

MIREMPET - MINISTÉRIO DOS RECURSOS MINERAIS, PETRÓLEO E GÁS (ANGOLA) · ANGOLA

Angola invites Namibia into 200k-bpd Lobito Refinery

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Angola's President João Lourenço has formally invited Namibia to take a shareholding position in the Lobito Refinery, a planned facility designed to process 200,000 barrels of oil per day. The invitation, announced by Angola's Ministry of Mineral Resources, Petroleum and Gas (MIREMPET) on 19 October 2026, signals Luanda's intent to broaden the project's regional ownership base and deepen bilateral oil-sector cooperation with its southern neighbour.

The Lobito Refinery is one of Angola's most strategically significant downstream investments. At 200,000 bopd of nameplate capacity, the facility would rank among the largest refineries on the African continent and is intended to reduce Angola's dependence on imported refined products despite being a major crude exporter. No financial terms, equity percentages, timeline for Namibia's formal response, or project financing structure were disclosed in the announcement. The current instrument is a presidential invitation — equivalent to a heads of agreement in intent — not a signed shareholder agreement or construction contract.

Namibia's potential participation carries its own strategic logic. Windhoek is in the early stages of monetising its own upstream discoveries, most notably in the Orange Basin, and access to refining infrastructure could become a practical necessity as Namibian crude production ramps up over the coming years. Shared ownership of the Lobito Refinery would give Namibia an outlet for domestic crude processing and align the two countries' downstream interests along the Atlantic coast. Angola, for its part, gains political weight and potentially additional capital commitments to advance a project that has been in planning for several years.

The broader regional picture matters for industrial supply chains. A 200,000-bpd refinery of this scale requires extensive engineering, procurement, and construction activity across civil works, process units, storage and marine loading infrastructure, and utilities. If the project advances to a final investment decision, it would generate substantial demand for project management, equipment supply, and specialist technical services across multiple disciplines. For now, however, the project remains at a pre-FID political stage, and no tender or procurement process has been announced.

Norwegian service companies should treat this development as an early market signal rather than an actionable procurement opportunity. The presidential invitation to Namibia suggests Angola is actively working to assemble the shareholder coalition needed to move the Lobito Refinery toward bankability. Monitoring the pace of shareholder negotiations and any subsequent appointment of a project developer or lead engineer will be the relevant near-term activity.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The Lobito Refinery is at a pre-FID political stage — no procurement process is open and no contracts have been signed. Norwegian companies with downstream engineering, storage, or marine loading expertise should monitor shareholder formation and watch for appointment of a project developer or FEED contractor as the trigger for commercial engagement. Relationship-building with MIREMPET and Sonangol's downstream division is the appropriate action now.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline:** A 200,000-bpd refinery requires product export pipelines and marine loading arms — Norwegian pipeline and marine terminal specialists should map potential scope and track FEED appointment.
- **FPSO:** If Namibian Orange Basin crude is to be processed at Lobito, marine offtake and crude transfer logistics may create opportunities for Norwegian floating storage or shuttle tanker operators.

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Monitor whether Namibian upstream partners seek to link future crude offtake agreements to the Lobito project, which could influence subsea production system design and export routing.
- **Service:** Large refinery projects at this scale generate demand for inspection, HSE, and project management services — Norwegian consultancies should position early with the project developer once appointed.

[Original source: MIREMPET - Ministério dos Recursos Minerais, Petróleo e Gás \(Angola\) →](#)

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