

AfricaHARDBALL

Political risk perspectives for the African energy industry



30 June 2009, Bordeaux



Now in its fourth year, *AfricaHardball* is an executive dialogue that brings together policy-makers, industry leaders and analysts to discuss the political issues that will shape African energy markets. Held prior to the start of EnergyNet Ltd's annual *Africa Energy Forum*, *AfricaHardball* is played out under the **Chatham House Rule** – participants can openly discuss critical issues but must not be quoted by name – allowing participants to provide insights rarely voiced in open forums.

The dialogue is led by Jon Marks, *African Energy* editorial director and a fellow of Chatham House – a political scientist committed to understanding the drivers behind the African energy industry. Comment is provided by eminent Africanist Patrick Smith, editor of *Africa Confidential*.

Critical discussion – *AfricaHardball* will open by examining key political events – from the South African elections to the greening of US policy under Barack Obama – to establish a critical dialogue on perceptions of growing global energy insecurity, critical financial and governance issues, and the impact of political events on long-term policy-making.

Key themes:

- **Trust across borders** – Can the AU deliver significant economic and political advances? Is Nepad dead? Cross-border trading is a logical route for the electricity industry to follow, but there is the risk that as soon as brownouts signal supply shortfalls at home, interconnections will falter. Previous Hardballs have asked: is there sufficient trust between nations to make co-operation work?
- **Is the finance there?** – Before the credit crunch new forms of financing were becoming apparent across the continent, from hedge funds to Chinese resources-for-infrastructure deals. How has the financial landscape changed for energy planners?
- **Personal politics** – What evidence is there that African polities are moving away from highly personalised politics towards more transparent (if not predictable) systems?
- **Scenario building** – *AfricaHardball* will close with a scenario-building exercise, trying to establish patterns to the ideas produced by the meeting.

BOOK NOW – places are limited to preserve the roundtable format

Price: €532.22 per delegate (€445 + €87.22 French VAT) (discounts available for multiple delegates)

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