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## The Philippines lines up E&P tender to help curb import dependency

THE PHILIPPINES IS PLANNING TO LAUNCH AN OFFSHORE LICENSING ROUND IN DECEMBER, REVIVING EXPLORATION IN DISPUTED WATERS AROUND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN A BID TO STEM RISING ENERGY IMPORT DEPENDENCY.

THE PHILIPPINES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ANNOUNCED EARLIER THIS MONTH THAT ITS FIRST BIDDING ROUND SINCE 2014 IS EXPECTED TO OPEN IN FIVE MONTHS' TIME. OVER 20 OIL AND GAS BLOCKS ARE LIKELY TO BE OFFERED IN THE DISPUTED AREA OF THE REED BANK, AS WELL AS AREAS AROUND PALAWAN AND THE SULU SEA.

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