

OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY

Eni Consortium Takes FID on Baleine Phase 3 Offshore Côte d'Ivoire

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Eni and its consortium partners, Petroni and Vitol, have approved the final investment decision (FID) for Phase 3 of the Baleine oil and gas project offshore Côte d'Ivoire. The FID marks a significant milestone for one of West Africa's most actively developed upstream assets in recent years, signalling continued operator confidence in the project's commercial viability and production growth trajectory.

The Baleine field, operated by Eni, has been developed in successive phases, with each stage expanding production capacity and associated infrastructure. Phase 3 represents the next step in scaling up output from the field, building on the foundations established by earlier development phases. The involvement of Petroni and Vitol alongside Eni underscores the project's appeal to a mix of international operators and trading houses with strategic interests in West African hydrocarbons.

Côte d'Ivoire has positioned itself as an emerging upstream destination in the Gulf of Guinea, with Baleine serving as a flagship development for the country's offshore ambitions. The sequential phasing of the project reflects a structured approach to capital deployment, allowing the consortium to validate production performance before committing to incremental expansion. An FID at this stage confirms that Phase 1 and Phase 2 results have met the technical and commercial thresholds required to justify further investment.

For the broader West African energy landscape, the Baleine Phase 3 FID sends a constructive signal at a time when operators are carefully selecting which developments to advance amid ongoing capital discipline across the industry. Côte

d'Ivoire's regulatory environment and the consortium's track record on earlier phases appear to have provided sufficient confidence for partners to move forward. The project also carries significance for the country's domestic energy ambitions and its aspiration to become a meaningful regional hydrocarbons producer.

As engineering, procurement, and construction activities associated with Phase 3 progress, the project will generate demand across multiple service and equipment segments. Norwegian oil and gas service companies with established Gulf of Guinea footprints or existing relationships with Eni-led consortia should monitor contract award timelines closely, as Phase 3 will likely replicate and expand upon the subsea and floating production infrastructure patterns established in earlier development phases.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should engage Eni's supply chain for Phase 3 procurement, particularly those with prior Baleine or West Africa credentials, as FID typically triggers near-term FEED and contracting activity. Subsea contractors, FPSO specialists, and well services providers are best positioned to bid or partner with tier-one contractors already embedded in the project. Companies not yet active on Baleine should use this window to establish local presence in Abidjan and initiate dialogue with Petroni and Vitol as secondary consortium entry points.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea:** Phase 3 expansion will likely require additional subsea tieback infrastructure and umbilicals — Norwegian subsea contractors should engage Eni's procurement teams now that FID is confirmed.
- **FPSO:** Progressive phasing at Baleine suggests potential FPSO capacity upgrades or a new hull; Norwegian FPSO operators and turret mooring specialists should monitor tender activity closely.
- **Drilling:** Phase 3 development will require incremental production and potentially appraisal drilling; rig owners and well services companies with Gulf of Guinea presence should track upcoming rig demand.

- **Service:** Subsea inspection, maintenance, and repair services will expand as the field's installed base grows — Norwegian IMR specialists should assess partnership opportunities with local Ivorian contractors to meet content requirements.
- **Pipeline:** Infield flowline and export pipeline scope may increase with Phase 3 production volumes; Norwegian pipeline engineering firms should engage FEED contractors for early involvement.

[Original source: Offshore Technology →](#)

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