



wintershall dea

ALGERIA

WINTERSHALL DEA

NATURAL GAS FROM THE SAHARA

Algeria – a key gas supplier for Europe

Algeria is the leading natural gas producer in Africa and is estimated to hold the third-largest shale gas resources in the world. In addition, the OPEC member is one of the top three oil producers in Africa. Hydrocarbon exploration and production can however be challenging, due to the huge size of the country and its extreme climate conditions.

Algeria is a major gas exporter to Europe. The country supplies Spain and Italy via pipelines under the Mediterranean Sea, and further European countries via LNG. The Algerian economy relies upon the country's enormous gas and oil deposits in the Sahara.

Wintershall Dea has been active in Algeria since 2002. As part of the country's third International Licensing Round, Wintershall Dea and partners were awarded two blocks in the Reggane Nord Concession in the Saharan Desert.



The Reggane Basin in the Sahara is one of the Earth's hottest regions – a geologically and logistically challenging venture to produce there.

Reggane Nord – located in one of the Earth’s hottest regions

Wintershall Dea holds a 19.5 per cent share in the Reggane Nord concession. The project is operated by Groupement Reggane Nord (GRN), a consortium formed by the project shareholders: Wintershall Dea, Sonatrach (40 per cent), Repsol (29.25 per cent) and Edison (11.25 per cent). Six gas fields form the Reggane Nord Project: Reggane, Azrafil Sud-Est, Kahlouche, Kahlouche-Sud, Tiouliline and Sali. The fields extend over a large area of almost 1,800 square kilometres in the South Western Saharan Desert, one of the hottest regions on earth – making it a geologically and logistically challenging venture to produce there.

The Reggane field was discovered first in the 1960s by the Algerian national oil company, Sonatrach. From 2003 to 2009, the partnership conducted an extensive exploration including 2D and 3D seismic campaigns and the drilling of 15 exploration and appraisal wells. The development plan was approved in November 2011 by ALNAFT (National Agency for the Development of Hydrocarbon Resources). Following a general and challenging development programme, Wintershall Dea and its partners celebrated first gas in December 2017. The Reggane Nord project is expected to be in production until at least 2041.

The production site in the Reggane Basin is linked to an export network via the new-build GR5 gas pipeline built by Sonatrach. At a length of 760 kilometres, the pipeline connects major gas concessions in south-west Algeria with the Hassi R'Mel gas hub, the starting point of intercontinental gas transports to Europe.

The oil and gas sector is the backbone of Algeria’s economy. The Reggane gas project in the Sahara aims to give it a crucial boost.



Future opportunities in Algeria

Wintershall Dea is exploring potential future opportunities in Algeria. In 2020, the company signed an MOU with the Algerian state owned oil and gas company, Sonatrach, to create a framework to identify and potentially access additional business opportunities in the country. It has recently extended this MOU and widened it to include the consideration of projects with a focus on hydrogen and CCS.

Wintershall Dea in Algeria: at a glance

- **Country entry:** 2002
- **Onshore:** Reggane Nord

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