

GH-Upstream NEWS

promoting upstream petroleum literacy...

A Petroleum Commission Newsletter

Issue No. 011 | Oct. - Dec. 2025

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Ghana Welding Bureau (GWB): A Strategic Tool for Job Role Localisation



Promote Ghana's hydrocarbon potential



Monitor and ensure compliance with national policies and laws related to upstream petroleum activities



Ensure compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and guidelines in the upstream petroleum industry

What We Do

Promote sustainable and cost efficient petroleum activities for the overall benefit and welfare of Ghanaians



Promote local content and local participation in Ghana's upstream petroleum industry



Issue permits to companies seeking to operate in Ghana's upstream petroleum industry





ABOUT US

Greenwood Supply Services is a premier food supply and distribution company committed to delivering quality, freshness, and ethically sourced products to the culinary world. Since our inception in 2015, we have grown into a trusted partner for hospitality, maritime, corporate, and oil and gas clients across Ghana and Namibia. Our selected approach ensures that we source the finest ingredients from local and global producers, maintaining strict quality and food safety standards.

With a focus on customer satisfaction, we offer customized procurement solutions, advanced inventory management, and expert menu development support. Our logistics excellence guarantees timely and reliable deliveries, even in the most challenging conditions. Whether serving world-class hotels, top tier restaurants, oil and gas companies, or large-scale corporate operations, Greenwood is dedicated to fuelling culinary excellence at every step.

OUR SERVICES

Greenwood Supply Services offers a comprehensive range of services, including:



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OFFSHORE/ONSHORE CATERING AND HOUSEKEEPING

We provide nutritionally balanced, high-quality meals that meet strict food safety standards, whether offshore or in corporate settings. Our catering solutions support workforce productivity with variety and quality, while our housekeeping and laundry services ensure clean, safe, and hygienic environments that meet industry standards.



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CREWING & MANPOWER

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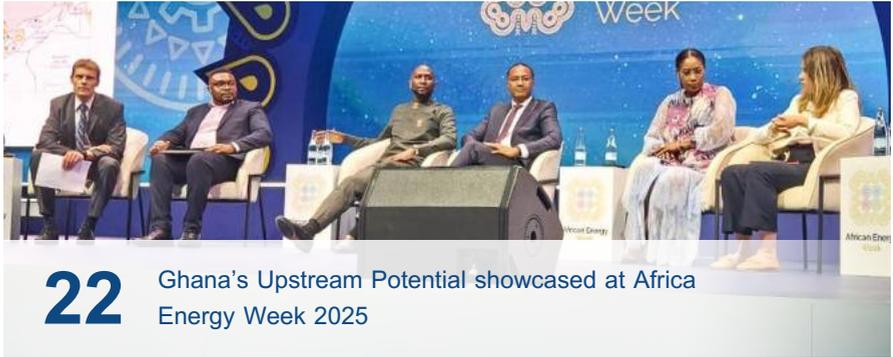


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Editorial

We draw the curtain on another productive year in Ghana's upstream petroleum sector, which has shown strong signs of revitalisation, innovation and collaboration. The sector continues to evolve - balancing regulatory responsibility with private sector dynamism, and national priorities with global energy realities.

This edition captures the highlights, initiatives, and partnerships that are shaping the next phase of Ghana's upstream journey. At its heart lies one central theme: building a resilient and sustainable petroleum industry through local content, capacity building, collaboration, and strategic investment.

In this issue, we explore critical topics such as risk and insurance requirements in Ghana's upstream petroleum industry, which remain essential for managing uncertainties and safeguarding investments. On the issue of building Ghanaian skills, we feature how International Welding Qualifications and Certifications by Ghana Welding Bureau (GWB) would act as a catalyst for job role localization; aimed at equipping Ghanaians with the skills, standards, and opportunities needed to thrive in the energy value chain.

This edition also celebrates indigenous enterprises, featuring interviews with Greenwood and BUH Energies-two Ghanaian companies demonstrating innovation, and resilience in an increasingly competitive upstream petroleum

market. Their stories are worth the read and reflect the spirit of local capacity building and the drive to make Ghana a hub for homegrown energy expertise. Further, we draw your attention to the opportunities that key industry initiatives, such as The Ghana Upstream Local Content Fund presents, which promises to be a catalyst for indigenous participation, and our collaboration with Ghana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GHEITI) to deepen transparency and accountability in petroleum governance.

As we close the year, we celebrate the remarkable progress made in deepening partnerships, enhancing capacity, and promoting sustainable growth. The Commission remains steadfast in its commitment to building an inclusive, transparent, and dynamic upstream industry - one that delivers value to the people of Ghana while embracing the opportunities of the global energy transition.

Compliments of the season! We meet next year with exciting 2026 reads on energy resources, technology and innovation to inspire our international investors. Together, let's tell Ghana's energy story and shape the upstream petroleum industry with a shared sense of purpose. We look forward to more collaborative partnerships to develop the industry in 2026 and beyond.

Happy reading!

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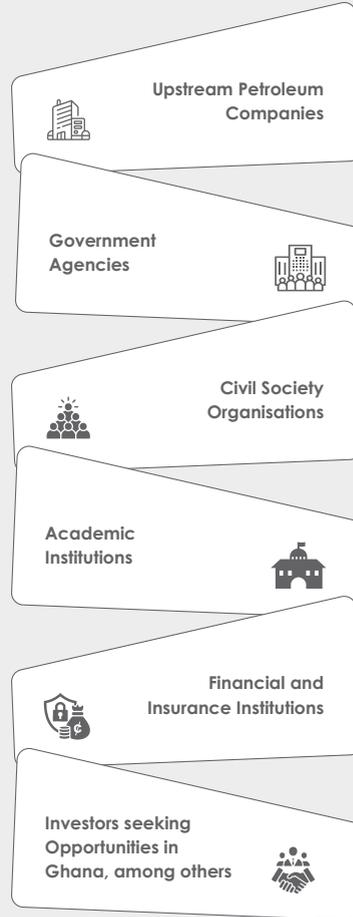
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Risk and Insurance Requirements in Ghana's Upstream Petroleum Industry

Risk, Assurance and Compliance Department

Introduction

Globally, risks in the upstream petroleum industry are those which, either as a single event or series of accumulated losses, could frustrate the achievement of a company's goals and objectives. These risks, be it onshore or offshore related, may be classified as technical, financial, legal, environmental or humanitarian. Effective risk management in the upstream petroleum industry assists companies prevent and mitigate incidents that may cause financial loss, operational disruption, or reputational damage. More specifically, risk management aims to reduce the frequency and severity of such losses, which may threaten the achievement of a company's goal and objectives.

Risk Management in Ghana's Upstream Petroleum Industry

In Ghana, risk management in the upstream petroleum industry is not optional, it is essential. It ensures safe operations, financial viability, regulatory compliance and sustainable development of Ghana's upstream petroleum resources, thereby improving stakeholder confidence. Health and safety risks are particularly important in the upstream petroleum sector as they are considered among the high-risk sectors in terms of occupational accidents. Although there have been tremendous improvements in health and safety performance, the industry continues to lag. To address these health and safety risks as stated above, Ghana enacted the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) (Health, Safety and Environment) Regulations, 2017, (L.I. 2258) which set the minimum

health, safety, and environmental requirements for contractors, subcontractors, licensees, the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), and other entities engaged in petroleum activities. These regulations aim to prevent adverse impacts of petroleum operations on people, property, and the environment.

Liabilities in Ghana's upstream Petroleum Sector

Health and safety risks are particularly important in the upstream petroleum sector as they are considered among the high-risk sectors in terms of occupational accidents. Although there have been tremendous improvements in health and safety performance, the industry continues to lag. To address these health and safety risks as stated above, Ghana enacted the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) (Health, Safety and Environment) Regulations, 2017, (L.I. 2258) which set the minimum health, safety, and environmental requirements for contractors, subcontractors, licensees, the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), and other entities engaged in petroleum activities. These regulations aim to prevent adverse impacts of petroleum operations on people, property, and the environment.

Liabilities in Ghana's upstream Petroleum Sector

Section 59 (1) of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act, 2016, (Act 919) stipulates that.

- 1) *“Subject to subsection (2), licensee parties or contractor parties who jointly hold a petroleum agreement or licence are jointly and severally responsible to the Republic for the financial and other obligations and liabilities arising out of the petroleum activities.”*

Additionally, Section 84 of Act 919 provides as follows:

- (1) *Where there are several contractor parties under a petroleum agreement or several licensees under one licence, a claim for compensation for pollution damage shall initially be made against the operator”.*
- (2) *“Where there are several licensees or contractor parties and one of them fails to pay the share of compensation, the unpaid amount shall be paid by the other licensees or contractor parties in proportion to their participation interest”.*

For example, if a pipeline operated by an oil company ruptures off Ghana’s coast results in oil pollution affecting fishing communities in the Western Region, initial claims would be made against the operator of the field. However, if that operator cannot fully meet compensation obligations, other contractor partners would be required to step in proportionately.

Insurance Obligations in Ghana’s Upstream Petroleum Industry

In Ghana, the Insurance Act, 2021, (Act 1061) governs the regulation and supervision of the insurance market. However, as the Regulator of the upstream petroleum industry, the Petroleum Commission is mandated under section 3 (c) of the Petroleum Commission Act, 2011, (Act 821) to monitor and ensure compliance with national policies, laws; regulations and agreements related to petroleum activities. The Commission’s mandate also includes ensuring that the

conduct of petroleum activities is in accordance with best international industry practices and standards.

In line with this mandate, the Commission ensures that contractors, licensees, subcontractors, and GNPC maintain adequate insurance cover.

Section 92 of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act, 2016 (Act 919) reinforces this mandate of the Commission and stipulates as follows:

- (1) *“Petroleum activities conducted under a petroleum agreement or under a transportation, treatment or storage licence shall be covered by insurance at all times and in accordance with the Insurance Act, 2021, (Act 1061) and other applicable enactments”.*
- (2) *The insurance shall include cover for*
 - (a) *damage to petroleum facilities*
 - (b) *pollution Damage and other liability towards third parties;*
 - (c) *wreckage removal and cleanup resulting from accidents;*
 - (d) *employees of the contractor or of the licensee engaged in the activities*

Therefore, offshore production facilities such as Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) units operating in Ghana are expected to be insured against risks like fire, explosion, or storm damage. In the event of an accident such as a well blowout or equipment failure, the insurance policy provides funds for clean-up operations, facility repair, and employee compensation. At the beginning of each year, companies operating in the upstream petroleum sector must submit details of all insurance policies procured in line with their registration service category. These policies

are reviewed to assess their adequacy against the company's service category and operational risks

To promote local content and participation, Regulation 27(2) of the Petroleum (Local Content and Local Participation) Regulations, 2013 (L.I. 2204) requires that all insurable risks relating to petroleum activities in Ghana be placed through indigenous insurance brokerage firms, or, where applicable, reinsurance brokers.

Consequently, when a foreign operator seeks to insure its FPSO against fire, explosion, or storm damage, the policy must first be procured through an indigenous -licensed insurance brokerage, even if international reinsurers ultimately share the risk.

The Commission also monitors compliance through its permitting regime. Where the Commission deems insurance coverage to be inadequate, companies may be directed to procure additional insurance

to address identified gaps. Thus, where a drilling contractor submits insurance that excludes coverage for pollution clean-up, the Commission can require that the policy be amended or supplemented with additional coverage before operations are approved.

Conclusion

Risk management in Ghana's upstream petroleum sector involves a multi-faceted approach, encompassing technical, financial, legal, environmental and humanitarian considerations.

This includes:

- i. Implementing robust health, safety, and environmental (HSE) practices;*
- ii. Establishing strong financial and operational controls; and*
- iii. Ensuring adequate and compliant insurance coverage for operations, facilities, and personnel.*



Staff of Petroleum Commission undergo Saipem Training on Drilling Simulation and Well Control



Nine staff of the Petroleum Commission have completed a week-long specialised drilling simulation and well control training delivered by Saipem trainers from Milan and sponsored by Saiwest Limited under the Eni drilling campaign's localisation commitments. Held in November, the programme equipped staff from the Work Permit Committee and the Capacity

Development and Localisation Directorate with practical insights into the drilling value chain using high-fidelity simulators. The training is expected to strengthen participants understanding of drilling risks, technical requirements, and workforce competency gaps, reinforcing the Commission's vision of becoming a world-class regulator.



Interview with the CEO of Greenwood Supply Services, Akwasi Boateng

Greenwood Supply Services Ltd is a supply chain company supporting the country's upstream oil and gas sector through integrated procurement, logistics, and offshore supply solutions. Greenwood has been delivering high-quality services across the oil and gas, mining, and construction industries. At the heart of the company's steady growth is its Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Akwasi Boateng (AB), whose leadership has helped steer Greenwood toward operational excellence and strategic expansion.

In this conversation, Mr Akwasi Boateng shares insights into Greenwood's offshore provisioning



capabilities, its commitment to local content and sustainability, and the company's continued investment in cold chain logistics, digital tools, and workforce development. From Ghana to emerging markets like Namibia and Guyana, Greenwood is positioning itself as a trusted partner for safe, efficient, and future-ready supply chain solutions.

GH-UN: Good day and thank you for making time for this conversation. Let's start with the basics. Can you give us an overview of Greenwood Supply Services' core operations in the upstream oil and gas space?

AB: Thank you. It's a pleasure to be here. Greenwood Supply Services Ltd or GSS is a fully Ghanaian-owned company focused on delivering complete offshore supply chain support. We provide provisioning, cold chain logistics, offshore catering, and camp management services to FPSOs, drilling rigs, seismic vessels, and other offshore operations.

GH-UN: That's quite a comprehensive offering. What are some of the specialised services GSS provides to offshore clients?

AB: Provisioning and logistics are at the heart of what we do but we have developed a broad suite of services to fully meet offshore needs. This includes the supply of fresh, frozen, and dry provisions, galley consumables, and beverages — all delivered under strict temperature control. We also provide offshore catering and full camp management, covering cleaning, housekeeping, and facility maintenance.

But our work goes far beyond just delivering food or equipment. We manage inventory, ensure full compliance with international safety and food standards, and help create healthy and well-supported offshore living environments. With a bonded warehouse in Takoradi, DNV-certified containers, and a dedicated logistics team, we support clients from mobilization right through to demobilisation.

AB: We've developed detailed operational playbooks for our operations in each sector. Whether it's offshore food safety, housekeeping in a remote camp, or rationing on a mine site, our standard operating procedures are tailored to the specific environment. These guide our teams and ensure consistency from one operation to the next.



We also have sector-specific leads—professionals with deep experience in oil and gas, hospitality, or mining — who manage the day-to-day operations in their respective areas. Regular HSEQ reviews, ongoing training, and structured reporting keep everyone aligned. This setup helps us maintain our standards across sectors while staying true to our core values of safety, reliability, and customer satisfaction.

GH-UN: Cold chain logistics is critical offshore. How do you ensure product integrity all the way to the deck?

AB: Cold chain integrity is absolutely critical, and we treat it as such. We only work with pre-qualified suppliers who can meet our quality expectations, and we request certificates of analysis for every batch. At our warehouse, all deliveries go through thorough visual and temperature checks.

To ensure cold chain integrity, we operate DNV-certified reefers and dry containers, chiller vans, and bonded storage facilities in Takoradi. We also offer rental equipment and warehousing services to help clients streamline their operations. Everything we do is backed by well-trained personnel and reliable systems so that we maintain quality even under tight offshore timelines.

Once cleared, products are packed in food-grade insulated crates and loaded into GPS-enabled reefer trucks. We monitor temperatures throughout the journey using calibrated data loggers and sealed load procedures. Even during the quayside transfer, everything is tracked and recorded. Our inventory system uses FIFO and FEFO controls to ensure proper rotation and traceability. This level of control means we consistently deliver safe, high-quality provisions to offshore facilities without compromise.

GH-UN: What systems or technologies help you manage offshore deliveries and communication?

AB: We make good use of digital tools to keep our operations efficient and transparent. Our inventory management software connects directly with client purchase orders and helps track batch numbers, expiry dates, and reorder levels. We also ensure all products are staged 24 hours before dispatch to avoid delays.

Our delivery fleet includes GPS-tracked reefer trucks with live temperature monitoring. Every consignment is sealed and timestamped

digitally, with proof of delivery captured both at the port and offshore. And we stay in constant communication with client logistics teams using email, WhatsApp, and phone updates. This level of coordination helps us deliver safely and on schedule.

GH-UN: Compliance is critical. How do you meet international food safety and HSE standards?

AB: We are fully aligned with ISO 45001 for occupational health and safety, ISO 14001 for environmental management, and ISO 22000 for food safety. These certifications form the foundation of our Integrated Management System. Whether it's food handling, logistics, or warehouse operations, we apply the same structured approach.

We also conduct regular risk assessments, third-party audits, and internal inspections. Every staff member, from warehouse operatives to offshore crews, receives continuous training. Our food safety system is based on HACCP principles and we keep complete records across every stage of handling and delivery.



GH-UN: What steps do you take to guarantee product quality for offshore perishables?

AB: It starts with sourcing. We work only with approved vendors and inspect all incoming

goods for quality, packaging, and hygiene. Our warehouses are kept within tightly controlled temperature ranges, and we use calibrated probes and data loggers to track everything.



We document every step — from lot numbers and delivery times to temperature readings and shelf life. Our team is trained to identify and act on any issues quickly. When you combine this with our compliance to ISO 22000 and FDA regulations, it gives clients confidence that every product they receive meets the highest safety standards.

AB: Yes we are. We currently operate in Namibia and Guyana. These are growing markets and we've been able to successfully replicate our Ghana model while adapting to the local regulatory and operational landscape. Our systems, team culture, and approach to quality remain the same no matter where we operate.

GH-UN: What would you say is behind Greenwood's strong growth and regional expansion?

AB: I would say it's our reliability. Clients trust us to deliver, even when timelines are tight or projects are complex. That trust comes from years of consistent performance and a strong culture of service.

We also focus a lot on infrastructure — things like bonded warehouses, reefers, and cold chain equipment — and we continuously invest in our people. Our partnerships with local producers and our commitment to local sourcing make us not only scalable but also sustainable. And because we understand the pressures our clients face offshore, we're able to respond quickly and meet expectations.

GH-UN: How are you supporting Ghana's local content agenda?

AB: Local content is a big part of who we are. We prioritise sourcing from Ghanaian producers wherever possible, especially for fresh and some frozen products. We also work closely with them to meet offshore requirements — from improving hygiene and packaging to maintaining cold chain standards.

Our workforce is 100 percent Ghanaian, including our leadership team. We run mentoring programmes and capacity-building sessions with SMEs to help them grow. This helps strengthen the local economy and ensures that more value stays within the country.

GH-UN: What kind of training do your teams receive, especially for offshore operations?

AB: Training is continuous here. All employees go through regular food safety and hygiene training based on HACCP principles. For our offshore teams, BOSIET or FOET certification is a must, and we run ready-made programs that cover everything from logistics handling to emergency response.

We also train supervisors in inventory management, waste reduction, and customer service. HSE is always a focus, with regular toolbox talks, drills, and assessments. We believe that investing in our people is the most

important thing we can do to ensure safe and successful operations.

GH-UN: Looking ahead, what are your top operational priorities?

AB: We're currently expanding our cold storage and staging facilities in Takoradi to support larger and more complex offshore projects. We're also introducing digital traceability tools and remote monitoring systems so clients can track their orders in real time.

On the local impact side, we're scaling our supplier development programme by offering audits, mentorship, and even micro grants to help local producers meet offshore standards. We're also working on an automated warehouse to improve speed, safety, and inventory accuracy.

In the future, we want to offer more bundled services — like certified equipment rental, laundry, and housekeeping — all from one trusted partner. And we're excited about a greenhouse project we're planning, which will supply fresh produce and create jobs at the same time.

GH-UN: What makes GSS stand out in this competitive landscape?

AB: It's the combination of local roots and international standards. We're proudly Ghanaian-owned and deeply invested in our communities, but we operate to global best practices.

GH-UN: On that note, we'll wrap up this conversation and extend our appreciation for making time for this interview.

AB: Pleasure is all mine

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Business Registration Processes in Ghana's Upstream Petroleum Industry

Business Advisory & Enterprise Development

One critical requirement for companies that seek to participate in the upstream petroleum sector is registration with the Petroleum Commission. For local and foreign investors seeking to participate in this sector, understanding the regulatory and registration framework is essential. The processes are governed by a combination of laws, regulations, and oversight by key institutions to ensure transparency, environmental stewardship and national benefit.

These processes provide companies with the opportunity to benefit from favourable regulatory and fiscal regimes, stable political environment which helps to protect investments, while enabling ease of registration in the upstream petroleum industry.

Navigating Compliance Processes

A contractor, subcontractor, licensee or another person that intends to engage in petroleum activities or provide a service in the upstream petroleum industry is required by Regulation 1 of the Petroleum Commission (Fees and Charges) Regulations, 2015 (L.I. 2221) to register and obtain a permit from the Commission.

An applicant needs to purchase an application pack for GHC100, which contains an application form, guidance to filling in the form, classification of petroleum industry services list (from which an applicant may choose, two services to carry out) and other industry laws.

Three (3) copies of duly typed and completed application forms and related documents must be submitted at the offices of the Petroleum Commission either in Accra or Takoradi.

The documents to include in an application are a Certificate of Incorporation, Company Regulations, VAT Certificate, and valid Tax Clearance Certificate. Other documents to attach include valid SSNIT Certificate, Business Plan, Company Profile, Audited Financial Reports, signed company Health & Safety Policy, and certifications from relevant bodies where applicable.

After an application is received, it is reviewed by the Commission. Where the information provided is satisfactory, an applicant is then invoiced based on the prescribed fee in part 1 of the second schedule of L.I. 2221. Where the Commission finds the information provided unsatisfactory, an applicant may be required to provide additional information.

The Commission reserves the right to deny an application if it is forged or if it is detected that fake documents have been submitted and may pursue criminal charges against applicants who provide false information in accordance with Regulation 46 (1) of the Petroleum (Local Content and Local Participation) Regulations, 2013, L.I. 2204.

After paying the prescribed fees, a Registration Permit is issued by the Commission which expires after one year of issuance. Applicants are required to renew their Permits at least one month before the Permit expires in accordance with Regulation 9(2) of (L.I. 2221).



The Commission usually processes applications and issues Permits within four to six weeks of receipt

Types Of Permits Issued By The Commission

The various types of Permits issued by the Commission are:

Registration Permits

These are issued to sub-contractors in accordance with Section 17 (3) of Act 919 and Regulation 3(1) of L.I. 2221. Sub-contractors may be classified as:

- a. Fully Indigenous Ghanaian Company
- b. Indigenous Ghanaian Company
- c. Non-Indigenous Ghanaian Company
- d. Joint Venture Company
- e. Channel Partnership
- f. Strategic Alliance.

Contractor Party Certificates of Registration

These are issued to Contractor Parties to Petroleum Agreements in accordance with Regulation 2 of L.I. 2221.

Exploration and Development Permits

Issued to a Contractor/Operator in the Exploration and Development phase of the Petroleum Agreement in accordance with Regulation 3 (2) of L.I. 2221.

Production Permits

These are issued to a Contractor/Operator in the Production phase accordance with section 31 of Act 919, Regulation 46 (1) of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) (General) Regulations, 2018 (L.I. 2359) and Regulation 3(3) of L.I. 2221.

Drilling Permits

Issued to a Contractor before the drilling of a well in accordance with Section 24 of Act 919 and Regulation 7 of L.I. 2221. A Drilling Permit is valid for six months from the date of issue and is subject to renewal according to Regulation 23 (4) of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production Data Management) Regulations, 2017 (L.I. 2257).

The Commission sends reminders to companies at least two months before expiration of their permits and forward renewal forms to the companies. However, companies can also download the renewal forms for free on the Commission's website at <https://petrocom.gov.gh/renewal-licensing-permit/>

Requirement Of Various Types Of Permits Issued By The Commission

Fully Indigenous Ghanaian Company

A fully owned Indigenous Ghanaian company as the name suggests, is a company



incorporated under the Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992) and is fully owned by a citizen or citizens of Ghana, with the citizens holding at least eighty percent of executive and senior management positions and one hundred percent of the non-managerial and other positions.

i. Fully Indigenous Ghanaian Company

A fully owned Indigenous Ghanaian company as the name suggests, is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992) and is fully owned by a citizen or citizens of Ghana, with the citizens holding at least eighty percent of executive and senior management positions and one hundred percent of the non-managerial and other positions.

ii. Indigenous Ghanaian Company

An indigenous Ghanaian Company on the other hand, is also a company incorporated under Companies Act 2019 (Act 992). It has at least fifty-one percent of its equity owned by a citizen or citizens. Additionally, it has Ghanaian citizens holding at least eighty percent of executive and senior management positions and one hundred percent of the non-managerial and other positions.

iii. Joint Venture (JV)

It is imperative to note that pursuant to L.I. 2204, A non-Indigenous Ghanaian Company which intends to provide goods and services within the country shall incorporate a joint venture company with an indigenous company and afford that indigenous Ghanaian company an equity participation of at least 10 percent.

The JV becomes the primary vehicle to operate in Ghana's upstream space. However, with a written application to the Commission and an approval thereof, a non-Indigenous Ghanaian Company can operate through Strategic partnership or Channel partnership arrangement.

iv. Channel Partnership

Regulations, 2013 (L.I. 2204) as (Amendment) Regulations, 2021 (L.I. 2435), provide specific requirements which guide applicants in registering Channel Partnership and Strategic Alliance. Channel partnership is another vehicle that allows non-indigenous Ghanaian companies to take part in the upstream petroleum industry. Channel Partnership is an arrangement between an indigenous Ghanaian company and a non-indigenous Ghanaian company, including a distributor, a vendor, a retailer, a consultant, a system integrator, an original equipment manufacturer or a value-



added reseller to market and sell the products, services or technologies of the non-indigenous Ghanaian company in the country.

v. Strategic Alliance

Strategic Alliance is also an arrangement between a non-indigenous Ghanaian company by which the responsibilities of each partner are clearly defined, and the partners agree to share resources to undertake a specific mutually beneficial project, whilst each retains their independence. It is usually short-term and is project specific.

Strategic Benefits Of Registration With The Commission

Registration with and acquiring a Petroleum Commission permit offers a wide range of important benefits for companies operating in the Upstream Petroleum Industry including:

The right to operate and participate in competitive bidding for contracts to provide exploration, drilling, production, and other ancillary services in the industry.

Access to capacity building opportunities through the Ghana Upstream Petroleum Business Academy including pre-tender workshops, post contract workshops, business advisory services offered by the Commission and other industry related trainings.

Opportunity to participate in Trade Missions, industry events such as the Annual Local Content Conference and Exhibition, and other seminars organised by the Commission and its stakeholders for networking and partnership building.

Access to valuable market intelligence and industry insights, such as the Annual Petroleum Business Outlook report containing data, and market trends to help businesses make informed decisions on investments, partnerships, and operations.

CONCLUSION

In Ghana's evolving energy landscape, formal registration with the Petroleum Commission is a critical first step for any company aspiring to thrive in the Upstream Petroleum space. Besides being a regulatory compliance, it offers access to a supportive ecosystem designed to foster competitiveness, transparency, and long-term industry growth.

It is therefore incumbent upon companies both local and foreign, desiring to participate in Ghana's upstream petroleum industry, to navigate the compliance processes and take advantage of the strategic benefits associated with registering with and obtaining operating permits from the Commission

Ghana's Upstream Potential showcased at Africa Energy Week 2025

The Petroleum Commission spearheaded Ghana's upstream investment promotion drive at the 2025 Africa Energy Week (AEW), highlighting the country's latest developments and opportunities in the oil and gas sector. The Ghanaian energy delegation, led by the Minister for Energy and Green Transition, Hon. John Jinapor, also included representatives from GNPC, Ghana Gas, GOIL, and the National Petroleum Authority (NPA), demonstrating a unified national approach to advancing Ghana's energy agenda. Speaking during a Ministerial Panel on Energy Transition, Hon. Jinapor underscored Ghana's commitment to a balanced energy pathway that prioritizes both hydrocarbon development and renewable energy growth.

He emphasized that Ghana's transition strategy reflects Africa's realities—leveraging oil and gas resources responsibly to drive industrialization, job creation, and energy security while pursuing low-carbon growth.

On the sidelines, the Petroleum Commission held strategic engagements with major international service companies, including Energean Energy, Petrobras, Halliburton, and TGS, to explore collaboration in gas development, deepwater exploration, and digital transformation initiatives. Ag. Chief



Executive Officer, Ms. Emeafa Hardcastle, highlighted Ghana's recent investor-focused reforms such as revised fiscal terms, reduced state participation, and progressive royalty structures aimed at enhancing competitiveness. Ms. Hardcastle also joined a high-level panel discussion on "Basins Without Borders," stressing the value of regional cooperation in managing transboundary petroleum resources.

She reaffirmed that Ghana's regulatory transparency, stability, and reform-driven governance continue to strengthen investor confidence. Ghana's strong representation at AEW 2025 elevated the country's profile on the global energy stage, reinforcing its ambition to attract investment, foster technology transfer, and promote sustainable growth across the upstream petroleum value chain.



Ghana 3D 2025/26

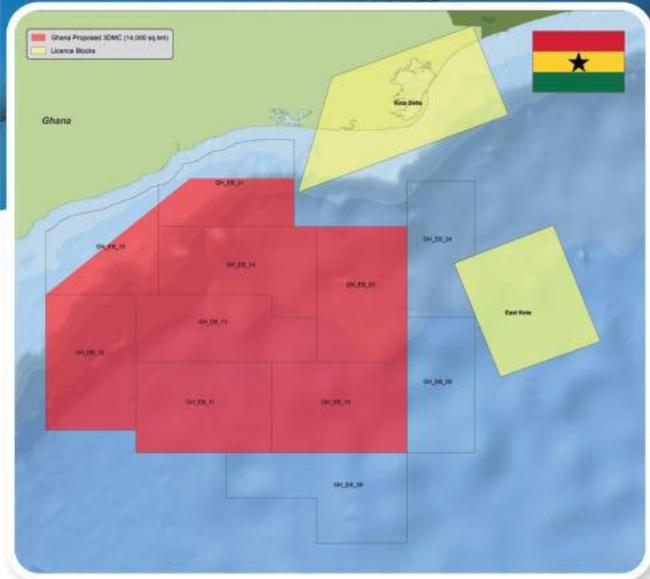
KETA BASIN - New Proposed 3D Seismic Survey



TG-GeoPartners, in partnership with the Petroleum Commission of Ghana, is pleased to announce a joint 3D seismic survey proposal offshore Ghana.

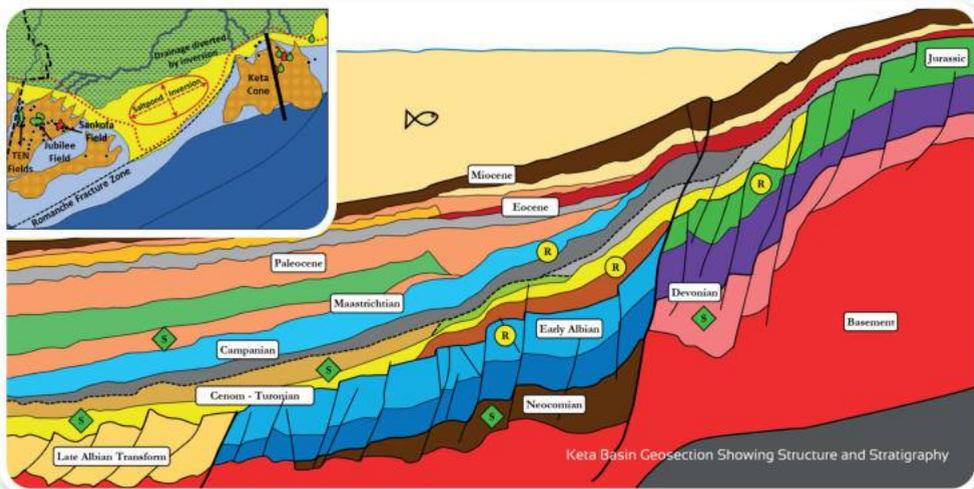
The survey will comprise over 14,000 sq. km of new data and covers a significant proportion of the underexplored Keta Basin area. Survey parameters will include long offset multi-streamer acquisition allowing a full suite of deliverables including FWI and PreSTM and PreSDM processed volumes. The survey is planned to be acquired as soon as Q4 2025 after completion of the necessary environmental permits and industry prefunding is being sought.

The new survey is the first to provide 3D coverage from shallow to ultradeep water, with water



depths of between 50 and 3,500 metres, ensuring 3D evaluation of the entire offshore section and hydrocarbon potential. The continuing successes in the Tano and Saltpond Basins

provide material support for the potential of very large discoveries being made in the Keta Basin, which has seen exploration and previous 3D acquisition confined mainly to the inshore areas.



Minimising Incursions into Exclusive Zones Around Oil and Gas Installations

Community Relations Department

Since Ghana produced its first oil from the Jubilee fields in 2010, petroleum operations have grown steadily with investments of offshore installations creating revenue, jobs and energy security.

To protect these installations, safety or exclusive zones that extend five hundred (500) meters around oil and gas facilities have been demarcated by law. Unauthorized entry is prohibited in these areas to prevent collisions, operational shutdowns and environmental damage.

However, incursions continue to be a recurring issue with canoes and vessels, mostly artisanal fishing boats, often being drifted by sea current into the exclusive zones, sometimes unknowingly. The Petroleum Commission, the Ghana Maritime Authority, the Ghana Navy and operators in the upstream sector have recorded various forms of incursions over the past decade.

Yearly Incursions Breakdown

Year	Number of Incursions
2017	1,087
2018	8,940
2019	6168
2020	5,621
2021	5,278
2022	211
2023	238
2024	586 (118 EZ)
2025	486



This article reviews the legal basis for Ghana’s safety zones, the risks associated with incursions, the reasons these breaches persist and outlines practical measures such as technological, legal and community-based solutions to minimize them.

Legal and Institutional Framework

The establishment and enforcement of safety zones is supported by Ghana’s regulatory system. This is recommended by the International Maritime Organization & UNCLOS Article 60. The Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act of 2016 empowers the Minister responsible for Energy to create safety zones around petroleum facilities to regulate access. The Ghana Shipping (Protection of Offshore Operations and Assets) Regulations of 2012 specifies the 500-meter exclusion radius and enforcement procedures.



Additionally, the Ghana Shipping (Amendment) Act of 2011 strengthens the legal authority for enforcement in Ghana's territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone. The Petroleum Commission oversees compliance in partnership with the Ghana Maritime Authority, the Ghana Navy and upstream operators. These institutions work together to ensure monitoring and enforcement while raising awareness.

Scale and Nature of Incursions

As at year-to-date 2025, 486 breaches were observed in the Western Region fields with 49 detected inside the exclusive 500-meter zones because fish aggregate near installation perimeters and artisanal fishers incur the area for bumper catch.

The risks and consequences of incursions in exclusive zones pose significant threats to operational safety. Vessels colliding with a platform can lead to shutdowns and cause fatalities. The potential for oil spills or gas leaks from accidental damage is high and economic downtime can cost operators and the state millions in lost revenue. Offshore assets are crucial and unchecked incursions can create vulnerabilities for national security. Fishing crews entering exclusion zones risk capsizing in rough waters around Floating Production, Storage and Offloading (FPSO) units or being struck by supply vessels.

Why Incursions Persist

Fishermen draw towards to wherever they can get large shoal of fish. Congregation of fish around vessels, rigs and FPSOs is a known fact. Schools of thought attribute this phenomenon to the lights, vibration and edible waste from the vessels including FPSO and rigs. Not all coastal communities understand the reasons for safety measures and view enforcement as a threat to their livelihoods. During peak fishing times, boat traffic around installations increases.

Measures to Minimise Incursions

Measures to reduce incursions include marking and lighting to maintain buoys, lights, and signs around safety zones. Setting up virtual AIS Aids-to-Navigation can indicate exclusion zones on electronic charts. Expanding the Ghana Maritime Authority's 24/7 Vessel Traffic Management Information System to cover advisory zones would include automatic alerts. Regular Navy patrols around installations, supported by operators and transponders in canoes are also vital.

Creating standard response protocols-such as radio hailing, escorting vessels out and escalating penalties for repeat offenders is important. Outreach programmes targeting fishing communities should use local languages and culturally relevant messages. Providing visual educational tools like maps

and posters showing the 500-meter distance is essential. Establishing feedback channels, such as hotlines for reporting safety concerns and exploring alternative livelihoods initiatives can help reduce reliance on fishing near installations.

Another measure is to improve government policies by introducing progressive penalties. This could include warnings for first-time offenders and fines for repeat intrusions. Fostering inter-agency data sharing between the Petroleum Commission (PC), Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA), Fisheries Commission (FC) and the Ghana Navy can create better collaboration. Publishing quarterly statistics on incursions can encourage accountability. Incorporating safety zone education into fisher training programmes and developing alternative livelihoods are also necessary. Lastly, monitoring progress is important. Key performance indicators should be tracked monthly, including the number of incursions in exclusively contrast with advisory zones, average response time to an intrusion and the number of outreach sessions conducted.

Role of the Regulator

Under the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act of 2016, the Petroleum Commission must create safety zones around petroleum facilities and wells. This authority is executed in consultation with agencies like the Ghana Maritime Authority and the Fisheries Commission to ensure a coordinated approach to protect offshore oil and gas infrastructure. As the regulator of upstream petroleum activities in Ghana, the Petroleum Commission has broad responsibilities, including issuing licenses, conducting inspections, supervising operations and setting safety and environmental standards for the industry.

Establishing and enforcing safety zones, often called exclusive zones, is a key part of the Commission's role. Usually, these zones extend 500 meters from any part of an offshore installation, such as FPSO units or drilling platforms. Unauthorized access by vessels or fishing gear in these areas is prohibited. These zones aim to prevent accidents, operational interference and environmental disasters due to the risky nature of petroleum operations. "Advisory" and "exclusive" zones have diverse levels of restriction. The reason fisherfolks must stay out of these areas to ensure their safety and the smooth operation of petroleum activities.

To reduce incursions into restricted zones, the Petroleum Commission undertakes several proactive measures. One approach is the Annual Landing Beach Sensitization where the Community Relations team of the Commission undertakes sensitization at landing beaches in the 116 communities in the six coastal districts of the Western Region, Central and Greater Accra to sensitize fishermen and their crew on incursion management and safety.

The Commission regularly engages with fishing communities and traditional leaders through hybrid approach, combining direct landing beach engagements with robust media outreach. This ensures wider participation and enhanced awareness among fisherfolks, while reinforcing the need for sustainable practices.

The media component allows the team to reach fisherfolks and crew members who cannot be present during the in-person sessions. To drive home the risks associated with unsafe practices, Teaching and Learning Materials (TLMs) are used to display vivid images of offshore accidents from countries such as Brazil and Malaysia, including FPSO engulfed in flames in other countries. Migrant fishermen who have plied their trade in some



oil producing countries in the past also share their experiences to the fisherfolks as a way of continuous learning. The exercise spans across coastal regions which includes Western, Central and Greater Accra Regions.

The legal consequences of unauthorized entry and the dangers involved, particularly with practices like using coal pots near installations, which can lead to fires or explosions. These efforts occur directly in coastal communities, especially at landing beaches where they carry out artisanal fishing. By working with traditional leadership structures, the Commission ensures that its messages are trusted and effectively communicated.

The Petroleum Commission collaborates with various agencies such as the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCF), Ghana Navy, Marine Police and Ghana Maritime Authority to monitor these zones through patrolling and surveillance of offshore installations. International Oil Companies often support these operations with logistical aid and monitoring infrastructure.

The aim is to deter unauthorized incursions and respond quickly to any breaches. To guide long-term policy, the Commission has developed strategic frameworks like the Safe Sea Access Framework (SSAF). This framework seeks to ensure peaceful coexistence between the petroleum and fishing industries. It clearly defines exclusive and advisory zones and proposes plans for stakeholder engagement and conflict resolution.

Another similar initiative is the Cumulative Impact Co-management Platform (CIMP), a multi-stakeholder approach formed to tackle environmental, social and operational challenges that arise from offshore oil and gas activities, particularly in the Western Region. It was established following recommendations from the SSAF. The platform's main goal is to facilitate a coordinated approach among government bodies, oil companies, fisheries representatives and other stakeholders for effectively managing the cumulative impacts of offshore oil and gas projects. These impacts

include environmental degradation, threats to biodiversity, population changes in coastal areas (influx) and conflicts between industrial activities and traditional livelihoods like fishing.

The platform emphasizes collaborative strategies to mitigate these effects through shared governance and action plans. The governance structure includes a Steering Committee with regulators including the Petroleum Commission, Ghana National Petroleum Corporation, Ghana National Gas Company (GNGC) and Ghana Maritime Authority as well as international oil companies which include, Tullow Ghana Limited, ENI Ghana Limited and Pecan Energies Ghana Limited. A Technical Committee, including members of the Steering Committee along with the Ghana Maritime Authority, Fisheries Commission and Ghana Upstream Petroleum Chamber, was formed in February 2022 to oversee technical working groups and develop action plans for priority actions.

Ghana's upstream petroleum sector is crucial to the national economy, making the protection of offshore installations vital for safety and prosperity. Exclusive safety zones are essential measures that save lives and protect assets.

Ongoing incursions highlight the need for a balanced approach that combines strong enforcement with clearer boundaries and modern monitoring tools.

The Petroleum Commission, together with its relevant stakeholders; state agencies, operators and coastal communities, has both the responsibility and capability to achieve this balance. By following the roadmap outlined above, Ghana can significantly reduce incursions, protect its offshore assets and ensure the petroleum industry and fishing communities thrive in a secure marine environment as users of blue economy.



2025 LCCE: Stakeholders Converge in Takoradi to Revitalise Ghana's Upstream Petroleum Sector

The 2025 Local Content Conference and Exhibition was held from November 4 to 6, 2025 in Takoradi, drawing a strong cross section of stakeholders from Ghana's petroleum industry and beyond. Held under the theme *'Revitalising Ghana's Petroleum Exploration and Production Sector Driving Innovation and Redefining Local Content for a Competitive Energy Economy,'* the event brought together over 1000 participants from institutions spanning government, regulatory bodies, international oil companies, indigenous service providers, financial institutions, academia and civil society.

Highlights of 2025 LCCE Discussions

Over three days, the Conference served as a strategic platform for frank dialogues on the challenges facing Ghana's upstream petroleum

sector and the opportunities for recovery and growth. Participants examined declining production levels, the need to attract new exploration investments and the importance of aligning regulatory frameworks with industry realities. Discussions also focused on financing constraints, natural gas utilisation, technology transfer and the development of local capacity as a foundation for sustainable growth.

Key Message from Hon. Minister for Energy & Green Transition

Delivering the keynote address, the Minister for Energy and Green Transition, Hon. John Abdulai Jinapor acknowledged concerns raised in recent public interest reports about falling oil revenues. He attributed the trend largely to inconsistent policy decisions over time and announced the establishment of a



committee to review upstream petroleum laws and policies. According to him, the objective is to strike a balance between creating an attractive investment climate and ensuring the state secures fair value from its resources. He further disclosed government plans to commence the development of a second gas processing plant to enhance domestic gas utilisation and support industrial growth, alongside approval for a multiclient seismic data acquisition strategy to improve the quality and availability of exploration data.

CEOs Outlook

The Ag. Chief Executive Officer of the Petroleum Commission, Emeafa Hardcastle, underscored the urgency of diversifying exploration beyond the long producing Tano Cape Three Points Basin. She encouraged renewed focus on underexplored areas such as the Accra Keta, Voltaian and Central Basins, warning that continued concentration on mature fields risks leaving potential resources stranded. She noted that recent developments point to renewed investor confidence, citing significant capital commitments by Eni and Jubilee partners and ongoing negotiations to increase gas production and exports in the coming years. She also revealed that several companies have been shortlisted following expressions of interest in new blocks, while discussions are underway with major international players that previously exited the Ghanaian market.

Views from Participants

Other speakers, including senior officials from GNPC and international oil companies, emphasized the need to strengthen indigenous participation in the sector. They called for deliberate efforts to build GNPC's operatorship capacity and encouraged local companies to form strategic partnerships with international

firms. Such collaborations, they noted, are essential for improving access to financing, facilitating technology transfer and enhancing the global competitiveness of Ghanaian companies.

Breakout sessions further explored issues around natural gas development, investment and insurance, and technology transfer. Participants highlighted the need for improved gas infrastructure, better long-term planning for gas utilisation and incentives to reduce flaring. There were also calls for a structured national framework to support research and development in the oil and gas sector, with closer collaboration between government, academia and industry.

Procurement Day

A dedicated Procurement Day reinforced the message that while local content remains a priority, technical competence and financial strength are critical for success in international oil company tenders. Indigenous companies were encouraged to pursue international certifications and strengthen their balance sheets to improve their chances in competitive bidding processes.

Call to Action

The Conference concluded with a strong sense of urgency around implementation of the proposed reforms. Stakeholders agreed that policy stability, diversified exploration, targeted investment in gas infrastructure and sustained collaboration across sectors are key to restoring momentum in Ghana's petroleum industry. As discussions ended in Takoradi, the focus shifted from dialogue to action, with many expressing optimism that the insights from the Conference could help reposition Ghana's oil and gas sector as a competitive and hub of upstream operations in the region.

2025 Local Content Conference Photo Highlights







Thank You

About a month ago, we were honoured to host over 1000 delegates during the **2025 Local Content Conference & Exhibition (LCCE)** where we shared ideas to promote local content and local participation in Ghana's upstream petroleum industry.

Thank you, to our Guest of Honour, the Hon. Minister for Energy & Green Transition, Dr. John Abdulai Jinapor, distinguished speakers, sponsors and to all participants for your invaluable contributions.

We couldn't have done it without you

- Thank You!

We are excited about what **2026 LCCE** has to offer, and we look forward to continued collaboration during next year's Conference scheduled for **10th to 12th November, 2026**.

PETROLEUM COMMISSION
**2025 LOCAL
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Local Content Development in Ghana's Upstream Petroleum Industry: Facts and Myths

Economics & Local Content Department

The development of oil and gas resources presents a unique opportunity for economic transformation, especially in resource-rich developing countries like Ghana. However, the technologically complex and capital-intensive nature of the petroleum industry means that without deliberate government policies, the benefits derived from oil and gas exploitation will be a mirage.

Indeed, Local content policies have resonated among emerging oil and gas countries due to the economic and social arguments made by proponents, who emphasise the potential for job creation, expertise development, technology transfer, and the growth of domestic industries that can sustain economic development.

Despite the potential benefits, critics of such industrial policies contend that they may lead to market distortions, inefficiencies, and encourage rent-seeking behaviour, especially where governance structures are weak and local capacity is limited. They caution that poorly designed local content requirements can deter foreign investment, delay project delivery, and ultimately hinder optimal resource development. They further argue that such policies become a tool for favouritism and corruption, undermining their developmental objectives.

The concerns voiced by critics have found traction among both exploration and production companies, as well as service providers, many of whom highlight the operational and financial challenges posed by local content requirements. They argue that the requirements can restrict access to specialised

expertise, slow down procurement, and drive-up project costs.

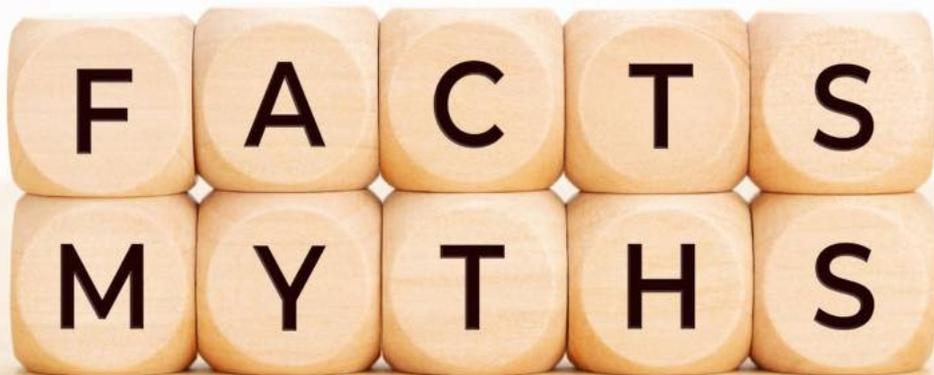
This article seeks to debunk the myths with facts using Ghana's Local Content Policy and Regulations for the upstream petroleum sector.

Ghana's Local Content Policy and Regulations

Ghana established the Local Content Policy Framework in 2011 and subsequently enacted the Petroleum (Local Content and Local Participation) Regulations, 2013 (L.I.2204) to address the dearth of local capacities to support the petroleum industry.

The Regulations gives preference to qualified Ghanaians with respect to employment and training, and Ghanaian businesses in the procurement of goods, materials and services. The Regulations further gives preference to Indigenous Ghanaian Companies (IGC) in the grant of petroleum agreement or license and ensures that petroleum agreements are awarded with at least 5% Ghanaian equity participation. For provision of goods and services, the Regulations requires that a foreign company incorporates a joint venture and afford an IGC at least 10% equity participation or provide the goods and services in association with the IGC through a strategic alliance or channel partnership arrangement. This is to ensure the transfer of technology and technical know-how to Ghanaians and Ghanaian businesses.

In the award of contracts, the Regulations requires that contracts are awarded not based solely on the principle of the lowest bidder



but gives a 10% price advantage to IGCs and further uses local content to adjudge the winning bid where bids are equal. Companies are required to ensure local content is a component of every petroleum activity and must meet specific minimum local content levels in petroleum operations.

Indeed, the Regulations envisages that Ghanaians would maintain a degree of control in the industry with at least 70-80% Ghanaian professionals employed in various positions, and 60-90% goods and services procured locally.

Facts and Myths Surround Local Content Policies and Implementation

It is important to dispel the persistent myths surrounding local content policies to foster informed decision-making, set realistic targets, and promote stakeholder alignment—ensuring effective implementation that drives sustainable development. This section seeks to achieve that.

1. Myth: Local content policies create large sustainable jobs—The discovery of oil and gas in 2007 sparked heightened public expectations that the industry would help

address persistent unemployment and generate substantial job opportunities for Ghanaians. Indeed, the optimism was reinforced with the introduction of the local content policy. The common assumption was that the policy would translate into thousands of well-paying jobs for Ghanaians across the industry.

Facts: The oil and gas industry is highly capital-intensive, technology-driven, and reliant on a specialised workforce, which limits its overall contribution to national employment. Although direct employment is limited, its broader impact is reflected in the indirect and induced jobs generated through ancillary and support services such as logistics, catering, fabrication, and maintenance. Between 2014 and 2024 over 20,000 jobs – direct and indirect – were created . As of 2023, Ghanaians constituted approximately 90% of the upstream oil and gas workforce. Among these, 85% occupied core technical roles, while 80% held managerial positions . Notwithstanding the level of participation, without parallel investments in training and capacity building, many of these jobs may be low-skilled or temporary. Sustainable job creation requires skills transfer and long-term workforce development.

2. Myth: Local Content Breeds Inefficiency—

There is a persistent narrative suggesting that there is insufficient local capacities to effectively support petroleum sector activities. This argument is often linked to the view that local content policies, which prioritise local businesses, inadvertently promote inefficiencies, delays, and suboptimal performance—particularly when these businesses are perceived to lack the requisite capabilities.

Facts: While it is true that at the early stage of development there are capacity gaps particularly regarding technical high value contracts, the reality is that international oil and service companies often prefer known and trusted suppliers and as such are averse to strategies that offer opportunities for local companies to develop their capacities. Indeed, the Commission through contracting strategy sessions with international and service companies have unbundled large contracts into modular contracts to enable local companies to participate. This has resulted in the participation of local businesses in major EPCI projects. Between 2014 and 2023, Indigenous Ghanaian Companies (IGCs) were awarded over US\$3.9 billion in scopes historically dominated by foreign entities. It is worth noting that some local businesses have developed considerable capacities and are now operating in other countries such as Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Guyana, Senegal, etc. This demonstrates that local content, when well implemented, can strengthen domestic capacity while maintaining global operational standards.

3. Myth: Local Content Increases Costs—

The limited local capacity to support petroleum operations often results in higher costs, as companies must invest heavily in training, infrastructure, and supplier development to bridge capability gaps. During the OCTP

project, the fabrication of modules stools for the FPSO J.A Kuffour was three to five times expensive than fabrication in China, Singapore and other matured fabrication yards. Operators had to support local companies to obtain requisite certifications and to some extent had to engage project management consultants to assist these local companies resulting in higher project cost.

Facts: While local content implementation may lead to higher costs in the early stages, these upfront investments create long-term value by building a stronger local supplier base, reducing reliance on imports, and improving supply chain efficiency. As local expertise develops, suppliers gain experience, and economies of scale are achieved, costs tend to stabilise—and in some cases decline—over time. Evidence shows that cost of in-country material production and services such as fabrication, chemical supplies and other engineering resources have declined significantly over the years.

4. Myth: Local Content Equals Nationalisation—

A thorny issue in local content policy implementation is the notion of nationalisation, state control or expropriation. The misconception is that local content policies is an attempt to use a backdoor approach to nationalise foreign companies operating in the industry. This is reinforced by local content provisions which requires that foreign companies afford Indigenous Ghanaian Companies equity participation in the provision of goods and services or petroleum agreements. Indeed, some foreign companies often cite Venezuela's sweeping nationalisation policy in the oil and gas industry which led to foreign operators ceding ownership and control to the state.

Facts: Local Content Policies create opportunities for indigenous companies to participate in the extraction and utilisation of national resources.

By enabling the involvement of local businesses and professionals in resource production, foreign companies can secure social licence from host countries and reduce the risk of conflict. It is important to note that the purpose of the joint venture requirement in the Local Content Regulations, either in the provision of goods and services or the grant of a petroleum license, is to develop local capacities through knowledge and technology transfer. Indeed, the joint ventures are established as special purpose vehicles for the delivery of goods and services in the industry without compromising the commercial interest or diluting the ownership structure of the parties in the joint venture. In the event of a termination of the joint venture company, the parties in the company still have their companies intact.

5. Myth: Local Content is a disincentive to Investors—Critics often argue that local content policies deter investors and contravene World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules on protectionism. Some maintain that such requirements increase costs and limit operational flexibility. These arguments are often propounded due to regulatory uncertainties, high upfront investments, capacity gaps in local industries, and the perceived rigidity of compliance frameworks.

Facts: Studies, however, show that when local content frameworks are transparent, predictable, and implemented in partnership with industry, they do not deter investment but rather enhance long-term value creation. Through the gradual development of local capacities, the promotion of innovation, and alignment with global trade principles—such as the WTO’s infant industry protection exception—local content can serve as a strategic instrument for both investors and host nations, enhancing competitiveness, strengthening resilience, and fostering

sustainable industrial growth. As of 2024, the number of JVCs operating in the industry was over 200 with Ghanaian equity participation ranging from 10% to 51% in some cases . 10 out of 14 petroleum agreements has Ghanaian participation, with 3 of the licensed areas operated by Indigenous Ghanaian Companies. There has also been a surge in investment in facilities such as the establishment of the onshore receiving facility to process gas, blending facility for production chemicals, thermal absorption plants for waste management, cementing units, subsea flying lead (SFL) termination assembly facility, fabrication yards and workshops, and facilities for the repair, maintenance and refurbishment of bolts, nuts, and valves.

6. Myth: 51% Ghanaian Ownership Makes a Company Indigenous—Regulations 4 (2) and (6) of L.I.2204 requires the participation of Indigenous Ghanaian Companies in the grant of petroleum license and the provision of goods and services. The Regulations further provides for a 10% price advantage to an Indigenous Ghanaian Company in the award of contracts. There is a general perception amongst foreign companies and even local companies that having a 51% equity shares makes one an indigenous Ghanaian company.

Facts: The criteria for an Indigenous Ghanaian Company includes 100% shareholding Ghanaian, 80% management Ghanaian, and 100% other staff Ghanaian . Without meeting all three criteria, one cannot become an Indigenous Ghanaian Company. The perception of joint venture companies that 51% Ghanaian-owned equity in a joint venture company makes the company indigenous is erroneous. The requirement for an IGC in a joint venture company is at least 10% equity participation. Regardless of value of equity owned by the local partner, a joint venture

company **CANNOT** become an Indigenous Ghanaian Company.

7. Myth: Technology Transfer infringes Intellectual Property—There is a general misconception that technology transfer provisions in local content policies is to compel international companies to surrender their proprietary rights. The perception that IGCs may compete in similar services or ‘take over’ from their foreign counterparts has fuelled the erroneous interpretation of the requirements. Foreign companies are hesitant, unwilling and lack commitment to transfer technology or know-how to IGCs. Foreign companies also often misconstrue the localisation of roles and training of employees as fulfilment of technology transfer obligations while others are of the view that their obligations are towards the joint venture company and not the IGC.

Facts: Indeed, the requirement for technology transfer is to develop the capacity of the local partner and promote the diffusion and application of new technologies within the economy. The expectation is that parties in a joint venture or any partnership arrangement assess the gaps in the local partner, ascertain the strategy for growth by the local partner, identify specific technical scopes of the operations of the joint venture, ring-fence mutually agreed areas, develop, and implement programmes for technology transfer. Certainly, the local partners in the joint venture or partnership arrangement are equally responsible to put in place systems and procedures for effective absorption and integration of technology during and after the technology transfer programme.

It is worth noting that Section 62 (2) of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act, 2016 (Act 919) provides assurance that the requirement for technology transfer shall not disable any company from protecting its competitive position in the petroleum industry. Indeed, the industry has witnessed the penetration of welding and fabrication techniques which hitherto were absent, the deployment of dopeless technology for threading pre-deployed oil country tubular goods (OCTGs), and the influx of technologically embodied equipment and machinery for the fabrication and installation of complex subsea and topside modules such as jumpers, manifolds, stools, piles, sleepers, etc. in-country.

Conclusion

In unpacking the myths and facts surrounding local content, it becomes clear that misconceptions often overshadow the true purpose of these policies. While critics associate local content with inefficiencies, higher costs, or disincentives to investment, the evidence shows that—when well-designed and effectively implemented—local content policies drive sustainable value creation. It strengthens domestic capacity, foster technology transfer, stimulate industrial development, and reduce long-term dependence on imports. Local content is not about creating barriers; it is about creating opportunities—for competitiveness, innovation, and resilience in both host economies and industry operations. Local content will remain a strategic tool to accelerate development in Ghanaian’s petroleum industry.

Petroleum Commission Explores Investment Prospects with Enterprise Singapore in Upstream Petroleum Sector



The Petroleum Commission has held strategic discussions with Enterprise Singapore to identify new investment opportunities within Ghana's upstream petroleum sector. The meeting, chaired by the Ag. Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Nasir Alfa Mohammed, brought together senior officials from both institutions to strengthen economic cooperation. Enterprise Singapore, a government agency promoting Singapore's international business engagement, has been active in Ghana since 2013, fostering partnerships between Singaporean and Ghanaian companies. Its Executive Director for Global Markets (South Asia, Middle East & Africa), Mr. HO Chee Hin, who was on his first visit to Ghana and Africa, expressed interest in understanding developments, challenges, and

prospects in Ghana's petroleum sector. He noted Singapore's strong expertise in FPSO manufacturing, petrochemical refineries, and related industries, which together represent about 40 percent of the country's sectoral activities. The Petroleum Commission outlined several key projects offering collaboration potential, including GNPC's Voltaian Basin drilling campaign, exploratory work in the Eastern Basin, the Western Enclave Petroleum Hub initiative, a gas regasification project, and Ghana Gas's planned second reprocessing plant. These projects were presented as avenues for investment in FPSO assembly, subsea infrastructure, tie-back facilities, fiscal metering systems, and petrochemical development.

Ghana's Upstream Local Content Fund: A Potential Catalyst for Indigenous Participation in the Upstream Oil and Gas Sector

Local Content Fund Department

Ghana's journey to optimise the benefits of its growing upstream oil and gas industry is significantly anchored in its deliberate local content strategy. The Petroleum Local Content and Local Participation Policy identified limitations in finance, alongside human resource capacity and technology as key constraints to maximising the participation of Ghanaians and Ghanaian companies in the upstream petroleum sector.

To address these challenges of access for finance, the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act, 2016 (Act 919) established the Local Content Fund. The fund is a financial resource that is envisioned as a potent catalyst for fostering indigenous participation by empowering Ghanaian Citizens, Indigenous Companies and Institutions of learning, ultimately ensuring that the nation's petroleum wealth translates into sustainable national development.

Establishment and Object of the Fund

Section 64 of Act 919 mandates the establishment of a Local Content Fund. This clear legal directive underscores the state's commitment to prioritising the growth of local capabilities within the upstream petroleum sector. The existence of a dedicated fund signifies a proactive approach to address historical imbalances where international companies often dominated the supply chain, leaving limited opportunities for domestic enterprises.

Section 65 of Act 919 enunciates the object of the Fund. Its primary purpose is to provide financial resources for citizens and indigenous Ghanaian companies engaged in petroleum activities. To achieve the objective of the Fund, moneys from the Fund shall be applied towards the following purposes

Capacity Building: Funding Education and training programs for Ghanaians in technical,



managerial, and entrepreneurial skills relevant to the upstream oil and gas industry. This aims to bridge the expertise gap and enable Ghanaians to take up more specialized and high-value roles.

Research and Development: Supporting research and development activities in Ghana that can lead to the innovation of local technologies, goods, and services for the petroleum sector, reducing reliance on imports of skills and technology.

Enterprise Development: Providing financial assistance, grants, or loans to Indigenous Ghanaian Companies to enhance their competitiveness, upgrade their facilities, and meet industry best standards. This will empower local businesses to bid for and execute contracts within the oil and gas value chain. Again, the funding is to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology from international companies to Ghanaian entities, ensuring a lasting legacy beyond direct project execution.

By clearly defining these objectives, the Act positions the Local Content Fund as a strategic financial resource vehicle rather than a mere pool of money. It is designed to cultivate a robust domestic industry capable of contributing meaningfully to the upstream sector.

Sources of Money for the Fund

To ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the Local Content Fund, Section 66 (1) of Act 919 establishes a diverse range of financing sources. This multi-faceted approach aims to create a consistent flow of funds. A significant portion of the fund is however expected to come from the very entities operating in Ghana's upstream sector by way of levies on contract sums. According to the Act, key sources include:

Contributions from a Contractor as agreed in Petroleum Agreement: This provision ensures that international and local contractors, directly contribute to the development of the local supply chain from which they also benefit.

Contributions from a Contractor as agreed in Petroleum Agreement: This provision ensures that international and local contractors, directly contribute to the development of the local supply chain from which they also benefit.

Contribution from subcontractors of the sum of one percent of the total consideration payable by the contractor or licensee for every contract: This provision also ensures that companies or vendor that supply goods and services contribute one percent (1%) of the total consideration payable by the contractor or licensee for every Contract that they execute within the upstream sector.

Moneys approved by Parliament: The government, through parliamentary allocations, can inject funds into the Local Content Fund. This highlights the national importance of the Fund and its strategic alignment with economic development goals.

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Grants: The fund can also receive support from development partners, international organisations, philanthropic entities and individuals that share the vision of empowering local economies, in the form of Grants and Voluntary contribution.

Other Sources: Section 67(4) permits part of the funds to be invested, and this allows for additional revenue streams such as Returns



accruing from investment of the Fund. Besides Interest on loans disbursed to small and medium-scale enterprises can bring in returns for the growth of the fund.

The diverse funding mechanisms underscore the collective responsibility of all stakeholders, i.e. government, operators and, suppliers of goods and services as well as other development partners in nurturing a vibrant indigenous Upstream Sector. Currently, the Local Content Fund receives money from contributions from subcontractors.

Management of the Fund

The administrative role in managing the Fund includes:

Formulating Policies: Formulating policies that will help generate monies into the Fund. Determining the allocation of funds towards achieving the object of the fund and all budgeting requirements.

Developing Guidelines and Procedures: Establishing clear criteria for accessing the fund, application processes, and reporting requirements to ensure fairness and accountability.

Receiving and Evaluating Applications: Assessing proposals from Ghanaian companies and individuals seeking support, ensuring that funded initiatives align with the fund's objectives.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Tracking the performance of funded projects and initiatives to assess their impact on indigenous participation and value creation.

Account, Audit and Reporting: Keeping books of account and proper records, and providing regular reports on the fund's financial status, disbursements, and outcomes to relevant stakeholders, including Parliament and the public, promoting transparency and good governance.

By placing the fund under the direct management of the Minister of Energy and Green Transition and the Local Content Committee, Act 919 aims to ensure that the fund's activities are well-integrated into the broader local content framework, aligned with industry needs, and subject to robust regulatory oversight.

The Local Content Fund, as set out in Sections 64 to 69 of Act 919, is a fundamental pillar of Ghana's strategy for indigenous participation in the oil and gas sector. By providing a dedicated financial mechanism for capacity building, enterprise development including technology transfer, the Fund once disbursement commences will empower Ghanaian citizens and local businesses to become active, significant players in their own petroleum industry. In doing so, it fosters sustainable economic growth and shared prosperity.

GHEITI MSG, Petroleum Commission on Transparency and Investment in Ghana's Petroleum Sector



The Ag. Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Petroleum Commission, Mr. Nasir Alfa Mohammed, has held discussions with a delegation from the Ghana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GHEITI) Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), led by Dr. Steve Manteaw, at the Commission's head office in Accra. The meeting focused on strengthening transparency and enhancing investment in Ghana's petroleum industry. Deliberations centred on improving accessibility to Ghana's Petroleum Register and developing better incentives to attract foreign investors. The GHEITI MSG team sought updates on efforts to make the register more user-friendly and on strategies to boost international

participation in the sector. Mr. Mohammed underscored the need to balance transparency with the protection of contractual integrity, stressing that open dialogue remains key to sectoral progress. He further reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to continuous stakeholder engagement to address investor concerns while emphasizing the need for companies to also comply with Ghana's laws to ensure mutual benefits. GHEITI, operating under the global Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) framework, continues to champion accountability and equitable management of Ghana's extractive resources for sustainable national development.





Petroleum Commission Strengthens Partnership with Core Laboratories on Offshore Reservoir Research

The Petroleum Commission has advanced its collaboration with Core Laboratories Sales B.V. to commence Phase Two of the Regional Rock-Based Evaluation project, aimed at deepening understanding of Ghana's offshore hydrocarbon resources. The initiative follows a strategic meeting at the Commission's head office, marking a continuation of the 2017 study that assessed reservoir, source, and seal rock facies across Ghana's offshore basins.

The earlier phase, jointly undertaken by Core Laboratories, the Petroleum Commission, and the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), analysed data from over 50 wells along the Equatorial Atlantic transform margin. Chairing the meeting, the Ag. Director of Resource Management, Mr. Daniel Dankyira Koranteng, emphasised that the ongoing studies will help reduce exploration risks and enhance Ghana's global competitiveness in the oil and gas industry. The earlier phase, jointly undertaken by Core Laboratories, the Petroleum Commission, and the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), analysed data from over 50 wells along the Equatorial Atlantic transform margin. Chairing the meeting, the Ag. Director of Resource Management, Mr. Daniel Dankyira Koranteng, emphasised that the ongoing studies will help

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Fabric Maintenance and Corrosion Protection



Industrial and Marine Coatings



Industrial and Marine Coatings



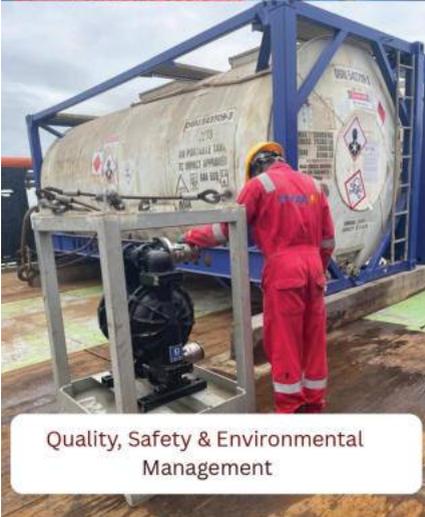
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Ghana Welding Bureau (GWB): A Strategic Tool for Job Role Localisation

Skill & Institutional Capacity Development Department



Welding is both a science and an art. It draws on scientific principles of metallurgy, materials, and heat transfer, and also demands precision, creativity, and craftsmanship to produce strong and aesthetically pleasing results.

Globally, welding underpins almost every industrial sector — from construction and mining to automotive, agriculture, and oil and gas. According to the American Welding Society, over 70% of manufactured products involve welding expertise. This statistic highlights welding's central role in industrialisation and its importance to the economic health of nations. For any country with ambitions to industrialise, welding is a vital foundation for sustainable development.

Objectives

This paper explores how international welding certification can serve as a strategic tool to:

- Promote local workforce participation
- Enhance employability and global mobility of Ghanaian welders
- Reduce skills-related barriers to localisation
- Strengthen national technical capacity and productivity

Justification

Localisation of skilled roles is a cornerstone of Ghana's Local Content Law (L.I 2204) and a driver of industrial transformation. Integrating international welding certification into the national qualification framework will:

- Validate and globally recognise the competency of local welders.
- Build employer confidence in hiring locally trained professionals.
- Strengthen collaboration between government and private sector on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) guarantee quality assurance, compliance with international codes, and cross-border recognition of skills.

Qualification and Certification in Welding

Qualification of welders usually is a demonstration of welding ability and capability of a trained welder through a test. On the other hand, certification is considered as an official recognition/documentation of that qualification test by an accredited body such as the International Institute of Welding (IIW),

the Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB), the American Welding Society (AWS), and very soon Ghana Welding Bureau (GWB) etc. As industrial sectors such as oil and gas, mining, construction, and manufacturing expand, the demand for highly skilled technical labour, especially in welding, continues to rise. Entry into the international workforce requires holding qualifications and certifications that meet globally recognised standards.

In Ghana, gaps in certification frameworks and international credibility have led to heavy dependence on expatriate welders. International certification, as offered by bodies such as IIW, CWB, AWS and GWB, provides a pathway to bridge this skills credibility gap. Aligning local training with global standards ensures that Ghanaian welders can compete internationally while supporting local content development.



The Ghanaian Situation Welding

Although Ghana has a growing pool of skilled welders, what is usually called “street welders”, the absence of internationally recognised certification has resulted in:

- Limited utilisation of local welders in major industries
- Continued reliance on foreign welders despite the Local Content Law (L.I 2204)
- Loss of economic opportunities for local professionals
- High cost of training, which limits knowledge transfer and career progression for Ghanaian welders

To reverse these trends, Ghana must urgently localise skilled job roles by equipping indigenous welders with certifications that are globally recognised and trusted by multinational employers.

Role of the Ghana Welding Bureau (GWB)

The Ghana Welding Bureau (GWB) is positioned to lead this transformation. As a non-profit, non-governmental professional body, GWB seeks to regulate and advance welding in Ghana to international standards. Its core mandates include:

- Promoting welding development to meet global standards
- Securing Ghana’s membership in international welding organisations
- Advancing the science, technology, and application of welding and allied processes in Ghana

By functioning as Ghana’s equivalent of AWS or CWB, GWB can become the central authority for training, certification, and regulation in the welding profession.

Proposed Approach

a. Short-Term Measures

Although Ghana has a growing pool of skilled welders, what is usually called “street welders”, the absence of internationally recognised certification has resulted in:

- Partner with recognised international welding bodies (IIW, TWI, AWS)
- Build the capacity of GWB and national institutions to administer international certifications
- Establish public–private partnerships to subsidise training and certification costs
- Align TVET curricula with global welding standards Introduce incentive structures for industries that prioritise locally certified welders
- Conduct capacity audits of existing welding institutions such as Regional Maritime University, (RMU), Takoradi Technical University (TTU), Kumasi Technical University (KsTU), and Tamale Technical University (TaTU) etc. to assess facilities, trainers, and curricula for readiness to deliver international-level training

b. Long-Term Measures

Establish the Centre of Excellence for Welding and Pipefitting at Takoradi Technical University. The Centre will provide world-class training and certification in welding and pipefitting at reduced cost, addressing the human resource needs of the oil and gas sector. With land acquired and preliminary scoping already conducted with partners such as NAIT and CPI, the Centre will serve as the flagship hub for international welding training and certification in Ghana.



The challenge

The biggest hurdle to jump is cost, infrastructure, qualified trainers, and alignment with international standards. But by far, the funding aspect presents the biggest challenge to train international welders locally. Overcoming these requires government support, industry partnerships, and international collaboration to make training less expensive, accessible and sustainable. In this regard, funding can be sourced from the Local Content Fund. Section 65(2) of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Act, 2016 (Act 919) provides that the Fund may be applied to

education, training, research, and development related to petroleum activities for Ghanaian individuals, companies, and academic institutions. The Ghana Welding Bureau (GWB) therefore believes that channeling some of the Local Content Fund into training welders and establishing welding facilities and institutions in Ghana will strongly support the long-term vision of the welding industry.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased number of internationally certified Ghanaian welders
- Significant reduction in reliance on expatriate welders across industries
- Greater employment opportunities and higher income for local welders
- Recognition of Ghana as a hub for internationally certified welding professionals in West Africa and beyond.

International welding certification is more than a professional requirement — it is a strategic enabler of industrial transformation, workforce empowerment, and economic independence. By embedding global standards into Ghana's training and certification systems, the country can accelerate localisation, reduce reliance on foreign expertise, and position itself competitively within the global welding industry. Collaboration among government, industry stakeholders such as the mining industry, and the Ghana Welding Bureau is critical. With urgent action, Ghana can achieve its vision of a skilled, globally recognised, and self-reliant welding workforce.

Spotlight on an Indigenous Ghanaian Company – BUH Energies Interview



BUH Energie is a fully-owned Ghanaian engineering and technical services company, making meaningful contributions to Ghana's upstream petroleum industry by delivering a wide range of solutions including rig refurbishment, pipeline integrity, marine support, and more. GH UN interacts with the CEO of BUH Energies, Mr. Dieu-Donne Dakudjie exploring the role of BUH Energie Resources in Ghana's upstream oil and gas sector.

The discussion highlights not just the company's technical capabilities, but also its commitment to safety, environmental responsibility, local talent development, and the smart use of technology. With a clear focus on growth, Mr. Dieu-Donne Dakudjie Shares his thoughts on how BUH Energy is gradually building a strong reputation as a dependable local partner in Ghana's evolving energy landscape.

GH-UN: Good day and thank you for making time for this conversation. Let's start with the basics. Can you give us an overview of BUH Energie's core operations within Ghana's upstream oil and gas sector?

BUH: Thank you very much. It's a real pleasure to be here. BUH Energie Resources is a fully owned Ghanaian engineering and technical services company. We work across the upstream oil and gas value chain, supporting everything from fabric maintenance and pipeline integrity to rig refurbishment, mechanical fabrication, and marine support. We aim to deliver safe, efficient and innovative solutions to help International Oil Companies, EPC contractors, and local partners achieve their operational goals, both onshore and offshore.

GH-UN: That's quite a wide scope. What are some of the specialised services BUH offers to industry players?

BUH: We offer a comprehensive range of technical and industrial solutions tailored to specific needs of the upstream sector. These include rig refurbishment and upgrades, such as structural repairs, drill pipe inspections and third-party non-destructive testing. We



also carry out pipeline maintenance, pigging, hydrotesting, and integrity assessments. Our team is trained in structural steel welding and fabrication to international standards, and we use ultra-high-pressure surface preparation tools like DenJet and KAMAT equipment. We also handle tank cleaning, mechanical and electrical works, HVAC decommissioning, and infrastructure upgrades. All our work is done by certified professionals using modern tools and project systems that ensure safety and reliability.

GH-UN: *Sounds like there's a lot going on. Can you tell us about some of the recent or ongoing projects that showcase BUH Energie's work?*

BUH: Certainly. We are currently supporting rig refurbishment for the SMS Grace project at the Sekondi Naval Base. We've also been handling fabrication and installation work under ENI Ghana's Onshore Receiving Facility. Another recent project involves tank cleaning and inspection operations. These projects reflect not just our technical capabilities but also our growing footprint across Ghana's Western corridor.

GH-UN: *Let's talk about safety and standards. How does BUH ensure excellence in operations, especially around compliance and HSE?*

BUH: For us, operational excellence starts with a strong foundation in quality, health, safety and environmental management. We operate under a fully integrated system that aligns with ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001. We comply with all Petroleum Commission regulations, as well as client-specific HSE frameworks and international best practices. We also conduct regular audits, hold toolbox meetings, and provide ongoing training to ensure that both our people and our processes meet the highest standards. We have a zero-compromise approach when it comes to safety and quality.

GH-UN: *What about challenges? Upstream space can be complex. How have you adapted?*

BUH: That's very true. Some of the key challenges we face include securing financing for large-scale projects, delays in customs clearance, and navigating some regulatory

processes. We've responded by building strong partnerships with banks, OEMs and logistics firms to help us move more efficiently. We also use digital workflow tools and predictive maintenance to stay ahead of issues before they become problems. These steps have helped us improve productivity and reduce downtime.

GH-UN: *On the subject of local content, how is BUH Energie supporting Ghana's agenda?*

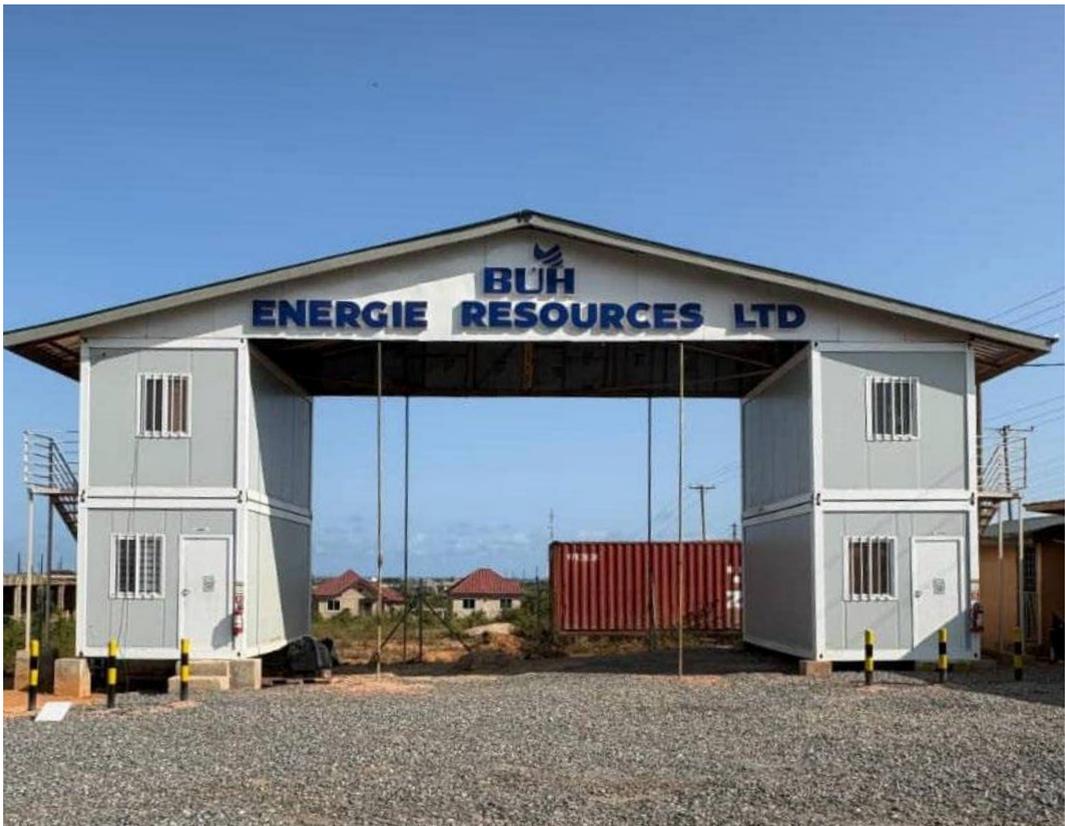
BUH: As a Ghanaian company, local content is very dear to our hearts. We prioritise hiring locally and building Ghanaian technical capacity. We've established training programmes that equip technicians with modern skills in welding, blasting, mechanical maintenance and inspection. And we've formed strong technical partnerships with international companies like DenJet in Denmark and

KAMAT in Germany to ensure technology transfer and continuous development of our people.

GH-UN: *With so much focus now on digitalisation, how is BUH integrating technology into your operations?*

BUH: Digitalisation is something we've really embraced. We use cloud-based project tracking tools, remote inspection systems, and digital document management platforms. These technologies improve visibility across project sites, reduce response times and enhance collaboration. They also help us deliver more accurate reporting and faster communication with our clients.

GH-UN: *Environmental protection is also becoming more important in the industry. What are you doing in that space?*



BUH: Environmental responsibility is a core part of our operations. We use closed-loop water recycling systems and low-emission blasting technology. Our coating solutions are eco-friendly, and all waste streams are managed in line with ISO 14001 standards. We prioritise environmental care in all our projects.

GH-UN: *Looking ahead, what are your medium to long-term goals?*

BUH: One of our main goals is to establish a fully equipped base in Takoradi to serve as a hub for fabrication and maintenance activities. We also want to expand into subsea inspection and integrity management and maintain our triple ISO certifications. Another focus area is strengthening our partnerships with global OEMs so we can bring the latest technologies to Ghana's oil and gas sector.

GH-UN: *Ghana's upstream sector is evolving. How is BUH positioning itself to take advantage of new opportunities?*

BUH: We see this as a period of renewal for the sector. BUH is positioning itself as a reliable, homegrown partner with world-class capabilities. We're scaling up operations, investing in our people and technology, and aligning our long-term strategy with the vision of the Petroleum Commission. We're ready to contribute meaningfully to the next phase of Ghana's upstream journey.

GH-UN: *What would you say makes BUH Energie stand out in this competitive landscape?*

BUH: I'd say it's the combination of local roots and global-standard service. We offer a wide portfolio of services that lets clients rely on a single partner for complex engineering and maintenance work. Our team is deeply experienced, and our commitment to safety, quality and on-time delivery is second to none. That level of dependability is what sets us apart.

GH-UN: *And to close, is there a final message you'd like to share with stakeholders and readers of this newsletter?*

BUH: We're very grateful to our clients, partners and regulators for their ongoing support. BUH Energie is committed to championing Ghanaian technical excellence and driving sustainable operations in the oil and gas industry. Our vision is simple but ambitious—to be the go-to indigenous partner for world-class engineering and energy solutions across West Africa.

GH-UN: *Thank you for sharing your insights. It's been a pleasure learning more about BUH Energie and thank you for your time.*

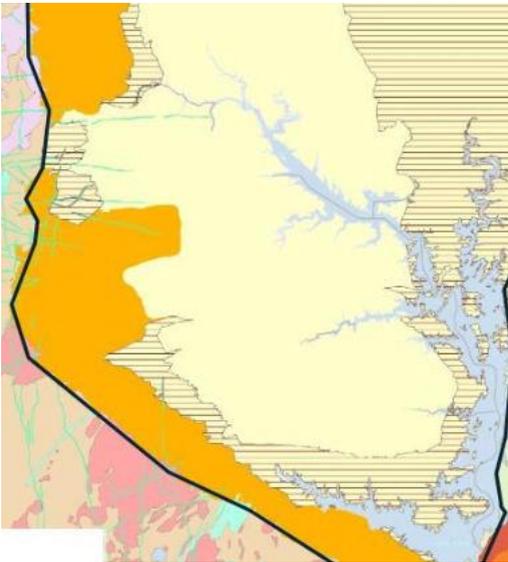
BUH: Thank you. The pleasure is all ours.

The Prospectivity of Ghana's Sedimentary Basins: The Voltaian Basin

Exploration & Appraisal Department

Formation and Exploration History

The Voltaian Basin is the largest sedimentary basin in Ghana, covering nearly 40% of the country's landmass. It was formed approximately 600 million years ago, during a period marked by continental assembly and breakup, global glaciation, and widespread sedimentary basin development.



Despite its vast size, the Voltaian Basin remains the least explored among Ghana's basins of interest of the upstream petroleum sector. Early reconnaissance work by Bozhko and the Soviet Geological Survey Team (SGST) significantly advanced the understanding of the basin's stratigraphy through borehole drilling at key locations, including Yendi, Buipe, Tamale, Prang, Tibagona, Kananto, Larabanga, and Nasia. Core samples from boreholes at Buipe, Nasia, Yendi, and Prang revealed oil and gas shows, providing early indications of petroleum

potential within the basin. Efforts to better understand its stratigraphy and petroleum potential continue today.

Further exploration efforts were led by Shell E&P Ghana, which was granted a five-year petroleum prospecting license on January 10, 1975. Aeromagnetic surveys conducted during this period indicated that the eastern part of the basin was underlain by non-magnetic rocks, interpreted as thick sedimentary sequences with potential hydrocarbon reservoirs. This finding prompted the drilling of the Premuase-1 well, which reached a total depth of 1,167.5 meters. The well was designed to obtain lithostratigraphic data from the Middle Voltaian and upper part of the Lower Voltaian sequences and was located along seismic line KD-4, south of the Atebubu-Kwadwokrom road. Since 2017, the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) has intensified exploration in the Voltaian Basin. GNPC has acquired, processed, and interpreted 6,025 line-kilometres of 2D seismic data and collected 1,732 geochemical samples to improve subsurface understanding

The hydrocarbon potential of the Voltaian Basin is considered promising when compared to other Neoproterozoic basins of similar age and geological setting. Established petroleum systems in the Amadeus Basin (Australia), Illizi, Tindouf, and Taoudeni Basins (North and West Africa), as well as the South Oman Salt Basin, Barnett Shales (North America), and Sichuan Basin (China), demonstrate that basins of comparable age can host significant hydrocarbon accumulations. These global analogs strengthen expectations that the

Voltaian Basin may also hold viable petroleum systems. Together, these sequences record a complex and long depositional history, supporting continued exploration interest. Stratigraphically, the Voltaian Basin is divided into three super-groups:

- Lower Voltaian (Bombouaka/Kwahu Group): Dominated by clastic rocks, mainly shales.
- Middle Voltaian (Oti-Pendjari Group): Characterized by shallow marine clastics, carbonates, and tillites, indicating glacial influence during deposition.
- Upper Voltaian (Obosum Group): Composed mainly of sandstones, particularly in the northern and northwestern parts of the basin.

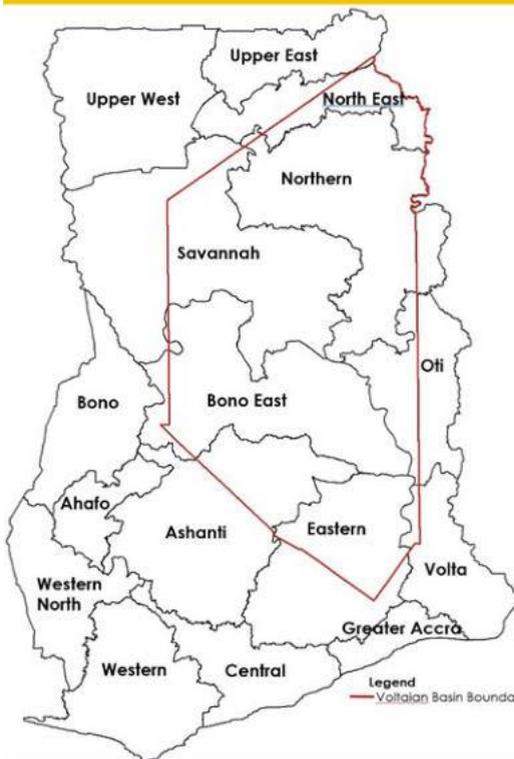
The prospectivity of a basin refers to its potential to host economically recoverable oil and gas accumulations. Evaluation focuses on the presence and quality of source rocks, reservoirs, seals, traps, and migration pathways. Although underexplored, recent exploration results in the Voltaian Basin are encouraging. Soil gas analyses show significant concentrations of methane, ethane, propane, and butane, confirming the presence of active hydrocarbon sources. Interpretation of 2D seismic data suggests the existence of effective trapping and sealing systems, although reservoir quality and migration pathways are still being evaluated.

Advances in exploration technology and ongoing fieldwork continue to strengthen the case for the Voltaian Basin’s hydrocarbon potential. Future discoveries here could significantly expand Ghana’s domestic energy portfolio and contribute to national energy security.

Way Forward

GNPC Explorco plans to drill a stratigraphic well in the Voltaian Basin in the first quarter of 2026. This well will provide direct lithostratigraphic data, enabling improved correlation of rock layers and a clearer understanding of the basin’s geological history and structural framework. Establishing these details is essential for evaluating reservoir quality, migration pathways, and the overall hydrocarbon potential. The results will guide future exploration decisions and help assess the basin’s contribution to Ghana’s energy development. Several companies have already acquired acreages within the basin, including:

- Menxons – 3,820 sq. km
- Bay Veritas – 7,017 sq. km
- GNPC North Block – 5,480 sq. km
- Astron Oil and Gas – 5,480 sq. km



Conclusion

The Voltaian Basin represents one of Ghana's most promising yet underexplored frontier basins. Its extensive sedimentary sequences, favourable structural framework, and positive geochemical and seismic indicators collectively point to the presence of viable petroleum systems. While significant work remains to fully

delineate its hydrocarbon potential, ongoing and planned exploration activities led by GNPC and partner companies mark a critical step toward unlocking the basin's resources. Successful discoveries within the Voltaian Basin could transform Ghana's onshore petroleum landscape, diversify the national energy portfolio, and strengthen the country's long-term energy security.



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Petroleum Commission Deepens Call for Stronger Maritime Security at Opening of Maritime Sector Governance Course

The Petroleum Commission has called for enhanced collaboration and synergy among national agencies, industries, and regional partners to tackle the rising threats facing the country's maritime sector. The call was made by the Ag. Dep CEO of the Commission, Mr. Nasir Alfa Mohammed, during the opening of the Sixth Maritime Sector Governance Course at the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College bringing together over 103 participants from the military, security agencies and industry.

The five-day course, is expected to advance integrated national and regional cooperation, improve joint operations and support the

implementation of Ghana's National Integrated Maritime Strategy to enhance maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea.





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Tema:
Sixth Avenue, Opposite Alisa Hotel, Community Eleven,
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Certifications & Partnerships

Integrated Management System (IMS): ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 45001:2018

Ghana Petroleum Commission registration & Local Content (L.I. 2204) compliance.

OEM & Technical Partners: DenJet (UHP water jetting), KAMAT (high-pressure pumps), Würth (industrial tooling & consumables).

LEEA-aligned lifting practices, DNV / ASME / API / EN / BS standards compliance where applicable.

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