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[NEWS](#)

[INVESTING](#)

[Markets](#)

[Metals & Mining](#)

[Energy & Oil](#)

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Tanzania to launch fourth offshore licensing round

Thu Sep 30, 2010 6:23am GMT

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[\[-\] Text](#) [\[+\]](#)

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - Tanzania said on Wednesday its fourth deep offshore bidding round will be launched in the United States around April next year.

The bidding round will include 13 deep offshore blocks located around 1,200 and 3,000 metres below sea, the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation said on the sidelines of an African energy conference.

According to a statement, the country, where London-based, Africa-focused oil and gas firm Ophir Energy was exploring offshore, would also launch an onshore bidding round during the last quarter of 2010.

"The first deep-sea well in Tanzania is scheduled to spud (drill) in middle September 2010," the statement said.

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