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Baleine field: Côte d'Ivoire government share examined

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The Ivorian state's share of production from the Baleine oil and gas field is under scrutiny, with RFI reporting on how revenues and equity are distributed between the government and its partners in one of West Africa's most significant recent offshore discoveries.

Baleine, operated offshore Côte d'Ivoire, has drawn regional and international attention since its discovery as a commercially viable find. The field represents a pivotal moment for the country's ambitions to become a meaningful hydrocarbon producer, and the question of government take — covering both direct equity held through state oil company PETROCI and fiscal instruments such as profit oil, royalties, and taxes — sits at the heart of how Abidjan will monetise the resource for the national budget.

The RFI article focuses on the mechanics of the production-sharing arrangement and what proportion of the oil extracted ultimately flows to the Ivorian state. Production-sharing contracts in West Africa typically grant the host government a carried interest through the national oil company alongside a negotiated share of profit oil that rises with production levels or cumulative recovery. For Baleine, PETROCI holds equity alongside the operator, meaning the state participates both as a fiscal authority collecting taxes and royalties and as a commercial partner sharing in upstream revenues directly.

The distinction matters for investors and service companies alike. A higher government take structure can slow development timelines if it compresses the

returns available to private partners at early production stages, while a balanced regime that rewards early capital expenditure tends to accelerate project sanction and infrastructure buildout. Côte d'Ivoire has positioned the Baleine development as a flagship project, and the speed with which early production phases have advanced suggests the fiscal terms were structured to attract and retain private capital while securing a meaningful state share.

For the broader West African upstream environment, how Abidjan manages the Baleine revenue split will set a reference point for future licensing rounds in the country and may influence how neighbouring states frame their own terms. Côte d'Ivoire's ability to demonstrate transparent and commercially workable fiscal governance at Baleine will be watched closely by operators and financiers active across the Gulf of Guinea.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Baleine is an active offshore development in Côte d'Ivoire with subsea and production infrastructure already in progress; Norwegian service companies should monitor procurement cycles tied to subsequent development phases as the fiscal and ownership structure becomes clearer. At this stage — given the article concerns government revenue-share analysis rather than a new contract or tender — the appropriate action is monitoring and relationship-building with PETROCI and the operator rather than procurement outreach. Partners with FPSO, subsea, or well-services capabilities should track upcoming phase expansions where the confirmed fiscal framework may accelerate final investment decisions.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Baleine's offshore development trajectory makes it a target market for subsea tie-back equipment and FPSO modification services as additional phases are sanctioned; monitor operator announcements for tender release.
- **Drilling:** Development drilling campaigns linked to Baleine's phased production ramp-up represent a pipeline opportunity; track rig contract timelines through PETROCI and operator disclosures.

- **Well Services:** Completion and well-intervention services will be required as Baleine moves through successive production phases; establish early relationships with the operator's supply chain team in Abidjan.
- **Pipeline:** Subsea pipeline and flowline scope associated with field expansion phases at Baleine warrants monitoring for engineering and installation contract opportunities.

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