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Tanzania will open its fourth bidding round for deep offshore drilling in April 2011, making areas in the Indian Ocean available for oil and gas exploration.

The round will include 13 blocks with depths of 1,200 to 3,000 meters (4,000 to 10,000 feet), the state-owned Tanzania Petroleum Development Corp. said in a statement distributed at a conference in Cape Town. An onshore bidding round will also “be launched during the last quarter of 2010,” the document said.

The east African country is largely unexplored, with 25 exploratory wells having been drilled in an area of 280,000 square kilometers, according to the Tanzania’s [website](#). Tullow Oil Plc, [Statoil ASA](#) and Ophir Energy Co. are among energy companies in the country, according to the statement.

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