

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW ONLINE · OFFSHORE

Eni Approves Baleine Phase 3 FID Offshore Côte d'Ivoire With Partners Petroci and Vitol

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Italian energy major Eni, together with partners Petroci and Vitol, has approved the Final Investment Decision (FID) for Phase 3 of the Baleine offshore development in Côte d'Ivoire. The announcement was made during a ceremony held in Abidjan, attended by senior Ivorian government officials including the Minister of Mines and Petroleum, underscoring the strategic national importance of the project.

The Baleine field has already established itself as one of Africa's fastest-developed hydrocarbon projects, and the Phase 3 FID represents a continued commitment by the operator and its partners to scaling up production capacity offshore Côte d'Ivoire. The progressive phased development model adopted at Baleine has allowed the partnership to move from discovery to production at a pace rarely seen in the region, and Phase 3 now extends that momentum into a new investment cycle.

Côte d'Ivoire is actively positioning itself as a regional energy hub, and the Baleine project sits at the centre of that ambition. The Ivorian government's involvement in the FID ceremony signals strong state support for the development, with national oil company Petroci participating directly in the partnership alongside international players Eni and Vitol. This tripartite structure is typical of the production-sharing arrangements increasingly favoured in West African offshore developments and reflects a maturing investment framework in the country.

For the broader West African energy landscape, successive FIDs at Baleine reinforce Côte d'Ivoire's credentials as a stable, investable destination for offshore capital. As

neighbouring countries compete for the same pool of international service and equipment contracts, Côte d'Ivoire's track record of fast-tracking development from discovery through to phased production gives it a competitive edge in attracting sustained upstream activity. Phase 3 will require a new round of procurement, engineering, and execution work, creating concrete opportunities across multiple service segments.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The Baleine Phase 3 FID opens a fresh procurement cycle that Norwegian service companies should actively monitor for tendering opportunities across subsea, marine, and well services. Eni's established relationships with European contractors make this a credible target for Norwegian firms already active in West Africa or looking to enter the market through the Ivorian corridor. Companies not yet positioned should begin relationship-building with Eni's supply chain teams and Petroci now, ahead of contract awards.



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- **Subsea/FPSO:** Phase 3 will likely require additional subsea tiebacks or production infrastructure — Norwegian subsea contractors and FPSO integrators should register interest with Eni's West Africa procurement function now that FID is confirmed.
- **Drilling:** A new development phase implies additional production and potentially appraisal wells, creating rig demand that Norwegian drilling contractors and well service firms should track closely.
- **Service:** Well completion, subsea inspection, and maintenance services will be required as Phase 3 facilities are installed and brought online, representing a sustained workscope rather than a one-off contract.

- **Pipeline:** Expanded production from Phase 3 may necessitate new flowline or export pipeline infrastructure, an area where Norwegian pipeline engineering firms can offer competitive technical solutions.
- **LNG:** Côte d'Ivoire's ambitions as a regional energy hub include gas monetisation, and Norwegian LNG technology and process companies should assess whether Phase 3 gas volumes create an opening for associated LNG or gas infrastructure scopes.

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