

AFRICAN ECONOMY INC. — ENERGY · ANGOLA

Angola opens 100+ blocks under 25-year oil strategy

Saga deep read · 15 October 2026 · Score 50

Angola has announced plans to accelerate its oil and gas exploration licensing process to a three-month turnaround and open more than 100 exploration blocks as part of a new 25-year national energy strategy, according to a statement from Luanda dated 15 October.

The initiative signals a deliberate push by Angolan authorities to attract fresh upstream capital at a time when the country is working to reverse declining production. By compressing the licensing timeline to three months, Angola appears to be directly addressing a long-standing criticism from international operators and investors who have cited bureaucratic delays as a deterrent to committing exploration budgets. The scale of the block offering — more than 100 units — suggests the strategy spans multiple basins and geological settings, though the article does not specify whether these are onshore, shallow-water, or deepwater acreage.

The 25-year horizon of the strategy is notable. Long-dated national frameworks typically serve as the policy scaffolding needed to underpin large capital commitments from both international oil companies and the service supply chain. For Angola, which relies heavily on oil revenues to fund the state budget, sustaining and growing upstream activity is not merely a commercial ambition but a fiscal imperative. The government's willingness to restructure its administrative licensing process suggests political will at the highest level to make Angola a more competitive destination relative to peers across the continent.

At this stage, the announcement represents a policy declaration and licensing-round framework — not awarded blocks, signed contracts, or final investment decisions. Norwegian service companies should treat this as an early-stage opportunity requiring monitoring and relationship-building rather than immediate procurement outreach. The practical value lies in positioning ahead of what could become a significant wave of new exploration activity if the licensing round delivers awarded blocks and operators begin mobilising seismic and drilling programmes. Companies with existing Angola relationships — particularly through Sonangol's supply chain or through international operators already active in Angolan waters — are best placed to benefit when activity translates from policy intent to field execution.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a licensing-framework announcement, not a contract or FID, so Norwegian service companies should monitor the block award process and engage through industry associations and existing operator relationships in Angola rather than pursuing procurement outreach at this stage. The 100-plus block offering and compressed three-month licensing timeline could accelerate the pipeline of exploration programmes significantly if the round delivers; companies should track which operators acquire acreage and begin mapping their supply-chain preferences early. Saga recommends establishing or refreshing Luanda-based contacts with Sonangol and active IOC country teams now, ahead of any block awards.

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- **Drilling:** A large exploration block round, if it proceeds to awards and work programmes, would drive demand for jack-up and semi-submersible rigs; Norwegian drilling contractors and rig managers should monitor operator acquisitions closely.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** New exploration success in Angolan basins historically translates into deepwater development tenders; subsea equipment suppliers and FPSO operators should identify which IOCs acquire acreage and begin early engagement.
- **Service:** Accelerated licensing could trigger a wave of seismic acquisition and well services activity; Norwegian geophysical and well-intervention companies should position with operators entering new Angolan acreage.

- **Pipeline:** Expanded exploration across more than 100 blocks may eventually require new gathering and export infrastructure; pipeline engineering firms should track development outcomes from the licensing round.
- **LNG:** Angola LNG already exists as an outlet for associated gas; a broad new exploration programme could surface additional gas resources requiring liquefaction or re-injection solutions, meriting early monitoring by LNG technology and FEED contractors.

[Original source: African Economy Inc. — Energy →](#)

Saga Advisory

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

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