

Brent spot \$87.59 ▼ -1.63%	Brent futures (1 mo) \$88.71 ▼ -1.58%	WTI spot \$83.77 ▼ -1.75%	WTI futures (1 mo) \$83.82 ▼ -1.84%	UK Nat Gas (1 mo) 126.00p ▲ +1.44%	UK Nat Gas 137.30p ▲ +0.84%
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EXPLORATION

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Testing time: TotalEnergies chief executive Patrick Pouyanne. Photo: REUTERS/SCANPIX

Critical well test imminent on TotalEnergies' multibillion-barrel Venus discovery offshore Namibia

Production test will start on appraisal well this week, said Pouyanne

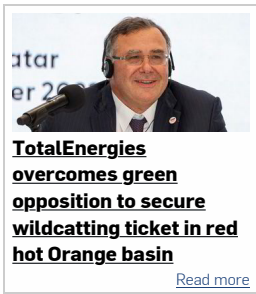
26 October 2023 15:23 GMT *UPDATED* 26 October 2023 15:23 GMT

By [Iain Esau](#) in **London**

TotalEnergies will begin critical production tests this week on an appraisal well at its multibillion-barrel Venus oil discovery offshore Namibia, according to chief executive Patrick Pouyanne.

This vital operation will provide the supermajor with valuable reservoir data which it can feed into evolving geological model for the ultra-deepwater field in the prolific Orange basin, laying the foundations for a commercial development.

An earlier production test on the Venus-IX discovery well met expectations, so hopes are high that results from a similar operation on the Venus-1A probe will be equally successful.



The Venus-1A “test will start this week,” Pouyanne told analysts during the company third quarter conference call on Thursday. He said TotalEnergies needs to carry out the test to better assess the “full size” of Venus and “find the right scheme of development”.

Pouyanne pointed out that the discovery has “quite a good (and) high gas-condensate ratio,” which means the operator will have to find a way of handling a big volume of associated gas — in a challenging 3000 metres of water — while initially exploiting the abundant oil resources.

He told analysts: “We’ll come back to you in late February 2024 with more clarity on Venus,” once the latest flow test, the Mangetti-IX exploration well and another exploration probe to the north of Venus have been completed.

The semi-submersible rig Deepsea Mira will carry out the Venus-1A test, while the drillship Tungsten Explorer has just spudded a probe on the Mangetti prospect. [\(Copyright\)](#)

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