

Brent spot \$82.78 ▲ +2.77%	Brent futures (1 mo) \$82.79 ▲ +2.70%	WTI spot \$78.34 ▲ +3.02%	WTI futures (1 mo) \$78.35 ▲ +3.04%	UK Nat Gas (1 mo) 116.00p ▲ +1.99%
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All smiles: TotalEnergies chief executive Patrick Pouyanne. Photo: REUTERS/SCANPIX

# TotalEnergies completes critical flow tests on huge Namibian discovery

Hydrocarbons flowed to surface on multiple occasions over four days

20 November 2023 6:07 GMT    *UPDATED* 20 November 2023 6:57 GMT

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

TotalEnergies has completed more than a dozen flow tests on an appraisal well at its multibillion barrel Venus oil and gas discovery in Namibia’s prolific Orange basin.

For the time being, results are being kept under wraps by the secretive supermajor — the French giant did not respond to Upstream questions — but any sign of hydrocarbons flowing to surface in a well is positive.



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Africa Oil — which has an indirect 6% stake in Venus through part ownership of Impact Oil & Gas — said that results from Venus-1X are “expected to be confirmed by the Venus-1A drill stem test [DST] programme”.

The Venus-1A appraisal well was drilled in about 3000 metres of water earlier this year by the Tungsten Explorer drillship, and initial results were positive.

This well was cored and logged after reaching a total depth of 6146 metres, about 13 kilometres north of the Venus-1X discovery well.

Last month, the Deepsea Mira semi-submersible re-entered Venus-1A to carry out DSTs whereby hydrocarbons are flowed to the surface — under certain constraints — to better determine their quality and reservoir pressure, among many other vital data points.

This critical information will help build a more accurate geological model for the ultra-deepwater field, determine how big it is and the rates at which oil and gas would flow, so preparing the ground for a commercial development.

An earlier production test on the Venus-1X discovery well met expectations, so the clear hope among partners — which also include QatarEnergy and state oil company Namcor — is that these results will be matched by Venus-1A.

One knowledgeable source last week said that “big” flares had been reported at the Deepsea Mira.

This was confirmed by Africa Oil’s recently appointed chief executive Roger Tucker, who said there were “major flares” at the well location.



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These flares, he explained, disappeared and reappeared on satellite images as TotalEnergies switched the flow of hydrocarbons off and on to assess pressure build-up in the reservoirs.

“So, we’ve tested hydrocarbons to surface at the Venus appraisal well,” Tucker told analysts during the company’s third-quarter conference call late last week.

Upstream understands the flares were visible on about a dozen separate occasions between 9 and 12 November.

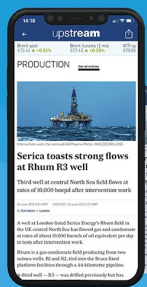
Tucker said: “We would expect to see results in the next couple of weeks.”

TotalEnergies chief executive Patrick Pouyanne recently said that Venus is a commercial project and would be developed. ([Copyright](#))

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