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Total unlocks Vaca Muerta investment, buoyed by shale subsidy and Q1 profit surge

French major Total has fired the investment pistol on the first phase of its operated Aguada Pichana Este license in the giant Vaca Muerta shale play in Argentina.

The company is also increasing its stake in the eastern part of the project, buoyed by Buenos Aires' shale gas price subsidy and on the back of a sharp uptick in quarterly profits.

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