

WORLD OIL AFRICA · EGYPT

Meleiha Phase 2 confirmed operational as Eni builds 100 MMcfd Western Desert gas hub

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Egypt's Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources has officially confirmed that the second phase of the Meleiha gas plant in the Western Desert has started operations, providing government-level validation of the start-up activities previously reported from Eni's side. New reporting from African Economy Inc. characterises the broader Meleiha Phase 2 initiative as a 100 million-cubic-foot gas hub project, reinforcing the scale framing already established while describing the development in hub terms — suggesting Eni views the site as a platform for consolidated gas gathering and processing rather than a single discrete plant. The joint announcement framing — described explicitly as a partnership between the Ministry and Eni — underscores the strategic importance Egypt's government attaches to the project as part of efforts to shore up the country's domestic gas supply balance.

The Meleiha concession sits in the Western Desert, a proven hydrocarbon basin that has historically attracted sustained investment from international operators. Phase 2 represents an expansion of existing infrastructure at the site, adding dedicated gas processing capacity of up to 100 million standard cubic feet per day (MMcfd) rather than building from a greenfield position. The latest reporting refers to Eni having launched start-up activities, a formulation that sits in slight tension with the Ministry's earlier confirmation that the plant has started operations — a distinction that may reflect the difference between commissioning commencement and full operational status, or a timing lag between the two announcements. Specific production rate targets remain unspecified across available reporting, and Saga

Advisory will continue to track ramp-up and plateau timelines as further disclosures emerge.

For Egypt, the project carries significance beyond the concession boundary. The country has been managing tightening domestic gas supply following a period of LNG export ambition, and incremental production from established Western Desert assets contributes directly to the national gas balance. Eni is one of Egypt's largest upstream operators, with interests spanning the Western Desert and the prolific offshore Mediterranean, including the supergiant Zohr field. The Ministry's direct involvement in announcing Meleiha Phase 2 reinforces the political as well as commercial weight behind Eni's continued onshore Egyptian investment. Framing the development as a gas hub further implies longer-term infrastructure ambitions at Meleiha beyond the current phase.

From a commercial standpoint, major engineering, procurement, and construction work is substantially advanced, meaning key equipment and services have already been sourced for the core facility. The industrial story has shifted firmly to operational delivery and the maintenance, compression, and well-services requirements that accompany steady-state gas plant operations. The hub characterisation, however, opens the question of whether additional tie-in infrastructure, gathering lines, or satellite well programmes are being planned to feed the central processing facility — work streams that would represent incremental contracting opportunities. For companies not already engaged with Eni Egypt's supply chain in Cairo, this dual operator-government endorsement of the Meleiha programme makes relationship-building with both Eni's procurement function and the Ministry's technical directorates a more compelling near-term priority.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The characterisation of Meleiha Phase 2 as a gas hub rather than a single plant suggests Eni intends the site to anchor broader Western Desert gas gathering infrastructure, increasing the likelihood of follow-on tie-in and compression work beyond the current phase. Norwegian service companies with competencies in gas compression, well intervention, production optimisation, and modular processing should target Eni Egypt's operational procurement team in Cairo and relevant Ministry technical directorates as the facility ramps toward plateau. The hub framing makes early supply chain positioning more valuable, as future tender packages tied to satellite wells or debottlenecking may be structured quickly given existing government endorsement.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Gas compression specialists:** A 100 MMcfd hub facility will require robust compression infrastructure for both gathering and export; Norwegian firms with modular compression expertise can engage Eni Egypt's operations team on both current plateau support and future capacity uplift needs.
- **Well intervention and workover contractors:** Sustaining hub-level throughput in a mature Western Desert concession requires active well management; Norwegian intervention specialists with artificial lift and coiled tubing capabilities are well positioned for ongoing service contracts.
- **EPC subcontractors and brownfield engineers:** If Meleiha is evolving into a gas hub with satellite tie-ins, incremental brownfield engineering and pipeline construction packages are likely; Norwegian firms with subsurface-to-surface integration experience can position ahead of those tender releases.
- **Local Egyptian engineering partners:** Partnering with established Egyptian contractors familiar with Western Desert logistics and Ministry procurement processes reduces execution risk and accelerates prequalification for Eni Egypt's operational and expansion work programmes.

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

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