

ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES



Morocco Advances Noor Atlas Solar Programme Through Execution of PPAs and Construction Launch



Morocco has taken a significant step in advancing its clean energy transition with the execution of Power Purchase Agreements and the commencement of construction under the Noor Atlas photovoltaic programme. The project is expected to deliver 305 MW of solar capacity across six sites, under the leadership of the Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy and the National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water. Electricity generation and supply to the national grid are projected to commence by July 2027.

The programme is being implemented under an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction framework and is supported by a blended financing structure comprising development finance and private sector

investment. Key financial partners include KfW and the European Investment Bank, alongside commercial support from Bank of Africa. The distributed nature of the solar installations is expected to enhance grid stability, particularly in underserved regions, while contributing to Morocco's broader renewable energy targets.

Comment

The Noor Atlas programme underscores Morocco's continued leadership in utility-scale renewable energy deployment. Its reliance on structured Power Purchase Agreements and blended financing mechanisms reflects a bankable and replicable model for large-scale clean energy projects across the African continent.

Furthermore, the coordinated institutional roles of Masen and ONEE demonstrate an effective governance framework capable of supporting grid integration, expanding access, and strengthening investor confidence. Collectively, these elements reinforce Morocco's positioning as a prospective exporter of renewable energy to European markets.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Nigeria Accelerates Deployment of Mini-Grid Projects Through REA Amid Ongoing Power Sector Constraints

The Federal Government has intensified its reliance on decentralised energy solutions as part of efforts to address persistent instability within Nigeria's electricity sector. In January 2026, the Managing Director of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Abba Aliyu, confirmed that 28 new mini-grid projects are scheduled for completion within the first quarter of the year under the Rural

Electrification Fund, reflecting continued momentum in off-grid electrification initiatives.

This development follows a period of sustained grid fragility, with multiple system disruptions recorded between 2024 and late 2025 and generation levels remaining significantly below national demand in early

2026. Against this backdrop, mini-grids have increasingly been positioned as a practical and scalable complement to grid-based supply, particularly in underserved and unserved communities where traditional grid extension remains constrained by infrastructure and cost limitations.

The planned rollout forms part of a broader pipeline of interventions, including deployments under the Energising Education Programme and the World Bank-supported Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-Up (DARES) initiative. While these programmes continue to support expansion across the sector, the current phase of implementation reflects a growing emphasis on delivery, reliability, and the ability of decentralised systems to provide consistent electricity supply in the face of ongoing grid limitations.



Comment

This development reinforces the ongoing shift toward decentralised energy solutions as a practical response to persistent constraints within the national grid. It also reflects a growing policy emphasis on ensuring that mini-grid deployments translate into measurable and sustainable service delivery outcomes, particularly in underserved communities. This trajectory further underscores the need for commercially viable and well-structured regulatory frameworks capable of supporting long-term scalability within the off-grid energy sector.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Ghana's Petroleum Commission Advances Upstream Investment Drive at CERAWEEK 2026

The Petroleum Commission of Ghana has intensified efforts to attract foreign investment into the country's upstream petroleum sector through targeted engagements at CERAWEEK 2026. The Commission, which regulates Ghana's upstream oil and gas industry, participated alongside global energy institutions, policymakers, and industry executives to promote investment opportunities and strengthen existing international partnerships.

Leading the Commission's delegation, the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Emeafa



Hardcastle, held strategic discussions with prospective investors on the sidelines of the conference. These engagements focused on enhancing the competitiveness of Ghana's upstream sector and positioning the country

as an attractive destination for long-term capital inflows.

Discussions further highlighted opportunities in open acreage blocks and farm-in arrangements, as well as ongoing regulatory and fiscal reforms aimed at improving the overall investment climate. The Commission also emphasised the need for collaborative development models, particularly in deep and ultra-deepwater assets, where technical and financial capacity requirements remain high.

Comment

The engagements reflect Ghana's continued efforts to strengthen its positioning within the global upstream investment landscape through regulatory reform and targeted investor outreach. The emphasis on competitiveness and revised fiscal frameworks signals a policy direction aimed at improving capital attraction and sustaining investor confidence in the sector. At the same time, the focus on consortium-based development models underscores the increasing reliance on partnerships to unlock complex offshore resources, particularly in capital-intensive deepwater projects.

For more information, please click [here](#).

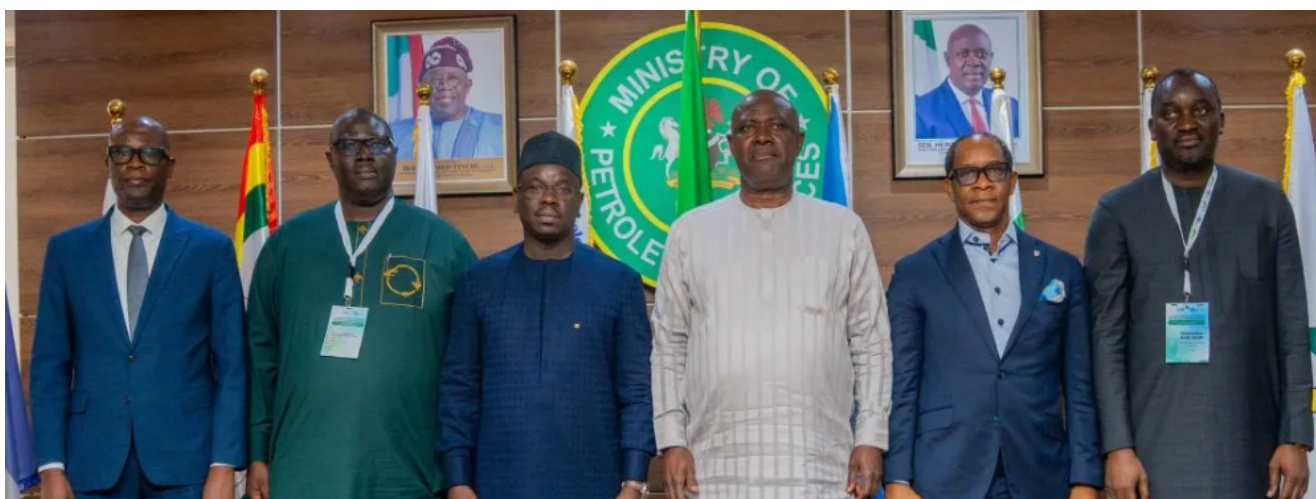
Senegal and Nigeria Deepen Energy Cooperation on Gas and Refining as West African Energy Trade Remains Limited

Senegal and Nigeria have moved to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the energy sector following discussions held in Abuja in early April 2026, as both countries seek closer alignment across key segments of the oil and gas value chain.

According to a statement issued on 4 April 2026 by Senegal's Ministry of Energy, Petroleum and Mines, the engagement

formed part of a working visit to Nigeria by Senegal's Minister of Energy, Petroleum and Mines, Birame Soulèye Diop. The discussions involved Nigeria's Ministry of Petroleum Resources and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd).

The talks focused on identifying areas of cooperation in natural gas development, refining capacity, and broader energy policy



coordination, alongside technical and institutional knowledge exchange between both countries.

The initiative builds on existing regional integration frameworks, including the West African Power Pool (WAPP), which seeks to enhance cross-border electricity interconnection and optimise the use of available generation capacity. It also aligns with broader ECOWAS objectives aimed at strengthening regional energy market integration and improving energy security across member states.

Despite these frameworks, intra-regional energy trade in West Africa remains limited. Data from Global Energy Monitor indicates that between 2018 and 2023, only 8.5% of electricity generated in the region was traded across borders, while estimates from the African Energy Chamber suggest

that intra-regional trade in crude oil and refined petroleum products accounts for approximately 10–15% of total consumption.

Comment

The engagement underscores a continued reliance on bilateral cooperation as a practical mechanism for advancing energy coordination within West Africa, particularly in a context where formal regional integration frameworks have yet to translate into significant levels of cross-border energy trade. While institutions such as ECOWAS and the West African Power Pool continue to shape the policy architecture for regional integration, persistent infrastructure constraints and coordination gaps have limited implementation outcomes, creating space for targeted partnerships between key producing states such as Nigeria and Senegal to advance shared energy objectives and strengthen sector alignment.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Angola Signals Major Upstream Expansion as \$70 Billion Investment Pipeline Gains Momentum

Angola has reaffirmed its position as one of Africa's leading oil and gas producers following renewed momentum in upstream investment activity ahead of the Angola Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition 2026 in Luanda. The conference, organized as a key dealmaking platform for the sector, has highlighted the country's expanding investment pipeline, estimated at approximately \$70 billion in upstream spending in the coming years.

Government officials and industry stakeholders underscored Angola's evolving investment framework, supported by a combination of multi-year licensing rounds, marginal field opportunities, and a



permanent offer regime designed to sustain upstream activity. These measures are aimed at consolidating production levels while attracting new entrants into both offshore and onshore exploration segments.

Recent developments also point to increased project execution across the value chain. Key offshore projects, including developments led by major international operators, are progressing toward phased production timelines, while gas infrastructure expansion is expected to strengthen domestic supply and export capacity. In parallel, downstream investments such as refinery developments are being positioned to improve energy security and reduce import dependence.

Comment

The developments reflect Angola's strategic *transition from production stabilization to long-*

term expansion of its upstream sector, supported by a more structured and investor-responsive regulatory environment. The scale of anticipated capital inflows underscores sustained international confidence in Angola's hydrocarbon base, particularly in offshore deepwater assets.

At the same time, the diversification of activity across upstream, gas, and downstream segments indicates a gradual move toward integrated value chain development. This may strengthen Angola's resilience to external price volatility while enhancing its position as a regional energy hub within the Atlantic basin.

For more information, please click [here](#).

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