



*“While first oil is a critical landmark,
it is not the end goal. The objective is structural transformation,
inclusive growth and long-term prosperity.”*

**H.E. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah,
President of the Republic of Namibia**



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Strategic Note

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

Welcome to the 8th edition of The Energy Nexus, where we reflect on the developments and conversations shaping Namibia’s evolving energy sector.

The 8th edition of the **Namibia International Energy Conference (NIEC2026)** took place at a defining moment for Namibia’s energy industry, as the country advances towards first oil production and strengthens its position as an emerging global energy player. Held under the theme **“The Road to First Oil & Beyond: Partnership, Investment, Growth,”** the conference marked a historic new phase in Namibia’s energy journey and brought together high-level government representatives, global energy leaders, investors, policymakers, local businesses, financial institutions, service providers, industry executives, and young professionals.

Partnership remains at the heart of the platform, reflecting the shared commitment required to unlock opportunities, drive investment, strengthen local capacity, and advance Namibia’s long-term energy ambitions. Beyond the strategic discussions, NIEC2026 also created space for meaningful networking, relationship building, and strengthening the community driving the industry forward – showcasing the power of collaboration while positioning Namibia to the world.

One of the greatest honours of NIEC2026 was the presence and keynote address of **Her Excellency President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**. Her recognition of the impact the platform has made over the years, and acknowledgement of NIEC as a **proudly home-grown, women-led Namibian**

initiative, was both meaningful and inspiring. The conference concluded with closing remarks from the Honourable **Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy, Hon. Modestus Amutse,** reaffirming the government’s commitment to partnership, investment, industrial growth and **long-term value creation** within the sector.

This edition captures moments and developments from NIEC2026, including the inaugural Energy Excellence Awards, strategic industry sessions, networking engagements, youth initiatives, and key announcements shaping Namibia’s energy future.

Preparations are already underway for the 9th edition of the Namibia International Energy Conference, scheduled to take place from **13–15 April 2027** in Windhoek, Namibia.

Thank you for your continued interest, collaboration, and partnership as we work together to shape a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous energy future for Namibia.

Kind regards,

*Ndapwilapo Selma
Shimutwiken*

Founder & CEO, RichAfrica Consultancy

Thank You

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Namibia at a Defining Energy Moment

Last month, the 8th Namibia International Energy Conference (NIEC2026) took place at a **defining moment** for Namibia's energy sector, as the country advances towards **first oil production** and strengthens its position within the evolving global energy landscape.

Held under the theme *"The Road to First Oil & Beyond: Partnership, Investment, Growth,"* the conference brought together government leaders, policymakers, industry executives, technical experts, investors, entrepreneurs, and emerging professionals for strategic discussions on the future of Namibia's energy industry.

A key highlight of the conference was the keynote address delivered by Her Excellency President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, who outlined Namibia's **strategic vision** for the sector and emphasised the importance of partnership, **investment, regulatory certainty, and local content** as drivers of skills development, enterprise growth, and long-term **economic transformation**.

The conference also reflected the growing role of **strategic institutions**, including NAMCOR and the Upstream Petroleum Unit in the Presidency, in supporting policy coordination, sector development, investment engagement, and Namibia's broader energy ambitions.

Discussions throughout the conference reinforced that **first oil is not the final destination, but rather the beginning of a broader journey** of industrialisation, economic transformation, and national development. Conversations focused on commercialisation, infrastructure readiness, local content, **energy diversification**, skills development, and the importance of strategic partnerships in supporting sustainable sector growth.

Beyond the discussions, NIEC2026 provided a platform for engagement across the broader energy ecosystem through strategic industry sessions, exhibitions, networking events, youth initiatives, arts and culture, and industry-led announcements – reflecting the confidence and collaboration shaping the sector.

NIEC2026 concluded as a resounding success, reinforcing Namibia's emergence as a globally recognised energy destination. Preparations are already underway for the 9th edition of the Namibia International Energy Conference, scheduled to take place from 13–15 April 2027 in Windhoek, Namibia.



Namibia's President Charts Course for Oil Era at NIEC 2026



Speaking at the 8th Namibia International Energy Conference (NIEC) in Windhoek, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah outlined Namibia's strategic vision as the country advances towards first oil production, highlighting the importance of partnership, investment, and long-term economic transformation.

The President commended the organisers for convening a platform she described as both timely and necessary, underscoring the value of dialogue, collaboration, and shared understanding at a pivotal moment for Namibia's energy sector.

Reflecting on the conference theme – *"The Road to First Oil & Beyond: Partnership, Investment, Growth"* – President Nandi-Ndaitwah said it captures Namibia's collective ambition as the country stands on the brink of a **new energy era**, one that requires cooperation, efficiency, and the utilisation of relevant skills and expertise. She stressed that the **journey to first oil** will require **sustained investment** and **strategic partnerships** to unlock meaningful economic growth and development, while reforms remain essential to strengthening confidence among both investors and citizens.

Highlighting Namibia's growing status as a globally recognised petroleum province, the President referenced major offshore discoveries in the Orange Basin, including TotalEnergies' Venus discovery – regarded as one of the world's largest deepwater finds in recent years – as well as Shell's Graff, Jonker, La Rona, and Lesedi wells, Galp Energia's Mopane complex, and additional discoveries by Rhino Resources and Azule Energy.

On the regulatory front, she confirmed that the Petroleum Exploration and Production Amendment Bill is currently before Parliament, aimed at **strengthening governance**, **enhancing transparency**, and providing greater **regulatory certainty** for investors. She also announced that the Upstream Petroleum Unit has been placed directly under the Presidency to improve **policy coordination** and decision-making efficiency.

The President further confirmed Cabinet approval of an **Upstream Local Content Policy** intended to ensure meaningful participation by Namibians through employment creation, skills development, and enterprise opportunities.

Positioning the sector within the framework of **Vision 2030** and **National Development Plan 6**, President Nandi-Ndaitwah emphasised that first oil should not be viewed as the final destination, but rather as a **catalyst for structural economic transformation** and broad-based prosperity for all Namibians.

"Namibia remains committed to maintaining a stable, transparent, and predictable environment that attracts investment while safeguarding national interests."

H.E. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.
President of the Republic of Namibia

NIEC2026 By Numbers



1000 Delegates



36 Plenary & Strategic Conversations



40 Countries Represented



400 Companies



120 Speakers

CONVENOR



PATRON



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NIEC2026 Moments

A glimpse into the conversations, connections, and milestones that defined the 8th edition of NIEC



Panel Discussions Drive Strategic Dialogue at NIEC2026



The panel discussions at NIEC2026 brought together industry leaders, policymakers, technical experts, investors, and business stakeholders for high-level conversations on the opportunities, challenges, and priorities shaping Namibia’s evolving energy sector.

Across the conference programme, discussions explored key themes including the road to first oil, **investment readiness, local content development, infrastructure development, natural gas opportunities, financing, energy security, skills development, and long-term economic transformation**. Conversations also focused on regulatory frameworks, technology and innovation, supply chain development, energy infrastructure, and the importance of creating an **enabling environment** to support sustainable sector growth.

The panels provided a platform for **diverse perspectives**, strategic insight, and knowledge sharing, while reinforcing the importance of collaboration and partnership across the energy value chain. Industry leaders shared perspectives on **balancing investment attraction** with long-term **national value creation**, while highlighting the role of strategic partnerships in accelerating development and strengthening **Namibia’s competitiveness**.

Discussions throughout the conference reflected growing industry momentum as Namibia’s energy narrative increasingly shifts from exploration success towards commercialisation, infrastructure readiness, and long-term value creation. Key themes included the significance of the anticipated **Venus Final Investment Decision (FID)**, expanding investor interest beyond the Orange Basin, and the importance of strategic partnerships, local content development, local capacity building, and sustainable in-country value creation.

Several discussions also highlighted the importance of preparing Namibia’s workforce and businesses to participate meaningfully in the sector through skills transfer, enterprise development, and increased participation across the energy value chain. The role of infrastructure readiness, financing mechanisms, and regional cooperation also emerged as important enablers for long-term industry growth.

Bringing together both local and international voices, the discussions reflected the growing confidence surrounding Namibia’s energy future and the country’s emergence as a strategic destination within Africa’s evolving energy landscape.





Mapping Namibia's Evolving Energy Landscape

Prepared for the 8th edition of the Namibia International Energy Conference (NIEC2026), Upstream by S&P Global Energy – a Knowledge Partner of NIEC – in collaboration with RichAfrica Consultancy, presents a detailed activity map highlighting Namibia's rapidly evolving oil and gas landscape.

The map showcases key offshore and onshore blocks, recent discoveries, exploration hotspots, and operator activity shaping the sector as Namibia advances towards first oil production.

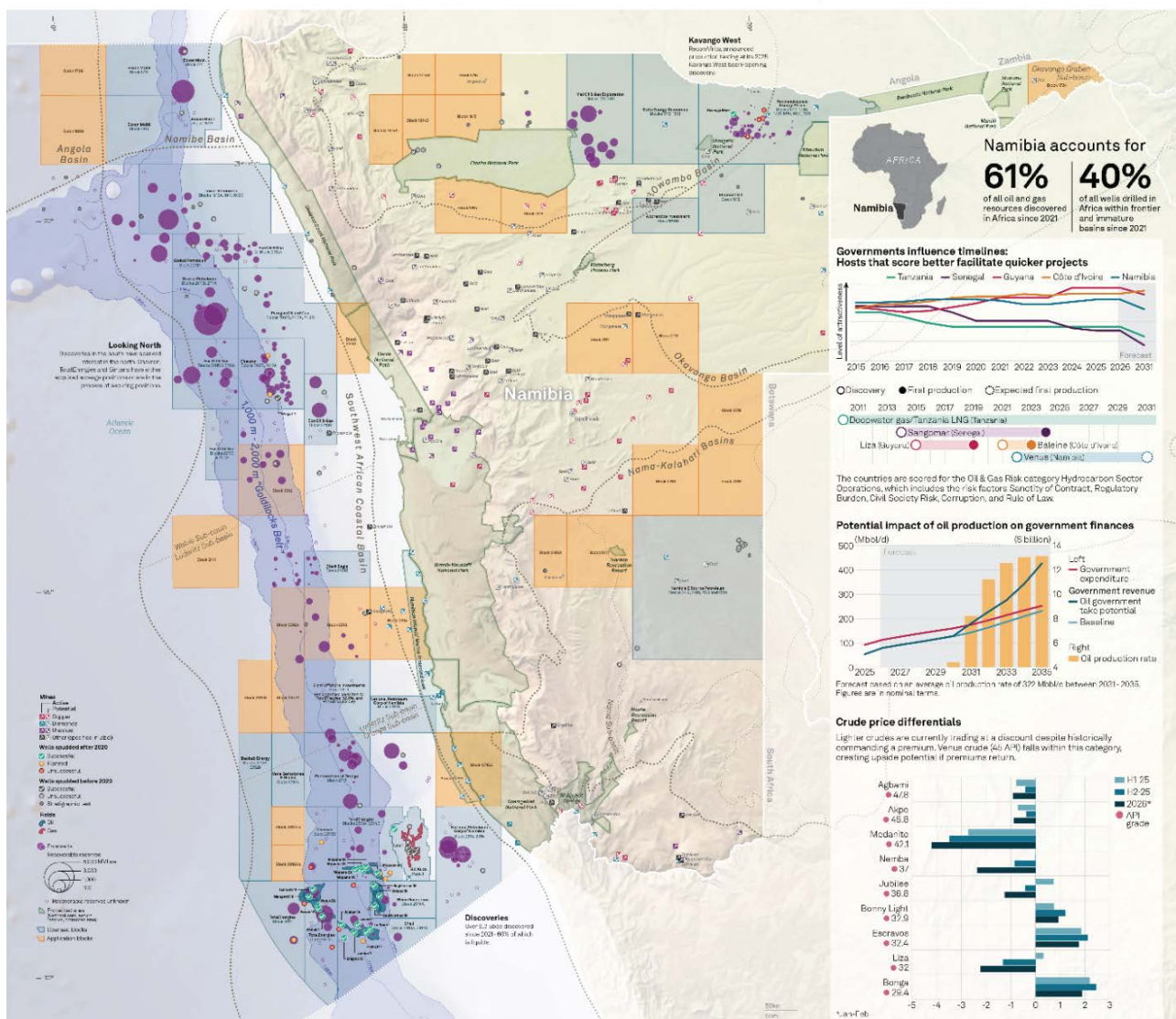
Providing a visual overview of industry momentum across Namibia's basins, the map reflects the scale of investment, strategic partnerships, and exploration activity positioning the country as an emerging global energy destination.

S&P Global Energy

Namibia: the road to first oil and beyond

Namibia's transformative E&P journey is nearing a hugely significant milestone: First oil, and potentially 450,000 barrels/day by 2035. As production ramps up, Namibia could benefit from its first fiscal surplus since 2008. With effective revenue management, the potential for enhanced economic diversification is significant. Cooperation between industry stakeholders will determine how Namibia navigates the path ahead, facilitating new developments and additional exploration.

Namibia: Hydrocarbon sector timeline



NAMIBIA: 2025-2031. SOURCE: S&P GLOBAL ENERGY, RICHAFRICA CONSULTANCY, RECONAFRICA, SINTANA ENERGY, AZULE ENERGY, R.H.I.N.O. RESEARCH. FIGURES ARE IN US DOLLARS UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE. ALL FIGURES ARE ESTIMATES AND SHOULD BE USED AS A GUIDE ONLY. © 2025 S&P GLOBAL ENERGY. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.





Strategic Industry Sessions Set the Stage for NIEC2026

Ahead of the official opening of NIEC2026, delegates participated in a series of Strategic Industry Insight Sessions designed to provide deeper engagement on the key issues shaping Namibia's evolving energy sector.

Bringing together industry leaders, technical experts, policymakers, and business stakeholders, the sessions created a platform for **knowledge sharing, technical exchange, and forward-looking discussions** aligned with Namibia's journey towards first oil and long-term sector growth.

The sessions covered a broad range of topics, including upstream development, local content, investment readiness, infrastructure, natural gas opportunities, skills development, energy financing, and the future of Namibia's energy mix. Discussions also explored lessons from global upstream markets, Namibia's competitiveness, youth talent development, and opportunities for **greater local participation** across the energy value chain.



Exhibition Platform Drives Industry Engagement at NIEC2026



The exhibition at NIEC2026 brought together companies and stakeholders from across the **energy value chain**, reflecting the growing momentum within Namibia’s evolving energy sector.

Beyond the showcases, the exhibition space also hosted strategic and technical industry sessions, creating opportunities for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and engagement on key developments shaping the future of the industry.

From upstream operators and service providers to technology firms, logistics companies, and local businesses, the exhibition highlighted the collaborative ecosystem supporting Namibia’s journey towards first oil and long-term sector growth.







Networking Events Enhance the NIEC2026 Experience

The networking events at NIEC2026 created opportunities for delegates and stakeholders from across the energy value chain to connect, engage, and strengthen relationships throughout the conference.

From the Welcome Reception powered by Shell Namibia and networking lunches powered by SBM Offshore, to the refreshment breaks powered by NAMCOR, the Energy Excellence Gala Dinner powered by Galp Energia, and the Farewell Reception hosted by RichAfrica Consultancy, the events formed an integral part of the conference experience.

Beyond business engagement, the programme incorporated elements of Namibian arts, culture, and entertainment, creating an immersive experience for delegates while showcasing the country's cultural identity alongside its evolving energy story.



Strategic Announcements Reflect Growing Industry Momentum

Advancing Towards First Oil

During the conference, TotalEnergies indicated that it aims to conclude the Final Investment Decision (FID) for the Venus development by mid-2026, reinforcing growing industry confidence around Namibia's transition towards first oil production.

Expanding Investment Activity

The conference also highlighted increasing activity within Namibia's investment landscape, including Sintana Energy's intention to list on the Namibia Securities Exchange (NSX), reflecting growing investor confidence and expanding participation in Namibia's evolving energy sector.

Continued Global Interest in Namibia's Offshore Potential

Ahead of NIEC2026, BP announced its entry into Namibia as an operator through the acquisition of a 60% interest in offshore exploration blocks PEL 97, PEL 99, and PEL 100 in the Walvis Basin. The announcement further reinforced growing international confidence in Namibia's offshore prospectivity and long-term energy potential.

Growing Industry Presence in Namibia

Azule Energy also announced plans to establish a permanent Namibia office and confirmed the appointment of Giovanni Aquilina as Namibia General Manager, reinforcing the company's long-term commitment to Namibia's evolving energy sector and growing offshore opportunities.

Supporting Industry Dialogue and Regulatory Understanding

In addition, FNB Namibia and RMB Namibia launched the Exchange Control (ExCon) Scenarios Booklet during the conference, contributing to industry dialogue around regulatory clarity, investment facilitation, and Namibia's evolving business environment.

Reinforcing Namibia's Energy Momentum

The announcements and engagements surrounding NIEC2026 reinforced the conference's role as a platform for strategic dialogue, investment engagement, and industry collaboration as Namibia advances towards its next phase of energy development.



Future Energy Leaders Legacy Initiative Highlights Youth Engagement at NIEC2026

The Future Energy Leaders Initiative once again formed an important part of NIEC2026, reinforcing the conference's commitment to **youth inclusion**, capacity building, and the development of future industry leaders. This year's programme was sponsored by **Subsea7**.

A total of **12 participants** were selected through a competitive process from 96 applicants, reflecting growing interest among young professionals seeking to contribute to Namibia's evolving energy sector.

Participants gained access to conference discussions, networking opportunities, and engagement with industry stakeholders across the energy value chain, including direct interaction with industry executives, policymakers, and technical experts.

In addition to the broader conference programme, the selected participants attended specially curated strategic sessions focused on industry insights, leadership, career development, and the future of Namibia's energy sector. The programme also featured contributions from alumni, who joined panel discussions to share their professional journeys and experiences since taking part in the initiative, highlighting its growing impact in developing future industry talent.

As Namibia's energy sector continues to expand, the initiative plays an important role in preparing the next generation of professionals and leaders, while reinforcing the importance of youth participation, mentorship, and skills development in shaping the country's long-term energy future.



Women Driving Leadership Across Namibia's Energy Sector



From Her Excellency President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's address to the participation of women across panel discussions, technical sessions, leadership dialogues, and industry engagements, NIEC2026 reflected the **growing role of women** in shaping Namibia's evolving energy landscape.

Women participated across various areas of the conference as policymakers, executives, entrepreneurs,

technical professionals, moderators, and emerging leaders, contributing diverse perspectives and expertise to conversations on the future of the sector.

The conference further highlighted the importance of **inclusive participation, leadership development**, and creating opportunities for women across the energy value chain as Namibia advances towards first oil and broader energy development.

Art and Music at NIEC2026

Beyond industry dialogue and business engagement, NIEC2026 also incorporated elements of Namibian arts and music into the conference experience.

Through art exhibitions, live painting activations, cultural showcases, and musical performances, delegates were exposed to Namibia's creative talent and cultural identity alongside conversations shaping the country's evolving energy future. The integration of arts and music added a unique dimension to the conference, creating an immersive experience that reflected the connection between culture, creativity, and national development.



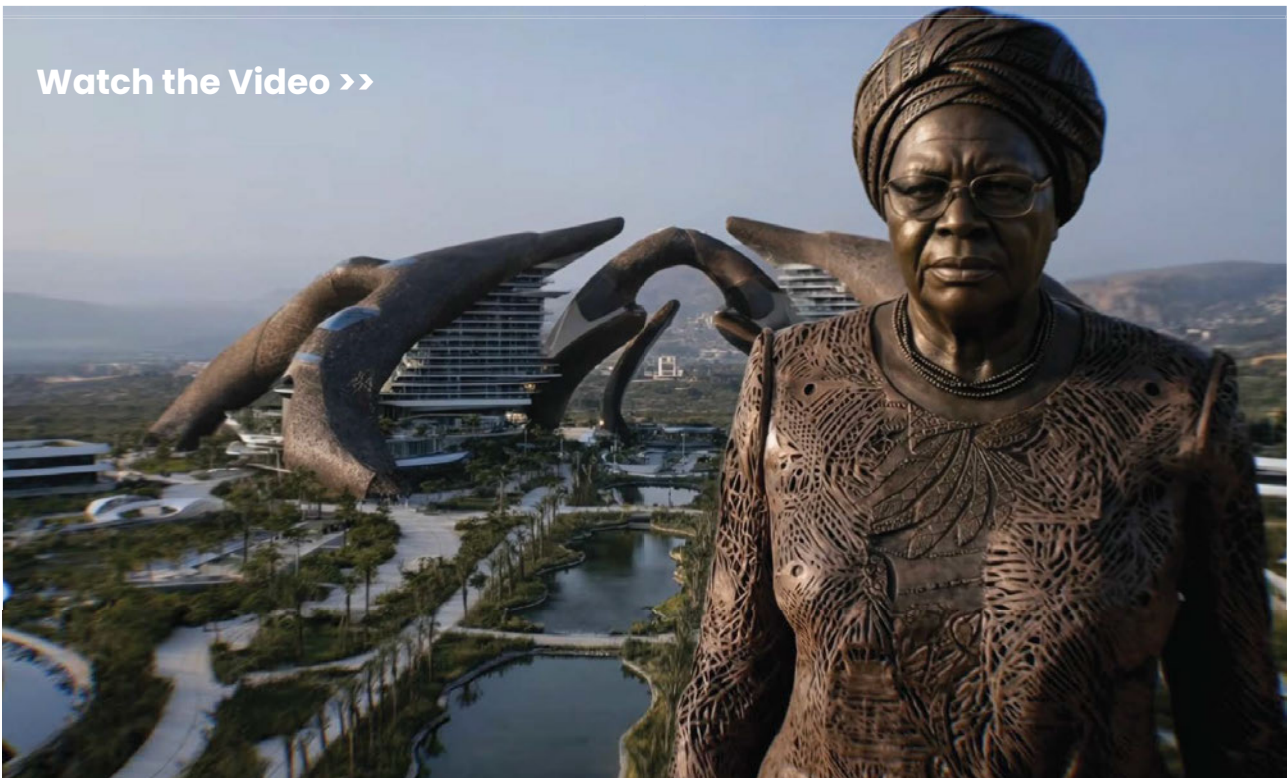


A Love Letter to Namibia

NIEC2026 also featured a special video presentation **celebrating Namibia's identity**, journey, and **future potential** through storytelling and visual expression.

The "Love Letter to Namibia" video formed part of the broader conference experience, capturing the country's natural beauty, resilience, talent, and aspirations at a defining moment in its energy and economic journey.

Blending emotion, culture, and national pride, the presentation reflected the broader spirit of the conference – one centred not only on energy development, but also on partnership, people, opportunity, and the **future Namibia** is working to build.



Internship Programme Supports Industry Exposure and Skills Development

NIEC2026 also provided internship opportunities for young Namibians to gain firsthand exposure to the energy industry and the operations of a major international conference.

Through their involvement across various areas of the conference, interns gained **practical experience**, industry insight, and direct engagement with delegates, stakeholders, and professionals from across the energy value chain.

The programme formed part of the conference's broader commitment to **youth development**, **skills transfer**, and creating opportunities for young people to participate in and contribute to Namibia's evolving energy sector.



Energy Nexus Podcast Captures Industry Perspectives at NIEC2026

The Energy Nexus Podcast at NIEC2026 provided a platform for industry leaders, policymakers, executives, and stakeholders to share insights and perspectives on Namibia's evolving energy landscape.

Recorded throughout the conference, the interviews explored **key industry developments**, opportunities, challenges, and the **broader outlook** for Namibia's journey towards first oil and long-term energy growth.

The podcast conversations further extended the dialogue beyond the conference sessions, capturing diverse voices and thought leadership shaping the future of the sector.



NIEC2026 Introduces Inaugural Energy Excellence Awards

As part of the 8th Namibia International Energy Conference (NIEC2026), the Gala Dinner hosted by Galp Energia featured the inaugural Energy Excellence Awards – an initiative established to recognise **exceptional leadership, contribution and impact** across Namibia’s evolving energy sector.

The awards formed part of the conference programme in Windhoek, bringing together industry leaders, policymakers, investors, and stakeholders from across the energy value chain to **celebrate** institutions and individuals helping shape the future of Namibia’s energy industry.

The Energy Sector Impact Award was presented to **PETROFUND Namibia** in recognition of its contribution to advancing Namibia’s energy landscape through capacity building, skills development and support for sector growth.

The Women in Energy Leadership Award was presented to **Victoria Sibeya of NAMCOR Namibia**, acknowledging her leadership and continued contribution to the advancement of the energy sector and the growing role of women in industry leadership.

The evening also honoured **Dr. Marcio Mello** with the **Lifetime Achievement Award**, recognising his distinguished career and longstanding contribution to the global energy industry, including his role in advancing geological understanding and exploration success.

The introduction of the Energy Excellence Awards reflects the growing maturity of Namibia’s energy sector and the importance of recognising the leadership, innovation and long-term commitment driving the industry forward.



The Road Ahead

From Exploration Success to Commercialisation

As Namibia advances towards first oil production, discussions at NIEC2026 reflected growing confidence in the country's long-term energy outlook and its emergence as a strategic energy destination on the global stage.

A key area of focus throughout the conference was the anticipated Final Investment Decision (FID) for the Venus development, widely viewed as a defining milestone for Namibia's upstream sector. Industry stakeholders noted that progress towards commercialisation represents more than the development of a single project – it signals the transition of Namibia's energy narrative from exploration success towards long-term production, investment, and economic transformation.

Regulatory Certainty and Investment Confidence

Conversations across the conference highlighted the importance of regulatory certainty, policy consistency, and an enabling investment environment in supporting long-term sector growth. Stakeholders emphasised that clear regulatory frameworks and coordinated planning will remain critical to sustaining investor confidence as Namibia's energy industry evolves.

Discussions also focused on infrastructure readiness, local content development, skills transfer, financing, and strategic partnerships as key enablers for sustainable sector growth and long-term competitiveness.

Local Content and Industry Participation

Through discussions focused on local content in practice, delegates heard firsthand from local entrepreneurs and Namibian businesses sharing their experiences, growth journeys, and perspectives on participating in the country's evolving energy sector.

The conversations reinforced the importance of enterprise development, local capacity building, and sustainable in-country value creation to ensure Namibians participate meaningfully across the energy value chain as the sector advances towards first oil and broader energy development.

Building a Diversified Energy Future

Beyond oil and gas, discussions also explored Namibia's broader energy future, including power generation, renewable energy opportunities, nuclear energy, and the importance of building a diversified and resilient energy mix capable of supporting long-term industrialisation, energy security, and sustainable economic growth.

Namibia's Growing Global Position

Beyond the Orange Basin, growing investor interest across Namibia's offshore basins continues to reinforce confidence in the country's broader prospectivity and long-term potential. The participation of international operators, service companies, investors, and industry stakeholders at NIEC2026 further reflected the increasing global attention on Namibia's energy landscape.

As the country moves into its next phase of development, the discussions at NIEC2026 reinforced a shared vision centred on partnership, investment, innovation, and inclusive growth – positioning Namibia not only for first oil, but for long-term impact and sustainable economic transformation.





Wood Mackenzie Highlights Key Takeaways from NIEC2026

As a **Knowledge Partner** of the Namibia International Energy Conference (NIEC2026), Wood Mackenzie recently released an industry insight report reflecting on key discussions and themes emerging from the conference.

Titled “**Venus FID Imminent: Namibia Energy Conference Takeaways**,” the report explores Namibia’s path towards first oil, the significance of the anticipated Venus Final Investment Decision (FID), investment momentum across Namibia’s offshore basins, infrastructure readiness, and the importance of phased sector development.

The insight further highlights the growing international focus on Namibia’s evolving energy sector and the role of strategic partnerships, investment confidence, and long-term planning in supporting sustainable industry growth.



Read the full report here: >>

Namibia's Offshore Future Will Be Defined by Decisions, Not Discoveries

By Brice Lacramette, Country Manager for Namibia at TechnipFMC



Namibia's offshore discoveries have rightly drawn global attention. Few frontier basins generate this level of interest so quickly. But history offers a clear warning: exceptional resources alone do not guarantee exceptional outcomes. Nations are not built on discoveries. They are built on the decisions that follow.

Namibia is now moving into the most decisive stage of its offshore journey. The shift from exploration to development is where ambition is tested, not celebrated.

At this point, strategy, execution choices, and partnerships carry far greater weight than any announcement. The path taken now will determine whether offshore energy delivers lasting national value, or whether momentum is lost to delays, rising costs, and fading confidence.

Experience across frontier and deepwater developments points to a consistent truth. Projects rarely fail because of what lies beneath the seabed. They fail because complexity above it is underestimated.

Fragmented delivery structures, misaligned incentives, and late risk transfer continue to undermine outcomes. In frontier settings, these weaknesses are magnified. Risk does not disappear; it simply emerges later, when it is far harder and more expensive to manage.

As Namibia approaches first-of-a-kind development decisions, execution models will be decisive. Traditional, highly segmented contracting approaches remain familiar,



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but they are increasingly ill-suited to environments where infrastructure, supply chains, and regulatory systems are still maturing. In these conditions, interface risk becomes systemic rather than technical.

Integrated execution models provide a more resilient alternative. By aligning engineering, equipment, installation, and life-of-field services within a single framework, they reduce fragmentation and clarify accountability from concept selection through production. This is not about accelerating delivery at any cost. It is about discipline: doing things once, doing them properly, and avoiding the rework and uncertainty that erode value at critical moments.



A TechnipFMC subsea tree designed to safely control the flow of oil from the well, enabling reliable production in the most demanding offshore environments.

In energy, credibility is earned through performance. For a country building its offshore industry from the ground up, underperformance carries consequences well beyond individual projects. It affects national confidence, investor perception, and the cost of future development. Reliable delivery becomes the foundation on which trust is built.

Local value creation must follow the same principle. It cannot be added late and expected to succeed. When designed into projects from the outset — through skills development, supplier engagement, and long-term investment — it strengthens both project performance and national capability.

First oil will be an important milestone, but it is not the destination. Namibia's offshore legacy will be defined by the quality of its decisions, the strength of its partnerships, and its ability to turn discovery into enduring national value.

Know more >>



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With a targeted reach of over 20,000 industry professionals, investors, and decision-makers, this newsletter offers high-impact visibility for contributors and advertisers alike.

We currently offer free access to this publication as part of our commitment to inclusive dialogue across the energy value chain. In future, access will be subscription-based and we encourage stakeholders to take advantage of the current open distribution.

If you'd like to contribute insights, share updates, or place a paid advertisement in the next edition, we invite you to get in touch. Together, let's continue to drive the energy conversation and shape Africa's energy future.

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