

AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT

ENI Takes FID on Baleine Phase 3 Targeting 183,000 BOEPD Peak Output

Saga deep read · 25 May 2026 · Score 58

Italian major ENI, together with partners Petroci and Vitol, has approved the Final Investment Decision (FID) for Phase 3 of the Baleine field development offshore Côte d'Ivoire. The project is sanctioned to deliver a peak production rate of 183,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day (BOEPD), marking a significant expansion of what has become one of West Africa's most actively developed upstream assets in recent years.

The FID represents the third sequential phase of development at Baleine, underscoring the partners' confidence in the field's resource base and their commitment to a staged, capital-disciplined development approach. ENI operates the project, with state oil company Petroci and trading house Vitol holding participating interests. The phased development model has allowed the consortium to progressively build production infrastructure while managing execution risk — a structure increasingly favoured by operators across the West African upstream landscape.

Côte d'Ivoire has positioned itself as a priority destination for upstream investment following the Baleine discovery, with the government moving to streamline approvals and support accelerated development timelines. The field has advanced through its phases at a pace that is notably faster than comparable deepwater projects elsewhere in the region, reflecting strong alignment between the operator and the host government. With Phase 3 now sanctioned, the project's peak output target of

183,000 BOEPD would represent a material contribution to Côte d'Ivoire's national production profile and export revenues.

For service and equipment providers, Phase 3 implies a further round of procurement, engineering, and construction activity layered on top of the infrastructure commitments already made in earlier phases. The scale of the peak production target — nearly doubling typical single-phase output ambitions seen elsewhere on the West African shelf — indicates that Phase 3 involves substantial additional subsurface and surface scope. Specific facility configurations, vessel requirements, and contract timelines have not been disclosed at this stage, but the FID confirmation signals that detailed engineering and vendor engagement processes are likely to advance in the near term.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

With FID confirmed, ENI and its partners will be entering detailed engineering and procurement phases for Phase 3, creating near-term opportunities for Norwegian service companies across subsea systems, FPSO topsides, drilling, and well services. Norwegian firms with existing West Africa track records or frame agreements with ENI should prioritise early engagement, as the operator's phased development model at Baleine suggests a well-structured, contractor-friendly procurement environment. Companies not yet positioned on Baleine should monitor tender releases closely and consider partnership with regional agents to establish a credible local presence in Abidjan.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Phase 3 scope at a 183,000 BOEPD peak target implies significant additional production infrastructure — Norwegian FPSO and subsea equipment suppliers should assess ENI's procurement pipeline for mooring, risers, and processing modules.
- **Drilling:** Expanding field development to Phase 3 will require additional production and potentially injection wells, making this a credible opportunity for Norwegian drilling contractors and rig owners active in West Africa.

- **Service:** Well services providers — including cementing, completion, and intervention specialists — should engage ENI's Côte d'Ivoire supply chain team ahead of Phase 3 drilling campaign mobilisation.
- **Pipeline:** Increased plateau output may require additional infield flowline and export pipeline capacity; Norwegian pipeline engineering firms should monitor whether Phase 3 involves new tie-in or export infrastructure.
- **LNG:** If Baleine's gas handling capacity scales with Phase 3 liquids growth, there may be downstream gas monetisation decisions to follow — Norwegian LNG technology and process firms should track Côte d'Ivoire's gas strategy alongside this FID.

[Original source: Africa Oil+Gas Report →](#)

Saga Advisory

General: info@saga-advisory.com · saga-advisory.com

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN