



Building the Agbami Vessel in Nigeria

Craig Bloomer, Agbami Project Director

The Agbami Field was the biggest oil discovery in 1998 in the whole world, so it was a huge economic objective to go for, and that's really the only technical way to bring the oil in that deep water to the market — is to do it offshore. An FPSO — that's a floating production, storage and offloading vessel — so it's like a big ship without an engine. All the oil is produced up through that vessel, and then we store the oil in there just like in a crude tanker, and then we offload that oil to export tankers that go deliver the product around the world. Well, the Agbami vessel is floating in the ocean, and then it's connected to the ocean floor by these flexible pipelines that go down to the seabed. And then on the seabed, we have the wellhead, so from there, we then drill down there to the actual reservoir.

The Agbami project took 10 years from the point of first discovery to when we actually started producing oil, and then it's another 20 years of production for its full life. So that gives you a sense that this is a real major investment that takes a long time to get this kind of energy to the public. The Agbami project was a great thing for the Nigerian economy. We employed over 1,000 people. We had training of people all over the world. We created new capabilities in the whole economy.

Anitie Etuknwa, Agbami Control Room Supervisor

This has brought in more Nigerians into the new frontier of technology because deep water is the way we are going now.

Craig Bloomer

The Agbami Field has got another 20 years of production ahead. We've got a lot of drilling still to do. We have to operate safely. We have to respect the environment. And the Chevron team is ready to deliver that. The real rewarding thing for me about a project like Agbami is getting all these people from around the world — thousands of people — to focus on one objective and then seeing something like Agbami come to life. That's a real sense of satisfaction when you've made that happen.