

NEWS

# Colombia finalizes bidding terms for fracking pilots

Bnamericas

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Colombian hydrocarbons regulator ANH has published definitive terms of reference for a selection process to hire contractors for unconventional oil and gas pilot wells.

The document, which can be seen [here in Spanish](#), sets an October 16 deadline for the presentation of preliminary documents ahead of the scheduled publication of qualifiers on October 29.

Bids are due to be submitted on November 3, with contracts to be awarded on November 23, ANH said.

ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, Parex and state-run oil firm **Ecopetrol** are among companies to have submitted plans for unconventional exploration projects in the Middle Magdalena and Cesar-Ranchería basins.

The Colombian Petroleum Association (ACP) has said the initiatives could eventually produce 450,000boe/d and attract US\$5bn in annual investments, helping to replace the country's dwindling hydrocarbon resources.

Last week, energy minister Diego Mesa said the first pilot wells are expected to be drilled by the end of 2021.

His comments followed the publication of [terms of reference](#) for environmental licenses, the final

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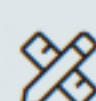
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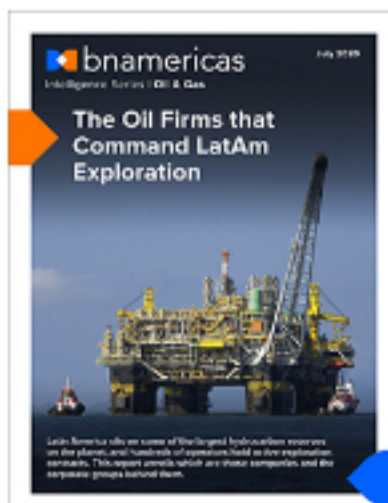
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