
the dragons-pace-what-cnoocs-11th- startup-reveals-about-asias- upstream-resilience

THE SHORT ANSWER

What does CNOOC's Wenchang 16-2 startup reveal about the Asian upstream strategy in 2025?

CNOOC's 11th domestic project startup of 2025, the Wenchang 16-2 tie-back, shows Asian upstream growth now favours brownfield tie-backs over greenfield megaprojects, cutting capital spend and shortening the path to first oil. It reflects Beijing's state-mandated push for domestic energy security, backed by a Seven-Year Action Plan targeting record 2025 crude output.

In this briefing

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02

03

04

05

06

FIG.54.02 · DATA

FIGURES AS STATED IN THE FULL DOSSIER; ESTIMATES MARKED AS SUCH.

What matters

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|----|---|
| 01 | CNOOC brought its 11th domestic project online in 2025, the Wenchang 16-2 Oilfield in the Pearl River Mouth Basin. |
| 02 | Wenchang 16-2 is a tactical tie-back, not a greenfield megaproject, using a new jacket platform tied to existing processing and power infrastructure. |
| 03 | Peak production is expected to reach 11,200 barrels of oil equivalent per day of light crude by 2027, added with minimal new infrastructure. |
| 04 | China is on track for record crude output of 215 million metric tons in 2025, with offshore fields driving over 60% of that growth. |
| 05 | CNOOC is deploying its Hi-Energy AI model for unmanned platforms and targeting more than 1 billion kWh of green power use this year. |

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