

OIL FIELD AFRICA REVIEW · LIBYA · UPSTREAM

Libya NOC targets 2M bpd with AI digital push

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Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) is deploying artificial intelligence, automation and upgraded communications infrastructure across its oilfields as part of a structured push to double crude production toward two million barrels per day. The strategy has gained significant momentum in 2026, marking a clear shift from Libya's historically fragmented operational approach toward centrally coordinated digital field management.

The Ministry of Oil and Gas has launched a dedicated initiative called New Energy Tech, designed to link operational challenges on the ground with technology-driven solutions. The programme targets known inefficiencies across Libyan upstream operations — from reservoir management and production optimisation to maintenance scheduling and field communications — areas where manual and outdated processes have historically constrained output. While Libya has long held substantial proven reserves, chronic underinvestment, political instability and ageing infrastructure have kept actual production well below potential. The NOC's AI-centred strategy signals institutional recognition that technology adoption is now a prerequisite for any credible production growth plan.

The 2026 acceleration of this digital oilfield agenda is notable in scale and ambition. AI-assisted tools are being positioned to improve real-time decision-making, predictive maintenance and production forecasting across the NOC's operated assets. Stronger communications infrastructure is cited as a foundational requirement, suggesting the programme encompasses physical connectivity upgrades across remote field locations in addition to software and data systems. The two-million-bpd

target, if achieved, would represent a substantial increase from Libya's current production levels and would materially shift the country's role in global oil supply, including flows relevant to European markets.

For international service companies, the NOC's digital transformation agenda represents an emerging commercial environment that will require both technology partnerships and operational services. The New Energy Tech initiative is structured around identifying and solving specific field-level problems, which creates natural entry points for companies with proven AI, automation and digital oilfield capability. However, the programme as described remains at an initiative and strategy stage — no tenders, signed contracts or field-deployment agreements are referenced in the current announcement. Libya's regulatory and security environment also continues to require careful partner-level assessment before any commercial commitment.

The longer-term upstream ambition is clear: Libya intends to use technology as a lever to overcome structural production constraints, and the NOC appears to be building the institutional framework to support that goal through 2026 and beyond.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This initiative is at strategy and programme-launch stage — no open tenders or signed contracts are referenced, so direct procurement outreach is premature. Norwegian service companies with digital oilfield, automation or subsea communications capability should monitor the NOC's New Energy Tech programme closely and pursue relationship-building with the Ministry of Oil and Gas and NOC technical leadership. As the programme matures toward specific field deployments, early positioning through Libyan in-country partners or industry forums will be an advantage.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Service:** Companies offering AI-driven production optimisation, predictive maintenance or digital oilfield platforms should track the New Energy Tech initiative for early partnership or piloting opportunities.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** If NOC's production ambition extends to offshore assets, digital monitoring and control system suppliers should map which fields may require subsea instrumentation upgrades as part of the communications infrastructure build-out.

- **Drilling:** Drilling optimisation and automated drilling analytics firms can position their tools as direct enablers of the NOC's AI strategy, particularly for mature onshore fields where well performance data is underutilised.
- **Pipeline:** Pipeline integrity monitoring and automated leak-detection technology providers have a natural fit with Libya's communications and automation agenda, given the country's extensive but ageing pipeline network.

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