

# Undeterred ExxonMobil pushes forward with Mozambique LNG project

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ExxonMobil is "optimistic and pushing forward" with its delayed Rovuma liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Mozambique and expects a final investment decision at the end of next year, a company official said at an energy conference.



A 3D printed natural gas pipeline is placed in front of displayed ExxonMobil logo. Source: Reuters/Dado Ruvic

ExxonMobil and its partner Eni are developing the Rovuma LNG project in offshore Area 4 in northern Mozambique, with Exxon leading the construction and operation of the onshore liquefaction and related facilities, while Eni concentrates on the Coral floating LNG and upstream operations.

When TotalEnergies declared force majeure in 2021 due to an offensive by Islamic State-linked insurgents that threatened its Area 1 Mozambique LNG plant, ExxonMobil was also affected due to the development of shared and common facilities, such as an LNG jetty and offloading facility.



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"We recognise there are challenges and there are. We recognise that those challenges can be overcome if we work together," Arne Gibbs, general manager at ExxonMobil Mozambique, told an energy conference in Maputo.

"My message is quite simple ... We are optimistic, we are pushing forward," he said of a project expected to enter a front-end engineering and design (FEED) phase in a few months.

## Less harmful emissions

The project, initially slated for 15 million metric tons per annum (mtpa), has been redesigned to a new modular, electric LNG 18mtpa plant that offers more flexibility and produces less harmful emissions, Gibbs said.

"It was important to change our design to a project that is ready-made, that is fit for purpose for the current business environment, including the attention to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and GHG (greenhouse gases)," he added.

In March, Credit Agricole said it would not provide financing to two major LNG projects, including Rovuma, citing commitments to refrain from new fossil fuel developments.

Gibbs said the company recognised that the security situation had improved significantly, due to the intervention of a regional military force as well as military support from Rwanda to Mozambique.

Exxon said in February that it was monitoring security developments in the Cabo Delgado province, where Islamic State-linked militants launched a new wave of attacks this year.

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