

## RISK FACTORS

### Risks Relating to Our Operations

***Substantial or extended declines in the international prices of crude oil and oil products may have a material adverse effect on our income.***

The majority of our revenue is derived from sales of crude oil and oil products. We do not, and will not, have control over the factors affecting international prices for crude oil and oil products. The average prices of Brent crude, an international benchmark oil, were approximately U.S.\$72.52 per barrel for 2007, U.S.\$65.14 per barrel for 2006 and U.S.\$54.38 per barrel for 2005. Changes in crude oil prices typically result in changes in prices for oil products.

Historically, international prices for crude oil and oil products have fluctuated widely as a result of many factors. These factors include:

- global and regional economic and geopolitical developments in crude oil producing regions, particularly in the Middle East;
- the ability of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to set and maintain crude oil production levels and defend prices;
- global and regional supply and demand for crude oil and oil products;
- competition from other energy sources;
- domestic and foreign government regulations; and
- weather conditions.

Volatility and uncertainty in international prices for crude oil and oil products may continue. Substantial or extended declines in international crude oil prices may have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition, and the value of our proved reserves. In addition, significant decreases in the price of crude oil may cause us to reduce or alter the timing of our capital expenditures, and this could adversely affect our production forecasts in the medium term and our reserve estimates in the future.

***Our ability to achieve our long-term growth objectives depends on our ability to discover additional reserves and successfully develop them, and failure to do so could prevent us from achieving our long-term goals for growth in production.***

Our ability to achieve our long-term growth objectives is highly dependent upon our ability to obtain new concessions through new bidding rounds and discover additional reserves, as well as to successfully develop our current reserves. Our competitive advantage in bidding rounds for new concessions in Brazil has diminished over the years as a result of the increased competition in the oil and gas sector in Brazil. In addition, our exploration activities expose us to the inherent risks of drilling, including the risk that we will not discover commercially productive crude oil or natural gas reserves. The costs of drilling wells are often uncertain, and numerous factors beyond our control (such as unexpected drilling conditions, equipment failures or accidents, and shortages or delays in the availability of drilling rigs and the delivery of equipment) may cause drilling operations to be curtailed, delayed or cancelled. These risks are heightened when we drill in deep and ultra deep water. Deep and ultra deep water drilling represented approximately 25% of the exploratory wells we drilled in 2007.

Unless we conduct successful exploration and development activities or acquire properties containing proved reserves, or both, our proved reserves will decline as reserves are extracted. If we fail to gain access to additional reserves we may not achieve our long-term goals for production growth and our results of operations and financial condition may be adversely affected.

***We do not own any of the crude oil and natural gas reserves in Brazil.***

A guaranteed source of crude oil and natural gas reserves is essential to an oil and gas company's sustained production and generation of income. Under Brazilian law, the Brazilian government owns all crude oil and natural gas reserves in Brazil and the concessionaire owns the oil and gas it produces. We possess the exclusive right to develop our reserves pursuant to concession agreements awarded to us by the Brazilian government and we own the hydrocarbons we produce under the concession agreements, but if the Brazilian government were to restrict or prevent us from exploiting these crude oil and natural gas reserves, our ability to generate income would be adversely affected.

***Our crude oil and natural gas reserve estimates involve some degree of uncertainty, which could adversely affect our ability to generate income.***

The proved crude oil and natural gas reserves set forth in this annual report are our estimated quantities of crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids that geological and engineering data demonstrate with reasonable certainty to be recoverable from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions (i.e., prices and costs as of the date the estimate is made). Our proved developed crude oil and natural gas reserves are reserves that can be expected to be recovered through existing wells with existing equipment and operating methods. There are uncertainties in estimating quantities of proved reserves related to prevailing crude oil and natural gas prices applicable to our production, which may lead us to make revisions to our reserve estimates. Downward revisions in our reserve estimates could lead to lower future production, which could have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

***We may not have a sufficient number of drilling rigs to support future exploration, production and development activities.***

Exploiting our oil and gas discoveries in the pre-salt section will necessitate a larger drilling rig fleet than we currently have. The availability of existing rigs is limited, as is shipyard capacity to build new drilling units. We are continually forced to prioritize between development wells and exploration wells, and we may not be able to secure as many drilling rigs as we will require to meet our exploration, production and development goals.

***We are subject to numerous environmental and health regulations that have become more stringent in the recent past and may result in increased liabilities and increased capital expenditures.***

Our activities are subject to a wide variety of federal, state and local laws, regulations and permit requirements relating to the protection of human health and the environment, both in Brazil and in other jurisdictions in which we operate. In Brazil, we could be exposed to administrative and criminal sanctions, including warnings, fines and closure orders for non-compliance with these environmental regulations, which, among other things, limit or prohibit emissions or spills of toxic substances produced in connection with our operations. We have experienced oil spills in the past that resulted in fines by various state and federal environmental agencies, and several civil and criminal proceedings and investigations. See Item 8. "Financial Information-Legal Proceedings." Waste disposal and emissions regulations may also require us to clean up or retrofit our facilities at substantial cost and could result in substantial liabilities. The *Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis* (Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources, or IBAMA) routinely inspects our oil platforms in the Campos Basin, and may impose fines, restrictions on operations or other sanctions in connection with its inspections. In addition, we are subject to environmental laws that require us to incur significant costs to cover damage that a project may cause to the environment. These additional costs may have a negative impact on the profitability of the projects we intend to implement or may make such projects economically unfeasible.

As environmental regulations become more stringent, and as new laws and regulations relating to climate change become applicable to us, it is probable that our capital expenditures for compliance with environmental regulations and to effect improvements in our health, safety and environmental practices will increase substantially in the future. In addition, because our capital expenditures are subject to approval by the Brazilian government, increased expenditures to comply with environmental regulations could result in reductions in other strategic investments. Any substantial increase in expenditures for compliance with environmental regulations or reduction in strategic investments may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

***We may incur losses and spend time and money defending pending litigations and arbitrations.***

We are currently a party to numerous legal proceedings relating to civil, administrative, environmental, labor and tax claims filed against us. These claims involve substantial amounts of money and other remedies. Several individual disputes account for a significant part of the total amount of claims against us. For example, on the grounds that drilling and production platforms may not be classified as sea-going vessels, the Brazilian Revenue Service asserted that overseas remittances for charter payments should be reclassified as lease payment and subject to a withholding tax of 25%. The Revenue Service has filed two tax assessments against us that in the aggregate, on December 31, 2007, amounted to R\$4,201 million (approximately U.S.\$2,372 million). See Item 8. "Financial Information—Legal Proceedings."

***We may also be subject to labor litigation in connection with recent changes in Brazilian laws relating to retirement benefits affecting our employees.***

In the event that claims involving a material amount and for which we have no provisions were to be decided against us, or in the event that the losses estimated turn out to be significantly higher than the provisions made, the aggregate cost of unfavorable decisions could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. In addition, our management may be required to direct its time and attention to defending these claims, which could preclude them from focusing on our core business. Depending on the outcome, certain litigation could result in restrictions on our operations and have a material adverse effect on certain of our businesses.

***Our participation in the domestic power market has generated losses and may not become profitable.***

We have invested, alone or with other investors, in a number of gas-fired power plants in Brazil. Part of the energy produced by our gas-fired power plants is sold through energy auctions promoted by the Brazilian government at prices indexed to the U.S. Producer Price Index, or PPI, and to the U.S. dollar. We also sell gas directly to gas-fired power plants under bilateral contracts fixed to the same price indexes. More than half of our installed capacity is subject to this pricing mechanism. As a result, we may be unable to pass increases in the cost of producing or acquiring gas from third parties to our buyers, resulting in reduced margins or losses for us. When the price of natural gas rises in the international market, as it did in 2007, not only does the cost of acquiring gas increase, but we also lose the opportunity to sell our gas in the market for a higher price.

The mismatch between the price of energy sold by gas-fired power plants and the cost of natural gas generated losses in the past and may continue to generate losses in the future. However, because increased natural gas prices are related to international prices of other hydrocarbon products, the losses in our gas and energy segment may be compensated by gains in other segments of the Company.

We are also exposed to risk if we are unable to deliver the contracted amounts of energy and gas, as we may be subject to fines or lose our license to generate power from gas-fired plants. There are several factors that may affect our ability to deliver contracted amounts of energy and gas, including our inability to develop the required capacity or secure supply of natural gas, and problems affecting our natural gas infrastructure.

As a result of the foregoing, our participation in the domestic power market has generated losses in the past and may continue to do so in the future.

***Currency fluctuations could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations, because most of our revenues are in reais and a large portion of our liabilities are in foreign currencies.***

The impacts of fluctuations in exchange rates, especially the *real*/U.S. dollar rate, on our operations are varied and may be material. The principal market for our products is Brazil, as over the last three fiscal years over 74% of our revenues have been denominated in *reais*, while some of our operating expenses and capital expenditures and a substantial portion of our indebtedness are, and are expected to continue to be, denominated in or indexed to U.S. dollars and other foreign currencies. In addition, during 2007 we imported U.S.\$13.3 billion of crude oil and oil products, the prices of which were all denominated and paid in U.S. dollars. Conversely, a substantial share of our liquid assets are held in U.S. dollar denominated assets, or indexed to the U.S. dollar, but we do not use forwards, swaps and futures contracts to mitigate the impact of changes in currency values on our operations and financial statements because of their limited liquidity and cost.

Our recent financial statements reflect the appreciation of the *real* by 8.1%, 11.8%, 8.7% and 17.2% against the U.S. dollar in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, respectively, as a result of improvement in macro-economic conditions and reduction in the markets perception of political risk in Brazil and global emerging market risk. The weakness of the dollar against other currencies in general has also affected our results. As of May 14, 2008, the exchange rate of the *real* to the U.S. dollar was R\$1.664 per U.S.\$1.00, representing an appreciation of approximately 6.05% in 2008 year-to-date. Any reversal of this trend could affect negatively the results of our operations.

***We are exposed to increases in prevailing market interest rates, which leaves us vulnerable to increased financing expenses.***

In spite of marked improvements in our credit ratings, which have facilitated our access to fixed-interest long-term capital, a substantial portion of our total debt is represented by structured finance, export credits, trade financing and other similar financing methods the funding of which depends on floating rate instruments, and which for contractual, cost or other considerations cannot be prepaid. As of December 31, 2007, approximately 66%— U.S.\$14,452 million of our total indebtedness—consisted of floating rate debt. In light of cost considerations and market analysis, we decided not to enter into derivative contracts or make other arrangements to hedge against the risk of an increase in interest rates. Accordingly, if market interest rates (principally LIBOR) rise, our financing expenses will increase, which could have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

***We are not insured against business interruption for our Brazilian operations and most of our assets are not insured against war or sabotage.***

We do not maintain coverage for business interruptions of any nature for our Brazilian operations, including business interruptions caused by labor action. If, for instance, our workers were to strike, the resulting work stoppages could have an adverse effect on us. In addition, we do not insure most of our assets against war or sabotage. Therefore, an attack or an operational incident causing an interruption of our business could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

***We are subject to substantial risks relating to our international operations, in particular in Latin America, West Africa and the Middle East.***

We operate in a number of different countries, particularly in Latin America, West Africa and the Middle East that can be politically, economically and socially unstable. The results of operations and financial condition of our subsidiaries in these countries may be adversely affected by fluctuations in their local economies, political instability and governmental actions relating to the economy, including:

- the imposition of exchange or price controls;
- the imposition of restrictions on hydrocarbon exports;
- the fluctuation of local currencies;
- the nationalization of oil and gas reserves;
- increases in export tax / income tax rates for crude oil and oil products; and
- unilateral (governmental) institutional and contractual changes, including controls on investments and limitations on new projects.

If one or more of the risks described above were to materialize we may not achieve our strategic objectives in these countries or in our international operations as a whole, which may result in a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Of the countries outside of Brazil in which we operate, Argentina is the most significant, representing approximately 43.3% of our total international crude oil and natural gas production and 33.3% of our international proved crude oil and natural gas reserves at December 31, 2007. The Argentine government has established export tax rates for crude oil, natural gas and oil products that have negatively affected our results of operations and financial condition. We also have significant operations in Bolivia and Venezuela that represented, respectively, approximately 25.6% and 6.7% of our total international production in barrels of oil equivalent at December 31, 2007. Bolivia accounted for approximately 24.5% of our international proved crude oil and natural gas reserves at December 31, 2007. Since 2005, the Venezuelan and Bolivian governments have taken nationalization measures in the oil and gas sector that resulted in losses and reduction of our proved reserves in these countries. During 2007, the Ecuadorian government increased taxes, forced the renegotiation of contracts, and made other regulatory changes in the oil and gas sector. See Item 4. "Information on the Company%International." Deterioration of the situation in Argentina, Bolivia, Venezuela or Ecuador may have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

#### **Risks Relating to PifCo**

***PifCo's operations and debt servicing capabilities are dependent on us.***

PifCo's financial position and results of operations are directly affected by our decisions. PifCo is a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Petrobras incorporated in the Cayman Islands as an exempted company with limited liability. PifCo has limited operations consisting principally of the purchase of crude oil and oil products from third parties and the resale of those products to us or to third parties. PifCo also buys crude oil and oil products from us, for sale to third parties and affiliates on a limited basis. PifCo's ability to service and repay its indebtedness is consequently dependent on our own operations.

Financing for PifCo's operations is provided by us, as well as third-party credit providers in favor of whom we provide credit support. Our support to PifCo's debt obligations is made through standby purchase agreements whereby we agree to repurchase from the holders of PifCo's notes their right to receive payment from PifCo in the event PifCo defaults on its payment obligations.

Our own financial condition and results of operations, as well as our financial support of PifCo, directly affect PifCo's operational results and debt servicing capabilities. For a more detailed description of certain risks that may have a material adverse impact on our financial condition or results of operations and therefore affect PifCo's ability to meet its debt obligations, see "Risks Relating to Our Operations."

***PifCo depends on its ability to pass on its financing costs to us.***

PifCo is principally engaged in the purchase of crude oil and oil products for sale to us, as described above. PifCo regularly incurs indebtedness related to such purchases and/or in obtaining financing from us or third-party creditors. All such indebtedness has the benefit of our standby purchase obligation or other support, and PifCo has historically passed on its financing costs to us by selling crude oil and oil products to us at a premium to compensate for its financing costs. If for any reason we are not permitted to continue these practices, this would have a materially adverse effect on PifCo's business and on its ability to meet its debt obligations in the long term.

#### **Risks Relating to Our Relationship with the Brazilian Government**

***The Brazilian government, as our controlling shareholder, may cause us to pursue certain macroeconomic and social objectives that may have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.***

The Brazilian government, as our controlling shareholder, has pursued, and may pursue in the future, certain of its macroeconomic and social objectives through us. Brazilian law requires the Brazilian government to own a majority of our voting stock, and so long as it does, the Brazilian government will have the power to elect a majority of the members of our board of directors and, through them, a majority of the executive officers who are responsible for our day-to-day management. As a result, we may engage in activities that give preference to the objectives of the Brazilian government rather than to our own economic and business objectives. In particular, we continue to assist the Brazilian government to ensure that the supply of crude oil and oil products in Brazil meets Brazilian consumption requirements. Accordingly, we may make investments, incur costs and engage in sales on terms that may have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

***We may not be able to obtain financing for some of our planned investments, and failure to do so could adversely affect our operating results and financial condition.***

The Brazilian government maintains control over our budget and establishes limits on our investments and long-term debt. As a state-controlled entity, we must submit our proposed annual budgets to the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management, the Ministry of Mines and Energy, and the Brazilian Congress for approval. If we cannot obtain financing that does not require Brazilian government approval, we may not be free to make all the investments we envision, including those we have agreed to make to expand and develop our crude oil and natural gas fields. If we are unable to make these investments, our operating results and financial condition may be adversely affected.

***If the Brazilian government reinstates controls over the prices we can charge for crude oil and oil products, such price controls could affect our financial condition and results of operations.***

Prices for crude oil and oil products were regulated by the Brazilian government until January 2002, occasionally below prices prevailing in the world oil markets. These prices involved elements of cross-subsidy among different oil products sold in various regions in Brazil. The cumulative impact of this price regulation system on us is recorded as an asset on our balance sheet under the line item "Petroleum and Alcohol Account—Receivable from the Brazilian government." The balance of the account at December 31, 2007 was U.S.\$450 million. All price controls for crude oil and oil products ended on January 2, 2002, however, the Brazilian government could decide to reinstate price controls in the future as a result of market instability or other conditions. If this were to occur, our financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected.

#### **Risks Relating to Brazil**

***The Brazilian government has historically exercised, and continues to exercise, significant influence over the Brazilian economy. Brazilian political and economic conditions have a direct impact on our business and may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.***

The Brazilian government's economic policies may have important effects on Brazilian companies, including us, and on market conditions and prices of Brazilian securities. Our financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected by the following factors and the Brazilian government's response to these factors:

- devaluations and other exchange rate movements;
- inflation;
- exchange control policies;
- social instability;
- price instability;
- energy shortages;
- interest rates;
- liquidity of domestic capital and lending markets;
- tax policy; and
- other political, diplomatic, social and economic developments in or affecting Brazil.

We may specifically be affected by certain initiatives to increase taxation on our upstream activities. In June 2003, the State of Rio de Janeiro enacted a new tax law that imposed a Domestic State Tax (ICMS) on our upstream activities. The State of Rio de Janeiro has never enforced this law, and its constitutionality is being challenged in the Brazilian Supreme Court (*Supremo Tribunal Federal*, or STF). In the event that the state government attempts to enforce this law and the courts uphold that enforcement, we estimate that the amount of ICMS that we would be required to pay to the State of Rio de Janeiro could increase approximately R\$9.1 billion (U.S.\$4.7 billion) per year. In addition, there have been recent initiatives in the Brazilian congress to reform the Brazilian tax laws and there is a risk that the proposed reforms would increase taxation on our upstream activities. Due to the uncertainties related to these initiatives, we cannot quantify what our tax burden would be if the new laws or reforms were approved.

Uncertainty over whether the Brazilian government will implement these or other changes in policy or regulations that may affect any of the factors mentioned above or other factors in the future may lead to economic uncertainty in Brazil and increase the volatility of the Brazilian securities market and securities issued abroad by Brazilian companies. Such changes in policies and regulations may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

***Inflation and government measures to curb inflation may contribute significantly to economic uncertainty in Brazil and to heightened volatility in the Brazilian securities markets and, consequently, may adversely affect the market value of our securities and financial condition.***

Our principal market is Brazil, which has, in the past, periodically experienced extremely high rates of inflation. Inflation, along with governmental measures to combat inflation and public speculation about possible future measures, has had significant negative effects on the Brazilian economy. The annual rates of inflation, as measured by the National Consumer Price Index (*Índice Nacional de Preços ao Consumidor Amplo*, or IPCA), decreased from 2,477.15% in 1993 to 916.46% in 1994 and to 5.97% in 2000. The same index increased to 9.30% in 2003, before decreasing to 3.14% in 2006 and increasing to 4.46% in 2007. Considering the historically high rates of inflation, Brazil may experience higher levels of inflation in the future. The lower levels of inflation experienced since 1995 may not continue. Future governmental actions, including actions to adjust the value of the *real*, could trigger increases in inflation, which may adversely affect our financial condition.

***Access to international capital markets for Brazilian companies is influenced by the perception of risk in Brazil and other emerging economies, which may hurt our ability to finance our operations and the trading values of our securities.***

International investors generally consider Brazil to be an emerging market. As a result, economic and market conditions in other emerging market countries, especially those in Latin America, influence the market for securities issued by Brazilian companies. As a result of economic problems in various emerging market countries in recent years (such as the Asian financial crisis of 1997, the Russian financial crisis in 1998 and the Argentine financial crisis that began in 2001), investors have viewed investments in emerging markets with heightened caution. These crises produced a significant outflow of U.S. dollars from Brazil, causing Brazilian companies to face higher costs for raising funds, both domestically and abroad, and impeding access to international capital markets. Increased volatility in securities markets in Latin American and in other emerging market countries may have a negative impact on the trading value of our securities. We cannot assure you that international capital markets will remain open to Brazilian companies or that prevailing interest rates in these markets will be advantageous to us.

#### **Risks Relating to Our Equity and Debt Securities**

***The size, volatility, liquidity and/or regulation of the Brazilian securities markets may curb your ability to sell the common or preferred shares underlying our ADSs.***

Petrobras shares are some of the most liquid in the São Paulo Stock Exchange (Bovespa), but overall, the Brazilian securities markets are smaller, more volatile and less liquid than the major securities markets in the United States and other jurisdictions, and may be regulated differently from the way in which U.S. investors are accustomed. Factors that may specifically affect the Brazilian equity markets may limit your ability to sell the common or preferred shares underlying our ADSs at the price and time you desire.

***The market for PifCo's notes may not be liquid.***

Some of PifCo's notes are not listed on any securities exchange and are not quoted through an automated quotation system. We can make no assurance as to the liquidity of or trading markets for PifCo's notes. We cannot guarantee that the holders of PifCo's notes will be able to sell their notes in the future. If a market for PifCo's notes does not develop, holders of PifCo's notes may not be able to resell the notes for an extended period of time, if at all.

***You may be unable to exercise preemptive rights with respect to the common or preferred shares underlying the ADSs.***

Holders of ADSs who are residents of the United States may not be able to exercise the preemptive rights relating to the common or preferred shares underlying our ADSs unless a registration statement under the U.S. Securities Act is effective with respect to those rights or an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act is available. We are not obligated to file a registration statement with respect to the common or preferred shares relating to these preemptive rights, and therefore we may not file any such registration statement. If a registration statement is not filed and an exemption from registration does not exist, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as depositary, will attempt to sell the preemptive rights, and you will be entitled to receive the proceeds of the sale. However, the preemptive rights will expire if the depositary cannot sell them. For a more complete description of preemptive rights with respect to the common or preferred shares, see Item 10. "Additional Information-Memorandum and Articles of Association of Petrobras-Preemptive Rights."

***You may not be able to sell your ADSs at the time or the price you desire because an active or liquid market for our ADSs may not be sustained.***

Our preferred ADSs have been listed on the New York Stock Exchange since February 21, 2001, while our common ADSs have been listed on the New York Stock Exchange since August 7, 2000. We cannot predict whether an active liquid public trading market for our ADSs will be sustained on the New York Stock Exchange, where they are currently traded. Active, liquid trading markets generally result in lower price volatility and more efficient execution of buy and sell orders for investors. Liquidity of a securities market is often a function of the volume of the underlying shares that are publicly held by unrelated parties. We do not anticipate that a public market for our common or preferred shares will develop in the United States.

***Restrictions on the movement of capital out of Brazil may impair your ability to receive dividends and distributions on, and the proceeds of any sale of, the common or preferred shares underlying the ADSs and may impact our ability to service certain debt obligations, including standby purchase agreements we have entered into in support of PifCo's notes.***

The Brazilian government may impose temporary restrictions on the conversion of Brazilian currency into foreign currencies and on the remittance to foreign investors of proceeds from their investments in Brazil. Brazilian law permits the Brazilian government to impose these restrictions whenever there is a serious imbalance in Brazil's balance of payments or there are reasons to foresee a serious imbalance.

The Brazilian government imposed remittance restrictions for approximately six months in 1990. Similar restrictions, if imposed, could impair or prevent the conversion of dividends, distributions, or the proceeds from any sale of common or preferred shares from *reais* into U.S. dollars and the remittance of the U.S. dollars abroad. The Brazilian government could decide to take similar measures in the future. In such a case, the depositary for the ADSs will hold the *reais* it cannot convert for the account of the ADS holders who have not been paid. The depositary will not invest the *reais* and will not be liable for the interest.

In addition, if the Brazilian government were to impose restrictions on our ability to convert *reais* into U.S. dollars, we would not be able to make payment on our dollar-denominated debt obligations. For example, any such restrictions could prevent us from making funds available to PifCo, for payment of its debt obligations, certain of which are supported by us through standby purchase agreements.

***If you exchange your ADSs for common or preferred shares, you risk losing the ability to remit foreign currency abroad and forfeiting Brazilian tax advantages.***

The Brazilian custodian for our common or preferred shares underlying our ADSs must obtain a certificate of registration from the Central Bank of Brazil to be entitled to remit U.S. dollars abroad for payments of dividends and other distributions relating to our preferred and common shares or upon the disposition of the common or preferred shares. If you decide to exchange your ADSs for the underlying common or preferred shares, you will be entitled to continue to rely, for five Brazilian business days from the date of exchange, on the custodian's certificate of registration. After that period, you may not be able to obtain and remit U.S. dollars abroad upon the disposition of the common or preferred shares, or distributions relating to the common or preferred shares, unless you obtain your own certificate of registration or register under Resolution No. 2,689, of January 26, 2000, of the *Conselho Monetário Nacional* (National Monetary Council), which entitles registered foreign investors to buy and sell on the São Paulo Stock Exchange. In addition, if you do not obtain a certificate of registration or register under Resolution No. 2,689, you may be subject to less favorable tax treatment on gains with respect to the common or preferred shares.



If you attempt to obtain your own certificate of registration, you may incur expenses or suffer delays in the application process, which could delay your ability to receive dividends or distributions relating to the common or preferred shares or the return of your capital in a timely manner. The custodian's certificate of registration or any foreign capital registration obtained by you may be affected by future legislative or regulatory changes and we cannot assure you that additional restrictions applicable to you, the disposition of the underlying common or preferred shares, or the repatriation of the proceeds from the process will not be imposed in the future.

***Holders of ADSs may face difficulties in protecting their interests.***

Our corporate affairs are governed by our bylaws and Brazilian Corporate Law, which differ from the legal principles that would apply if we were incorporated in a jurisdiction in the United States or elsewhere outside Brazil. In addition, your rights as an ADS holder, which are derivative of the rights of holders of our common or preferred shares, as the case may be, to protect your interests against actions by our board of directors are different under Brazilian Corporate Law than under the laws of other jurisdictions. Rules against insider trading and self-dealing and the preservation of shareholder interests may also be less developed and enforced in Brazil than in the United States. In addition, shareholders in Brazilian companies ordinarily do not have standing to bring a class action.

We are a state-controlled company organized under the laws of Brazil and all of our directors and officers reside in Brazil. Substantially all of our assets and those of our directors and officers are located in Brazil. As a result, it may not be possible for you to effect service of process upon us or our directors and officers within the United States or other jurisdictions outside Brazil or to enforce against us or our directors and officers 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 requirements are met, you may face greater difficulties in protecting your interest in actions against us or our directors and officers than would shareholders of a corporation incorporated in a state or other jurisdiction of the United States.

***Holders of our ADSs may encounter difficulties in the exercise of voting rights and preferred shares and the ADSs representing preferred shares generally do not give you voting rights.***

You may encounter difficulties in the exercise of some of your rights as a shareholder if you hold our ADS rather than the underlying shares. For example, if we fail to provide the depositary with voting materials on a timely basis, you may not be able to vote by giving instructions to the depositary on how to vote for you.

In addition, a portion of our ADSs represent our preferred shares. Under Brazilian law and our bylaws, holders of preferred shares generally do not have the right to vote in meetings of our stockholders. This means, among other things, that holders of ADSs representing preferred shares are not entitled to vote on important corporate transactions or decisions. See Item 10. "Additional Information-Memorandum and Articles of Incorporation of Petrobras-Voting Rights" for a discussion of the limited voting rights of our preferred shares.

***Enforcement of our obligations under the standby purchase agreement might take longer than expected.***

We have entered into a standby purchase agreement in support of PifCo's obligations under its notes and indentures. Our obligation to purchase from the PifCo noteholders any unpaid amounts of principal, interest and other amounts due under the PifCo notes and the indenture applies, subject to certain limitations, irrespective of whether any such amounts are due at the maturity of the PifCo notes or otherwise.

We have been advised by our counsel that the enforcement of the standby purchase agreement in Brazil against us, if necessary, will occur under a form of judicial process that, while similar, has certain procedural differences from those applicable to enforcement of a guarantee and, as a result, the enforcement of the standby purchase agreement may take longer than would otherwise be the case with a guarantee.

***If Brazilian law restricts us from paying PifCo in U.S. dollars, PifCo may have insufficient U.S. dollar funds to make payments on its debt obligations and we may not be able to pay our obligations under the standby purchase agreement in U.S. Dollars.***

Currently, payments by us to PifCo for the import of oil, the expected source of PifCo's cash resources to pay its obligations under the PifCo notes, will not require approval by or registration with the Central Bank of Brazil. There may be other regulatory requirements that we will need to comply with in order to make funds available to PifCo. Nonetheless, Central Bank of Brazil may impose prior approval requirements on the remittance of U.S. dollars abroad. If Brazilian law were to impose restrictions, limitations or prohibitions on our ability to convert *reais* into U.S. dollars, PifCo may not have sufficient U.S. dollar funds available to make payment on its debt obligations.

In the case that the PifCo noteholders receive payments in *reais* corresponding to the equivalent U.S. Dollar amounts due under PifCo's notes, it may not be possible to convert these amounts into U.S. Dollars. We will not need any prior or subsequent approval from the Central Bank of Brazil to use funds we hold abroad to comply with our obligations under the standby purchase agreement.

***We would be required to pay judgments of Brazilian courts enforcing our obligations under the standby purchase agreement only in reais.***

If proceedings were brought in Brazil seeking to enforce our obligations in respect of the standby purchase agreement, we would be required to discharge our obligations only in *reais*. Under the Brazilian exchange control limitations, an obligation to pay amounts denominated in a currency other than *reais*, which is payable in Brazil pursuant to a decision of a Brazilian court, may be satisfied in *reais* at the rate of exchange, as determined by the Central Bank of Brazil, in effect on the date of payment.

***A finding that we are subject to U.S. bankruptcy laws and that the standby purchase agreement executed by us was a fraudulent conveyance could result in PifCo noteholders losing their legal claim against us.***

PifCo's obligation to make payments on the PifCo notes is supported by our obligation under the standby purchase agreement to make payments on PifCo's behalf. We have been advised by our external U.S. counsel that the standby purchase agreement is valid and enforceable in accordance with the laws of the State of New York and the United States. In addition, we have been advised by our general counsel that the laws of Brazil do not prevent the standby purchase agreement from being valid, binding and enforceable against us in accordance with its terms. In the event that U.S. federal fraudulent conveyance or similar laws are applied to the standby purchase agreement, and we, at the time we entered into the standby purchase agreement:

- were or are insolvent or rendered insolvent by reason of our entry into the standby purchase agreement;
- were or are engaged in business or transactions for which the assets remaining with us constituted unreasonably small capital; or
- intended to incur or incurred, or believed or believe that we would incur, debts beyond our ability to pay such debts as they mature; and
- in each case, intended to receive or received less than reasonably equivalent value or fair consideration therefore,

then our obligations under the standby purchase agreement could be avoided, or claims with respect to the standby purchase agreement could be subordinated to the claims of other creditors. Among other things, a legal challenge to the standby purchase agreement on fraudulent conveyance grounds may focus on the benefits, if any, realized by us as a result of PifCo's issuance of these notes. To the extent that the standby purchase agreement is held to be a fraudulent conveyance or unenforceable for any other reason, the holders of the PifCo notes would not have a claim against us under the standby purchase agreement and will solely have a claim against PifCo. We cannot assure you that, after providing for all prior claims, there will be sufficient assets to satisfy the claims of the PifCo noteholders relating to any avoided portion of the standby purchase agreement.

#### Item 4. Information on the Company

##### History and Development

Petróleo Brasileiro S.A.–Petrobras—was incorporated in 1953 to implement the Brazilian government’s hydrocarbon activities. We began operations in 1954 and for approximately forty years carried out crude oil and natural gas production and refining activities in Brazil in the name of the government.

In the 1990s, in a series of legislative actions, the Brazilian state relinquished its monopoly on oil and gas activities. On November 9, 1995, the Brazilian constitution was amended to authorize the Brazilian government to contract with any state or privately owned company to carry out upstream and downstream oil and gas activities in Brazil. On August 6, 1997, Brazil enacted the Oil Law (Law No. 9,478), which established competition in Brazilian markets for crude oil, oil products and natural gas. Effective January 2, 2002, Brazil deregulated prices for crude oil, oil products and natural gas. See “Regulation of the Oil and Gas Industry in Brazil—Price Regulation.”

Our common and preferred shares have been traded on the São Paulo Stock Exchange since 1968. Petrobras was incorporated as a state-controlled company under Law No. 2,004 (effective October 3, 1953), and a majority of our voting capital must be owned by the Brazilian federal government, a state or a municipality. As of December 31, 2007, the Brazilian government owned 32.2% of our outstanding capital stock and 55.7% of our voting shares. We operate through subsidiaries, joint ventures, and associated companies established in Brazil and many other countries. Our principal executive office is located at Avenida Republica do Chile 65, 20031-912 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil and our telephone number is (55-21) 3224-4477.

##### Overview of the Group

We are an integrated oil and gas company that is the largest corporation in Brazil and one of the largest companies in Latin America in terms of oil and gas production and reserves. Because of our legacy as Brazil’s former sole supplier of crude oil and oil products and our ongoing commitment to development and growth, we operate most of Brazil’s producing oil and gas fields and hold a large base of proved reserves and a fully developed operational infrastructure. In 2007, our average domestic daily hydrocarbons production was 2,065 mboe/d, an estimated 98.5% of Brazil’s total. Over 81% of our proved reserves are in large, contiguous and highly productive fields in the offshore Campos Basin, which allows us to concentrate our operational infrastructure and limit our costs of exploration, development and production. In 39 years of developing Brazil’s offshore basins we have developed special expertise in deepwater exploration and production, which we exploit both in Brazil and in other offshore oil provinces.

We operate substantially all the refining capacity in Brazil. Most of our refineries are located in Southeastern Brazil, within the country’s most populated and industrialized markets and adjacent to the Campos Basin that provides most of our crude oil. Our domestic refining capacity of 1,986 mbbl/d is well balanced with our domestic crude oil production of 1,792 mbbl/d and sales of oil products to domestic markets of 1,725 mbbl/d. We are also involved in the production of petrochemicals and fertilizers. We distribute oil products through our own “BR” network of retailers and to wholesalers.

We participate in most aspects of the Brazilian natural gas market. This market has been constrained by the level of domestic gas production and our transportation and distribution infrastructure. In the future, we expect substantial growth in our natural gas activities as we expand our production of both associated and non-associated gas, mainly from offshore fields in the Campos, Espírito Santo and Santos Basins, and extend Brazil’s gas infrastructure.

Internationally, we are active in 23 countries. In Latin America, our operations extend from exploration and production to refining, marketing, retail services and natural gas pipelines. In North America, we produce oil and gas and have refining operations in the United States. In Africa, we produce oil in Angola, and in Asia, we have refining operations in Japan. In other countries, we are engaged only in oil and gas exploration.