the segments where Norwegian companies have established global competitiveness.

At this point, Norwegian service companies should treat this development as an early monitoring signal rather than an actionable procurement opportunity. No tender, expression of interest or contract has been announced. The priority for the near term is to track whether these Houston discussions crystallise into formal agreements, licensing-round participation or field development mandates — any of which would open concrete entry points. Relationship-building with Sonatrach's international partnerships directorate, and engagement through bilateral trade channels, would be the appropriate preparatory steps while the outcome of these meetings becomes clearer.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This engagement is at the MoU and relationship stage — no contract or tender has been issued, so Norwegian service companies should monitor closely rather than approach procurement teams. Partners should use this signal to refresh their Sonatrach account relationships and position for any well services, drilling or field development scopes that emerge if ExxonMobil or Devon formalise acreage agreements in Algeria. Saga Advisory will track follow-on announcements from Sonatrach's international partnerships directorate.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** If Devon or ExxonMobil secure Algerian acreage, exploration and appraisal drilling campaigns will follow — Norwegian drilling contractors should register interest with Sonatrach now.

- **Service:** Halliburton's direct engagement signals that Sonatrach is actively reviewing its well services supply chain; Norwegian well services specialists should monitor for upcoming tender activity.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Any new deepwater or offshore acreage awarded to US majors in Algeria could require subsea infrastructure — Norwegian subsea firms should track whether discussions include offshore blocks.
- **Pipeline:** Algeria's ambitions to expand gas export capacity to Europe create a parallel opportunity; Norwegian pipeline engineering firms should watch for infrastructure scopes linked to any new upstream partnerships.

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