

THE PROJECT HERALD

THE PROJECT HERALD NEWSPAPER

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**THIS WEEK, VOL. 1: NIGERIA OIL LICENSING ·
DRC–ZAMBIA POWER LINK · KENYA INFRASTRUCTURE
FUND · SOUTH AFRICA’S 9.6GW POWER PLAN · GHANA
SOLAR PROCUREMENT · AFRICA’S \$160.7BN
INFRASTRUCTURE PIPELINE**



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NDDC Joins Global PPP Network as Niger Delta Seeks Private Capital

Commission joins WAPPP to strengthen public-private infrastructure partnerships

NIGERIA | INFRASTRUCTURE | PPP / CAPITAL

October 5, 2026

The Niger Delta Development Commission has joined the World Association of PPP Units and Professionals (WAPPP) as a full institutional member, opening a new channel through which the commission intends to strengthen public-private collaboration and investment across the Niger Delta.

The admission was announced on Monday, 5 October 2026, with NDDC describing the membership as part of its broader effort to reposition the commission around partnerships, investment and sustainable development.

WAPPP is a Geneva-based network connecting public-private partnership units, infrastructure agencies, investors and professional advisers across different markets. NDDC said its membership places it among a relatively small group of public agencies and PPP units participating in the network.

Why It's Commercially Relevant

The move comes against the backdrop of the enormous infrastructure requirements of the Niger Delta. Roads, bridges, water infrastructure, environmental remediation, energy infrastructure, industrial development and other public assets require capital and execution capacity beyond what a single public institution can provide.

NDDC Managing Director Samuel Ogbuku acknowledged that limitation, saying the commission could not shoulder the region's development responsibility alone.

The significance of a PPP platform is its potential to move selected infrastructure requirements away from a purely government-funded model and towards structures where private investors, developers, operators and financing institutions can participate. For the Niger Delta, that could eventually create opportunities around infrastructure concessions, project development, co-investment, technical advisory work and private-sector participation.

What Hasn't Happened Yet

However, the membership should not be interpreted as a financial close or an announcement of specific PPP projects. No individual project, investment value or concession was announced alongside the admission.

The immediate development is institutional: NDDC is positioning itself to use a wider PPP ecosystem to identify, structure and potentially attract private participation into projects across the region. For developers and investors watching the Niger Delta, the more important question will now be whether NDDC converts this new institutional relationship into specific, bankable projects.

Commercial Intelligence: The development strengthens the institutional pathway for private capital to participate in Niger Delta infrastructure, but the next value-creating step will be project identification, structuring, feasibility and bankability.

Development Status: Emerging / Partnership

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Nigeria Moves to Strengthen Procurement Capacity Across Government

BPP launches 2026 training programme as procurement reforms shift toward digital systems and stronger contract oversight

NIGERIA | PROCUREMENT | POLICY

October 5, 2026

Nigeria's Bureau of Public Procurement has commenced its 2026 Mandatory Continuous Public Procurement Capacity Development Training Programme, bringing procurement officers from government institutions together as the federal government continues its push to strengthen public procurement.

The Batch A programme commenced in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, on Monday, 5 October 2026. The programme is designed to strengthen procurement personnel's understanding of transparency, accountability, value for money, procurement regulations, ethics and professional standards under Nigeria's Public Procurement Act. Approximately 700 procurement officers are expected to participate across the programme's batches.

The Reform Direction

But the more important development for the procurement market is the direction of reform accompanying the training. The BPP is pushing procurement institutions towards greater use of digital technology, stronger internal controls and improved monitoring of contracts after award.

That matters because procurement risk does not end when a contract is awarded. A procurement process can be compliant at tender stage and still produce poor outcomes if the selected contractor lacks the technical or financial capacity to execute the work, if contract monitoring is weak, or if released funds are not translated into physical progress.

The BPP has therefore emphasised the importance of ensuring that contractors are assessed for their capacity to execute projects and that procurement systems deliver value rather than simply completing administrative procedures.

Who This Affects

The reforms are particularly relevant to construction companies, engineering firms, suppliers and consultants that depend on public-sector procurement. Greater digitalisation could change how opportunities are advertised, how bids are submitted and assessed, and how procurement information is managed.

Stronger post-award monitoring could also increase pressure on contractors to demonstrate measurable project progress and compliance with contractual requirements. For the wider project market, the reform points towards a procurement environment where government is attempting to connect public spending more directly to measurable project outcomes.

Commercial Intelligence: Contractors and suppliers competing for public-sector work should expect increasing emphasis on documented technical capacity, financial capability, compliance, digital processes and post-award performance.

Development Status: Policy / Reform

Nigeria's Green-Port Agenda Needs Bankable Projects

APM Terminals calls for investment-ready infrastructure as maritime decarbonisation moves from policy to implementation

NIGERIA | MARITIME | INFRASTRUCTURE / CAPITAL

October 5, 2026

Nigeria's maritime decarbonisation agenda will require more than policy commitments if the country is to attract the capital needed to transform its ports and related infrastructure. That was the central message from APM Terminals Nigeria at the second Decarbonizing Infrastructure in Nigeria Summit in Abuja.

The terminal operator called for stronger collaboration between government agencies, private-sector operators, investors and development partners to accelerate the development of bankable green infrastructure projects. The argument is straightforward: climate policy can establish the direction, but capital requires identifiable projects, credible sponsors, appropriate technology, defined revenue structures and manageable risks.

From Policy to Project

For Nigeria's ports, the transition could involve investments in cleaner equipment, electrification, energy efficiency, alternative fuels, improved logistics systems and other infrastructure capable of reducing emissions while improving operational performance.

The commercial challenge is therefore one of project development. A policy announcement does not automatically create an investable asset. Developers must translate the policy objective into projects with defined technical specifications, capital requirements, implementation structures and potential returns. That distinction is particularly important for Nigeria, where infrastructure requirements are substantial but access to long-term capital remains a constraint.

Where the Opportunity Sits

APM Terminals' position also places private port operators directly inside the conversation around infrastructure transition. As operators of major logistics infrastructure, terminal companies have an interest in projects that reduce operational costs, improve efficiency and meet increasingly important environmental standards.

For investors and developers, the emerging opportunity is to identify where decarbonisation can produce commercially measurable benefits rather than treating green infrastructure purely as a compliance exercise. Potential projects could include port energy systems, renewable power, electrified handling equipment, charging infrastructure, energy-management systems and other technologies that reduce dependence on conventional energy.

No specific project or financing package was announced in the development. The significance lies in the call for Nigeria to move from climate architecture towards bankable infrastructure capable of attracting investment.

Commercial Intelligence: The green-port opportunity is moving towards project structuring. The next stage will depend on whether specific projects emerge with identifiable sponsors, financing structures and commercial returns.

Development Status: Emerging / Investment Pipeline

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Liberia Opens Procurement for Data Centre Infrastructure

AfDB-backed project seeks upgrade of main and disaster-recovery data centres

LIBERIA | DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE | PROCUREMENT

October 5, 2026

A new digital-infrastructure procurement opportunity opened in Liberia on 5 October 2026 under the African Development Bank-backed Liberia Payments Infrastructure and Systems Upgrade Project. The procurement notice covers the upgrade of the main and disaster-recovery data centres under the project.

The development places data-centre infrastructure directly within Liberia's broader financial and payments-system modernisation agenda. The project is significant because reliable financial infrastructure increasingly depends on resilient digital systems capable of supporting payment processing, data storage, business continuity and secure financial operations.

Why Disaster Recovery Matters

The inclusion of a disaster-recovery facility is particularly important. A modern financial system cannot rely exclusively on a single physical or technological location. Critical infrastructure must be able to continue operating, or recover quickly, when faced with equipment failure, cyber incidents, power disruption, natural hazards or other operational interruptions.

The procurement therefore extends beyond the simple supply of IT equipment. It points towards investment in the underlying physical and technological infrastructure required to support Liberia's financial-system architecture.

Who Can Compete

For technology companies, engineering firms, systems integrators and specialist data-centre contractors, the opportunity provides a concrete entry point into Liberia's digital infrastructure market. The African Development Bank is financing the wider project, while the procurement notice establishes the route through which qualified suppliers and contractors can compete for the data-centre upgrade work.

The notice specifies that payments under the contract will be processed using the AfDB's direct-payment procedures, subject to the applicable financing and procurement rules. The opportunity is therefore not simply a policy announcement. It represents an actual procurement action attached to an identified development project.

The development demonstrates how financial-sector modernisation is generating demand for supporting infrastructure, from data centres and networks to cybersecurity, payments systems and resilient power.

Commercial Intelligence: Liberia's financial-infrastructure upgrade is creating a procurement pathway for data-centre specialists, ICT integrators and infrastructure contractors.

Development Status: Procurement Open

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Nigeria Opens 40-Block Oil Licensing Round

NUPRC puts land, shallow-water and deepwater acreage on offer as government seeks fresh upstream capital

NIGERIA | OIL & GAS | CAPITAL / LICENSING

October 6, 2026

Nigeria has formally launched its 2026 oil and gas licensing round, offering 40 blocks across land, shallow-water and deepwater terrains to investors. The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission announced the licensing round on Tuesday, 6 October 2026, describing it as part of the country's effort to attract investment and unlock petroleum resources.

The acreage will be available to investors with the technical competence and financial capacity required to develop the resources. The regulatory framework accompanying the round is also being positioned around greater transparency: NUPRC said bidders will be required to disclose their beneficial ownership, while the evaluation methodology and results will be published more extensively.

Beyond the Acreage

That is significant because licensing rounds determine not only which companies obtain petroleum rights but also the ownership, financing and development structures that can emerge around those assets. For investors, the immediate opportunity is access to new acreage. For the wider oilfield-services ecosystem, however, the implications can extend much further.

Successful awards can eventually create demand for geological and geophysical work, seismic services, drilling, well services, engineering, fabrication, subsea services, logistics, environmental services and other upstream activities. But acreage awards do not automatically translate into production. The commercial value of each block depends on geological prospectivity, development economics, fiscal terms, access to infrastructure, security, financing and the technical ability of the eventual licence holder.

The Wider Production Strategy

NUPRC also highlighted a broader production strategy focused on restoring shut-in production and moving major offshore developments towards final investment decisions. The commission identified more than 788,000 barrels per day of shut-in production across 63 operators as an immediate production-recovery opportunity, and said it wants offshore projects representing an estimated \$30 billion–\$50 billion in investment potential to progress towards FID.

Those figures put the new licensing round into a wider upstream strategy. Nigeria is not only attempting to attract investors for new acreage; it is also seeking to convert existing resources and stalled production into actual barrels and gas. For international oil companies, independents, indigenous producers and upstream service companies, the licensing round therefore represents a new point of entry into Nigeria's upstream investment pipeline.

Commercial Intelligence: The 40-block offering creates a fresh upstream investment window, while the regulator's emphasis on transparency and development capacity signals a stronger focus on turning awarded acreage into productive assets.

Development Status: Licensing Round Open

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DRC–Zambia Power Link Moves Toward Financing and Construction

200km private transmission project designed to deliver up to 700MW to the Copperbelt

DRC / ZAMBIA | POWER | PROJECT FINANCE

October 6, 2026

A major cross-border electricity project connecting Zambia to the Democratic Republic of Congo's Copperbelt moved into a new development phase on 6 October 2026 after Gridworks, FIS-RDC, EnPower and Trafigura announced a strategic framework for the project.

The Kalumbila–Kolwezi Interconnector Project involves approximately 200 kilometres of high-voltage transmission infrastructure connecting Kalumbila in Zambia with Kolwezi in the DRC. The project is designed to carry up to 700MW of competitively priced electricity into Katanga, where the mining and industrial economy faces a substantial power deficit.

The Financing Structure

Gridworks is positioned as the lead equity investor and majority shareholder, alongside the DRC's strategic investment fund, FIS-RDC, and EnPower, the project's original developer. Trafigura is arranging debt financing.

The structure is significant because the project is being developed around a combination of equity and debt rather than relying solely on public-sector financing. The interconnector is also designed to strengthen the DRC's connection to the Southern African Power Pool, creating the possibility of greater regional electricity trading.

Why Mining Needs This

Its most immediate commercial relevance is to mining. The Copperbelt contains some of the world's most strategically important deposits of copper and cobalt, but mining expansion depends heavily on reliable and competitively priced electricity. A transmission connection capable of importing additional power could therefore support both existing mining operations and future industrial capacity.

The project is also notable for its private-sector development model. If successfully executed, it could provide a precedent for privately developed and financed cross-border transmission infrastructure in Africa, an area where investment requirements are high and traditional public financing is often constrained.

The project is currently described as being at the final development stage, with key concessions, licences and authorisations secured. The next major challenge is therefore execution: completing financing, finalising commercial arrangements and moving into construction and operation.

Commercial Intelligence: The project connects three investment themes, regional power trading, mining expansion and private infrastructure finance, making its financing and construction progress important to the Copperbelt's future industrial capacity.

Development Status: Final Development / Financing

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Ghana Opens Solar Installer Procurement Under AfDB-Backed Programme

Private companies invited to prequalify for mini-grid and net-metering deployment

GHANA | RENEWABLE ENERGY | PROCUREMENT

October 6, 2026

Ghana has opened a new procurement opportunity for private solar photovoltaic installers under its Mini-Grid and Net-Metering Project. The procurement notice was issued on 6 October 2026 through the African Development Bank's procurement system.

The Ministry of Energy and Green Transition, through the Scaling Up Renewable Energy Project Implementation Unit, is seeking to prequalify private solar PV installers for work connected to the country's renewable-energy programme. The initiative is supported by financing from the Government of Switzerland through SECO, the African Development Bank and the Climate Investment Fund.

Two Separate Tracks

The procurement covers private-sector participation in solar deployment rather than simply the supply of equipment. Under the off-grid component, installers are expected to provide services including system design and engineering, equipment supply, delivery, installation and related services. The programme is divided across geographical zones, creating potential opportunities for qualified firms with the technical and operational capacity to execute distributed solar installations.

A separate procurement notice also covers private installers for the solar PV-based net-metering component. The distinction is important: mini-grid and off-grid systems address electricity access in communities that remain underserved by conventional grid infrastructure, while net metering creates a mechanism through which distributed solar can support electricity consumers connected to the grid.

How to Participate

For solar developers and engineering firms, the programme therefore creates multiple potential entry points into Ghana's distributed-energy market. The procurement also demonstrates the growing role of development-finance institutions in creating structured opportunities for private renewable-energy companies.

Companies seeking to participate will need to satisfy the eligibility and technical requirements contained in the procurement documents. The deadline stated for the relevant prequalification notice is 26 October 2026.

A funded programme has moved into the contractor-selection stage, creating a tangible opportunity for qualified solar companies.

Commercial Intelligence: Ghana's renewable-energy pipeline is opening a defined procurement channel for private solar installers, with development-finance funding supporting the programme.

Development Status: Prequalification Open

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Africa's \$160.7bn Regional Infrastructure Pipeline Enters Mid-Term Review

African Union begins assessment of 69 PIDA projects to identify delivery bottlenecks and opportunities

AFRICA | INFRASTRUCTURE | POLICY / PROJECT PIPELINE

October 6, 2026

Africa's continental infrastructure programme has entered a new review phase as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Steering Committee launches the mid-term review of the PIDA Priority Action Plan 2. The review was launched on 6 October 2026 following a two-day meeting of the PIDA Steering Committee in Addis Ababa.

PIDA is the African Union-led framework for coordinating major regional and continental infrastructure development across transport, energy, transboundary water and ICT. Its second Priority Action Plan covers the 2021–2030 period and contains 69 regional projects with an estimated value of US\$160.7 billion.

Why a Review Now

The significance of the review is that the programme is now moving beyond project identification and into an assessment of delivery, evidence and impact. Large regional infrastructure projects frequently encounter obstacles that are difficult to resolve within a single country, including cross-border regulatory differences, financing gaps, land and permitting issues, procurement delays, weak project preparation, inadequate institutional coordination and uncertainty around commercial structures.

A mid-term review provides an opportunity to identify projects that are progressing, projects that are stalled and projects that may require restructuring or additional support.

What Investors Should Watch

The review also matters to investors because project pipelines can contain substantial headline values without necessarily representing immediately investable opportunities. A project's presence on a continental priority list does not mean that it has reached financial close or construction. The value for the private sector depends on how far each project has progressed through feasibility, transaction structuring, risk allocation, procurement and financing.

The PIDA review therefore creates an important intelligence point for developers, financiers, engineering companies and infrastructure advisers monitoring Africa's cross-border project pipeline. Projects that emerge from the process with clearer delivery structures and identified financing pathways could become more attractive to private and institutional capital. The review is expected to feed into the next stage of PIDA implementation, with further continental-level discussions planned for 2027.

Commercial Intelligence: The review could become an important filter for Africa's regional infrastructure pipeline by identifying which projects are genuinely progressing and which require restructuring, financing or institutional intervention.

Development Status: Pipeline Review

Kenya Begins Deploying \$2.62bn National Infrastructure Fund

Government-backed fund moves from capitalisation into investment as it targets energy, transport, ICT and water

KENYA | INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE | CAPITAL

October 7, 2026

Kenya's National Infrastructure Fund has begun deploying its KSh340 billion, approximately US\$2.62 billion, seed capital, marking a transition from establishing the fund to putting its capital structure into operation. The first disclosed deployment involves purchases of domestic government bonds.

According to the fund's chief executive, James Mworira, the bond purchases are intended to inject liquidity into Kenya's financial system and potentially encourage commercial banks to increase lending to private-sector businesses and projects.

Why a Fund, Not Just Borrowing

The strategy reflects a broader challenge facing Kenya. High public debt-service costs have constrained the government's ability to rely solely on conventional sovereign borrowing to finance new infrastructure. The infrastructure fund is therefore intended to provide another mechanism for supporting development without placing the entire burden on the national budget.

Its mandate covers commercially viable investments across sectors including energy, transport, logistics, ICT, water and agriculture. The fund expects to deploy its initial capital by June 2027.

The Bigger Ambition

More importantly, it intends to use the initial capital as a platform for attracting additional domestic and international investment. The fund has set an ambition to mobilise approximately KSh3.6 trillion over the next decade through co-investment and debt. This makes the structure more significant than a conventional government investment vehicle.

If successful, the fund could function as a catalytic source of capital, using public or state-linked investment capacity to help attract larger pools of private finance into infrastructure. The fund is also considering potential participation in a Dangote-led refinery project in Lamu, demonstrating the breadth of assets it could potentially consider.

The immediate bond purchases do not themselves constitute infrastructure project financing. Their importance lies in the fund's capital deployment strategy and the intention to use its financial position to support a wider infrastructure-investment ecosystem. For project developers, the critical development to monitor will therefore be the transition from financial-asset deployment to direct or co-investment in specific infrastructure projects.

Commercial Intelligence: Kenya is attempting to build a large infrastructure-financing platform around US\$2.62bn of initial capital, with the longer-term objective of mobilising substantially more private and institutional funding.

Development Status: Capital Deployment

South Africa Sets 9.6GW Procurement Direction for Battery Storage and Gas

Government prioritises flexible generation as electricity planning shifts toward storage and dispatchable capacity

SOUTH AFRICA | POWER | PROCUREMENT / CAPITAL

October 7, 2026

South Africa has announced a new electricity-procurement direction that prioritises 9,600MW of battery energy storage and gas-to-power capacity over the 2026–2037 planning horizon. Electricity and Energy Minister Kgosientsho Ramokgopa confirmed the proposed approach to the first Section 34 determination under the country's Integrated Resource Plan 2025 on Wednesday, 7 October 2026.

The allocation consists of 4,600MW of battery energy storage systems and 5,000MW of gas-to-power. The government said the decision responds to the electricity system's need for greater flexibility, storage and dispatchable supply.

Storage and Gas, Not Yet Wind or Solar

Battery storage can absorb electricity during periods of surplus generation and release it when demand increases. Gas-to-power, meanwhile, can provide dispatchable generation when renewable output falls or when additional electricity is required.

The government said the first determination would not provide for new wind or solar capacity. Those technologies are expected to be addressed through a subsequent determination, including hybrid projects combining renewable generation with storage and longer-term pumped-storage development.

Scale and Track Record

The announcement creates a potentially significant project pipeline. Battery developers, gas-to-power developers, equipment suppliers, EPC contractors, financiers and infrastructure investors could all participate as the procurement architecture develops.

South Africa already has experience with utility-scale battery procurement. Government said the first battery-storage bid window had resulted in five projects reaching commercial close and entering construction, representing 513MW and attracting R15.4 billion in investment. The proposed 4,600MW allocation would therefore represent a substantial expansion of the country's storage programme.

The gas-to-power component is equally important because it creates demand for generation facilities and the infrastructure required to supply them. However, the 9.6GW announcement should be treated as a procurement and planning pipeline, not as 9.6GW of projects already awarded to developers. The commercial opportunity will depend on subsequent procurement processes, project specifications, grid requirements, financing arrangements and final

investment decisions.

Commercial Intelligence: South Africa has created a potentially large procurement pipeline for storage and gas generation, with the next commercial milestone being the detailed procurement process and allocation of projects to developers.

Development Status: Procurement Pipeline