

ANALYSIS

Brazil's next open acreage round seen attracting big O&G players

Bnamericas

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Brazil's next open acreage round is expected to attract the interest of federal oil firm [Petrobras](#) and international oil companies such as [Shell](#), [Equinor](#), [TotalEnergies](#) or [Qatar Energy](#). Sofia Forestieri (pictured), upstream analyst at [Rystad Energy](#), told BNAmericas.

Scheduled for December 16, the auction will offer 11 production sharing blocks in the pre-salt

polygon deemed strategic by the government. The blocks are [Ágata](#), [Água Marinha](#), [Esmeralda](#), [Jade](#), [Turmalina](#), [Tupinambá](#), [Itaimbezinho](#), [Norte de Brava](#), [Bumerangue](#), [Cruzeiro do Sul](#) and [Sudoeste de Sagitário](#) and are in the [Campos](#) and [Santos](#) basins.

Nine companies have been qualified by watchdog [ANP](#) to participate in the tender: [BP Energy](#), [Chevron](#), [Ecopetrol](#), [Equinor](#), [Petrobras](#), [Petronas](#), [Qatar Energy](#), [Shell](#) and [TotalEnergies](#).

According to Forestieri, other offshore exploration highlights include the [Aram block](#) and the [Equatorial Margin](#), which is due to receive 50% of [Petrobras'](#) 2023-27 US\$6bn exploration capex, according to its new business plan.

"The Equatorial Margin has a potential above 30Bb, and Petrobras plans a very robust exploration campaign for the region," she said.

The first well, in the [Morpho](#) prospect, is planned for this month, but approval by environmental regulator [Ibama](#) remains pending.

Another 15 wells are planned to be drilled by 2027 by [Petrobras](#) in the [Equatorial Margin](#), which encompasses the [Foz do Amazonas](#), [Barreirinhas](#), [Pará-Maranhão](#), [Potiguar](#) and [Ceará](#) basins.

Regarding onshore, Forestieri said the blocks contracted at [ANP's](#) 3rd open acreage round, held in April, are most attractive.

Small and medium-sized firms like [Imetame](#), [Origem Energia](#), [Eneva](#), [3R Petroleum](#), [Geopark](#), [Petro-Victory](#), [CE Engenharia](#), [Petroborn](#), [Seacrest](#), [NTF](#), [Newo](#) and [ENP Ecosistemas](#) acquired exploration assets in the tender. The assets are in the [Recôncavo](#), [Espírito Santo](#), [Sergipe-Alagoas](#), [Potiguar](#) and [Tucano Sul](#) basins.

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