

In the past, the Brazilian government has implemented various economic plans and utilized a number of exchange rate policies, including sudden devaluations, periodic mini-devaluations during which the frequency of adjustments ranged from a daily to a monthly basis, floating exchange rate systems, exchange controls and dual exchange rate markets. We cannot predict whether the Central Bank or the Brazilian government will continue to let the *real* float freely or intervene in the exchange rate market by returning to a currency band system or otherwise. The *real* may depreciate or appreciate substantially against the U.S. dollar.

The following tables set forth the exchange rate (rounded to the nearest tenth of a cent), expressed in *reais* per U.S. dollar (R\$/US\$) for the periods indicated, as reported by the Central Bank.

Year ended December 31,	Exchange Rate of R\$ per US\$			Year-End
	Low	High	Average(1)	
2008	1.559	2.500	1.833	2.337
2009	1.741	2.378	1.990	1.741
2010	1.655	1.880	1.759	1.665
2011	1.535	1.902	1.671	1.876
2012	1.702	2.112	1.959	2.044

Source: Central Bank of Brazil, PTAX.

(1)Represents the average of the exchange rates (PTAX) on the last day of each month during the relevant period.

Month	Exchange Rate of R\$ per US\$			Month-End
	Low	High	Average(2)	
September 2012	2.014	2.039	2.027	2.031
October 2012	2.022	2.038	2.030	2.031
November 2012	2.031	2.107	2.069	2.107
December 2012	2.044	2.112	2.078	2.044
January 2013	1.988	2.047	2.018	1.988
February 2013	1.957	1.989	1.973	1.975
March 2013 (through March 19)	1.953	1.987	1.970	1.983

Source: Central Bank of Brazil, PTAX.

(2)Represents the average of the exchange rates (PTAX) of the lowest and highest rates in the month.

On March 19, 2013, the exchange rate was R\$1.983 to US\$1.00. The *real*/dollar exchange rate fluctuates and, therefore, the exchange rate at March 19, 2013 may not be indicative of future exchange rates.

B. Capitalization and Indebtedness

Not applicable.

C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable.

D. Risk Factors

This section is intended to be a summary of more detailed discussions contained elsewhere in this annual report. The risks described below are not the only ones we face. Additional risks that we do not presently consider material, or of which we are not currently aware, may also affect us. Our business, results of operations or financial condition could be impacted if any of these risks materializes and, as a result, the market price of our preferred shares and our ADSs could be affected.

Risks Relating to Brazil

The Brazilian government has exercised, and continues to exercise, significant influence over the Brazilian economy. This influence, as well as Brazilian political and economic conditions, could adversely affect us and the trading price of our preferred shares and ADSs.

In the past, the Brazilian government has intervened in the Brazilian economy and made changes in policy and regulations. The Brazilian government's actions to control inflation and affect other policies have often involved wage and price controls, currency devaluations, capital controls, and limits on imports, among other things. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and the market price of our preferred shares and ADSs may be adversely affected by changes in government policies, especially those related to our sector, such as changes in telephone fees and competitive conditions, as well as general economic factors, including:

- currency fluctuations;
- exchange control policies;
- internal economic growth;
- inflation;
- energy policy;
- interest rates;
- liquidity of domestic capital and lending markets;
- tax policies; and
- other political, diplomatic, social and economic developments in or affecting Brazil.

Uncertainty over the possibility of the Brazilian government implementing changes in policy or regulation affecting these or other factors in the future may contribute to economic uncertainty in Brazil and heightened volatility in the Brazilian securities markets and securities issued abroad by Brazilian companies. In addition, possible political crises may affect the confidence of investors and the public in general, which may result in economic deceleration and affect the trading prices of shares issued by companies listed on the stock exchange, such as us.

Our business may be vulnerable to the current disruptions and volatility in the global financial markets.

The international economy remains subject to risks and adjustments arising from the international financial crisis. The international financial system remains susceptible to unfavorable credit and liquidity conditions. Foreign and national financial institutions, including some of the largest commercial banks, investment banks, mortgage lenders, guarantors and mortgage insurance companies, could continue to experience significant difficulties, including runs on their deposits and inadequate liquidity. Therefore, the prices of financial assets are likely to continue to reflect risk aversion, with increased volatility.

In an attempt to increase liquidity in the financial markets and prevent the failure of the financial system, various governments may continue to intervene in their financial systems, and perform tax adjustments. There is no assurance, however, that these measures will be successful in stabilizing conditions in international financial markets.

Despite the extent of the above-mentioned interventions, global investor confidence could remain low, the global financial markets could remain volatile and access to credit could still be lacking. The continuation or worsening of disruption and volatility in the global financial markets may have a material adverse effect on our ability to access the capital markets under appropriate financial conditions, which may adversely affect our operations. Furthermore, an environment of economic downturn may negatively affect the financial stability of our customers, which could result in a general reduction in Brazil's economic activity and the consequent loss of income for us.

Political instability may have an adverse impact on the Brazilian economy and on our business.

Political crisis in Brazil may affect the confidence of investors and the public in general, as well as the development of the economy. Political crises may have an adverse impact on the Brazilian economy, our business, financial condition, results of operations and the market price of our preferred shares and ADSs.

Inflation and government efforts to curb inflation may contribute to economic uncertainty in Brazil, adversely affecting our business and results of operations.

Brazil has historically experienced high rates of inflation. Inflation and certain government's measures taken in the attempt to curb inflation have had significant negative effects on the Brazilian economy. In 2012, inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index (*Índice de Preços ao Consumidor*), or IPCA, reached 5.8%, below the upper limit established by the CMN, of 6.5%, but above the central inflation target of 4.5%. In 2013, the Brazilian monetary policy will continue to use the IPCA as a reference for the inflation target. The inflation target for 2013 is set at 4.5%, similar to 2012. If inflation rises beyond this target, the basic interest rates may also rise, directly affecting the cost of our debt and indirectly reducing the demand for products and services related to telecommunications. In 2013, factors that may adversely affect consumer inflation are, among others, the international commodities prices, the impact of buoyant domestic economic activity on domestic prices and the indexation of prices and tariffs.

Since 2006, telephone fees for fixed line services have been indexed to the Index of Telecommunication Service, or IST, reduced by a productivity factor. The IST is a basket of national indexes that reflects the industry's operating costs. As a result, this index serves to reduce potential discrepancies between our industry's revenue and costs, and thus reduce the apparent adverse effects of inflation upon our operations.

The fee rate increase authorized by ANATEL, which references the IST, is reduced by a factor of productivity and applied cumulatively after a period of 12 months. This may cause increases in costs and salaries above and below our revenues, with adverse impacts on our profitability. Increases in interest rates may have a material adverse effect on our business.

The Monetary Policy Committee of the Brazilian Central Bank (*Comitê de Política Monetária do Banco Central do Brasil*), or COPOM, sets the target of the basic interest rate for the Brazilian financial system based on an expectation of convergence between the future inflation rate and the central inflation target. On December 31, 2012, the basic interest rate was 7.25% per year, compared to 11% per year on December 31, 2011. Further increases in the basic interest rate may occur throughout 2013 with adverse effects on our business. According to current market consensus, inflation measured by the IPCA will be higher than the established inflation target of 4.50% for 2013. As a result, the Central Bank may increase the SELIC rate (the Central Bank's overnight rate) in 2013 to align inflation with the inflation target, which may adversely affect our business.

Fluctuations in exchange rates may adversely affect our ability to meet liabilities denominated or linked to foreign currencies or reduce our income in foreign currency, and may have a material adverse effect on the market value of our preferred shares and ADSs.

The exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the Brazilian *real* has experienced significant fluctuations in recent years. Between 2000 and 2003, the *real* was devalued 67% against the U.S. dollar and gained 40% between 2004 and 2010, considering the annual average exchange rates. Between 2001 and 2012, the *real* appreciated by 11.9 % against the U.S. dollar.

As of December 31, 2012, 19.9 % of our R\$ 7.97 billion total financial debt was denominated in U.S. dollars and UMBNDES. As of December 31, 2012, we had currency hedges in place to cover all of our financial foreign currency-denominated bank debt.

Part of the costs relating to our network infrastructure and services provided by outside vendors is payable or linked to payment by us in U.S. dollars. By contrast, our revenue is generated in *reais*, except income derived from hedging transactions, international long-distance interconnection and services to customers outside of Brazil.

To the extent that the value of the *real* decreases relative to the U.S. dollar or the euro, our commitments linked to fluctuations in exchange rates or payable in foreign currencies become more expensive. In return, our accounts receivable denominated in foreign currencies appreciate, which could adversely affect our revenue and expenses.

However, 99.9% of the net balance of the transactions denominated in foreign currencies is covered by hedge transactions. Since May 2010, the company began using net balance coverage, which is the coverage for net positions in foreign exchange exposures generated by invoices issued or received in foreign currencies, substantially reducing the company's risk to fluctuations in exchange rates. By periodically receiving invoices for the net balance coverage and determining the coverage of exposures, the company's corporate market risk department monitors its foreign exchange exposure and commitments linked to foreign currencies so as not to achieve a significant amount of exposure.

It should be noted that the IST, the current index applicable to telecommunication fees for fixed-line services, does not adequately reflect the true effect of exchange rate fluctuations. Thus, since 2006, telecommunication revenue, when converted to U.S. dollars, does not adequately reflect the true effect of exchange rate fluctuations, so that our results of operations could be adversely affected. See "--A. Selected Financial Data--Exchange Rates" for more information on exchange rates.

Political, economic and social developments and the perception of risk in other developed and emerging countries may adversely affect the Brazilian economy, our business, and the market price of Brazilian securities, including our preferred shares and ADSs.

The market for securities issued by Brazilian companies may be influenced, to varying degrees, by economic conditions in both emerging and developed market countries. The reaction of investors to developments in other countries may have an adverse impact on the market value of securities of Brazilian companies. Crises in other emerging countries or the economic policies of other countries may reduce investor demand for securities of Brazilian companies, including our preferred shares. Any of the foregoing developments may adversely affect the market value of our preferred shares and hinder our ability to access the capital markets and finance our operations in the future on acceptable terms and costs, or at all.

Exchange controls and restrictions on remittances abroad may adversely affect holders of our preferred shares and ADSs.

Brazilian law allows that, whenever there is a significant imbalance in Brazil's balance of payments or a significant possibility that such imbalance will exist, the Brazilian government may impose temporary restrictions on capital outflows. Such restrictions could hinder or prevent the holders of our preferred shares or the custodian of our shares in Brazil, Citibank N.A. (acting as the agent for the depositary), from remitting dividends abroad. The Brazilian government imposed restrictions on capital outflows for a six-month period at the end of 1989. If similar restrictions are introduced in the future, they would likely have an adverse effect on the market price of our preferred shares and ADSs.

Risks Relating to the Brazilian Telecommunications Industry and Us

Extensive government regulation of the telecommunications industry and our concession may limit, in some cases, our flexibility in responding to market conditions, competition and changes in our cost structure or impact our fees.

Our business is subject to extensive government regulation, including any changes that may occur during the period of our authorization to provide telecommunication services. ANATEL, which is the main telecommunications industry regulator in Brazil, regulates, among other things:

- industry policies and regulations;
- licensing;
- fees and tariffs;
- competition, including, therefore, our ability to grow by acquiring other telecommunications businesses;
- telecommunications resource allocation;
- service standards;

- technical standards;
- quality standards;
- interconnection and settlement arrangements; and
- universal service obligations.

Brazil's telecommunications regulatory framework is continuously evolving. The interpretation and enforcement of regulations, the assessment of compliance with regulations and the flexibility of regulatory authorities are all marked by uncertainty. We operate under authorization from the Brazilian government, and our ability to retain this authorization is a precondition to our success. However, because of the regulatory framework, we cannot provide assurances that ANATEL will not adversely modify the terms of our authorization. Furthermore, according to the terms of our operating authorizations, we are obligated to meet certain requirements and to maintain minimum quality, coverage and service standards. Failure by us to comply with these requirements may result in the imposition of fines or other government actions, including the termination of our operating authorizations. Any partial or total revocation of any of our operating authorizations would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, revenues, results of operations and prospects. In recent years, ANATEL has also been reviewing and introducing changes in the applicable regulation, especially regarding the interconnection fees among telecommunications service providers in Brazil. Interconnection fees, which are fees charged by telecommunications service providers to each other to interconnect to each other's networks, are an important part of our revenue base. To the extent that changes to the rules governing interconnection fees reduce the amount of interconnection fees we are able to collect, our businesses, financial conditions, revenues, results of operations and prospects could be materially adversely affected.

Therefore, our businesses, results of operations, revenues and financial conditions could be negatively affected by the actions of the Brazilian authorities, including, in particular, the following:

- the introduction of new or stricter operational and/or service requirements;
- the granting of operating licenses in our areas;
- delays in the granting of, or the failure to grant, approvals for rate increases; and
- antitrust limitations imposed by ANATEL and CADE.

Our concession may be terminated by the Brazilian government under certain circumstances.

We operate our business under a concession granted by the Brazilian government. According to the terms of the concession, we are obligated to meet certain universal service requirements and to maintain minimum quality and service standards. For example, ANATEL requires that we satisfy certain conditions with respect to, among other things, expansion of our network to provide public pay-phone service for all locations with populations in excess of 100, expansion of our network to provide private individual telephone service for all locations with populations in excess of 300, and, with respect to quality of service, targets for the number of call completions. Our ability to satisfy these terms and conditions, as well as others, may be affected by factors beyond our control. Our failure to comply with the requirements of our concession may result in the imposition of fines up to R\$50.0 million or other government actions, including the termination of our concession. Any partial or total revocation of our concession would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Moreover, the concession agreements establish that all assets owned by the company and which are indispensable to the provision of the services described in such agreements are considered reversible assets and are deemed to be part of the concession assets. The assets will be automatically returned to ANATEL upon expiration of the concession agreements, according to the regulation in force at that time. On December 31, 2012, the net book value of reversible assets is estimated at R\$6.7 billion, which is comprised of switching and transmission equipment and public use terminals, external network equipment, energy equipment and system and operation support equipment.

The expiration date of the original concession agreements was December 31, 2005, but it has since been renewed as of December 22, 2005 for an additional 20-year term. The current concession agreements contain a provision allowing ANATEL to review the concession terms in 2015 and 2020. This provision permits ANATEL to

update the renewed concession agreements with respect to network expansion, modernization and quality of service targets in response to changes in technology, competition in the marketplace and domestic and international economic conditions.

Important mergers and acquisitions in the market should increase competition in the upcoming years.

Some of the main telecommunication groups in Brazil went through a series mergers and acquisitions in 2012. In December 2011, Sky Brasil (a Brazilian subsidiary of DirectTV), announced the purchase of Acom Comunicações, a Brazilian television and internet company, which was approved by regulators in 2012. Along with the acquisition of Acom, Sky Brasil also acquired grants to operate new 4G spectrum areas in June 2012.

In May 2012, entrepreneur George Soros acquired Sunrise Telecomunicações, a Brazilian pay-TV provider that is now expanding into mobile services. Sunrise Telecomunicações spent US\$9.3 million to acquire two 4G spectrum licenses covering 134 cities in the state of São Paulo. Furthermore, during the last quarter of 2012, Vivendi S.A. decided to sell Global Village Telecom or GVT as part of a review of its business portfolio in the telecommunications industry, including videogames and music. GVT currently sells phone, video and broadband services in 120 cities in Brazil. On March 14, 2013 Vivendi decided to stop the process to sell GVT.

Mergers and acquisitions may change the market dynamic, cause competitive pressure and force small competitors to find partners and may impact our business, in terms of operations, financial condition, marketing strategies and offering of products and promotions.

We face increasing competition from telecom service providers.

The telecommunication industry in Brazil is growing rapidly, partly as a result of increased competition. Our competitors have been using aggressive promotion techniques to increase their client base and, as a result, market share. New marketing strategies stimulate clients to increase their voice and data usage, by offering unlimited network-to-network minutes and daily and prepaid data options. While in 2012 there has been an increase in growth of our mobile client base, there has been a decrease in the number of fixed services added.

Further, in 2012 there has also been an increase in competition regulation aimed at stimulating competition, increasing the adoption of services and reinforcing the quality of services delivered.

Brazilian antitrust regulation is based on Law No. 12,529 of November 30, 2011, which generally prohibits any practice or transactions aimed at restricting free competition, dominating the relevant market of goods or services, arbitrarily increasing profits, or abusively exercising a dominant market position. The new antitrust law has altered several practices in Brazil; particularly, it established a pre-merger notification regime with a new turnover thresholds and extended the maximum period for merger review procedures to 330 days from 240 days. We cannot continue to expand our growth through acquisition of other service providers given the antitrust objections of ANATEL along with the fact that we currently already render SMP service all over the country. Consolidation of other competitors in the telecommunications market will increase the competitive pressure on us due to the increase in their economies of scale and reduction of operational costs, and we may be unable to respond adequately to pricing pressures resulting from consolidation, which would adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our results of operations may be negatively affected by the application of the SMP rules.

Under the SMP regime, our cellular subsidiaries receive payments for the use of their networks in accordance with a network usage payment plan, which includes outbound long-distance calls. Until June 30, 2004, SMP service providers were able to opt to establish a price cap or freely negotiate our interconnection charges. In early 2005, ANATEL began permitting free negotiations for mobile interconnection, or VU-M, fees and by July 2005, local-fixed concessionaires and mobile operators had reached a provisional agreement with respect to VU-M fees for local calls, or VC1 (the agreement guaranteed a 4.5% increase in mobile operators' fees). ANATEL approved that provisional agreement and, in March 2006, approved another provisional agreement of a 4.5% increase for VU-M fees for long-distance calls, or VC2, VC3, and international calls, among the same operators that had made the VC1 agreement in July 2005. The current rule is the free negotiation of fees, subject to ANATEL regulations. In July 2007, ANATEL approved a provisional agreement among us and the fixed-line operators Telemar, Brasil Telecom, CTBC Telecom and Sercomtel and the mobile operators for interconnection fees for VC1, VC2 and VC3 calls that provides for an annual adjustment of approximately 1.97% to interconnection fees in Region I (Telemar's Region)

and an annual adjustment of approximately 2.25% in Region II (Brasil Telecom's Region) and Region III (Telefônica's Region).

ANATEL also issued Regulation No. 460/2007 regarding Number Portability, implementing and developing fixed and wireless Number Portability in Brazil effective as of March 2009, with most costs being borne by the operators. For SMP, Number Portability is applied for wireless codes of access of the same registration area. As of December 2011, there were 242.2 million cell phones in Brazil. From the period beginning in September 2008, when Number Portability became effective, until December 31, 2012, over 3.1 million users had transferred out of, and another 3.1 million users had transferred into, our subsidiaries as their mobile operator. For fixed service operators, Number Portability is applied for fixed codes of access of the same local area. There can be no assurance that this regulation will not have material adverse effects on the results of our operations.

On July 18, 2012, Vivo was notified by ANATEL that it would be required to present an improvement plan, subject to ANATEL's approval, for the improvement of SMP services provided. The plan is aimed to improve services, in particular: (1) call completions; (2) service interruptions; and (3) user satisfaction. Our competitors were also required to present their own improvement plans to ANATEL. Vivo presented its improvement plan to ANATEL and received approval on September 10, 2012.

We cannot predict whether the current regulatory regime will remain in place or whether any future regulatory change or requirements will have an adverse effect on our results of operations. We cannot assure you that our service plan will continue to be approved by ANATEL or that the interconnection rates we negotiated will be upheld or that future negotiations will be as favorable as those that were previously set by ANATEL. If the readjustments that we negotiated are cancelled or if freely negotiated interconnection fees in the future are less favorable to us, our business, financial condition, revenues, results of operations and prospects will be adversely affected.

If the inflation adjustment index currently applied to our prices is changed, the new index may not adequately reflect the true effect of inflation on our prices, which could adversely affect our results of operations.

The Brazilian government currently uses the General Price Index, or the IGP-DI (the *Índice Geral de Preços Disponibilidade Interna*), an inflation index developed by the *Fundação Getúlio Vargas*, a private Brazilian economic organization, in connection with the prices charged in the wireless telecommunications industry. ANATEL regulates the telecommunication industry based on an economic cost model that analyzes companies' total costs based on a theoretical company's costs and other factors. In connection with this model, the Brazilian government used a different inflation adjustment mechanism, the IST index. Under Resolution No. 438/2006, ANATEL will determine the reference cost of using mobile networks (RVU-M) for SMP providers who have significant market power, which will be used in the arbitration case by ANATEL to determine the VU-M fee. In addition, Resolution No. 600/2012, determined that RVU-M, which is calculated based on a cost model, will go into effect on February 24, 2016. As a result, we expect there to be a decrease in 2014 of 75% of VU-M, in effect on December 31, 2013 and in 2015 of 50% of the VU-M. The inflation adjustment of the RVU-M value uses the IST index. In the auctions by SMP of new radio frequency bands, ANATEL has been using the IST index for determining the value of the installments to be paid for the licenses. If this new inflation adjustment mechanism, or any other mechanism chosen by the Brazilian government in the future, does not adequately reflect the true effect of inflation on our prices, our results of operations could be adversely affected.

ANATEL's new regulation regarding interconnection and network usage fees could have an adverse effect on our results.

We are regulated by ANATEL, which issues new regulations ever year affecting many of our areas of operations. Such new regulations could have an adverse effect on our results of operations because: (1) our interconnection charges could drop significantly, thereby reducing our revenues; (2) ANATEL may allow more favorable prices for economic groups without significant market power; (3) the prices we charge in some regions in which we operate are higher than those in certain other regions, and consolidation of those prices, competitive pressures and other factors would reduce our average prices and thereby reduce our revenues; (4) the granting of new licenses may increase competition in our area from other operators, which could adversely affect our market share, thereby reducing our revenues; (5) the inclusion in the calculation of operating profits the remuneration received for the use of the SMP network will increase the cost of renewing licenses; and (6) in ANATEL's general plan of updating the telecommunications regulation, ANATEL targets several areas of vital importance for the mobile telecommunications business, such as regulation to improve the quality of services that can cause the rise of

operational costs, regulation of the virtual mobile operation (MVNO) that can cause an increase in competitive pressure, regulation against *significant market power* (“*Poder de Mercado Significativo-PMS*”) arising from VU-M fee unification among SMP providers of the same economic group having significant market power, that can reduce our revenues, and regulation of multimedia communication (SCM), that can cause an increase in competitive pressure. For a detailed description of the regulations issued by ANATEL and their impact on our business, see “Item 4B. Business Overview–Regulation of the Brazilian Telecommunications Industry.”

The industry in which we conduct our business is continually changing and evolving technologically.

The telecommunications industry is subject to rapid and significant technological changes. Our future success depends on our ability to anticipate and adapt in a timely manner to technological changes. We expect that new products and technologies will emerge and that existing products and technologies will be further developed.

The advent of new products and technologies could have a variety of consequences. These new products and technologies may reduce the price of our services by providing lower-cost alternatives, or they may also be superior to, and render obsolete, the products and services we offer and the technologies we use, thus requiring investment in new technology.

We are subject to certain risks related to conditions and obligations that could be imposed by ANATEL for the participation in the spectrum auction for LTE services.

In August 2010, ANATEL established a new policy regulating the 2.5 GHz spectrum, which requires MMDS (Multichannel Multipoint Distribution Service) companies, including us, to return, by 2013, a significant portion of the spectrum we currently own and to offer cable TV on a primary basis.

On June 12 and 13, 2012, ANATEL held a public bidding for 273 4G lots in the 2,500 to 2,690MHz frequencies. We acquired the “X” band, with a nationwide coverage, for R\$1.05 billion. Given the rules of the public bidding process, which limited the total spectrum each service provider could hold within this frequency, we agreed to relinquish bands “P,” “T” and “U.” used for MMDS services within 18 months of obtaining the “X” band. Sky and TIM will have preferred rights for the acquisition of the “T” and “U” and for the “P” bands, respectively in the cities of Curitiba and Rio de Janeiro and Oi will have preferred rights for the acquisition of the “P” band in the cities of São Paulo and Porto Alegre.

In order to meet the coverage requirements in the 2.5 GHz frequency, cities will have the services available according to the following timetable:

- by April 30, 2013: cities that will be host to the Confederation Cup in 2013
- by December 31, 2013: host and sub-host cities to the World cup in 2014;
- by May 31, 2014: state capitals, the Federal District and cities with over 500,000 residents;
- by December 31, 2015: cities with over 200,000 residents;
- by December 31, 2016: cities with over 100,000 residents;
- by December 31, 2017: cities with between 30,000 and 100,000 residents; and
- by December 31, 2019: cities with fewer than 30,000

ANATEL also held a public bidding for the 450 MHz frequency, in order to meet voice and data demand with mobile technology in rural areas. In the absence of interested participants, those granted rights under the 4G bid were required to take over the infrastructure set up in rural areas, which will be regulated in 2013 according to the frequency acquired.

Under band “X,” which we acquired in the bidding process, we will be required to provide infrastructure in rural areas in the states of Alagoas, Ceará, Minas Gerais, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio Grande do Norte, Sergipe, and countryside of São Paulo, for a total of 2,556 municipalities. The timetable for providing infrastructure in the rural areas requires that 30% of municipalities have infrastructure set up by June 2014, 60% by December 2014 and 100% by December 2015, with a transmission rate of 256Kbps and by December 31, 2017, all of these municipalities will be expected to have 1Mbps. Service providers will be allowed to use other frequencies previously granted to it to meet these requirements.

After receiving the ANATEL study on the occupation of the 700 MHz frequency, published in early January 2013, the communications minister, published Ordinance No. 14, with guidelines for accelerated access to the Brazilian System of Digital Terrestrial Television - SBTVD-T and to broaden the availability of the radio frequency spectrum for meeting the goals set forth by the National Broadband - PNBL. The ordinance also establishes that the FCC develop a proposal to regulate use of the band. The proposal will be put to public consultation, giving conditions for the bidding possibly occur in the second semester of 2013.

Also, targets established by ANATEL associated with a fast paced implementation of networks could impact (i) the ability to obtain municipal licenses for the construction of new sites at the speed necessary to achieve the coverage targets, (ii) the capacity of suppliers to deliver the equipment necessary for this expansion, with possible impact on their prices, subject to targets to acquire national technology, and (iii) lack of workers to meet the expected implementation pace.

Certain of our debt agreements contain financial covenants, and any default under such debt agreements may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and cash flows.

Certain of our existing debt agreements contain restrictions and covenants and require the maintenance or satisfaction of specified financial ratios and tests. Failure to meet or satisfy any of these covenants, financial ratios or financial tests could result in an event of default under these agreements.

The telecom industry, including us, may be harmed by restrictions regarding the installation of new antennas for mobile services.

Currently, there are approximately 250 municipal laws that restrict the installation of new antennas for mobile service, which has been a barrier to the expansion of mobile networks. Those laws are meant to regulate issues related to urban aspects and the alleged effects of the radiation and radiofrequencies of the antennas. There are initiatives for the approval of a federal law establishing new guidelines to create a consolidated plan for the installation of antennas, however as long as the municipal laws remain unchanged, we will continue to run the risk of having limited quality of service in certain areas and may be unable to meet the quality and coverage targets provided for in regulations and service agreements with ANATEL.

The installation of additional antennas is also limited as a result of media and other reports, which have suggested that radio frequency emissions from base stations may cause health problems. These concerns could have an adverse effect on the wireless communications industry and, possibly, expose wireless providers, including us, to litigation. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there is no evidence in the latest medical research that shows any relationship between radio frequency emissions of base stations and health concerns. However, expansion of our network may be affected by perceived risks if we experience problems in finding new sites, which in turn may delay expansion and may affect the quality of our services. On July 2, 2002, ANATEL published Resolution No. 303 that limits emission and exposure for fields with frequencies between 9 kHz and 300 GHz. In addition, the Brazilian government developed specific legislation for the deployment of radio frequency transmission stations that supersedes the existing state and municipal laws. In May 2009, the Brazilian government published Law No. 11934/2009 that limits the exposure for fields with frequencies up to 300 GHz. The new law uses the exposition limits determined by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and recommended by the WHO.

In May 2011, the specialized body of the WHO for research on cancer (IARC) classified electromagnetic fields of mobile telephony as “possibly carcinogenic,” a classification which also includes products such as coffee and pickled foods. The WHO subsequently indicated, in fact sheet no. 193, published in June 2011, that to date it cannot be confirmed that the use of a mobile telephone has adverse effects on health, although it also announced that in 2012 an official assessment of this risk will be conducted, taking into account all scientific evidence available.

New laws may create additional transmission regulations, which in turn, could have an adverse effect on our business. Also, health concerns may affect our ability to capture or retain customers, may discourage the use of the mobile telephone and may result in the adoption of new measures by governments or any other regulatory interventions, any of which could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We face risks associated with litigation.

We are party to a number of lawsuits and other proceedings. An adverse outcome in, or any settlement of, these or other lawsuits could result in significant costs to us. In addition, our senior management may be required to devote substantial time to these lawsuits, which they could otherwise devote to our business. See “Item 8. Financial Information–A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information–Legal Matters.”

We may be required to record impairment charges relating to goodwill and long-lived assets in the future.

For IFRS purposes, we are required to test our goodwill for impairment at least annually. The excess of the book value of a company over its market value may indicate that impairment exists. This impairment test is described in Note 3 to our audited consolidated financial statements. The Company has substantial goodwill with a carrying value of R\$10.2 billion as of December 31, 2012. It is possible that we may be required to record impairment charges relating to our goodwill in future periods, and this would have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

In addition, we are required to record impairment charges on long-lived assets, including property, plant and equipment and finite-lived intangible assets (including licenses) if the carrying value of these assets exceeds the recoverable amount expected from their use. This impairment test is also described in Note 3 to our audited consolidated financial statements included in this annual report.

Risks Relating to the Preferred Shares and the ADSs

Holders of our ADSs may face difficulties in serving process on or enforcing judgments against us and other persons.

We are organized under the laws of Brazil, and all of our executive officers and our independent public accountants reside or are based in Brazil. Also, eight of our fifteen directors reside or are based in Brazil. Substantially all of our assets and those of these other persons are located in Brazil. As a result, it may not be possible for holders of the ADSs to effect service of process upon us or these other persons within the United States or other jurisdictions outside Brazil or to enforce against us or these other persons judgments obtained in the United States or other jurisdictions outside Brazil. Because judgments of U.S. courts for civil liabilities based upon the U.S. federal securities laws may only be enforced in Brazil if certain conditions are met, holders may face greater difficulties in protecting their interests due to actions by us, our directors or executive officers than would shareholders of a U.S. corporation.

Holders of our Preferred Shares and ADSs generally do not have voting rights.

In accordance with Brazilian Corporate Law and our bylaws, holders of our preferred shares, and therefore of our ADSs, are not entitled to vote at meetings of our shareholders, except in limited circumstances set forth in “Item 10. Additional Information–B. Memorandum and Articles of Association.”

Holders of our Preferred Shares might be unable to exercise preemptive rights with respect to the preferred shares unless there is a current registration statement in effect which covers those rights or unless an exemption from registration applies.

Holders of our preferred shares will not be able to exercise the preemptive rights relating to the preferred shares underlying your ADSs unless a registration statement under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, is effective with respect to the shares underlying those rights, or an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act is available. We are not obligated to file a registration statement. Unless we file a registration statement or an exemption from registration applies, holders of our preferred shares may receive only the net proceeds from the sale of their preemptive rights by the depositary, or if the preemptive rights cannot be sold, they will lapse and you will not receive any value for them. For more information on the exercise of these rights, see “Item 10. Additional Information–B. Memorandum and Articles of Association–Preemptive Rights.”

An exchange of ADSs for preferred shares risks the loss of certain foreign currency remittance and Brazilian tax advantages.

The ADSs benefit from the certificate of foreign capital registration, which permits Citibank N.A., as depositary, to convert dividends and other distributions with respect to preferred shares into foreign currency, and to remit the proceeds abroad. Holders of ADSs who exchange their ADSs for preferred shares will then be entitled to rely on the depositary’s certificate of foreign capital registration for five business days from the date of exchange. Thereafter, they will not be able to remit non-Brazilian currency abroad unless they obtain their own certificate of foreign capital registration, or unless they qualify under Resolution No. 2,689 of the Central Bank of Brazil, dated January 26, 2000 and issued by BACEN, which entitles certain investors to buy and sell shares on Brazilian stock exchanges without obtaining separate certificates of registration.