Hôtel Victory Palace

L’un des premiers hôtels de Pointe-Noire et du Congo, le Victory Palace, est l’une de ces grandes adresses qui traversent le temps et gravent la mémoire humaine. Établi définitivement en 2006 par un passionné et amateurs de l’art, le Victory Palace associe le charme d’une architecture coloniale, le luxe et le confort d’un palace et la gentillesse légendaire des Congolais.

Comprenant 3 Suites Prestige, 1 Suite Junior, 33 Chambres Exécutives, 11 Duplex et 1 Salle de réunion, sans oublier Le Restaurant Aquarelle, Le Piano Bar et La Terrasse avec sa vue panoramique de Pointe-Noire, situés sur le toit.

L’ensemble des chambres sont climatisées et équipées d’un abonnement TV par satellite. Le Victory Palace offre aussi une connexion Wi-Fi gratuite, un petit déjeuner compris, le room service, un sauna, jacuzzi et hammam accessible à tous les clients, sans oublier un service de location de voitures de luxe.

Le Restaurant Aquarelle
Dans cette salle à manger prestigieuse, avec un art de table raffiné, il vous sera servie une cuisine inventive favorisant les produits frais et de qualité, préparée par des professionnels attentifs au service d’amateurs de « bonne chère » et de plaisir.

Le Piano Bar Lounge
Idéal pour déminer vos soles dans un cadre chic et feutré, à l’atmosphère raffinée et intimiste.

Vous y trouverez une ambiance lounge, un Happy Hour de 19 heures à 21 heures, un Before Night Club de 22 heures à minuit, une table de billard professionnelle.

La Terrasse
Cette terrasse réaménagée, située au 3e étage, dispose d’une vue panoramique sur la ville de Pointe-Noire.

D’un côté une salle intérieure climatisée et de l’autre un espace extérieur couvert par une palette, idéal pour boire un verre et/ou manger entre amis dans un cadre convivial et exceptionnel.

VOUS Serez toujours les BIENVENUS ET REÇUS EN HÔTÉS DE MARQUE
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SNPC, founded in 1998, is the Republic of the Congo’s national oil company and is charged with the exploration, production, refining, and distribution of hydrocarbons in the country. Through public and private partnerships, we responsibly and effectively develop our country’s oil and gas resources to prepare current and future generations for a vibrant and rich future.
Diplomacy & Policy

About 15 years after the end of its civil war, Congo-Brazzaville continues its momentum towards a more stable political environment. The country has embarked on gradual reforms of the economy, extending to oil and gas activities. Tax allowances for major oil companies and a more relaxed profit-sharing scheme have led to a new influx of foreign investment by international oil companies.

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MINISTERE DES HYDROCARBURES

Exploration & Production

With projects such as Total’s $10-billion Moho Nord and full-scale production expected in Eni’s Nene Marine field in 2016, Congo-Brazzaville is attempting to stem the steady decline in its oil production. Eni’s multi-billion-dollar oil sands initiative is also underway in the country. These developments are anticipated to strengthen the national economy, with international oil companies appearing hopeful about Congo-Brazzaville’s long-term prospects.

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Diplomacy & Policy

Content partners:

www.theoilandgasyear.com
The Year’s Focus: Moho Nord

Total’s $10-billion Moho Nord project is not only Congo-Brazzaville’s first deepwater offshore development but is also the largest field development programme the country has undertaken. The company is targeting first oil by 2016 and peak output at 140,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day by 2017. If this goal is met, it will place Congo-Brazzaville in the top-three offshore fields in Southwestern Africa.

Banking, Legal & Finance

Congo-Brazzaville is both reforming its legislation governing the hydrocarbons industry and seeking to further develop its financial services sector. By providing a wider range of financial options for producers, facilitated by its legal regime, the government hopes to achieve sustainable economic growth on the back of its energy wealth, while it is also looking to play a more active role in the Economic Community of Central African States.

Engineering & Construction

Activity has been rife in Congo-Brazzaville’s construction industry, especially in the offshore sector. Developments driven by Eni and Total have attracted a raft of international contractors to the country. In 2014, competition is fierce and tight margins are prevalent in the domestic hydrocarbons market. Companies operating in the country include Saipem subsidiary Boscongo, as well as France’s Technip.
Cutting Edge Technology for Every Stage of the Workflow

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From well architecture and completions to deepwater pre-salt drilling and carbonate reservoir characterization, Baker Hughes’ team, infrastructure and technology in Central Africa help you maximize ROI with improved drilling and production rates, and reduced intervention.

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As Congo-Brazzaville attempts to reverse a recent trend of declining oil production, while also diversifying its economy away from its dependence on hydrocarbons, pressure on its logistics infrastructure is mounting. Much of this network is uncompetitive, which is negatively impacting the country’s oil and gas industry. A number of projects are underway to try to improve the transport environment.

Congo-Brazzaville has increased the share of gas in its electricity production from close to zero in 2004 to 37 percent by the end of 2011, according to the World Bank. The development of the power generation sector in the country has been driven by this increase in the usage of natural gas, alongside an expansion of its hydropower capacity. Government policy to develop power-generation infrastructure has set the country on the path towards achieving stable economic development.
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ICS is a labour contracting company established in 1999 and registered under the ministry of labour in Republic of the Congo. The company is head quartered in Pointe Noire with well set up offices. It has well trained staff members led by well qualified managers. We are adopting technological innovation by computerising our head and site offices. Today, the company has to its credit 15 years of meritorious survival and tops the list of best working labour contractors in Central Africa.

ICS Catering

ICS is expanding its services to better meet oil and gas companies' needs
Catering solutions, exceptional services. Now, your diet is in good hands.
Adapt to thrive

Future prominence
Jérôme KOKO
Director General
SOCIÉTÉ NATIONALE DES PÉTROLES DU CONGO

The Year’s Awards
Adapt to thrive

In addition to reviewing its Hydrocarbons Code in April 2014, Congo-Brazzaville’s Ministry of Hydrocarbons also announced intentions to have a new bidding round for 10 permits. Minister of Hydrocarbons André Raphaël Loemba talks to TOGY about how law revisions and new exploration activities are set to raise the Central African country’s international oil and gas profile.

What does the launch of a new bidding round mean for Congo-Brazzaville?

We have redrawn the division of the blocks in the country, including the coastal and interior basin. During one of the country’s largest conferences held in Brazzaville in April 2014, the ministry made information on the free blocks available to potential investors.

We must renew our reserves. To do that, we need to encourage exploration in open permits needed. These 10 new blocks will be offered for bid after the new hydrocarbons law is passed.

Does the Hydrocarbons Code need a revision? Congo-Brazzaville’s Hydrocarbons Code dates back to 1994. Many things have changed in the last two decades in the global petroleum industry, so we must adapt our legal and fiscal framework to the economic, technological, environmental and social challenges of the world in 2014.

In Congo-Brazzaville’s case, after 30 years of production, many of the oilfields have reached their mature phase. We must create a law that puts an emphasis on renewing our reserves and battling the natural decline of these fields. We need new attractive legal and fiscal framework that is balanced, taking into consideration the global trends of the oil and gas industry.

How is the use of natural gas factored in?

This subject is important and strategic for the country, and we are taking measures that will allow us to augment our gas reserves, including addressing them in the new Hydrocarbons Code. I believe Congo-Brazzaville’s natural gas will be effectively used in a number of ways.

Firstly, it will be used to create electricity, which is a fundamental necessity for the development, modernisation and industrialisation of our country. The power plant at Côte-Matève, which has a capacity of 300 MW, will undergo a large expansion. This expansion will occur in parallel with the increase in gas production from the Marine 12 permit, operated by Eni Congo. Secondly, LPG, butane and propane will be a large part of this initiative. We must increase our production capacities, transport and distribution so that LPG can be distributed to all corners of Congo-Brazzaville. As a result, we will decrease reliance on wood as an energy source.

Thirdly, studies are underway to determine the cost of using gas to create urea and ammonia. Depending on the reserves, it could also be possible to build an LNG export terminal. A gas master plan is being developed, which will allow us to adapt a strategy that takes into consideration our reserves as well as the needs of the country.

What is the importance of the three major projects underway in the country?

Total’s Moho Nord, which is the largest project ever established in Congo-Brazzaville, will not only bring us additional reserves, but also a high level of activity with first oil expected in 2016. Eni Congo’s Litchendjili development will allow us to ensure sustainable natural gas supplies for the power plant at Côte-Matève. Finally, Chevron’s Lianzi development, which has been green-lit as a result of a unitisation agreement between Congo-Brazzaville and Angola, reinforces the relations between the two countries.

We are putting a strong emphasis on local content with all these projects, notably the recruitment of local personnel, training and development of Congolese competence and the use of local fabrication yards and shore bases.

“Many things have changed in the last two decades in the global petroleum industry, so we must adapt our legal and fiscal framework.”

IN FIGURES

Number of permits to be offered in bidding round
10
First oil from Moho Nord
2016
With the largest fabrication yard in Congo, strategically located in the industrial port of Pointe Noire, Boscongo is developing local fabrication capacities.

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Director General  
SNPC

"The end goal is not to merely participate, but to be the operator. For this reason, we think that the new law should reinforce SNPC’s role."

Future prominence

Founded in 1998, the state-owned Société Nationale des Pétroles du Congo (SNPC) is Congo-Brazzaville’s state integrated oil and gas company. Its primary operations are in the production, refining and transportation of petroleum. Jérôme Koko, the SNPC’s director general, speaks with TOGY about a possible pipeline from Pointe-Noire to Brazzaville and the role of SNPC in the future of the local oil industry.

How will revisions to Congo-Brazzaville’s hydrocarbons law change SNPC’s role?
SNPC needs to play a more central role among all the players involved in Congo-Brazzaville’s hydrocarbons industry. For example, there are oil and gas production permits underway in 2014 in which SNPC has no role at all.

In the future, this should no longer be possible. It should be necessary for us to participate either as an operator or as a participant.

The end goal is not to merely participate, but to be the operator. For this reason, we think that the new law should reinforce SNPC’s role and enable it to be a true main actor in the hydrocarbons industry. Of course, it should do this without excluding our partners, which have much more experience in the field than our company does and with which we hope to continue to work in the coming years.

A pipeline from Pointe-Noire to Brazzaville has been a topic of discussion in the industry since at least 2010. What is its status in 2014?
It is true that we have plans to build a pipeline for finished products from Pointe-Noire to Brazzaville, and from there up into the north of the country. It is expected to stretch more than 500 kilometres. Yet, in 2014, we are transporting finished products by road and railway.

I am not saying that such forms of transport will be discontinued. Road travel is fine over short distances, but long distances create risk. Railway transport, since we only have a one-track railway, causes delivery delays. A pipeline will allow us to transport finished products with fewer obstacles.

This pipeline will change drastically, if not revolutionise, the supply of our country’s interior, and maybe even that of bordering countries, such as the Central African Republic, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The latter of these is in 2014 one of the biggest supply routes for finished products.

The project is being managed entirely by SNPC. We are financing studies that are already underway and should be finalised by 2015. Then we will have an estimated cost for the project, which we will begin with right away.

For now we have not had any offers or interest from other parties that would like to join us. For us this project is both commercial and political. That is why we are committed to pushing it forward ourselves, even if we had hoped that there would be other partners.

What is the background of SNPC in Congo-Brazzaville and how do you see the company changing in the next five years?
SNPC was created to participate in the hydrocarbons industry and also in the development of Congo-Brazzaville at large. Previously SNPC held non-operating interests in acreage rather than acting on the production side.
We participate in permits with other major companies that work here in Congo-Brazzaville, notably with Eni, Total and Chevron. However, in 2010 SNPC became an operator on the onshore Mengo-Kundji-Bindi development.
In 2014, we are producing around 700 barrels of oil per day from the Kundji pilot project site. This is done through our upstream subsidiary Sonarep. We have drilled our own wells at the site using our drilling subsidiary the Société de Forages Pétroliers.
By 2019, we hope to reach 15,000 barrels of oil per day on the three fields (Kundji, Mengo and Bindi) after full field development.
In addition to our activities in the upstream sector, we are responsible for the sale of petroleum that comes back to the state through royalties and shared production.
We also supply the country with finished petroleum products from our Congolaise de Raffinage refinery. The facility processes two categories of Congolese oil: Djeno Melange and NKossa Blend, which are the main crudes produced in Congo-Brazzaville.

What are some of your expectations for the company during 2015? What specific targets does SNPC hope to surpass by that time?
By August 2015, the company will have taken a giant step forward, in that we will have launched, together with our partners, the first drilling site in the Cuvette Basin.
SNPC will have finished studies on the pipeline set to run from Pointe-Noire to Brazzaville and may have already undertaken the construction. The company also aims to establish itself as a prominent oil and gas operator.
In May 2014, shipping agency Necotrans was awarded operatorship of the river port in Brazzaville, signalling a milestone in the development of the capital city as a major transshipment point for the region. The port project will require nearly $20 million in investment and is planned for completion in 2015. Not only does this expansion assist Brazzaville in becoming a primary hub in a transport corridor to the Central Africa region, but it will also support those operating domestic exploration programmes in the country’s vast and undeveloped hinterland.

MAN of the YEAR

André Raphaël LOEMBA

Hydrocarbons activity and investment in Congo-Brazzaville between 2013 and 2014 may have exceeded anything the country’s industry had witnessed previously. The beginning of Total’s $10-billion Moho Nord project, easily the largest offshore project in the history of the country, confirms to the industry that Congo-Brazzaville is a safe destination for large-scale investments, and that it is doing the right things to foster developments of the sort. The discovery of Eni’s immense Nene Marine field, the advent of a key exploration bidding round and the restructuring of the country’s hydrocarbons law, too, have fallen under the authority of the Ministry of Hydrocarbons and Minister André Raphaël Loemba.

ONSHORE PROJECT of the YEAR

In 2014, national oil company Société Nationale des Pétroles du Congo has found itself in the midst of its first onshore development project as an operator. As the largest upstream development project onshore, the MKB Development has seen the company drill six wells in the acreage. By 2016, it expects to be producing at least 5,000 barrels of oil per day from close to 40 wells. This represents a more than seven-fold increase from production in 2014 of 700 barrels of oil per day. Investment in the surface equipment for the field will total €32 million.

OFFSHORE PROJECT of the YEAR

Valued at $10 billion, the Moho Nord project (Total, 53.5 percent, Chevron, 31.5 percent and Société Nationale des Pétroles du Congo, 15 percent) is having a major impact on the Congolese economy and on local companies. While much of the activity is set to roll out in 2015 and 2016, the project is already breaking records on many fronts. Moho Nord is the largest offshore investment in the country, the first time Total has connected a tension-leg platform to a floating production unit and, at the time of awarding, was the largest subsea project undertaken by France’s Technip.

DISCOVERY of the YEAR

Although originally announced in 2013, the 1.2 billion barrels of oil and 42.5 bcm (1.5 tcf) of gas that constitute the Nene Marine discovery are still undergoing development drilling in 2014. Not only was the find one of the largest discoveries in the world in 2013, it was also a significant step in the pre-salt domain for Congo-Brazzaville. The shallow water discovery, in some 27 metres of water, was made in a block with a 20-year exploration history, indicating that new technology and a new perspective can breathe new life into the country’s acreage.

INVESTMENT of the YEAR

Qatar Petroleum International’s investment in Total E&P Congo, representing a 15-percent share capital increase, is directed at existing facilities, alongside projects such as Moho Nord.

CONTRACT of the YEAR

In May 2014, shipping agency Necotrans was awarded operatorship of the river port in Brazzaville, signalling a milestone in the development of the capital city as a major transshipment point for the region. The port project will require nearly $20 million in investment and is planned for completion in 2015. Not only does this expansion assist Brazzaville in becoming a primary hub in a transport corridor to the Central Africa region, but it will also support those operating domestic exploration programmes in the country’s vast and undeveloped hinterland.