

GOOGLE NEWS QUERY: PETROCI / BALEINE / CALAO · CÔTE D'IVOIRE · OFFSHORE

Petrobras signs 8 offshore PSAs with Côte d'Ivoire

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Petrobras has signed eight offshore production-sharing agreements with Côte d'Ivoire, marking a significant expansion of the Brazilian national oil company's footprint on the West African Atlantic margin. The agreements were concluded between Petrobras and the Ivorian state, formalising the company's right to explore and develop eight offshore blocks under a production-sharing framework. This represents one of the larger single-country block award tranches seen in West Africa in recent years.

Production-sharing agreements of this type sit at the block-award stage of the investment ladder — above a reconnaissance permit or MoU, but below a signed exploration work programme commitment or final investment decision. The next material milestones to watch are the submission of minimum work obligations, seismic acquisition campaigns, and the nomination of operating partners or co-venturers for each of the eight blocks. Côte d'Ivoire's offshore acreage has attracted renewed international attention following the Baleine field discovery, which demonstrated meaningful deepwater hydrocarbon potential along the country's Atlantic shelf.

For Norwegian service companies, the timing matters. Eight blocks entering the PSA phase simultaneously creates a pipeline of future exploration activity that will require seismic vessels, drilling rigs, subsea survey work, and well-services capacity over the coming three to five years. Petrobras brings established deepwater operational expertise from its Brazilian ultra-deepwater programmes, and its technical procurement preferences — particularly for subsea systems, flexible risers, and

floating production concepts — are well understood by Norwegian contractors who have worked with the operator in Brazilian waters.

Côte d'Ivoire's regulatory environment for upstream oil and gas has been progressively refined, with PETROCI acting as the state partner in most offshore licences. The government has been actively marketing its Atlantic acreage to international operators following the Baleine success, and the Petrobras agreement signals continued institutional confidence in the country's prospectivity. Infrastructure constraints remain a consideration: existing export and processing capacity is limited, and any commercial discoveries across the eight blocks would likely require new subsea tiebacks, a floating production solution, or incremental expansion of onshore terminal facilities.

At this stage — PSAs signed but no exploration wells announced and no FID in sight — the opportunity for Norwegian service companies is one of relationship-building and market positioning rather than immediate procurement engagement. Petrobras's Abidjan-facing team and PETROCI's technical directorate are the key counterparts to track. Companies with prior Petrobras exposure in Brazil should register that relationship in the West Africa context; those without it should consider partnership with locally active engineering or inspection firms already operating in Abidjan to establish early visibility ahead of the exploration drilling cycle.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

With eight PSAs signed, Petrobras will move toward seismic acquisition and eventually exploration drilling across multiple Ivorian blocks — a multi-year pipeline that Norwegian drilling contractors, subsea survey firms, and well-services providers should begin positioning for now. The right action at this stage is monitoring and relationship-building with Petrobras's West Africa procurement and technical teams, not supplier outreach, as no contracts or tenders have been announced. Norwegian companies with existing Petrobras relationships from Brazilian operations should proactively extend those contacts into the West Africa context.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Eight offshore blocks entering PSA phase creates a multi-rig exploration drilling pipeline; Norwegian drilling contractors should register capability with Petrobras West Africa ahead of anticipated well programmes.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Petrobras's deepwater track record points toward subsea tieback and FPSO solutions for any commercial discoveries; Norwegian FPSO operators and subsea system suppliers should monitor block-level progression closely.
- **Service:** Seismic acquisition, geophysical processing, and offshore survey services will be required early in the exploration cycle — Norwegian geoscience and marine survey firms should engage Petrobras's technical procurement now.
- **Pipeline:** Subsea export infrastructure and potential inter-field tie-back pipelines will be needed if multiple blocks prove commercial; pipeline engineering firms should track Ivorian offshore development planning.

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