

WORLD OIL AFRICA · EGYPT

Egypt launches 18,000-sq-km Mediterranean OBN survey

Saga deep read · 21 October 2026 · Score 50

Egypt's state gas company EGAS, working with SLB and Viridien, will begin an 18,000-square-kilometre ocean bottom node seismic survey in the Eastern Mediterranean within two weeks, targeting improved subsurface imaging to accelerate gas exploration in the region.

Ocean bottom node acquisition is the most data-rich seismic method available for complex geological settings, deploying individual receiver nodes on the seabed rather than towed streamers. The scale of this survey — 18,000 square kilometres — places it among the larger OBN programmes undertaken in the Mediterranean basin and signals that EGAS intends to de-risk a substantial acreage position before committing to further drilling. The involvement of SLB and Viridien, two of the world's leading seismic acquisition and processing firms, indicates the technical ambition behind the campaign.

Egypt's Eastern Mediterranean acreage sits in a geological fairway that has already yielded significant gas discoveries. A large-scale OBN survey of this kind typically takes several months to acquire and additional months to process, meaning the data will begin informing exploration decisions well into 2026. The results could redefine prospectivity across the covered area, either attracting new licensing interest or prompting EGAS and its existing partners to accelerate appraisal and development planning.

For Norway's oil and gas service sector, the immediate commercial activity here is with SLB and Viridien, both of which are leading the acquisition contract. The survey

itself does not represent a drilling commitment or infrastructure spend. However, the data generated will directly shape future block awards, exploration well programmes, and ultimately subsea and FPSO procurement decisions in Egyptian waters. Norwegian companies with competencies in subsea survey support, remotely operated vehicles, and seabed technology should monitor the survey's progress and use this window to build relationships with EGAS and the operating consortium ahead of any exploration drilling that follows. This is a monitoring and positioning moment, not a procurement opportunity.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a pre-competitive data acquisition phase — no drilling or infrastructure procurement is open yet. Norwegian service companies should monitor the survey's progress closely, as positive results will likely trigger exploration well tenders and eventually subsea or FPSO scopes in Egyptian waters. Use this 12-18 month window to engage EGAS and consortium partners at the relationship-building level.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Monitor survey results as data outcomes will shape appraisal drilling decisions and any future deepwater development infrastructure requirements off Egypt.
- **Drilling:** A successful 18,000-sq-km OBN campaign is a known precursor to exploration well programmes — track EGAS licensing and farm-out activity that typically follows high-quality seismic acquisition.
- **Service:** Norwegian firms with seabed technology, ROV, or survey-support capabilities could seek subcontractor roles with SLB or Viridien during the active acquisition phase.
- **LNG:** Any major gas discovery de-risked by this survey feeds Egypt's LNG export ambitions at Idku and Damietta — monitor for upstream tie-in opportunities if new fields are proven.

[Original source: World Oil Africa →](#)

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