

Angola's CLOV project moving into greater focus

Having brought its giant Pazflor field in offshore Angola onstream in late August, ahead of the initial schedule, France's Total, the operator of Block 17, will be switching some of its developmental focus to another long-awaited project.

First oil is expected in 2014 from the CLOV project, for which developments were launched in August 2010.

This project is located around 140 km from Luanda and 40 km northwest of Dalia, and is the fourth development pole in Angola's deep offshore Block 17, after Girassol, Dalia and Pazflor, and drilling is targeted to start in 2012.

Encompassing four oilfields – Cravo, Lirio, Orquidea, and Violeta (CLOV) – in the northwest region of Block 17, the project was made commercially viable by the Orquidea-2 appraisal well in October 2006, which expanded the size of the Orquidea field.

The first bumper contract was awarded in September 2010, when FMC Technologies won bidding to manufacture and supply around US\$250 million worth of subsea production equipment, with deliveries expected in the first quarter of next year.

One month later, GE Oil and Gas was awarded a US\$113 million contract to supply gas turbines and compressors for deployment in the CLOV offshore.

A significant part of the CLOV development will be carried out in Angola. One key delivery in this respect involves the supply of 76 km of dynamic and static production and water injection umbilicals, which will be manufactured at the Angoflex facility in Lobito.

Scheduled for delivery in 2013, the umbilicals are just one element in a welter of locally executed project components. Total has been present in Angola since 1953 and has emphasised on a regular basis that it is committed to increasing local content in its projects.

One vital function of the CLOV plant will be to contribute gas to the Angola LNG project, in which Total also holds a 13.6% stake. Total has said the liquefied natural gas (LNG) project will be supplied by the associated gas coming first from the fields on Blocks 0, 14, 15, 17 and 18. The plant is under construction and production is expected to begin in 2012. ■

