

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

Shell consortium holds seismic ESIA consultation, Block 4 STP

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São Tomé and Príncipe's national petroleum agency ANP-STP has held a public consultation on the Environmental, Social and Health Impact Assessment for a planned 3D seismic survey in Block 4 of the country's Exclusive Economic Zone. The consultation took place on 6 February in the Autonomous Region of Príncipe, marking a formal procedural step before seismic acquisition work can proceed.

Block 4 is operated by Shell, in a consortium that also includes Petrobras, Galp, and ANP-STP itself. The public consultation is a regulatory requirement under the ESIA process, and its completion moves the block one step closer to active seismic data acquisition. Government officials attended the meeting, signalling institutional engagement with the process.

The ESIA consultation represents an early-stage exploration milestone — not a contract award, block grant, or final investment decision. No seismic acquisition contract has been announced, and no timeline for the survey itself has been disclosed in the available information. The consortium composition nonetheless reflects significant international operator interest in São Tomé and Príncipe's offshore acreage, with two major integrated oil companies and a major Portuguese independent holding positions alongside the national agency.

São Tomé and Príncipe sits in the Gulf of Guinea, a region that has attracted sustained interest from Norwegian service companies due to its geological proximity to producing basins in Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon. While the archipelago's acreage remains at an early exploration stage, the involvement of

operators of Shell and Petrobras's scale suggests the programme is being pursued with material resources and technical seriousness. Successful 3D seismic acquisition would generate the subsurface dataset needed to evaluate whether the block warrants drilling, making this consultation a foundational step in a potentially multi-year exploration sequence.

For Norwegian service and technology companies, the immediate actionable window is narrow: no tender, contract, or equipment procurement process has been announced. However, the confirmed operator identity and consortium structure provide a clear set of relationship targets. Shell and Petrobras both maintain established procurement relationships with Norwegian subsea, survey, and well-services suppliers, and early positioning ahead of any seismic vessel tender or future drilling campaign is advisable.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

No procurement process has been announced; the appropriate response is monitoring and relationship-building rather than outreach to procurement teams. Norwegian seismic vessel operators and marine survey specialists should note Shell and Petrobras as the primary relationship targets for any future seismic acquisition tender. If 3D results support a drilling decision, Norwegian drilling contractors, subsea suppliers, and well-services companies would be well-positioned to engage through existing frameworks with those operators.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Monitor Block 4 progress; early engagement with Shell and Petrobras technical teams could position Norwegian subsea suppliers ahead of any future development phase.
- **Drilling:** Track ESIA completion and seismic results as lead indicators for a potential exploration well decision by the Shell-led consortium.
- **Service:** Norwegian marine survey and geophysical service companies should follow the seismic acquisition tender process once it is formally opened, with Shell as the primary procurement contact.

- **Pipeline:** No pipeline scope is defined at this stage; monitor exploration outcomes before assessing infrastructure applicability.

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

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