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Agencia de Informacao de Mocambique (Maputo) »

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## Mozambique: New Hydrocarbon Contracts Ready Within Four Months

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Maputo — Negotiations with the companies that won the fifth international tender for oil and gas exploration in Mozambique could be concluded within the next three to four months, according to a representative of the National Petroleum Institute (INP), Augusto Macuvelle, speaking at the Mozambique Gas Summit in Maputo.

The INP announced the results of the fifth licensing round over a year ago, on 28 October 2015. A total of fifteen blocks were included. These covered offshore areas in the Rovuma Basin, off the coast of the northern province of Cabo Delgado, areas near the small fishing port of Angoche, off the coast of Nampula, areas near the Zambezi Delta, and onshore blocks in Inhambane and Maputo provinces. Bids were received from potential Operators for only eight of the fifteen areas on offer.

The winning bids were from the Italian energy company ENI for the Angoche offshore block A5-A, and from the US company ExxonMobil for the adjacent Angoche Block, A5-B, and for the two Zambezi Delta blocks, A5-C and A5-D.

The South African company Sasol Petroleum was successful in its bid for the PT5-C block in the Pande-Temane area of Inhambane. This is near the gas fields already exploited by Sasol, which treats the gas and sends it by pipeline to Sasol's chemical plants in the South African town of Secunda. Finally, the INP accepted the bid from the London-based Delonex Energy for the P5-A block, in the Palmeiras area of Maputo province.

The INP estimates that the initial investments by these companies in the eight blocks could amount to 700 million US dollars over four years.

Macuvelle said the government is finalizing its contacts with the companies, and specialist companies have been hired for seismic studies and other surveys in the areas concerned.

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