

BRASKEM SA
Form F-1
April 06, 2004

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 6, 2004

Registration Statement No. 333-

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form F-1
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Braskem S.A.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

N/A

(Translation of Registrant's name in English)

Federative Republic of Brazil

*(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)*

2860

*(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)*

N/A

*(IRS Employer
Identification Number)*

Avenida das Nações Unidas, 4777
São Paulo, SP CEP 05477-000, Brazil
55-11-3443-9999

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant's principal executive offices)

CT Corporation System
111 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10011
(212) 894-8940

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Donald E. Baker, Esq.
White & Case LLP
Alameda Santos, 1940 3º andar
01418-200 São Paulo SP, Brazil
55-11-3147-5600

Glenn M. Reiter, Esq.
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
425 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10017
212-455-2000

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after the Registration Statement becomes effective.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, check the following box:

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

Edgar Filing: BRASKEM SA - Form F-1

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(3)	Amount of Registration Fee
Class A Preferred Shares, without par value(1)(2)	US\$250,000,000	US\$31,675.00

- (1) Includes class A preferred shares to be offered and sold in the United States and other countries outside Brazil, class A preferred shares subject to the international underwriters' over-allotment option and class A preferred shares which are being offered in Brazil, but which may be resold in the United States in transactions requiring registration under the Securities Act. Offers and sales of class A preferred shares in Brazil are being made pursuant to Registration S under the Securities Act and are not covered by this registration statement. A portion of the class A preferred shares will be represented by American Depositary Shares (ADSs). Each ADS represents 1,000 class A preferred shares.
- (2) A separate Registration Statement on Form F-6 (File No 333-108660) was filed on September 10, 2003 and declared effective on September 17, 2003. This Registration Statement on Form F-6 relates to the registration of ADSs evidenced by the American Depositary Receipts issuable upon deposit of the class A preferred shares registered hereby.
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of computing the amount of the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act based on the average of the high and low prices of ADSs representing class A preferred shares on The New York Stock Exchange on April 2, 2004.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the United States Securities Exchange Commission becomes effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED _____, 2004

Class A Preferred Shares

BRASKEM S.A.

(incorporated in the Federative Republic of Brazil)

In the form of American Depositary Shares

We are selling _____ class A preferred shares in the form of American Depositary Shares, or ADSs. Each ADS represents 1,000 class A preferred shares.

We are selling _____ ADSs in the United States and other countries outside Brazil through international underwriters named in this prospectus. In addition, we are concurrently offering _____ class A preferred shares in Brazil under a Portuguese language prospectus.

The ADSs are listed on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol BAK. The last reported sale price of the ADSs on The New York Stock Exchange on April 2, 2004 was US\$24.13 per ADS. Our class A preferred shares are listed on the São Paulo Stock Exchange in lots of 1,000 shares under the symbol BRKM5. The closing price of our class A preferred shares on the São Paulo Stock Exchange on April 2, 2004 was R\$69.70 per 1,000 class A preferred shares, which is equivalent to approximately US\$24.09 per 1,000 class A preferred shares, based upon an exchange rate of R\$2.893 to US\$1.00.

The international underwriters have an option to purchase a maximum of _____ additional ADSs to cover over-allotments of ADSs. The Brazilian underwriters also have an option to purchase a maximum of _____ additional class A preferred shares to cover over-allotments of class A preferred shares in the concurrent Brazilian offering.

Investing in the ADSs involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 12.

	<u>Price to Public</u>	<u>Underwriting Discounts and Commissions</u>	<u>Proceeds to Braskem S.A.</u>
Per ADS	US\$	US\$	US\$
Total	US\$	US\$	US\$

The ADSs are expected to be delivered on or about _____, 2004.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Global Coordinator and Sole Bookrunner

Credit Suisse First Boston

Joint Lead Managers

Credit Suisse First Boston

Unibanco

UBS Investment Bank

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2004.

Table of Contents

[PHOTOGRAPHS OF FACILITIES TO COME]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
<u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	12
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	24
<u>MARKET INFORMATION</u>	25
<u>CAPITALIZATION</u>	29
<u>DILUTION</u>	31
<u>EXCHANGE RATES</u>	32
<u>SELECTED FINANCIAL AND OTHER INFORMATION</u>	33
<u>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS</u>	37
<u>THE BRAZILIAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY</u>	89
<u>HISTORY AND CORPORATE REORGANIZATION</u>	95
<u>BUSINESS</u>	101
<u>MANAGEMENT</u>	141
<u>PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS AND RELATED PARTY</u>	
<u>TRANSACTIONS</u>	147
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SHARE CAPITAL</u>	157
<u>DIVIDENDS AND DIVIDEND POLICY</u>	168
<u>DESCRIPTION OF AMERICAN DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	172
<u>TAXATION</u>	178
<u>UNDERWRITING</u>	185
<u>NOTICE TO CANADIAN RESIDENTS</u>	188
<u>EXPENSES OF ISSUANCE AND DISTRIBUTION</u>	189
<u>VALIDITY OF SECURITIES</u>	190
<u>EXPERTS</u>	190
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>	190
<u>SERVICE OF PROCESS AND ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS</u>	191
<u>INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED AND COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	F-1
<u>AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE</u>	
<u>SHARE PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT</u>	
<u>BY-LAWS AS AMENDED</u>	
<u>AMENDED AND RESTATED DEPOSIT AGREEMENT</u>	
<u>FORM OF CERTIFICATE</u>	
<u>NAPHTHA AND GAS OIL PURCHASE AND SALE CONTRACT</u>	
<u>1ST AMEND TO NAPHTHA & GAS OIL PURCHASE & SALE CON</u>	
<u>RESERVE POWER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CONTRACT</u>	
<u>AMENDMENT1/POTENCY RESERVE & POWER SUPPLY CONTRACT</u>	
<u>AMENDMENT2/POTENCY RESERVE & POWER SUPPLY CONTRACT</u>	
<u>AMENDMENT3/POTENCY RESERVE & POWER SUPPLY CONTRACT</u>	
<u>AMENDMENT4/POTENCY RESERVE & POWER SUPPLY CONTRACT</u>	
<u>AMENDMENT5/POTENCY RESERVE & POWER SUPPLY CONTRACT</u>	
<u>AMENDMENT6/POTENCY RESERVE & POWER SUPPLY CONTRACT</u>	
<u>AMENDMENT7/POTENCY RESERVE & POWER SUPPLY CONTRACT</u>	
<u>AMENDMENT9/POTENCY RESERVE & POWER SUPPLY CONTRACT</u>	
<u>AMENDMENT 10/POTENCY RESERVE & PWR. SUPP. CONTRACT</u>	
<u>AMENDMENT 11/POTENCY RESERVE & PWR. SUPP. CONTRACT</u>	
<u>AMENDMENT 12/POTENCY RESERVE & PWR. SUPP. CONTRACT</u>	

AMENDMENT 13/POTENCY RESERVE & PWR. SUPP. CONTRACT
AMENDMENT 14/POTENCY RESERVE & PWR. SUPP. CONTRACT
RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY CONTRACT
FIRST AMENDMENT TO RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY CONTRACT
SECOND AMENDMENT TO RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY CONTRACT
THIRD AMENDMENT TO RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY CONTRACT
FOURTH AMENDMENT TO RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY CONTRACT
FIFTH AMENDMENT TO RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY CONTRACT
SIXTH AMENDMENT TO RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY CONTRACT
RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY CONTRACT (RS-789/95)
1ST AMEND TO RAW MATERIALS SUPPLY CONTRACT
CONSENT OF PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP
CONSENT OF PINHEIRO NETO ADVOGADOS

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. This prospectus may only be used where it is legal to sell our class A preferred shares or the ADSs. The information in this prospectus may only be accurate on the date of this document.

This prospectus is being used in connection with the offering of class A preferred shares in the form of ADSs in the United States and other countries outside Brazil.

Dealer Prospectus Delivery Obligation

Until _____, 2004 (25 days after the date of this prospectus), all dealers that effect transactions in these securities, whether or not participating in this offering, may be required to deliver a prospectus. This is in addition to a dealer's obligation to deliver a prospectus when acting as an underwriter and with respect to unsold allotments or subscriptions.

Table of Contents

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL AND OTHER INFORMATION

All references herein to the *real*, *reais* or R\$ are to the Brazilian *real*, the official currency of Brazil. All references to U.S. dollars, dollar or US\$ are to U.S. dollars.

On April 2, 2004, the exchange rate for *reais* into U.S. dollars was R\$2.893 to US\$1.00, based on the commercial selling rate as reported by the Central Bank of Brazil (*Banco Central do Brasil*), or the Central Bank. The commercial selling rate was R\$2.889 to US\$1.00 at December 31, 2003 and R\$3.533 to US\$1.00 at December 31, 2002. The *real*/dollar exchange rate fluctuates widely, and the commercial selling rate at April 2, 2004 may not be indicative of future exchange rates. See Exchange Rates for information regarding exchange rates for the Brazilian currency since January 1, 1999.

Solely for the convenience of the reader, we have translated some amounts included in Prospectus Summary Summary Financial and Other Information, Capitalization, Selected Financial and Other Information and elsewhere in this prospectus from *reais* into U.S. dollars for convenience only using the commercial selling rate as reported by the Central Bank at December 31, 2003 of R\$2.889 to US\$1.00. These translations should not be considered representations that any such amounts have been, could have been or could be converted into U.S. dollars at that or at any other exchange rate. Such translations should not be construed as representations that the *real* amounts represent or have been or could be converted into U.S. dollars as of that or any other date.

Financial Statements

We maintain our books and records in *reais*.

Our consolidated and combined financial statements at December 31, 2003 and 2002 and for each of the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001 have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers Auditores Independentes, as stated in their report appearing herein, and are included in this prospectus.

We prepare our consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting practices adopted in Brazil, or Brazilian GAAP, which are based on:

Brazilian Law No. 6,404/76, as amended by Brazilian Law No. 9,457/97 and Brazilian Law No. 10,303/01, which we refer to collectively as the Brazilian Corporation Law;

the rules and regulations of the Brazilian Securities Commission (*Comissão de Valores Mobiliários*); and

the accounting standards issued by the Brazilian Institute of Independent Accountants (*Instituto dos Auditores Independentes do Brasil*).

Brazilian GAAP differs in significant respects from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or U.S. GAAP. For more information about the differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP and a reconciliation of our net income (loss) and shareholders equity from Brazilian GAAP to U.S. GAAP, see note 29 to our consolidated and combined financial statements.

Consistent with Brazilian GAAP, our consolidated and combined financial statements under Brazilian GAAP proportionally consolidate the results of operations and financial condition of jointly controlled companies which are not our subsidiaries, but which we jointly control with one or more other shareholders. The U.S. GAAP reconciliation eliminates the effects of proportional consolidation for those companies which are not jointly controlled by all voting shareholders.

Share Split

On October 20, 2003, we authorized the split of all of our issued common shares, class A preferred shares and class B preferred shares into 20 shares for each issued share. This share split was effective on October 21, 2003. As a result of this share split, the ratio of our class A preferred shares to ADSs changed from 50 class A preferred shares per ADS to 1,000 class A preferred shares per ADS. All references to numbers of shares and dividend amounts in this prospectus have been adjusted to give effect to this 20-for-one share split.

Table of Contents**Market Share and Other Information**

We make statements in this prospectus about our market share in the petrochemical industry in Brazil and our production capacity relative to that of other petrochemical producers in Brazil and Latin America. We have made these statements on the basis of information obtained from third party sources that we believe are reliable. We have calculated our Brazilian market shares with respect to specific products by dividing our domestic net sales volumes of these products by the total Brazilian domestic consumption of these products estimated by the Brazilian Association of Chemical Industry and Derivative Products (*Associação Brasileira de Indústrias Químicas e de Produtos Derivados*). We derive information regarding (1) the production capacity of other companies in the Brazilian petrochemical industry and the estimated total Brazilian domestic consumption of petrochemical products principally from reports published by the Brazilian Association of Chemical Industry and Derivative Products and (2) the production capacity of other companies in the Latin American petrochemical industry principally from reports published by Chem Systems, Inc. and Chemical Market Associates Inc. Although we have no reason to believe that any of this information is inaccurate in any material respect, neither we nor the underwriters have independently verified the production capacity, market share, market size or similar data provided by third parties or derived from industry or general publications.

Technical and Other Terms

As used in this prospectus, the following terms have these meanings:

EDC	ethylene dichloride, a product of our Vinyls Unit.
first generation producer	a petrochemical cracker that transforms or cracks naphtha and other inputs into basic petrochemicals, such as ethylene and propylene.
HDPE	high density polyethylene, a product of our Polyolefins Unit.
LDPE	low density polyethylene, a product of our Polyolefins Unit.
LLDPE	linear low density polyethylene, a product of our Polyolefins Unit.
PET	polyethylene terephthalate, a product of our Business Development Unit.
production capacity	the annual projected capacity for a particular facility, calculated based upon operations 24 hours for each day of a year and deducting scheduled downtime for regular maintenance.
PVC	polyvinylchloride, a product of our Vinyls Unit.
second generation producer	a producer of resins and other intermediate petrochemical products.
third generation producer	a producer that transforms resins and other intermediate petrochemical products into end-products, such as film, piping and containers.
ton	a metric ton, which is equal to 1,000 kilograms or 2,204.62 pounds.

Rounding

We have made rounding adjustments to reach some of the figures included in this prospectus. As a result, numerical figures shown as totals in some tables may not be an arithmetic aggregation of the figures that preceded them.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains forward-looking statements. Some of the matters discussed concerning our business operations and financial performance include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act.

Statements that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions or that include words such as *expects*, *anticipates*, *intends*, *plans*, *believes*, *estimates* and similar expressions are forward-looking statements. Although we believe that these forward-looking statements are based upon reasonable assumptions, these statements are subject to several risks and uncertainties and are made in light of information currently available to us.

Our forward-looking statements may be influenced by factors, including the following:

general economic, political and business conditions in our company's markets, both in Brazil and abroad, including demand and prices for petrochemical products;

interest rate fluctuations, inflation and exchange rate movements of the *real* in relation to the U.S. dollar;

the cyclical nature of the Brazilian and global petrochemical industries;

the level of our indebtedness and related debt service requirements;

our ability to obtain financing on satisfactory terms;

competition;

actions taken by our major shareholders and other shareholders with options or convertible securities entitling them to acquire significant numbers of our shares;

prices of naphtha and other raw materials;

decisions rendered in pending major tax, labor and other legal proceedings;

final decisions by Brazilian antitrust authorities of the transactions providing for the formation of our company as it exists today; and

other factors identified or discussed under *Risk Factors*.

Our forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and the actual results or developments may differ materially from the expectations expressed in the forward-looking statements. As for the forward-looking statements that relate to future financial results and other projections, actual results will be different due to the inherent uncertainty of estimates, forecasts and projections. Because of these uncertainties, you should not rely on these forward-looking statements.

We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights information presented in greater detail elsewhere in this prospectus. This summary is not complete and does not contain all the information you should consider before investing in the ADSs. You should carefully read this entire prospectus before investing, including Risk Factors and our consolidated and combined financial statements.

Braskem

We are the leading petrochemical company in Latin America and one of the five largest private sector industrial companies in Brazil, based on net sales revenue for 2003. We recorded net income of R\$215.1 million in 2003 on net sales revenue of R\$10,135.8 million, in each case under Brazilian GAAP. We produce a diversified portfolio of petrochemical products and have a strategic focus on polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC. We are the only Brazilian company with integrated first and second generation petrochemical production facilities, and we have 13 plants in Brazil.

We have grown over the past three years primarily as the result of the integration of the operations of six Brazilian petrochemical companies: our company, which was formerly named Copene Petroquímica do Nordeste S.A.; OPP Química S.A., or OPP Química; Polialden Petroquímica S.A., or Polialden; Trikem S.A., or Trikem; Proppet S.A., or Proppet; and Nitrocarbono S.A., or Nitrocarbono. We have merged with these companies, other than Polialden. Our business operations are organized into four business units, which correspond to our principal production processes and products:

Basic Petrochemicals, which accounted for R\$4,765.3 million, or 47.8%, of the net sales revenue of all segments, including net sales to our other business units, and had an operating margin of 10.5% in 2003;

Polyolefins, which accounted for R\$3,386.8 million, or 33.9%, of the net sales revenue of all segments and had an operating margin of 15.6% in 2003;

Vinyls, which accounted for R\$1,371.8 million, or 13.7%, of the net sales revenue of all segments and had an operating margin of 22.9% in 2003; and

Business Development, which accounted for R\$455.3 million, or 4.6%, of the net sales revenue of all segments and had an operating margin of 6.3% in 2003.

We believe the integration of the operations of the companies that formed our company has produced, and will continue to provide, significant synergies and cost savings from reduced taxes, procurement and logistics expenses, general and administrative expenses and other operating expenses.

Basic Petrochemicals Unit

We are the leading producer of ethylene and propylene in Brazil based on sales volumes in 2003. At December 31, 2003, our Basic Petrochemicals facilities had the largest production capacity of all first generation producers in Latin America. Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit produces a broad range of basic petrochemicals, including:

olefins, such as ethylene, polymer and chemical grade propylene, butadiene, isoprene and butenel; and

aromatics, such as benzene, toluene, para-xylene and ortho-xylene.

The products of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit are used primarily in the manufacture of intermediate petrochemical products, including those manufactured by our other business units. The operations of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit are conducted at facilities located in the petrochemical complex located in Camaçari in the State of Bahia, which we refer to as the Northeastern Complex.

Table of Contents

Polyolefins Unit

We are the leading producer of polyolefins in Brazil based on sales volumes in 2003. At December 31, 2003, our polyolefins production facilities had the largest production capacity of all second generation producers of polyolefins products in Latin America. Our Polyolefins Unit produces:

polyethylene, including LDPE, LLDPE, HDPE and ultra high molecular weight polyethylene; and

polypropylene.

Approximately two-thirds of our Polyolefins Unit's sales volumes in 2003 was derived from the sale of polyethylene products, and the remainder was derived from the sale of polypropylene products.

In 2003, we had an approximate 30% share of the Brazilian polyethylene market and an approximate 40% share of the Brazilian polypropylene market, based on sales volumes. We hold the leading market shares in Brazil in three of our four polyethylene product lines.

We manufacture a broad range of polyolefins products for use in consumer and industrial applications, including plastic films for food and industrial packaging; bottles, shopping bags and other consumer goods containers; automotive parts; and household appliances.

Our polyolefins products are manufactured in facilities located in the Northeastern Complex and in the petrochemical complex located in Triunfo in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, which we refer to as the Southern Complex.

Vinyls Unit

We are the leading producer of PVC in Brazil, based on sales volumes in 2003. At December 31, 2003, our PVC production facilities had the largest production capacity of all second generation producers of PVC in Latin America.

Our Vinyls Unit is the only vertically integrated producer of PVC in Brazil. Our PVC production is integrated through our production of chlorine and other raw materials. Our Vinyls Unit also manufactures caustic soda, which is used by producers of aluminum and paper; EDC; and chlorine, which is used internally to manufacture EDC. Approximately two-thirds of our Vinyls Unit's net sales revenue in 2003 was derived from the sale of PVC products.

In 2003, we had an approximate 57% share of the Brazilian PVC market based on sales volumes. PVC is a versatile polymer. We manufacture a broad range of PVC resins used in the manufacture of industrial products used in the construction industry, including pipes, sheeting, flooring, fittings and wire and cable coverings; and household and other products, including plastic films and laminated sheets, packaging materials, synthetic leather, window frames and bottles.

Our vinyls products are manufactured in facilities located in the States of Bahia, Alagoas and São Paulo.

Business Development Unit

The principal products of our Business Development Unit are PET and caprolactam. PET is used in manufacturing packaging for soft drinks, medications, cleaning products, mineral water and food products, while caprolactam is used in manufacturing Nylon-6 textile thread. Our Business Development Unit also manages certain of our equity investments.

In 2003, 56.1% of our Business Development Unit's net sales revenue was derived from the sale of PET, and 30.3% was derived from the sale of caprolactam. Our Business Development Unit conducts its manufacturing operations in two plants located in the Northeastern Complex.

Table of Contents

Jointly Controlled Companies

We own 29.5% of the voting and total share capital of Copesul Companhia Petroquímica do Sul, or Copesul, the first generation producer based in the Southern Complex. Copesul is the second largest first generation producer in Brazil, with an annual ethylene production capacity of 1,135,000 tons and an annual propylene production capacity of 581,000 tons. In 2003, Copesul's net income on a consolidated basis was R\$149.9 million on net sales revenue of R\$4,177.9 million, in each case as adjusted to conform to our accounting policies. We are required, under Brazilian GAAP, to account for our interests in Copesul in our financial statements using the proportional consolidation method.

We also own 33.9% of the total share capital of Politeno Indústria e Comércio S.A., or Politeno, including 35.0% of its voting share capital. Politeno is a second generation petrochemical producer operating in the Northeastern Complex. Politeno has an annual production capacity of 145,000 tons of LDPE, and an annual production capacity of 195,000 tons of LLDPE and HDPE. In 2003, Politeno's net income was R\$67.2 million on net sales revenue of R\$943.9 million. We are required, under Brazilian GAAP, to account for our interests in Politeno in our financial statements using the proportional consolidation method.

Strategy

Our vision is to strengthen our position as a world-class petrochemical company. We seek to reinforce our leading position in the Latin American petrochemical market, with a strategic focus on polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC and integration with our production of ethylene and propylene. Our business model focuses on enhancing shareholder value, with strategic drivers consisting of market leadership, cost competitiveness and technological autonomy.

We are the first Brazilian company to integrate first and second generation petrochemical production facilities. Our competitive advantages are derived from our leadership position in the Latin American market and our favorable cost structure, resulting from our production scale and synergies realized from the integration process that formed our company.

The key elements of our strategy include:

Focus on Customer Relationships we seek to establish close, long-term relationships with our customers, which foster customer loyalty during periods of lower demand.

Pursuit of Selected Business Opportunities we are pursuing business opportunities by developing new and specialized products.

Expansion of Our Production Capacity we plan to expand our production capacity, primarily through efficiency enhancements and by modernizing our production technology.

Continued Reductions in Operating Costs and Increases in Operating Efficiencies we have an ongoing program to increase operating efficiencies and to reduce operating costs.

Commitment to Our Employees and Our Communities we are focused on our human resources, which are vital to our competitiveness and growth, and we are also committed to improving the quality of life in the communities in which our facilities are located.

Principal Shareholders

Our controlling shareholder is the Odebrecht Group, which is one of the 10 largest Brazilian private sector conglomerates based upon net sales revenue for 2003. The Odebrecht Group also controls Construtora Norberto Odebrecht S.A., one of the largest heavy construction and engineering companies in Latin America. The Odebrecht Group, through Odebrecht S.A., or Odebrecht, and its wholly-owned subsidiary, ODBPAR Investimentos S.A., or ODBPAR Investments, directly owns 38.5% of our total share capital, including 42.9% of our voting share capital. In addition, the Odebrecht Group owns 50.1% of

Table of Contents

the voting share capital of Nordeste Química S.A. Norquisa, or Norquisa, which owns 10.7% of our total share capital, including 29.4% of our voting share capital.

Petrobras Química S.A., or Petroquisa, a subsidiary of Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. Petrobras, or Petrobras, which is Brazil's national oil company has an option exercisable through April 2005 to acquire from us, and in certain circumstances from the Odebrecht Group, a number of our common and preferred shares that would provide it with the same equity participation in our voting and total shares as the participation owned collectively by (1) the Odebrecht Group, (2) Petroquímica da Bahia S.A., or Petroquímica da Bahia, which together with its affiliates form a group of companies controlled by the Mariani family, or the Mariani Group, and (3) Norquisa. Accordingly, Petroquisa may become one of the principal shareholders in our company through exercise of this option. We cannot predict whether or not Petroquisa will exercise this option.

The Odebrecht Group has entered into memoranda of understanding with (1) Petroquisa, (2) the pension fund of Banco do Brasil (*Caixa de Previdência dos Funcionários do Banco do Brasil*), or Previ, and the pension fund of Petrobras (*Fundação Petrobras de Seguridade Social Petros*), or Petros, and (3) Petroquímica da Bahia, a member of the Mariani Group and the controlling shareholder of Pronor Petroquímica S.A., or Pronor, with respect to, among other things, the voting and transfer of our shares.

The following chart presents our current ownership structure. The percentages in bold italics represent the percentage of the voting share capital owned directly by each shareholder, and the percentages not in bold italics represent the percentage of the total share capital owned by each shareholder.

-
- (1) Includes, in addition to direct shareholdings, 969,303 ADSs outstanding, representing 969,303,000 class A preferred shares, or 1.3% of our total share capital.
 - (2) Pronor is controlled by Petroquímica da Bahia.
 - (3) Our subsidiary Copene Participações S.A. owns 0.3% of our total share capital, including 0.6% of our voting share capital.

Our registered office is at Rua Eteno, 1561, CEP 42810-000, Camaçari, Bahia, Brazil, and our telephone number at this address is 55-71-632-5102. Our principal executive office is at Avenida das Nações Unidas, 4777, São Paulo, SP, CEP 05477-000, Brazil, and our telephone number at this address is 55-11-3443-9999.

Table of Contents

The Offering

Issuer	Braskem S.A.
Global offering	The global offering consists of the international offering and the Brazilian offering.
International offering	ADSs, representing class A preferred shares, are being offered through the international underwriters in the United States and other countries outside Brazil.
Brazilian offering	Concurrently with the international offering, class A preferred shares are being offered by the Brazilian underwriters in Brazil.
ADSs	Each ADS represents 1,000 class A preferred shares. ADSs will be evidenced by American depository receipts, or ADRs.
Offering price	The initial public offering price for the international offering is set forth on the cover page of this prospectus. The offering price for the Brazilian offering is R\$ per 1,000 class A preferred shares, which is the approximate real equivalent of the offering price per ADS in the international offering, based upon an exchange rate of R\$ to US\$1.00.
Over-allotment options	We have granted the international underwriters an option to purchase an additional ADSs, representing class A preferred shares, within 30 days from the date of this prospectus, solely to cover over-allotments, if any. We have also granted the Brazilian underwriters an option to purchase a maximum of class A preferred shares to cover over-allotments of class A preferred shares, if any.
Use of proceeds	We estimate that our net proceeds from the global offering will be approximately US\$. We intend to use the net proceeds from the global offering for general corporate purposes, including, among others, working capital and repayment of short-term indebtedness.
Share capital before and after global offering	<p>Our share capital is divided into common shares and preferred shares. Our preferred shares are, in turn, divided into class A preferred shares and class B preferred shares. Each share of our share capital represents the same economic interest, except that the preferred shares are entitled to the preferences described under Description of Share Capital Liquidation and Dividends and Dividend Policy Amounts Available for Distribution.</p> <p>Our outstanding share capital immediately before the global offering will consist of 76,568,187,272 shares, comprised of the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">25,730,061,841 common shares;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">50,608,970,631 class A preferred shares (excluding 621,887,272 shares held in treasury); and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">229,154,800 class B preferred shares.</p>

Table of Contents

	<p>Immediately after the global offering and the conversion of shares, we will have class A preferred shares outstanding and total shares outstanding, assuming no exercise of the underwriters over-allotment options.</p>
Voting rights	<p>Holders of our class A preferred shares and, consequently, holders of the ADSs do not have voting rights, except in very limited circumstances.</p>
Dividends	<p>Under the Brazilian Corporation Law and our by-laws, we are required to distribute as dividends not less than 25% of our annual net income, subject to adjustments and exceptions. We may also pay dividends in the form of interest attributable to shareholders equity in lieu of dividends. Under the terms of a shareholders agreement, we are required, subject to certain limitations, to distribute at least 50% of our adjusted net income in each fiscal year. Under the terms of certain of our debt obligations, we cannot distribute more than 50% of our adjusted net income in any fiscal year.</p> <p>We have not paid dividends since May 20, 2002 because of our accumulated deficit arising from net losses in 2002. We expect to resume paying dividends, which may be in the form of interest attributable to shareholders equity, when we have retained earnings.</p> <p>The holders of ADSs will be entitled to receive dividends to the same extent as the owners of our class A preferred shares, subject to deduction of any fees and charges of the depository for the ADSs.</p>
Taxation	<p>Dividend distributions with respect to our class A preferred shares or ADSs are not currently subject to withholding of Brazilian income tax. However, payment of interest attributable to shareholders equity (in lieu of dividends) currently is subject to withholding of Brazilian income tax. Gains from the sale or other disposition of ADSs or class A preferred shares outside of Brazil by shareholders not domiciled in Brazil could be subject to Brazilian income tax. For certain Brazilian and U.S. tax consequences with respect to U.S. holders of our class A preferred shares or ADSs, see Taxation.</p>
Lock-up agreements	<p>We have agreed with the underwriters, subject to certain exceptions, not to offer, sell, contract to sell, grant an option to sell or otherwise dispose of, directly or indirectly, or file a registration statement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, or the Brazilian Securities Commission relating to, any shares of our share capital or ADSs or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any shares of our share capital or ADSs or warrants or other rights to purchase any shares of our share capital or ADSs, or publicly disclose the intention to make any such offer, sale, disposition or filing, during the 120-day period following the date of this prospectus without the prior written consent of Credit Suisse First Boston LLC, on behalf of the international underwriters. The Odebrecht Group and our directors and executive officers have agreed to</p>

Table of Contents

substantially similar lock-up provisions, subject to some exceptions.

Listings	The ADSs are listed on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol BAK. Our class A preferred shares are listed on the São Paulo Stock Exchange under the symbol BRKM5 and on the LATIBEX section of the Madrid Stock Exchange under the symbol XBRK.
ADR depositary	The Bank of New York.
Risk factors	See Risk Factors and the other information in this prospectus before investing in the ADSs or class A preferred shares.

Expected timetable for the global offering (subject to change):

Commencement of marketing of the global offering	, 2004
Announcement of offer price	, 2004
Allocation of ADSs and class A preferred shares	, 2004
Settlement and delivery of ADSs and class A preferred shares	, 2004

Unless otherwise indicated, all information contained in this prospectus assumes no exercise of the international and Brazilian underwriters options to purchase a maximum of additional ADSs and additional class A preferred shares, respectively, to cover over-allotments, if any.

Table of Contents**Summary Financial and Other Information**

The summary financial information set forth below has been derived from our consolidated and combined financial statements prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, which differs in significant respects from U.S. GAAP.

For a discussion of the significant differences relating to these financial statements and a reconciliation of net income (loss) and shareholders' equity from Brazilian GAAP to U.S. GAAP, see note 29 to our consolidated and combined financial statements included in this prospectus. The summary financial data at December 31, 2003 and 2002 and for the three years ended December 31, 2003 have been derived from our consolidated and combined financial statements included in this prospectus. The summary financial data at December 31, 2001 has been derived from our audited combined financial statements that are not included in this prospectus. The summary financial data at December 31, 2000 and 1999 and for the two years ended December 31, 2000 have been derived from audited financial statements of our company that are not included in this prospectus. This financial information should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated and combined financial statements in this prospectus.

All per thousand share data presented below for periods before October 21, 2003 have been adjusted to give effect to the 20-for-1 share split that was effective on that date.

	At and for the Year Ended December 31,					
	2003(1)	2003	2002	2001(2)	2000	1999
	(in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts)	(in millions of <i>reais</i> , except per thousand shares, per ADS amounts and operating data)				
Statement of Operations Data						
Brazilian GAAP:						
Net sales revenue	US\$ 3,508.1	R\$ 10,135.8	R\$ 7,576.6	R\$ 4,459.5	R\$ 2,897.5	R\$ 1,874.8
Cost of sales and services rendered	(2,799.8)	(8,089.3)	(6,175.5)	(3,637.6)	(2,357.1)	(1,344.1)
Gross profit	708.3	2,046.5	1,401.1	821.9	540.4	530.7
Selling and general and administrative expenses	(163.3)	(471.9)	(577.7)	(210.3)	(116.2)	(101.7)
Investment in associated companies, net(3)	(54.8)	(158.2)	(251.7)	(214.3)	(3.6)	4.2
Depreciation and amortization	(67.0)	(193.5)	(222.4)	(111.3)	(36.5)	(36.1)
Financial expenses	(246.6)	(712.6)	(3,481.5)	(801.2)	(250.0)	(346.6)
Financial income	3.1	9.0	619.6	294.7	178.6	173.2
Zero-rated IPI credit			1,030.1			
Other operating income (expenses)	17.2	49.7	102.6	103.3	(12.5)	5.5
Operating income (loss)	196.9	569.0	(1,379.9)	(117.2)	300.2	229.2
Non-operating expenses, net	(1.7)	(4.8)	(98.0)	(120.8)	(0.6)	(9.1)
Income (loss) before income tax and social contribution (current and deferred) and minority interest	195.2	564.2	(1,477.9)	(238.0)	299.6	220.1
Income tax and social contribution (current and deferred)	(42.5)	(122.9)	(89.8)	(77.6)	(73.3)	(54.4)

Edgar Filing: BRASKEM SA - Form F-1

Income (loss) before minority interest	152.7	441.3	(1,567.7)	(315.6)	226.3	165.7
Minority interest	(78.3)	(226.2)	189.0	(108.9)	1.3	0.2
Net income (loss) for the year	US\$ 74.4	R\$ 215.1	R\$(1,378.7)	R\$ (424.5)	R\$ 227.6	R\$ 165.9

(Footnotes on page after table)

Table of Contents

At and for the Year Ended December 31,

	2003(1)		2003		2002		2001(2)		2000		1999	
	(in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts)		(in millions of reais, except per thousand shares, per ADS amounts and operating data)									
Number of shares outstanding at year end, excluding treasury shares (in thousands):												
Common shares			25,608,114		24,521,820		12,933,860		12,933,860		12,933,860	
Class A preferred shares			42,594,754		42,122,880		21,592,900		21,592,900		21,574,900	
Class B preferred shares			229,154		229,160		229,160		229,160		229,160	
Net income (loss) per thousand shares at year end	US\$	1.09	R\$	3.15	R\$	(20.62)	R\$	(12.21)	R\$	6.55	R\$	4.78
Net income (loss) per ADS(4) at year end	1.09		3.15		(20.62)		(12.21)		6.55		4.78	
Dividends declared per thousand shares:												
Common shares							1.73		3.44		2.42	
Class A preferred shares					0.52		2.08		3.44		2.42	
Class B preferred shares					0.52		2.08		2.08		2.08	
Dividends declared per ADS(4)					0.52		2.08		3.44		2.42	
U.S. GAAP:												
Net income (loss) for the year	US\$	131.1	R\$	378.7	R\$	(698.7)	R\$	(470.0)				
Basic earnings (loss) per thousand shares (weighted average):												
Common shares	1.95		5.64		(29.14)		(26.66)					
Class A preferred shares	1.90		5.49									
Class B preferred shares	0.57		1.64									
Basic earnings (loss) per ADS (weighted average)(4)	1.90		5.49									
Diluted earnings (loss) per thousand shares (weighted average):												
Common shares	US\$	1.93	R\$	5.59	R\$	(29.14)	R\$	(26.66)				
Class A preferred shares	1.89		5.47									
Class B preferred shares	0.57		1.64									
Diluted earnings (loss) per ADS (weighted average)(4)	1.89		5.47									
Balance Sheet Data												
Brazilian GAAP:												

Edgar Filing: BRASKEM SA - Form F-1

Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities	US\$	409.9	R\$	1,184.3	R\$	821.0	R\$	513.2	R\$	708.9	R\$	561.4
Trade accounts receivable		420.9		1,216.2		959.0		484.1		231.6		188.6
Inventories		370.9		1,071.6		889.1		667.8		163.4		119.9
Property, plant and equipment, net		1,741.7		5,032.0		5,296.7		4,429.7		1,969.0		1,977.2
Total assets		4,805.1		13,883.0		13,898.2		9,555.3		3,748.7		3,544.3
Short-term loans and financing (including current portion of long-term debt)		943.7		2,726.5		2,746.1		1,966.4		331.5		257.4
Short-term debentures		6.6		349.0		32.1		26.2				
Short-term related company debt		0.1		0.2		8.2		88.7				
Long-term loans and financing		1,251.3		3,615.3		3,891.6		3,101.7		861.8		915.6
Long-term debentures		509.8		1,143.0		1,190.2		473.6				

(Footnotes on page after table)

Table of Contents

At and for the Year Ended December 31,

	2003(1)	2003	2002	2001(2)	2000	1999
	(in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts)	(in millions of reais, except per thousand shares, per ADS amounts and operating data)				
Long-term related company debt	61.5	177.6	189.3	626.7	0.9	1.1
Minority interest	191.9	554.4	433.1	738.0	27.4	30.1
Share capital	653.3	1,887.4	1,845.4	1,201.6	1,201.6	1,203.9
Shareholders equity	731.2	2,112.6	1,821.8	1,729.0	2,267.8	2,085.3
U.S. GAAP:						
Total assets	US\$ 3,792.2	R\$ 10,956.4	R\$ 10,377.0	R\$ 6,964.3		
Shareholders equity	2.5	7.1	(416.5)	289.8		
Other Financial Information						
Brazilian GAAP:						
Net cash provided by (used in):						
Operating activities	US\$ 200.9	R\$ 580.5	R\$ 790.0	R\$ 1,453.9	R\$ 550.3	R\$ 613.6
Investing activities	(159.4)	(460.4)	(646.7)	(862.2)	(115.6)	(34.6)
Financing activities	127.3	367.8	(237.2)	(404.9)	(287.2)	(210.7)
Capital expenditures:						
Property, plant and equipment	74.3	214.7	419.9	318.0	18.4	48.0
Interest in other companies	24.8	71.7	13.1	1,172.3	82.6	26.6
EBITDA(5)	625.9	1,808.4	2,043.7	708.7	548.0	568.9

At and for the Year Ended December 31,

	2003	2002	2001(2)	2000	1999	
	(in millions of reais, except per thousand shares, per ADS amounts and operating data)					
Operating Data(6):						
Ethylene:						
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)		1,047.3	994.8	1,064.8	1,103.8	1,121.1
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)		1,634	1,292	1,135	1,046	633
Propylene:						
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)		403.4	415.2	421.1	487.7	494.3
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)		1,495	1,106	825	875	444
Polyethylene(7):						
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)		445.4	491.8	495.0		
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)		2,567	2,007	1,920		
Polypropylene(7):						
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)		374.9	395.1	338.5		
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)		2,689	1,931	1,623		
PVC(8):						
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)		342.4	350.1	327.6		
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)		2,358	1,969	1,623		
Number of employees (at period end)		2,868	2,817	1,424	1,161	1,104

Edgar Filing: BRASKEM SA - Form F-1

- (1) Translated for convenience only using the commercial selling rate as reported by the Central Bank at December 31, 2003 for *reais* into U.S. dollars of R\$2.889=US\$1.00.
- (2) The financial information for 2001 is not comparable with the financial information for 2000 and 1999 as a result of our merger with OPP Produtos, which we accounted for as if it had occurred on July 25, 2001 as a result of the common control exercised by the Odebrecht Group over our company and OPP Produtos.

(Footnotes continued on next page)

Table of Contents

- (3) Investment in associated companies, net comprises equity in the results, amortization of goodwill, net, foreign exchange variation and tax incentives and other.
- (4) Net income (loss) per 1,000 shares or ADS under Brazilian GAAP is based on shares outstanding at the end of each year. Earnings (loss) per 1,000 shares or ADS under U.S. GAAP is based on the weighted average number of class A preferred shares outstanding during each period.
- (5) EBITDA is the sum of the following income statement lines, without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies: Net income (loss) for the year; minority interest; income tax and social contribution (current and deferred); non-operating expenses, net; financial expenses, net; investment in associated companies; and depreciation and amortization, including depreciation and amortization within cost of sales. EBITDA is not a measurement under Brazilian GAAP and should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for net income as a measure of performance, cash flow from operating activities or other measures of liquidity determined in accordance with Brazilian GAAP. However, we believe that EBITDA serves as a financial analysis tool for measuring our company's performance in several areas, including liquidity, operating performance and leverage. In addition, EBITDA is commonly used by financial analysts in evaluating our company and its financial performance. EBITDA may not be comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies. EBITDA is calculated as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,					
	2003(1)	2003	2002	2001(2)	2000	1999
	(in millions of US\$)		(in millions of reais)			
Net income (loss) for the year	74.4	215.1	(1,378.7)	(424.5)	227.6	165.9
Add:						
Minority interest	77.7	224.4	(199.1)	112.2	1.3	0.2
Income tax and social contribution (current and deferred)	31.8	91.8	57.7	56.0	73.8	56.3
Non-operating expenses, net	1.6	4.6	74.2	116.1	0.7	9.0
Financial expenses, net	226.9	655.5	2,788.5	468.1	71.4	173.5
Investment in associated companies, net	41.3	119.4	313.7	232.8	3.6	(4.2)
Depreciation and amortization, including depreciation and amortization within cost of sales	172.2	497.6	387.4	148.0	169.6	165.2
EBITDA	625.9	1,808.4	2,043.7	708.7	548.0	568.9

- (6) Excluding intra-company sales within Braskem.
- (7) Represents the sum of the sales volumes of Polialden and OPP Química for 2001.
- (8) Represents the sales volume of Trikem for 2001.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Prospective purchasers of ADSs should carefully consider the risks described below, as well as the other information in this prospectus, before deciding to purchase any ADSs. Our business, results of operations, financial condition or prospects could be negatively affected if any of these risks occurs, and as a result, the trading price of our class A preferred shares or the ADSs could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Relating to Brazil

The Brazilian government's influence over the Brazilian economy and Brazilian political and economic conditions may affect our company and our financial performance and, consequently, the market price of the ADSs.

The Brazilian economy has been characterized by frequent and occasionally extensive intervention by the Brazilian government and unstable economic cycles. The Brazilian government has often changed monetary, taxation, credit, tariff and other policies to influence the course of Brazil's economy. The Brazilian government's actions to control inflation and implement other policies have at times involved wage and price controls, blocking access to bank accounts, imposing capital controls and limiting imports into Brazil. We have no control over, and cannot predict, what measures or policies the Brazilian government may take in the future.

Our results of operations and financial condition and, consequently, the market price of the ADSs may be adversely affected by factors such as:

fluctuations in exchange rates;

exchange control policies;

interest rates;

inflation;

tax policies;

expansion or contraction of the Brazilian economy, as measured by rates of growth in gross domestic product, or GDP;

social instability;

liquidity of domestic capital and lending markets; and

other political, diplomatic, social and economic developments in or affecting Brazil.

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of the Workers' Party took office as President of Brazil on January 1, 2003. In the period leading up to and following the October 2002 presidential election, there was substantial uncertainty regarding the policies that the new government would pursue. This uncertainty resulted in a loss of confidence in the Brazilian capital markets and a 34.3% devaluation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002. While the Brazilian government has adopted economic measures that are more conservative than initially expected by some observers, we cannot assure you that these policies will continue or that the Brazilian government will continue to pursue economic stabilization and liberalization policies. We cannot predict what future fiscal, monetary, social security and other policies will be adopted by the Brazilian government and whether these policies will result in adverse consequences to the economy and to our business, results of operations, financial condition or prospects.

The Brazilian government's actions to combat inflation may contribute significantly to economic uncertainty in Brazil and adversely affect the market price of the ADSs.

Historically, Brazil has experienced high rates of inflation. Inflation, as well as government efforts to combat inflation, had significant negative effects on the Brazilian economy, particularly prior to 1995. The

Table of Contents

inflation rate, as measured by the General Price Index – Internal Availability (*Índice Geral de Preços – Disponibilidade Interna*), reached 2,708% in 1993. Although inflation rates have been substantially lower since 1994 than in previous periods, inflationary pressures persist. Inflation rates were 20.0% in 1999, 9.8% in 2000, 10.4% in 2001, 26.4% in 2002 and 7.7% in 2003 as measured by the General Price Index – Internal Availability. Inflation, actions to combat inflation and public speculation about possible additional actions also contributed materially to economic uncertainty in Brazil and to heightened volatility in the Brazilian securities markets.

Brazil may experience high levels of inflation in future periods. Increasing prices for petroleum, the depreciation of the *real* and future governmental measures seeking to maintain the value of the *real* in relation to the U.S. dollar, may trigger increases in inflation in Brazil. Periods of higher inflation may have a material adverse effect on the Brazilian economy, the Brazilian financial markets and the market price of the ADSs. High inflation also may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations, including the possibility of reduced demand for our products in Brazil.

Fluctuations in the real/ U.S. dollar exchange rate could adversely affect the Brazilian economy and our ability to service our foreign currency-denominated debt, and could lead to a decline in the market price of the ADSs.

The exchange rate between the *real* and the U.S. dollar and the relative rates of depreciation and appreciation of the *real* have affected our results of operations and may continue to do so.

The Brazilian currency has devalued often during the last four decades. Throughout this period, the Brazilian government has implemented various economic plans and various exchange rate policies, including sudden devaluations, periodic mini-devaluations (during which the frequency of adjustments has ranged from daily to monthly), exchange controls, dual exchange rate markets and a floating exchange rate system. From time to time, there have been significant fluctuations in the exchange rate between the Brazilian currency and the U.S. dollar and other currencies. For example, the *real* depreciated in value against the U.S. dollar by 15.7% in 2001 and 34.3% in 2002 as compared with appreciation of 22.3% in 2003.

Devaluation of the *real* relative to the U.S. dollar also could result in additional inflationary pressures in Brazil by generally increasing the price of imported products and services and requiring recessionary government policies to curb demand. In addition, a devaluation of the *real* could weaken investor confidence in Brazil and reduce the market price of the ADSs. On the other hand, appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar may lead to a deterioration of the country's current account and the balance of payments and may dampen export-driven growth.

We had total foreign currency-denominated debt obligations in an aggregate amount of R\$5,220.0 million (US\$1,806.7 million) at December 31, 2003, representing 66.6% of our indebtedness on a consolidated basis. Although we manage a portion of our exchange rate risk through foreign currency derivative instruments, our foreign currency debt obligations are not completely hedged. A significant devaluation of the *real* in relation to the U.S. dollar or other currencies could adversely affect our ability to meet debt service requirements of our foreign currency-denominated obligations, particularly as our net sales revenue is primarily denominated in *reais*.

In addition, any significant devaluation of the *real* will increase our financial expenses as a result of foreign exchange losses that we must record. For example, the 34.3% devaluation of the *real* in 2002 substantially increased our financial expenses and was a significant factor in our net loss for that year.

The prices of naphtha, our most important raw material, and of some of our other raw materials are denominated in or linked to the U.S. dollar. In 2003, 65.2% of our direct and indirect cost of sales and services represented the cost of naphtha. When the *real* depreciates against the U.S. dollar, the cost in *reais* of our U.S. dollar-linked raw materials increases, and our operating income in *reais* decreases.

Table of Contents

Brazilian government exchange control policies could adversely affect our ability to service our foreign currency-denominated debt and affect our liquidity.

The purchase and sale of foreign currency in Brazil is subject to governmental control. In the past, the Central Bank has centralized certain payments of principal on external obligations. Many factors could cause the Brazilian government to institute more restrictive exchange control policies, including the extent of Brazil's foreign currency reserves, the availability of sufficient foreign exchange on the date a payment is due, the size of Brazil's debt service burden relative to the economy as a whole, Brazil's policy towards the International Monetary Fund and political constraints to which Brazil may be subject. A more restrictive policy could affect our ability to make payments outside Brazil to meet our obligations under foreign currency-denominated debt obligations and other liabilities. At December 31, 2003, 66.6% of our indebtedness on a consolidated basis was denominated in foreign currencies. If we fail to make payments under any of these obligations, we will be in default under those obligations, which could have an immediate adverse effect on our liquidity as well as on the market price of the ADSs.

Events in other emerging markets and the Brazilian government's monetary policies may negatively affect our net sales revenue and the availability of credit.

External events have often resulted in considerable outflows of funds and declines in the amount of foreign investment in Brazil. These events include the Asian economic crisis of 1997, the Russian currency crisis of 1998, the currency instability that Brazil encountered in 1999, and the recent economic crisis in Argentina. To defend the value of the *real* during events like these and to control inflation, the Brazilian government has maintained a tight monetary policy with high interest rates and has restricted the growth of credit and the economy. These disruptions in the Brazilian economy could adversely affect the demand for our products and our ability to obtain financing in Brazil and satisfy our liquidity and capital resources requirements.

Energy shortages in Brazil could adversely affect operations of our facilities as well as our financial performance.

The Northeast and certain other regions of Brazil faced an energy shortage during the second half of 2001. In response, the Brazilian government instituted an electric power rationing program from June 2001 to February 2002 that aimed to reduce electricity consumption by 20%. As a result of this program, we experienced a temporary reduction in our PVC production in our plants located in the state of Alagoas, and many of our customers curtailed their demand for our products. We utilize electricity supplied by Companhia Hidro Elétrica do São Francisco Chesf, or CHESF, for approximately 30% of our power needs at the Northeastern Complex, and most of our power needs in Alagoas. A severe drought in Brazil's northeastern region in 2003 reduced hydroelectric generation in the region. In addition, there are inadequate transmission lines to connect the power grids in northeastern and southeastern Brazil, so that any excess power in the Southeast, as was available in 2003, may not be transmitted to meet energy needs in the Northeast. As a result, electric power to the Northeastern Complex supplied by CHESF was interrupted in November 2003, and we had to shutdown our operations there for three days. Continued energy shortages in the Northeast and a lack of adequate transmission infrastructure may result in further unexpected shutdowns of our operations at the Northeastern Complex in the future, which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Changes in tax laws may adversely affect our results of operations.

The Brazilian government regularly implements changes to tax regimes that affect us and our customers. These changes include changes in the rate of assessments and, on occasion, enactment of temporary taxes, the proceeds of which are earmarked for designated governmental purposes. In April 2003, the Brazilian government presented a tax reform proposal, which was mainly designed to simplify tax assessments, to avoid internal disputes within and between the Brazilian states and municipalities, and to redistribute tax revenues. The tax reform proposal provided for changes in the rules governing the federal Social Integration Program (*Programa de Integração Social*), or PIS, the federal Contribution for Social

Table of Contents

Security Financing (*Contribuição para Financiamento da Seguridade Social - COFINS*), or COFINS, the Tax on the Circulation of Merchandise and Services (*Imposto Sobre a Circulação de Mercadorias e Serviços*), or ICMS, the Tax on Bank Account Transactions (*Contribuição Provisória sobre Movimentação ou Transmissão de Valores e de Créditos e Direitos de Natureza Financeira*), or CPMF, and some other taxes.

In December 2003, the Brazilian Federal Senate approved part of this tax reform proposal following its approval by the Brazilian Federal House of Representatives. Other parts of the tax reform proposal were amended by the Senate and returned to the House of Representatives for further examination. If approved, these tax reform measures will be gradually adopted in 2005 and 2007.

Some of these measures may result in increases in our tax payments. The effects of these proposed tax reform measures and any other changes that result from enactment of additional tax reforms have not been, and cannot be, quantified. However, the proposed tax reforms, if enacted, could have an adverse effect upon our results of operations.

Risks Relating to Our Company and the Petrochemical Industry

The cyclical nature of the petrochemical industry may adversely affect our results of operations.

The Brazilian petrochemical industry, including the markets in which we compete, is cyclical and sensitive to changes in supply and demand that are, in turn, affected by political and economic conditions in Brazil and elsewhere. This cyclicity may adversely affect our financial performance. In particular:

downturns in general business and economic activity may cause demand for our products to decline;

when demand falls, we may be under competitive pressure to lower our prices; and

if we decide to expand our plants or construct new plants, we may do so based on an estimate of future demand that never materializes or materializes at levels lower than we predicted.

The global petrochemical industry is also cyclical. Historically, the international petrochemical markets have experienced alternating periods of limited supply, which have caused prices and profit margins to increase, followed by expansion of production capacity, which has resulted in oversupply and reduced prices and profit margins. The Brazilian petrochemical industry has become increasingly integrated with the global petrochemical industry for a number of reasons, including increased demand for, and consumption of, petrochemical products in Brazil and the ongoing integration of regional and world markets for commodity products. Prices for our products sold in Brazil are established with reference to international market prices. Our results of operations are therefore increasingly linked to global industry conditions that we cannot control.

We face competition from producers of polyolefins, vinyls and other petrochemical products.

We face competition in Brazil from Brazilian and international producers of polyethylene, polypropylene, vinyls and other petrochemical products. In addition, our prices for our second generation products are generally set with reference to the prices charged for these products by foreign producers in international markets. We anticipate that we may experience increasingly intense competition from international producers of polyolefins and vinyls products, both in Brazil and in selected foreign markets in which we sell these products. Many of our foreign competitors are substantially larger and have substantially greater financial, manufacturing, technological and marketing resources than our company.

We face significant competition in the polyethylene market. In 2001, The Dow Chemical Company, or Dow Chemical, commenced operation of a polyethylene facility in Argentina with an annual capacity of 700,000 tons. In addition, Rio Polímeros S.A., or Rio Polímeros, a Brazilian petrochemical company, is currently constructing a large petrochemical plant in Brazil that has announced plans to commence operations in December 2004. The announced annual capacity of this plant is 520,000 tons of ethylene, 75,000 tons of propylene and 540,000 tons of polyethylene (representing an increase of approximately 35% of the current total Brazilian production capacity of polyethylene). Actions by our competitors, including

Table of Contents

any future increases in their capacity, may make it increasingly difficult for us to maintain our domestic market share in polyethylene.

We may be adversely affected by high naphtha costs.

Naphtha is the principal raw material of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. In 2003, naphtha accounted, directly and indirectly, for approximately two-thirds of our consolidated cost of sales and services rendered. The price of naphtha supplied by Petrobras is linked to the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price of naphtha and to the U.S. dollar/*real* exchange rate. The price of naphtha that we purchase from other suppliers is also linked to the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price.

During 2003, the price of naphtha in U.S. dollars increased by 5.6%, from US\$287.00 per ton in December 2002 to US\$313.00 per ton in December 2003. The U.S. dollar price of naphtha was volatile during 2003, increasing substantially between January and February prior to the commencement of the war in Iraq, declining sharply through May before rebounding in June and increasing steadily through the end of the year. The price of naphtha may increase significantly or the *real* may devalue significantly in the future.

Although the majority of our net sales revenue is in *reais*, we do not currently hedge our exposure to changes in naphtha prices. In periods of high volatility in the U.S. dollar/*real* exchange rate, there is usually a lag between the time that the U.S. dollar appreciates and the time that we may effectively pass on those increased costs in *reais* to our customers in Brazil. As a result, if the *real* depreciates precipitously against the U.S. dollar in the future, we may not immediately be able to pass on all of the corresponding increases in our naphtha costs to our customers in Brazil, which could materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

We depend on Petrobras to supply us with the substantial portion of our naphtha requirements.

Currently, Petrobras is the only Brazilian supplier of naphtha and supplied 68.8% of the naphtha consumed by our company in 2003. Petrobras produces some of the naphtha it sells to us and imports the balance. Significant damage to Petrobras refineries or to the port facilities through which Petrobras imports naphtha, or to any of the pipelines connecting us to Petrobras facilities, whether as a consequence of an accident, natural disaster, fire or otherwise, could adversely affect our operations. In addition, although regulatory changes have ended Petrobras monopoly in the Brazilian naphtha market and have allowed us to import naphtha, any reversal in the continuing deregulation of the oil and gas industry in Brazil could adversely affect our production costs.

Our indebtedness will require that a significant portion of our cash flow be used to meet debt-service obligations on that indebtedness.

We had R\$7,833.8 million of total indebtedness on a consolidated basis at December 31, 2003, including R\$490.7 million of indebtedness of our jointly controlled companies, including Copesul, Politeno and Cetrel S.A. Empresa de Proteção Ambiental, or Cetrel, which we consolidate on a proportional basis as required by Brazilian GAAP, and excluding R\$177.8 million of related party debt and R\$113.4 million of advances for purchase of credit rights, a form of long-term obligation. We had consolidated negative working capital of R\$726.8 million at December 31, 2003, principally as a result of the level of our short-term indebtedness, including the current portion of our long-term debt.

The level of our indebtedness could have important consequences, including the following:

our ability to obtain any necessary financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, debt-service requirements or other purposes could be limited;

a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations must be dedicated to pay principal and interest on our indebtedness and may not be available for other purposes, such as the payment of dividends;

Table of Contents

our level of indebtedness could limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to changes in, our business; and

our level of indebtedness could make us more vulnerable in the event of a downturn in our business.

Some of our shareholders may have the ability to influence the outcome of corporate actions or decisions, which could affect the holders of the ADSs.

The Odebrecht Group directly holds 42.9% of our voting common shares, and its designees currently constitute a majority of the members of our board of directors. In addition, the Odebrecht Group owns 50.1% of the voting share capital of Norquisa, which owns 29.4% of our voting share capital and 10.7% of our total share capital. Some of our other shareholders, consisting of Petroquisa, a subsidiary of Petrobras, and two Brazilian pension funds, have veto and other rights under shareholders agreements as described under Principal Shareholders and Related Party Transactions Principal Shareholders Shareholders Agreements. As discussed below, Petroquisa also has an option to purchase a significant number of common and preferred shares in our company that would give Petroquisa substantial voting and other rights in respect of our company. As a result, the Odebrecht Group, Petroquisa and these other shareholders may have the ability to influence the outcome of major corporate actions or decisions requiring the approval of our shareholders or our board of directors, which could affect the holders of the ADSs.

We may be required to issue over the next twelve months a substantial number of new common and preferred shares to Petroquisa, a subsidiary of Petrobras, which would result in a change in the composition of our board of directors and could influence changes in our strategy and otherwise influence the outcome of major corporate actions and decisions, and also could have a dilutive effect on our net income per 1,000 shares.

Under a memorandum of understanding between Petroquisa, on the one hand, and Odebrecht and other key shareholders, on the other, Petroquisa has an option exercisable through April 30, 2005 to acquire from us, and in certain circumstances from the Odebrecht Group, a number of our common and preferred shares that would provide it with the same equity participation in our voting and total share capital as the participation owned collectively by the Odebrecht Group, Petroquímica da Bahia, and Norquisa. Under this memorandum of understanding, the consideration for the shares issued by our company upon Petroquisa's exercise of the option will consist of shares of Copesul, and the exchange ratio of such consideration for our common and preferred shares will be based upon independent enterprise valuations calculated from discounted cash flows of our company and Copesul. If Petroquisa exercises the option, Petroquisa will be entitled to representation on our board of directors equal to that of the Odebrecht Group, the Mariani Group and Norquisa, jointly. In addition, Petroquisa and the other shareholders party to the memorandum of understanding will be obligated to coordinate their votes and vote as a bloc at meetings of our board of directors and shareholders.

We are unable to predict whether Petroquisa will exercise the option or, because the independent enterprise valuations have not been conducted, the number of new common and preferred shares to be issued by our company if Petroquisa exercises the option. We cannot determine whether the option, if exercised, will have a dilutive effect on our net income per 1,000 shares, which could, in turn, affect the market prices of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs. If it exercises the option, Petroquisa and its controlling shareholder, Petrobras, are required under the terms of the Petroquisa memorandum of understanding to negotiate and enter into a new shareholders agreement with Odebrecht and other shareholders, which may include new or different terms than the Petroquisa memorandum of understanding and as a result, could influence changes in our strategy and otherwise influence the outcome of major corporate actions and decisions.

Table of Contents

We may face conflicts of interest in transactions with related parties.

We maintain trade accounts receivable and current and long-term payables with some of our affiliates and other related parties, including Petrobras (which is our sole domestic supplier of naphtha), Copesul in the Southern Complex (which supplies us with ethylene and propylene), and Politeno (which purchases ethylene from our company). Through Petroquisa, Petrobras is the indirect holder of 7.8% of our common shares and 11.1% of our total share capital. These accounts receivable and accounts payable balances result mainly from purchases and sales of goods, which are at prices and on terms equivalent to the average terms and prices of transactions that we enter into with third parties. We also engage in financial and other transactions with some of our shareholders, such as the grant of the Petroquisa option discussed above. These and other commercial and financial transactions between us and our affiliates could result in conflicting interests.

Future adjustments in tariffs on imports that compete with our products could cause us to lower our prices.

We take into account, when setting the domestic prices for our products, tariff rates imposed by the Brazilian government on imports of similar products and the products of our customers. We currently benefit from tariffs that allow us to charge lower prices for our polyolefins and vinyls products than imports of those products. Our margins from sales in the Brazilian market are therefore significantly higher than our margins from exports. However, the Brazilian government has in the past used import and export tariffs to effect economic policies, with the consequence that tariffs can vary considerably, especially tariffs on petrochemical products. Future adjustments of tariffs could result in our lowering our domestic prices and could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Our business is subject to stringent environmental regulations and further tightening of those regulations could adversely affect our company.

Our company, like other Brazilian petrochemical producers, is subject to stringent Brazilian federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations concerning human health, the handling and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes and discharges of pollutants into the air and water. Petrochemical producers are sometimes subject to unfavorable market perceptions as a result of the environmental impact of their business, which can have an adverse effect on their results of operations. As environmental laws become more stringent in Brazil and worldwide, the amount and timing of future expenditures required to remain compliant could increase substantially and could adversely affect the availability of funds for other capital expenditures and other purposes.

We manufacture products that are subject to the risk of fire, explosions and other hazards.

Our operations are subject to hazards, such as fires, explosions and other accidents, associated with the manufacture of petrochemicals and the storage and transportation of feedstocks and petrochemical products. These hazards can cause personal injury and loss of life, severe damage to or destruction of property and equipment and environmental damage. A sufficiently large accident at one of our plants or storage facilities could force us to suspend our operations temporarily and result in significant remediation costs and lost net sales revenue. Although we maintain insurance coverage for losses due to fire damage and for losses of income resulting from stoppages due to fire, explosion or electrical damage, those insurance proceeds may not be available on a timely basis and may be insufficient to cover all losses.

We may be adversely affected by any future adverse decision of the Brazilian antitrust authorities concerning the formation of our company.

As part of our corporate reorganization process that began in 2001, we merged with each of OPP Química, Trikem, Proppet and Nitrocarbano and we acquired Polialden. We closed these transactions, as permitted by Brazilian law, subject to the final approval of the Brazilian antitrust authorities. We have submitted the terms and conditions of these transactions to the Brazilian antitrust authorities. These antitrust authorities will determine whether these transactions negatively impact competitive conditions in

Table of Contents

the markets in which we compete or whether they would negatively affect consumers in these markets. Although two of the three Brazilian antitrust authorities have issued non-binding opinions recommending the unconditional approval of these corporate reorganization transactions, the third and governing antitrust authority continues to review this matter and may disagree with these opinions and not approve these transactions. Any action by the Brazilian antitrust authorities to impose conditions or performance commitments on our company as part of the approval of these transactions could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

We may be adversely affected by the unfavorable outcome of pending litigation.

We are involved in numerous tax, civil and labor disputes involving significant monetary claims. If unfavorable decisions are rendered in one or more of these lawsuits, we could be required to pay substantial amounts, which could materially adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. For some of these lawsuits, we have not established any provision on our balance sheet or have established provisions only for part of the amounts in question, based on our judgments about the likelihood of winning these lawsuits in view of the advice of our external legal advisors.

The lawsuits for which we have not established provisions or have established only partial provisions include the following:

Social Contribution on Net Income. We and some of our subsidiaries have challenged the constitutionality of the Brazilian federal Social Contribution on Net Income (*Contribuição Social sobre o Lucro Líquido*). A Brazilian Federal Supreme Court (*Supremo Tribunal Federal*) decision in our favor was overruled in a subsequent rescission action filed by the Brazilian tax authorities, and our appeal of that suit is pending. Our total estimated exposure, including interest, was R\$416.8 million at December 31, 2003. This amount does not include R\$226.1 million in penalties and interest on penalties at December 31, 2003 that we believe are not payable because we relied upon a judicial decision in not paying Social Contribution on Net Income. We have not established a provision for these lawsuits.

Cost of Living Adjustments on Workers' Wages. The unions that represent employers and workers in the Northeastern Complex are involved in a lawsuit over the indices we and other companies have used for cost of living adjustments on workers' wages since early 1990. Although the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court has held in favor of the employers' union, the workers' union has requested reconsideration of the decision, and the decision of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court is not yet final. If the workers' union prevails in this lawsuit, we may be required to pay cost of living adjustments retroactively from April 1990 to the present. We have not established a provision for these lawsuits. Because the amount of our total exposure is subject to several variables, including the number of our employees and their salaries over more than a decade, we do not have a specific estimate of our total exposure in these lawsuits.

Preferred Shareholder Litigation. Certain owners of our class B preferred shares and of Polialden's preferred shares have filed several lawsuits seeking, among other rights, the right to receive dividend distributions equal to those paid to owners of our and Polialden's common shares and, in our case, class A preferred shares. If we or Polialden loses any of these suits, we or Polialden could be required to pay the difference between the dividends claimed and the dividends we or Polialden paid. Because some of these shareholders have not claimed a specific amount of dividends and the calculation of our total exposure depends on several variables, we do not have a specific estimate of our total exposure in these lawsuits.

In addition, we and some of our subsidiaries believe that our chances of success are remote in a series of lawsuits in which we challenged the constitutionality of an increase in the COFINS tax rate. We had established total provisions of R\$284.9 million at December 31, 2003 for all our lawsuits relating to PIS and COFINS, including separate lawsuits challenging the basis of calculation of PIS and COFINS. Because we have deposited only R\$94.0 million of this amount with the courts, we would be required, in

Table of Contents

the event we and our subsidiaries receive final, unfavorable decisions, to pay the remaining amounts for which we have not established deposits.

We are also parties to a number of lawsuits seeking tax credits that we believe the Brazilian tax authorities have disallowed or limited in violation of the Brazilian Constitution and/or applicable law. In some cases where we have received favorable lower court decisions, we have used these credits to offset other tax obligations and have established provisions in an equivalent amount until a final decision is rendered (adjusting these provisions based on the SELIC (*Sistema Especial de Liquidação e de Custódia - SELIC*), or SELIC interest rate). These provisions totaled R\$752.0 million at December 31, 2003. If we ultimately lose any of these lawsuits, we would be required to pay the tax obligations we had previously offset with those credits, which could materially adversely affect our financial condition.

Risks Relating to Our Class A Preferred Shares and the ADSs

Our class A preferred shares and the ADSs have limited voting rights.

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law and our by-laws, holders of our class A preferred shares and, consequently, the ADSs are not entitled to vote at meetings of our shareholders, except in very limited circumstances. These limited circumstances directly relate to key rights of the holders of class A preferred shares, such as modifying basic terms of our class A preferred shares or creating a new class of preferred shares with superior rights. In addition, holders of preferred shares without voting rights and non-controlling common shareholders that together hold at least 10% of our voting shares are each entitled to elect one member and his or her respective alternate to the fiscal council. However, until our general shareholders meeting in 2006, any member elected to our board of directors by these preferred shareholders must be selected from a list of three nominees chosen by our controlling shareholder. Holders of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs are not entitled to vote to approve corporate transactions, including mergers or consolidations of our company with other companies.

Holders of ADSs may find it difficult to exercise even their limited voting rights at our shareholders' meetings.

Holders may exercise the limited voting rights with respect to our class A preferred shares represented by the ADSs only in accordance with the deposit agreement relating to the ADSs. There are practical limitations upon the ability of ADS holders to exercise their voting rights due to the additional steps involved in communicating with ADS holders. For example, we are required to publish a notice of our shareholders' meetings in certain newspapers in Brazil. To the extent that holders of our class A preferred shares are entitled to vote at a shareholders' meeting, they will be able to exercise their voting rights by attending the meeting in person or voting by proxy. By contrast, holders of ADSs will receive notice of a shareholders' meeting by mail from the ADR depository following our notice to the ADR depository requesting the ADR depository to do so. To exercise their voting rights, ADS holders must instruct the depository on a timely basis. This noticed voting process will take longer for ADS holders than for holders of class A preferred shares. If it fails to receive timely voting instructions for your ADSs, the depository will assume that you are instructing it to give a discretionary proxy to a person designated by us to vote your ADSs, except in limited circumstances.

Exchange controls and restrictions on remittances abroad may adversely affect holders of the ADSs.

The Brazilian custodian for our Class A preferred shares must obtain a certificate of registration from the Central Bank to remit U.S. dollars abroad for payments of dividends, any other cash distributions, or upon the disposition of our class A preferred shares and sales proceeds related thereto. If a holder of ADSs decides to exchange ADSs for the underlying class A preferred shares, the holder will be entitled to continue to rely on the depository's electronic certificate of registration for five business days from the date of exchange. After that period, the holder may not be able to obtain and remit U.S. dollars abroad upon the sale of our class A preferred shares, or distributions relating to our class A preferred shares, and will generally be subject to less favorable tax treatment on gains with respect to our class A preferred shares or

Table of Contents

ADs, unless the holder obtains its own electronic certificate of registration with the Central Bank under Law No. 4,131/62 or qualifies under Resolution No. 2,689/00 of the National Monetary Council (*Conselho Monetário Nacional*), which entitles qualified foreign investors to buy and sell securities on the Brazilian stock exchanges without obtaining a separate electronic certificate of registration for each separate transaction.

If you attempt to obtain your own electronic certificate of registration, you may incur expenses or suffer significant delays in the application process. Obtaining an electronic certificate of registration involves preparing and filing extensive documentation in Brazil. In addition, you will need to (1) appoint at least one representative in Brazil with powers to perform certain actions relating to your foreign investment, including with respect to taxes, (2) engage an expert in Central Bank and Brazilian Securities Commission regulations and (3) obtain a taxpayer identification number from the Brazilian government. These expenses or delays could adversely impact your ability to timely receive dividends or distributions relating to our class A preferred shares or the return of your capital. The ADS depository's certificate of registration or any certificate of registration you obtain yourself may be adversely affected by future legislative or other regulatory changes, or additional restrictions applicable to investors, the sale of the underlying preferred shares or the repatriation of the proceeds from sale could be imposed in the future.

Restrictions on the remittances of funds from Brazil may impair your ability to receive dividends, distributions or the proceeds of any sale of our class A preferred shares underlying the ADSs.

The Brazilian government may impose temporary restrictions on the conversion of Brazilian currency into foreign currencies and on the remittance to non-Brazilian investors of proceeds from their investments in Brazil. Brazilian law permits the 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 1989 and early 1990. Any similar restrictions would impair or prevent the conversion of dividends, distributions or the proceeds from any sale of class A preferred shares from *reais* into U.S. dollars and the remittance of the U.S. dollars abroad. The Brazilian government may take similar measures in the future. In such an event, the Brazilian custodian for our preferred shares will hold the *reais* that it cannot convert for the account of holders of ADSs who have not been paid. Neither the custodian nor the ADR depository will be required to invest the *reais* or be liable for any interest.

Holders of ADSs may face difficulties in protecting their interests as shareholders because we are subject to different corporate rules and regulations as a Brazilian company and our shareholders may have fewer and less well-defined rights.

Our corporate affairs are governed by our by-laws and the Brazilian Corporation Law, which differ from the legal principles that would apply if we were incorporated in a jurisdiction in the United States, such as the State of Delaware or New York, or elsewhere outside Brazil. In addition, your rights as holders of our class A preferred shares underlying the ADSs under the Brazilian Corporation Law to protect your interests relative to actions by our board of directors may be fewer and less well-defined than under the laws of those other jurisdictions.

Although insider trading and price manipulation are crimes under Brazilian law, the Brazilian securities markets are not as highly regulated and supervised as the U.S. securities markets or the markets in some other jurisdictions. In addition, rules and policies against self-dealing or for preserving shareholder interests may be less well-defined and enforced in Brazil than in the United States and certain other countries, which may put holders of our class A preferred shares and ADSs at a potential disadvantage. Corporate disclosures also may be less complete or informative than for a public company in the United States or in certain other countries.

Table of Contents

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

We are a corporation (*sociedade anônima*) organized under the laws of Brazil, and all of our directors and executive officers and our independent public accountants reside or are based in Brazil. Most of our assets and those of these other persons are located in Brazil. As a result, it may not be possible for you 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, you may face greater difficulties in protecting your interests in the case of actions by us or our directors or executive officers than would shareholders of a U.S. corporation.

Actual or anticipated sales of a substantial number of class A preferred shares could decrease the market prices of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs.

Sales of a substantial number of our class A preferred shares after the completion of the global offering, or the anticipation of such sales, could negatively affect the market prices of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs. After the global offering, we will have a total of _____ shares outstanding, including _____ class A preferred shares, or _____ class A preferred shares if the underwriters over-allotment options are exercised in full. The Odebrecht Group will hold directly 29,902,332,960 shares, consisting of _____ common shares and _____ class A preferred shares. In addition, the Odebrecht Group controls Norquisa, which will hold directly 8,264,861,540 shares, consisting of _____ common shares and _____ class A preferred shares. Moreover, Petroquisa is entitled to exercise an option over the next 12 months to acquire a substantial number of new common and preferred shares from our company. We and the Odebrecht Group have agreed that, subject to some exceptions, we and the Odebrecht Group will not sell, offer or contract to sell, grant any option to sell or otherwise dispose of, directly or indirectly, or, in our case, file a registration statement with the SEC or the Brazilian Securities Commission relating to, any shares of our share capital or the ADSs or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any shares of our share capital or the ADSs or warrants or other rights to purchase any shares of our share capital or ADSs for a period of 120 days after the date of this prospectus without the prior written consent of Credit Suisse First Boston LLC, on behalf of the international underwriters. If, in the future, substantial sales of shares are made by the Odebrecht Group, Petroquisa or other existing or future holders of class A preferred shares, the market price of our class A preferred shares and, by extension, the ADSs may decrease significantly. As a result, you may not be able to sell the ADSs at or above the price you paid for them.

Holders of ADSs may be unable to exercise preemptive rights with respect to our class A preferred shares underlying the ADSs.

You may be unable to exercise the preemptive rights relating to our class A preferred shares underlying ADSs unless a registration statement under the 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 shares relating to these preemptive rights, and we may not file any such registration statement. Unless we file a registration statement or an exemption from registration is available, you may receive only the net proceeds from the sale of your preemptive rights by the depositary, or if they cannot be sold, your preemptive rights will be allowed to lapse.

Holders of ADSs could be subject to Brazilian income tax on capital gains from sales of ADSs.

Historically, any capital gain realized on a sale or other disposition of ADSs or class A preferred shares between non-Brazilian holders outside Brazil was not subject to Brazilian income tax. However, a new Brazilian law provides that, commencing on February 1, 2004, the acquiror, individual or legal entity resident or domiciled in Brazil, or the acquiror's attorney-in-fact, when such acquirer is resident or domiciled abroad, shall be responsible for the retention and payment of the income tax applicable to

Table of Contents

capital gains ... earned by the individual or legal entity resident or domiciled abroad who disposes of property located in Brazil. In view of the unclear wording of this new Brazilian law and the absence of any definitive interpretation of this law by Brazilian tax authorities, it is not clear whether the Brazilian government will attempt to use this law to impose capital gains on non-Brazilian residents whose assets are located in Brazil. More specifically, it is unclear whether ADSs representing class A preferred shares, which are issued by the ADR depository outside Brazil, will be deemed to be property located in Brazil for purposes of this law. Accordingly, we cannot determine whether Brazilian tax authorities will attempt to tax any capital gains arising from the sale or other disposition of ADSs or class A preferred shares, even when the transaction is consummated outside Brazil between non-Brazilian residents.

The relative volatility and liquidity of the Brazilian securities markets may adversely affect the liquidity and market price of the ADSs.

The Brazilian securities markets are substantially smaller, less liquid and more volatile than major securities markets in the United States. The São Paulo Stock Exchange, which is the principal Brazilian stock exchange, had a market capitalization of US\$234.2 billion (or R\$676.7 billion) at December 31, 2003 and an average daily trading volume of US\$271.9 million for 2003. In comparison, The New York Stock Exchange had a market capitalization of US\$17.3 trillion at December 31, 2003 and an average daily trading volume of US\$38.5 billion for 2003. There is also significantly greater concentration in the Brazilian securities markets. The 10 largest companies in terms of market capitalization represented approximately 48% of the aggregate market capitalization of the São Paulo Stock Exchange at December 31, 2003. The 10 most widely traded stocks in terms of trading volume accounted for approximately 54% of all shares traded on The São Paulo Stock Exchange in 2003. These market characteristics may substantially limit the ability of holders of the ADSs to sell class A preferred shares underlying ADSs at a price and at a time when they wish to do so.

Developments in other emerging markets may adversely affect the market price of the ADSs.

The market price of the ADSs may be adversely affected by declines in the international financial markets and world economic conditions. Although economic conditions are different in each country, investors' reaction to developments in one country can affect the securities markets and the securities of issuers in other countries, including Brazil. Brazilian securities markets are, to varying degrees, influenced by economic and market conditions in other emerging market countries, especially those in Latin America. Any return to economic turmoil in Argentina or adverse economic developments in other emerging markets may adversely affect investor confidence in securities issued by Brazilian companies, causing their market price and liquidity to suffer. Any such developments could immediately affect our ability to raise capital when needed and the market price of the ADSs.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate the net proceeds from the sale of class A preferred shares in the global offering, including the ADSs offered by this prospectus, will be approximately US\$ million or approximately US\$ million if the underwriters' over-allotment options are exercised in full, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us.

We intend to use the net proceeds of the global offering for general corporate purposes, including, among others, working capital and repayment of short-term indebtedness.

Table of Contents**MARKET INFORMATION**

The principal trading market for our common shares, class A preferred shares and class B preferred shares is the São Paulo Stock Exchange. Our common shares and class A preferred shares began trading on the São Paulo Stock Exchange on November 11, 1980, and our class B preferred shares began trading on the São Paulo Stock Exchange on August 19, 1983.

On December 21, 1998, ADSs representing our class A preferred shares began trading on The New York Stock Exchange. On December 31, 2003, there were 969,303 ADSs outstanding, representing 969,303,000 class A preferred shares, or 2.2% of our outstanding class A preferred shares.

On October 8, 2003, we listed our class A preferred shares on the LATIBEX, a stock market for Latin American issuers that is quoted in euros on the Madrid Stock Exchange, under the symbol XBRK. Our class A preferred shares are traded on the LATIBEX in lots of 1,000 shares.

At December 31, 2003, we had approximately 6,400 shareholders, including two U.S. resident holders of our common shares, approximately 98 U.S. resident holders of our class A preferred shares (including The Bank of New York, as depository) and no U.S. resident holders of our class B preferred shares. At December 31, 2003, there were 212,167,900 common shares, 2,138,323,444 class A preferred shares (including class A preferred shares represented by ADSs), and no class B preferred shares held by U.S. resident holders.

Price History of Our Class A Preferred Shares and the ADSs

The tables below set forth the high and low closing sales prices for our class A preferred shares on the São Paulo Stock Exchange and the high and low closing sales prices for the ADSs on The New York Stock Exchange for the periods indicated.

	São Paulo Stock Exchange		New York Stock Exchange	
	Reais per 1,000 Class A Preferred Shares		U.S. dollars per ADS	
	High	Low	High	Low
1999	R\$23.72	R\$ 3.85	US\$ 16.19	US\$ 3.68
2000	34.67	20.34	22.88	14.19
2001	31.00	15.43	17.88	6.14
2002	29.24	9.60	12.75	2.57
2003	66.85	7.90	23.39	2.20

Table of Contents

	São Paulo Stock Exchange		New York Stock Exchange	
	<i>Reais per 1,000 Class A Preferred Shares</i>		U.S. dollars per ADS	
	High	Low	High	Low
2002				
First Quarter	R\$29.24	R\$23.02	US\$ 12.75	US\$ 10.05
Second Quarter	27.11	18.75	11.77	6.09
Third Quarter	20.35	11.50	7.11	3.18
Fourth Quarter	12.25	9.60	3.50	2.57
2003				
First Quarter	13.25	7.90	4.10	2.20
Second Quarter	20.75	11.40	7.20	3.35
Third Quarter	36.30	19.20	12.49	6.60
Fourth Quarter	66.85	35.80	23.39	12.40
2004				
First Quarter	80.51	63.00	29.25	21.50

	São Paulo Stock Exchange		New York Stock Exchange	
	<i>Reais per 1,000 Class A Preferred Shares</i>		U.S. dollars per ADS	
	High	Low	High	Low
October 2003	R\$42.45	R\$35.80	15.00	12.40
November 2003	48.97	40.00	16.75	14.23
December 2003	66.85	48.30	23.39	16.61
January 2004	80.51	67.10	29.25	23.25
February 2004	77.00	63.00	26.00	21.50
March 2004	77.41	72.88	26.79	23.22
April 2004 (through April 2)	72.49	69.70	25.53	24.13

Source: Economática Ltda.

On April 2, 2004, the closing sales price of:

our class A preferred shares on the São Paulo Stock Exchange was R\$69.70 per 1,000 shares;

our class A preferred shares on the LATIBEX was 19.80 per 1,000 shares; and

the ADSs on The New York Stock Exchange was US\$24.13 per ADS.

Trading on the São Paulo Stock Exchange

Settlement of transactions conducted on the São Paulo Stock Exchange is effected three business days after the trade date without any adjustment for inflation. Delivery of and payment for shares is made through the facilities of the São Paulo Stock Exchange's clearinghouse (*Companhia Brasileira de Liquidação e Custódia*). The seller is ordinarily required to deliver the shares to the exchange on the second business day following the trade date.

The São Paulo Stock Exchange is significantly less liquid than The New York Stock Exchange and many other of the world's major stock exchanges. While all of the outstanding shares of a listed company may trade on the São Paulo Stock Exchange, in most cases fewer than half of

Edgar Filing: BRASKEM SA - Form F-1

the listed shares are actually available for trading by the public. The remaining shares are often held by a single or small group of controlling persons or by governmental entities.

Trading on the São Paulo Stock Exchange by a holder not deemed to be domiciled in Brazil for Brazilian tax and regulatory purposes, or a non-Brazilian holder, is subject to certain limitations under

Table of Contents

Brazilian foreign investment regulations. With limited exceptions, non-Brazilians holders may trade on the São Paulo Stock Exchange only in accordance with the requirements of Resolution No. 2,689 of January 26, 2000 of the National Monetary Council. Resolution No. 2,689 requires securities held by non-Brazilian holders to be maintained in the custody of, or in deposit accounts with, financial institutions that are authorized by the Central Bank and the Brazilian Securities Commission. In addition, Resolution No. 2,689 requires non-Brazilian holders to restrict their securities trading to transactions on the São Paulo Stock Exchange or organized over-the-counter markets. With limited exceptions, non-Brazilian holders may not transfer the ownership of investments made under Resolution No. 2,689 to other non-Brazilian holders through private transactions.

Regulation of Brazilian Securities Markets

The Brazilian securities markets are regulated by the Brazilian Securities Commission, which has authority over stock exchanges and the securities markets generally, by the National Monetary Council and by the Central Bank, which has, among other powers, licensing authority over brokerage firms and which regulates foreign investment and foreign exchange transactions. The Brazilian securities market is governed by Brazilian Law No. 6,385/76, as amended, and by the Brazilian Corporation Law and other Brazilian Securities Commission rulings and regulations.

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, a company may be either public (*companhia aberta*), as we are, or closely held (*companhia fechada*). All public companies are registered with the Brazilian Securities Commission and are subject to periodic reporting requirements. A company registered with the Brazilian Securities Commission may have its securities traded on the Brazilian stock exchanges or in the Brazilian over-the-counter market. The shares of a listed company, like those of our company, also may be traded privately subject to certain limitations.

The Brazilian over-the-counter market consists of direct trades between persons in which a financial institution registered with the Brazilian Securities Commission serves as intermediary. No special application, other than registration with the Brazilian Securities Commission, is necessary for securities of a public company to be traded in this market. The Brazilian Securities Commission must receive notice of all trades carried out in the Brazilian over-the counter market by the respective intermediaries.

Trading of a company's securities on the São Paulo Stock Exchange may be suspended in anticipation of a material announcement. A company must also suspend trading of its securities on international stock exchanges on which its securities are traded. Trading may also be suspended by a Brazilian stock exchange or the Brazilian Securities Commission, among other reasons, based on or due to a belief that a company has provided inadequate information regarding a material event or has provided inadequate responses to an inquiry by the Brazilian Securities Commission or the relevant stock exchange.

Brazilian Law No. 6,385/76, as amended, the Brazilian Corporation Law and regulations issued by the Brazilian Securities Commission provide for, among other things, disclosure obligations, restrictions on insider trading and price manipulation and protections for minority shareholders. However, the Brazilian securities markets are not as highly regulated and supervised as securities markets in the United States and some other jurisdictions. In addition, rules and policies against self-dealing or for preserving shareholder interests may be less well-defined and enforced in Brazil than in the United States, which may put holders of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs at a disadvantage. Corporate disclosures also may be less complete than for public company in the United States and certain other jurisdictions.

São Paulo Stock Exchange Corporate Governance Standards

On December 11, 2000, the São Paulo Stock Exchange launched three new listing segments:

Corporate Governance Level 1;

Corporate Governance Level 2; and

The New Market (*Novo Mercado*) of the São Paulo Stock Exchange.

Table of Contents

These new listing segments have been designed for the trading of shares issued by companies that voluntarily undertake to abide by corporate governance practices and disclosure requirements in addition to those already required under the Brazilian Corporation Law. The inclusion of a company in any of the new segments requires adherence to a series of corporate governance rules. These rules are designed to increase shareholders' rights and enhance the quality of information provided by Brazilian corporations.

On February 13, 2003, we agreed to comply with Level 1. At that time, we announced our intention to adhere to Level 2 by December 31, 2004.

In becoming a Level 1 company, we agreed to:

ensure that shares representing 25% of our total share capital are available for trading;

adopt offering procedures that favor widespread ownership of shares whenever making a public offering;

comply with minimum quarterly disclosure standards;

follow stricter disclosure policies with respect to transactions involving our securities made by our controlling shareholder and our directors and executive officers;

disclose any existing shareholders agreements and stock option plans; and

make a schedule of corporate events available to our shareholders.

To become a Level 2 company, a company must agree to the following additional provisions:

confer upon preferred shares the right to vote on at least the following issues: (1) transformation, merger, consolidation or spin-off of the company; (2) approval of transactions between the company and its controlling shareholder and/or related parties, whenever such matter is subject to authorization at a general meeting of shareholders pursuant to law or under the company's by-laws; (3) appraisal of assets contributed to pay the company's capital increases; (4) selection of a specialized company in charge of determining the company's economic value for delisting purposes; and (5) amendment to or revocation of any provisions contained in the company's by-laws, whenever such acts alter or modify any requirements set forth in the São Paulo Stock Exchange regulations;

offer tag-along rights to minority shareholders (meaning that upon the acquisition of a controlling interest, the purchaser must also agree to purchase the shares of the company's minority shareholders in an amount equivalent to 100% of the price paid for each share in the controlling stake, in the case of holders of common shares, and at least 70% of the price paid for each share in the controlling stake, in the case of holders of preferred shares);

conduct a tender offer at fair market value in the event of a delisting of shares;

present an annual balance sheet prepared in accordance with, or reconciled to, U.S. GAAP or international financial reporting standards;

establish a one-year term for all members of the board of directors; and

resolve corporate conflicts with or among the company's shareholders through arbitration.

To be a company listed on the New Market, a company must have its share capital composed exclusively of common shares in addition to meeting the Level 1 and the Level 2 requirements. We have no current plans to propose to amend our share capital structure to provide solely for the issuance of common shares.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our consolidated capitalization at December 31, 2003:

on an actual historical basis;

as adjusted for:

(1) the issuance and sale of R\$1,200.0 million in aggregate principal amount of our eleventh series of debentures in January and February 2004 and the use of proceeds therefrom; and

(2) the issuance and sale of US\$250.0 million (R\$710.4 million) in aggregate principal amount of our 11.75% Notes due 2014 in January 2004 and the use of proceeds therefrom; and

as further adjusted for the sale of class A preferred shares in the global offering, including the ADSs offered hereby, at the initial public offering price, and after deduction of the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us in connection with the global offering, and the use of proceeds therefrom.

You should read this table in conjunction with our consolidated and combined financial statements included in this prospectus.

At December 31, 2003

	Historical		As Adjusted		As Further Adjusted	
	(in millions of reais)	(in millions of US\$)(1)	(in millions of reais)	(in millions of US\$)(1)	(in millions of reais)	(in millions of US\$)(1)
Cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities	R\$ 1,184.3	US\$ 409.9	R\$ 2,571.0	US\$ 889.8	R\$	US\$
Short-term debt (including accrued interest and current portion of long-term debt)						
<i>Real</i> -denominated debt (including debentures)	R\$ 891.8	US\$ 308.7	R\$ 891.8	US\$ 308.7	R\$	US\$
Foreign currency-denominated debt	1,966.2	680.6	1,966.2	680.6		
Short-term debt of proportionally consolidated companies	217.5	75.3	217.5	75.3		
Total short-term debt	R\$ 3,075.5	US\$ 1,064.6	R\$ 3,075.5	US\$ 1,064.6	R\$	US\$
Long-term debt						
<i>Real</i> -denominated debt:						
Eleventh series of debentures	R\$	US\$	R\$ 1,200.0	US\$ 415.4	R\$ 1,200.0	US\$ 415.4
Tenth series of debentures	379.9	131.5				
Subordinated convertible debentures	763.1	264.1	763.1	264.1	763.1	264.1
	505.2	174.9	361.4	125.1	361.4	125.1

Other
real-denominated debt

Table of Contents

At December 31, 2003

	Historical		As Adjusted		As Further Adjusted	
	(in millions of reais)	(in millions of US\$)(1)	(in millions of reais)	(in millions of US\$)(1)	(in millions of reais)	(in millions of US\$)(1)
Foreign currency-denominated debt:						
11.75% Notes due 2014			710.4	245.9	710.4	245.9
9.25% Notes due 2005	187.8	65.0	187.8	65.0	187.8	65.0
12.50% Notes due 2008	794.5	275.0	794.5	275.0	794.5	275.0
9.00% Notes due 2007	433.4	150.0	433.4	150.0	433.4	150.0
Other foreign currency-denominated debt	1,421.2	491.9	1,421.2	491.9	1,421.2	491.9
Long-term debt of proportionally consolidated companies	273.2	94.5	273.2	94.6	273.2	94.6
	<u>4,758.3</u>	<u>1,646.9</u>	<u>6,134.8</u>	<u>2,123.5</u>	<u>6,134.8</u>	<u>2,123.5</u>
Total long-term debt						
	<u>4,758.3</u>	<u>1,646.9</u>	<u>6,134.8</u>	<u>2,123.5</u>	<u>6,134.8</u>	<u>2,123.5</u>
Related party debt (long-term)						
Real-denominated debt	20.2	7.0	20.2	7.0	20.2	7.0
Foreign currency-denominated debt	157.4	54.5	157.4	54.5	157.4	54.5
	<u>177.6</u>	<u>61.5</u>	<u>177.6</u>	<u>61.5</u>	<u>177.6</u>	<u>61.5</u>
Total related party debt						
	<u>177.6</u>	<u>61.5</u>	<u>177.6</u>	<u>61.5</u>	<u>177.6</u>	<u>61.5</u>
Shareholders equity	<u>2,112.6</u>	<u>731.2</u>	<u>2,112.6</u>	<u>731.2</u>		
Total capitalization (long-term debt, related party debt (long-term) plus shareholders equity)	<u>R\$7,048.5</u>	<u>US\$2,439.6</u>	<u>R\$8,425.0</u>	<u>US\$2,916.2</u>	<u>R\$</u>	<u>US\$</u>

(1) Translated for convenience only using the commercial selling rate as reported by the Central Bank at December 31, 2003 for *reais* into U.S. dollars of R\$2.889=U.S.\$1.00.

At December 31, 2003, R\$840.8 million of our *real*-denominated debt (excluding related party debt) was secured and R\$1,699.2 million was unsecured. At December 31, 2003, R\$232.8 million of our foreign currency-denominated debt (excluding related party debt) was secured and R\$4,570.3 million was unsecured. At December 31, 2003, R\$276.2 million of our foreign currency-denominated debt was guaranteed by the Odebrecht Group.

Table of Contents

DILUTION

Dilution Relating to Global Offering

Purchasers of the ADSs will experience immediate and substantial dilution to the extent of any difference between the initial public offering price per share and the net book value per share upon the completion of the global offering.

Net book value represents the amount of our total assets, less our total liabilities. Net book value per share is determined by dividing our net book value by the number of our outstanding shares.

At December 31, 2003, our net book value was approximately US\$10.58 per share, translated at the commercial selling rate as reported by the Central Bank at December 31, 2003 for *reais* into U.S. dollars of R\$2.889 = US\$1.00. Based upon an the initial public offering price of US\$ per ADS, the immediate dilution to purchasers of the ADSs in the global offering will be US\$ per share or %. The following table illustrates this per ADS dilution:

	Per ADS
	US\$
Initial public offering price	US\$
Net book value at December 31, 2003	—
Dilution to new investors	US\$

Future Dilution

Holders of ADSs may, in the future, experience further substantial dilution upon the exercise of the Petroquisa option to acquire new common shares and preferred shares from our company or upon conversion by ODBPAR Investments of R\$636.6 million principal amount of convertible subordinated debentures. See [Principal Shareholders and Related Party Transactions](#) [Principal Shareholders](#) [Shareholders Agreements](#) and [Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations](#) [Liquidity and Capital Resources](#) [Indebtedness and Financing Strategy](#).

Table of Contents**EXCHANGE RATES**

There are two principal legal foreign exchange markets in Brazil:

the commercial rate exchange market; and

the floating rate exchange market.

Each of these markets is separately regulated. Most trade and financial foreign-exchange transactions are carried out on the commercial rate exchange market. These transactions include the purchase and sale of ordinary and preferred shares and the payment of dividends or other distributions with respect to them.

Foreign currencies may be purchased only through a Brazilian bank authorized to operate in these markets. The Brazilian government unified the operating limits imposed on Brazilian banks with respect to both markets, which reduced the difference between their rates. In both markets, rates are still freely negotiated but may be strongly influenced by Central Bank intervention.

From March 1995 through January 1999, the Central Bank allowed the gradual devaluation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar. In January 1999, the Central Bank allowed the *real*/ U.S. dollar exchange rate to float freely. Since then, the *real*/ U.S. dollar exchange rate has been established mainly by the Brazilian interbank market and has fluctuated considerably. From December 31, 1998 through December 31, 2003, the *real* devalued by 58.2% against the U.S. dollar, and at April 2, 2004, the commercial selling rate for U.S. dollars was R\$2.893 per US\$1.00. The Central Bank has intervened occasionally to control unstable movements in the foreign exchange rate. However, the exchange market may continue to be volatile, and the *real* may depreciate or appreciate substantially in value in relation to the U.S. dollar in the future.

The following table shows the commercial selling rate for U.S. dollars for the periods and dates indicated. The information in the Average column represents the average of the exchange rates on the last day of each month during the years presented.

Year	Reais per U.S. Dollar			
	High	Low	Average	Period End
1999	R\$2.165	R\$1.210	R\$1.851	R\$1.789
2000	1.985	1.723	1.835	1.956
2001	2.801	1.936	2.353	2.320
2002	3.955	2.271	2.998	3.533
2003	3.662	2.822	3.071	2.889
2004 (through March 31, 2004)	2.988	2.802	2.921	2.908

Source: Central Bank

Month	Reais per U.S. Dollar	
	High	Low
October 2003	2.903	2.827
November 2003	2.955	2.856
December 2003	2.943	2.888
January 2004	2.941	2.802
February 2004	2.988	2.904
March 2004	2.941	2.872

Source: Central Bank

Table of Contents**SELECTED FINANCIAL AND OTHER INFORMATION**

The following table presents selected financial and other information for our company at the dates and for each of the years indicated. The selected financial information has been derived from the financial statements of our company prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, which differs in significant respects from U.S. GAAP. For a discussion of the significant differences relating to these financial statements and a reconciliation of net income (loss) and shareholders' equity from Brazilian GAAP to U.S. GAAP, see note 29 to our consolidated and combined financial statements included in this prospectus. The selected financial and other data at December 31, 2003 and 2002 and for the three years in the period ended December 31, 2003 have been derived from our consolidated and combined financial statements included in this prospectus. The selected financial data at December 31, 2000 and 1999 and for the two years ended December 31, 2000 have been derived from audited financial statements of our company that are not included in this prospectus. This financial information should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated and combined financial statements in this prospectus.

All per thousand share data presented below for periods before October 21, 2003 have been adjusted to give effect to the 20-for-1 share split that was effective on that date.

	At and for the Year Ended December 31,					
	2003(1)	2003	2002	2001(2)	2000	1999
	(in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts)	(in millions of <i>reais</i> , except per thousand shares, per ADS amounts and operating data)				
Statement of Operations Data						
Brazilian GAAP:						
Net sales revenue	US\$ 3,508.1	R\$ 10,135.8	R\$ 7,576.6	R\$ 4,459.5	R\$ 2,897.5	R\$ 1,874.8
Cost of sales and services rendered	(2,799.8)	(8,089.3)	(6,175.5)	(3,637.6)	(2,357.1)	(1,344.1)
Gross profit	708.3	2,046.5	1,401.1	821.9	540.4	530.7
Selling and general and administrative expenses	(163.3)	(471.9)	(577.7)	(210.3)	(116.2)	(101.7)
Investment in associated companies, net(3)	(54.8)	(158.2)	(251.7)	(214.3)	(3.6)	4.2
Depreciation and amortization	(67.0)	(193.5)	(222.4)	(111.3)	(36.5)	(36.1)
Financial expenses	(246.6)	(712.6)	(3,481.5)	(801.2)	(250.0)	(346.6)
Financial income	3.1	9.0	619.6	294.7	178.6	173.2
Zero-rated IPI credit			1,030.1			
Other operating income (expenses)	17.2	49.7	102.6	103.3	(12.5)	5.5
Operating income (loss)	196.9	569.0	(1,379.9)	(117.2)	300.2	229.2
Non-operating expenses, net	(1.7)	(4.8)	(98.0)	(120.8)	(0.6)	(9.1)
Income (loss) before income tax and social contribution (current and deferred) and minority interest	195.2	564.2	(1,477.9)	(238.0)	299.6	220.1
Income tax and social contribution (current and deferred)	(42.5)	(122.9)	(89.8)	(77.6)	(73.3)	(54.4)

Edgar Filing: BRASKEM SA - Form F-1

Income (loss) before minority interest	152.7	441.3	(1,567.7)	(315.6)	226.3	165.7
Minority interest	(78.3)	(226.2)	189.0	(108.9)	1.3	0.2
Net income (loss) for the year	US\$ 74.4	R\$ 215.1	R\$(1,378.7)	R\$ (424.5)	R\$ 227.6	R\$ 165.9

(Footnotes on page after table)

Table of Contents

At and for the Year Ended December 31,

	2003(1)		2003		2002		2001(2)		2000		1999	
	(in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts)		(in millions of reais, except per thousand shares, per ADS amounts and operating data)									
Number of shares outstanding at year end, excluding treasury shares (in thousands):												
Common shares			25,608,114		24,521,820		12,933,860		12,933,860		12,933,860	
Class A preferred shares			42,594,754		42,122,880		21,592,900		21,592,900		21,574,900	
Class B preferred shares			229,154		229,160		229,160		229,160		229,160	
Net income (loss) per thousand shares at year end	US\$	1.09	R\$	3.15	R\$	(20.62)	R\$	(12.21)	R\$	6.55	R\$	4.78
Net income (loss) per ADS(4) at year end	1.09		3.15		(20.62)		(12.21)		6.55		4.78	
Dividends declared per thousand shares:												
Common shares							1.73		3.44		2.42	
Class A preferred shares					0.52		2.08		3.44		2.42	
Class B preferred shares					0.52		2.08		2.08		2.08	
Dividends declared per ADS(4)					0.52		2.08		3.44		2.42	
U.S. GAAP:												
Net income (loss) for the year	US\$	131.1	R\$	378.7	R\$	(698.7)	R\$	(470.0)				
Basic earnings (loss) per thousand shares (weighted average):												
Common shares	1.95		5.64		(29.14)		(26.66)					
Class A preferred shares	1.90		5.49									
Class B preferred shares	0.57		1.64									
Basic earnings (loss) per ADS (weighted average)(4)	1.90		5.49									
Diluted earnings (loss) per thousand shares (weighted average):												
Common shares	US\$	1.93	R\$	5.59	R\$	(29.14)	R\$	(26.66)				
Class A preferred shares	1.89		5.47									
Class B preferred shares	0.57		1.64									
Diluted earnings (loss) per ADS (weighted average)(4)	1.89		5.47									
Balance Sheet Data												
Brazilian GAAP:												

Edgar Filing: BRASKEM SA - Form F-1

Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities	US\$	409.9	R\$	1,184.3	R\$	821.0	R\$	513.2	R\$	708.9	R\$	561.4
Trade accounts receivable		420.9		1,216.2		959.0		484.1		231.6		188.6
Inventories		370.9		1,071.6		889.1		667.8		163.4		119.9
Property, plant and equipment, net		1,741.7		5,032.0		5,296.7		4,429.7		1,969.0		1,977.2
Total assets		4,805.1		13,883.0		13,898.2		9,555.3		3,748.7		3,544.3
Short-term loans and financing (including current portion of long-term debt)		943.7		2,726.5		2,746.1		1,966.4		331.5		257.4
Short-term debentures		6.6		349.0		32.1		26.2				
Short-term related company debt		0.1		0.2		8.2		88.7				
Long-term loans and financing		1,251.3		3,615.3		3,891.6		3,101.7		861.8		915.6
Long-term debentures		509.8		1,143.0		1,190.2		473.6				

(Footnotes on page after table)

Table of Contents

At and for the Year Ended December 31,

	2003(1)	2003	2002	2001(2)	2000	1999
	(in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts)	(in millions of reais, except per thousand shares, per ADS amounts and operating data)				
Long-term related company debt	61.5	177.6	189.3	626.7	0.9	1.1
Minority interest	191.9	554.4	433.1	738.0	27.4	30.1
Share capital	653.3	1,887.4	1,845.4	1,201.6	1,201.6	1,203.9
Shareholders equity	731.2	2,112.6	1,821.8	1,729.0	2,267.8	2,085.3
U.S. GAAP:						
Total assets	US\$ 3,792.2	R\$ 10,956.4	R\$ 10,377.0	R\$ 6,964.3		
Shareholders equity	2.5	7.1	(416.5)	289.8		
Other Financial Information						
Brazilian GAAP:						
Net cash provided by (used in):						
Operating activities	US\$ 200.9	R\$ 580.5	R\$ 790.0	R\$ 1,453.9	R\$ 550.3	R\$ 613.6
Investing activities	(159.4)	(460.4)	(646.7)	(862.2)	(115.6)	(34.6)
Financing activities	127.3	367.8	(237.2)	(404.9)	(287.2)	(210.7)
Capital expenditures:						
Property, plant and equipment	74.3	214.7	419.9	318.0	18.4	48.0
Interest in other companies	24.8	71.7	13.1	1,172.3	82.6	26.6
EBITDA(5)	625.9	1,808.4	2,043.7	708.7	548.0	568.9

At and for the Year Ended December 31,

	2003	2002	2001(2)	2000	1999	
	(in millions of reais, except per thousand shares, per ADS amounts and operating data)					
Operating Data(6):						
Ethylene:						
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)		1,047.3	994.8	1,064.8	1,103.8	1,121.1
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)		1,634	1,292	1,135	1,046	633
Propylene:						
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)		403.4	415.2	421.1	487.7	494.3
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)		1,495	1,106	825	875	444
Polyethylene(7):						
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)		445.4	491.8	495.0		
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)		2,567	2,007	1,920		
Polypropylene(7):						
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)		374.9	395.1	338.5		
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)		2,689	1,931	1,623		
PVC(8):						
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)		342.4	350.1	327.6		
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)		2,358	1,969	1,623		
Number of employees (at period end)		2,868	2,817	1,424	1,161	1,104

Edgar Filing: BRASKEM SA - Form F-1

- (1) Translated for convenience only using the commercial selling rate as reported by the Central Bank at December 31, 2003 for *reais* into U.S. dollars of R\$2.889=US\$1.00.
- (2) The financial information for 2001 is not comparable with the financial information for 2000 and 1999 as a result of our merger with OPP Produtos, which we accounted for as if it had occurred on July 25, 2001 as a result of the common control exercised by the Odebrecht Group over our company and OPP Produtos.

(Footnotes continued on next page)

Table of Contents

- (3) Investment in associated companies, net comprises equity in the results, amortization of goodwill, net, foreign exchange variation and tax incentives and other.
- (4) Net income (loss) per 1,000 shares or ADS under Brazilian GAAP is based on shares outstanding at the end of each year. Earnings (loss) per 1,000 shares or ADS under U.S. GAAP is based on the weighted average number of class A preferred shares outstanding during each period.
- (5) EBITDA is the sum of the following income statement lines, without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies: Net income (loss) for the year; minority interest; income tax and social contribution (current and deferred); non-operating expenses, net; financial expenses, net; investment in associated companies; and depreciation and amortization, including depreciation and amortization within cost of sales. EBITDA is not a measurement under Brazilian GAAP and should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for net income as a measure of performance, cash flow from operating activities or other measures of liquidity determined in accordance with Brazilian GAAP. However, we believe that EBITDA serves as a financial analysis tool for measuring our company's performance in several areas, including liquidity, operating performance and leverage. In addition, EBITDA is commonly used by financial analysts in evaluating our company and its financial performance. EBITDA may not be comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies. EBITDA is calculated as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,					
	2003(1)	2003	2002	2001(2)	2000	1999
	(in millions of US\$)		(in millions of reais)			
Net income (loss) for the year	74.4	215.1	(1,378.7)	(424.5)	227.6	165.9
Add:						
Minority interest	77.7	224.4	(199.1)	112.2	1.3	0.2
Income tax and social contribution (current and deferred)	31.8	91.8	57.7	56.0	73.8	56.3
Non-operating expenses, net	1.6	4.6	74.2	116.1	0.7	9.0
Financial expenses, net	226.9	655.5	2,788.5	468.1	71.4	173.5
Investment in associated companies, net	41.3	119.4	313.7	232.8	3.6	(4.2)
Depreciation and amortization, including depreciation and amortization within cost of sales	172.2	497.6	387.4	148.0	169.6	165.2
EBITDA	625.9	1,808.4	2,043.7	708.7	548.0	568.9

- (6) Excluding intra-company sales within Braskem.
- (7) Represents the sum of the sales volumes of Polialden and OPP Química for 2001.
- (8) Represents the sales volume of Trikem for 2001.

Table of Contents

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our audited consolidated and combined financial statements at December 31, 2003 and 2002 and for the three years ended December 31, 2003 included in this prospectus, as well as with the information presented under "Presentation of Financial and Other Information" and "Selected Financial and Other Information."

The following discussion contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results may differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including those set forth in "Forward-Looking Statements and Risk Factors."

The discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations has been organized to present the following:

- a brief overview of our company and the principal factors that influence our results of operations, financial condition and liquidity;
- a review of our financial presentation and accounting policies, including our critical accounting policies;
- a discussion of the principal factors that influence our results of operations;
- a discussion of developments since the end of 2003 that may materially affect our results of operations, financial condition and liquidity;
- a discussion of our results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001;
- a discussion of our liquidity and capital resources, including our working capital at December 31, 2003 and 2002, our cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, and our material short-term and long-term indebtedness;
- a discussion of our off-balance sheet arrangements;
- a discussion of our capital expenditures and our contractual commitments;
- a qualitative and quantitative discussion of market risks that we face; and
- a brief overview of the differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP as they relate to our financial statements.

Overview

We are the leading petrochemical company in Latin America and one of the five largest private sector industrial companies in Brazil, based on net sales revenue for 2003. We recorded net income of R\$215.1 million in 2003 on net sales revenue of R\$10,135.8 million. We produce a diversified portfolio of petrochemical products and have a strategic focus on polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC. We are the only Brazilian company with integrated first and second generation petrochemical production facilities, with 13 plants in Brazil.

Our results of operations have been influenced and will continue to be influenced by a variety of factors, including:

our substantial increase in production capacity and product offerings through our acquisition of Nova Camaçari Participações S.A., or Nova Camaçari, our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações and internal growth, and our ability to realize additional cost savings through the integration into our company of the companies that we have acquired during the past few years;

the growth rate of Brazilian GDP, which affects the demand for our products and, consequently, our domestic sales volume;

Table of Contents

- the international market price of naphtha, our principal raw material, which significantly affects the cost of producing our products;
 - the expansion of global production capacity for the products that we sell and the growth rate of the global economy;
 - the exchange rate of the Brazilian *real* against the U.S. dollar;
 - the level of our outstanding indebtedness and the interest rates we pay on this indebtedness, which affects our net financial expenses;
 - the results of operations of those companies in which we have minority equity interests, such as Copesul and Politeno, a portion of which are consolidated into our results of operations as required by Brazilian GAAP; and
 - the tax policies adopted by, and resulting tax obligations to, the Brazilian government and the governments of the Brazilian states in which we operate.
- Our financial condition and liquidity is influenced by a variety of factors, including:
- our ability to generate cash flows from our operations;
 - prevailing domestic and international interest rates and movements in exchange rates, which affect our debt service requirements;
 - our ability to continue to be able to borrow funds from Brazilian and international financial institutions and to sell our debt securities in the Brazilian and international securities markets, which is influenced by a number of factors discussed below;
 - our ability to extend the average maturity of our loans and debt securities as we refinance our existing indebtedness; and
 - our capital expenditure requirements, which consist primarily of maintenance of our operating facilities, expansion of our production capacity and research and development activities.

Financial Presentation and Accounting Policies

Consolidated and Combined Financial Statements

We have prepared our consolidated and combined financial statements at December 31, 2003 and 2002 and for the three years ended December 31, 2003 in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, which differs in significant respects from U.S. GAAP. See note 29 to our consolidated and combined financial statements for an explanation of these differences. The financial information contained in this prospectus is in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, except as otherwise noted.

Since July 25, 2001, our company has grown substantially through acquisitions and mergers, principally the acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações. See History and Corporate Reorganization. Prior to our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações, Odebrecht, a member of the Odebrecht Group, owned all of the voting share capital of OPP Produtos, and Pronor, a member of the Mariani Group, owned all of the voting share capital of 52114 Participações.

We accounted for the acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our merger with 52114 Participações at the respective date of the acquisition or merger. However, as a result of the common control exercised by the Odebrecht Group over our company and OPP Produtos prior to the merger of OPP Produtos, we accounted for the merger of OPP Produtos as if this acquisition had occurred on July 25, 2001, the date we acquired Nova Camaçari and the date on which such common control had commenced. As a result:

- our consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2001 reflects the inclusion of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our merger with OPP Produtos;

Table of Contents

our consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2002 reflects the inclusion of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in our acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações;

our consolidated statement of operations and cash flow accounts for the year ended December 31, 2001 reflect the operations and cash flows of Nova Camaçari and OPP Produtos and their subsidiaries for the period beginning on July 25, 2001; and

our consolidated statement of operations and cash flow accounts for the year ended December 31, 2002 reflect the operations and cash flows of Nova Camaçari and OPP Produtos and their subsidiaries for that year and the operations and cash flows of 52114 Participações and its subsidiaries for the period beginning on August 16, 2002.

Our consolidated and combined financial statements under Brazilian GAAP have been prepared in accordance with Brazilian Securities Commission Instruction No. 247/96, as amended by Brazilian Securities Commission Instruction Nos. 269/97, 285/98 and 319/99, which we refer to collectively as Instruction 247. Instruction 247 requires our company to proportionally consolidate jointly controlled companies that are not our subsidiaries, principally Copesul and Politeno.

Our results of operations for 2001 and 2002 are not fully comparable because our results of operations for 2001 include the results of OPP Química, Trikem, Polialden and Proppet and proportional consolidation of the results of Copesul and Politeno only for the period after July 25, 2001. Our results of operations for 2002 include the results of these companies for the full year.

Our results of operations for 2002 and 2003 are not fully comparable because our results of operations for 2002 include the results of Nitrocarbano only for the period after August 16, 2002, and our results of operations for 2003 include the results of Nitrocarbano for the full year. However, because of the size of our Business Development Unit relative to our company, we do not believe that this lack of full comparability is material.

Business Segments and Presentation of Segment Financial Data

In 2002, we implemented an organizational structure that we believe reflects our business activities and corresponds to our principal products and production processes. We report our results by four market segments to reflect this organizational structure:

Basic Petrochemicals This segment includes our production and sale of basic petrochemicals and our supply of utilities to second generation producers, including some producers owned or controlled by our company. These activities consist of operations historically conducted by our company;

Polyolefins This segment includes our production and sale of polyethylene and polypropylene and consists of the operations historically conducted by OPP Química and Polialden;

Vinyls This segment includes our production and sale of PVC, caustic soda and chlorine and consists of the operations historically conducted by Trikem; and

Business Development This segment includes our production and sale of other second generation petrochemical products, and consists of the operations historically conducted by Nitrocarbano and Proppet and our management of some minority equity investments, principally our investments in Petroflex Indústria e Comércio S.A., or Petroflex, and Cetrel.

In 2003, sales by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit, our Vinyls Unit, our Polyolefins Unit and our Business Development Unit represented 47.8%, 13.7%, 33.9% and 4.6%, respectively, of our net sales revenue of all segments before reflecting the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies.

We report business segment data in note 29 to our combined and consolidated financial statements in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 131, Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information. SFAS No. 131 requires that segment data be presented on the basis of the internal information that is used by management to assess performance and

Table of Contents

make operating decisions, including decisions regarding the allocation of resources among segments. Because we evaluate and manage segment performance based on information generated from our statutory accounting records, which are maintained in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, the segment data included in our financial statements is presented under Brazilian GAAP.

Critical Accounting Policies

The presentation of our financial condition and results of operation in conformity with Brazilian GAAP requires us to make certain judgments and estimates regarding the effects of matters that are inherently uncertain and that impact the carrying value of our assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates. In order to provide an understanding about how we form our judgments and estimates about certain future events, including the variables and assumptions underlying the estimates, and the sensitivity of those judgments to different variables and conditions, we have included comments related to the following critical accounting policies under Brazilian GAAP:

Revenue Recognition and Provision for Doubtful Accounts. We recognize net sales revenue for our product sales when risk and title to the product are transferred to our customer. Transfer generally occurs at the time when the product is delivered to our customers or their freight carriers. For the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, the Company recognized revenue for product sales when the products were shipped. We record a provision for doubtful accounts in selling expenses for an amount that we consider sufficient to cover any probable losses on realization of our accounts receivable. In order to determine the overall adequacy of the allowance for doubtful accounts, we evaluate the amount and characteristics of our accounts receivables on a quarterly basis. When significant payment delays occur and the likelihood of receiving payment in full of our accounts receivable decreases, we record a provision. We do not record a provision when the accounts receivable are guaranteed by a creditworthy entity or where there are other reasonable grounds to believe that they will be paid.

Impairment and Depreciation and Amortization of Permanent Assets. We perform annual cash flow studies to determine if the accounting value of our assets, primarily our property, plant and equipment, goodwill and other intangible assets, is compatible with the profitability resulting from the respective business units. If the expected cash flows are lower than the accounting value, we record a provision for impairment of the asset's value. In order to estimate future cash flows, we must make various assumptions about matters that are highly uncertain, including future production and sales, product prices (which we estimate based on current and historical prices, price trends and related factors), future taxes payable and operating costs. We regularly recognize expenses related to the depreciation of our property, plant and equipment and to the amortization of our deferred charges, goodwill and other intangible assets. The rates of depreciation or amortization are based on our or third-party estimates of the useful lives of the fixed assets or otherwise over the periods during which these assets can be expected to provide benefits to us.

Valuation of Long-Term Investments. We record long-term investments at cost or under the equity accounting method, depending on our participation in voting capital and the degree of influence that we exercise over the operations of the companies involved. We evaluate the fair value of investments for impairment whenever the performance of the underlying entity indicates that impairment may exist. In such cases, the fair value of the investments is estimated principally based on discounted estimated cash flows using assumptions. Arriving at assumptions and estimates concerning these cash flows is a complex and often subjective process involving estimation of future revenues, costs and taxes.

Valuation of Derivative Instruments. We use swaps, forwards, options and other derivative instruments to manage risks from changes in foreign exchange and interest rates. We record these instruments at their estimated fair market value based on market quotations for similar instruments and assumptions as to future foreign exchange and interest rates. During the periods presented, we

Table of Contents

did not designate any derivative financial instruments as hedges and the fair value adjustments to our derivatives were thus recorded in current net income.

Pension Plans. For defined benefit plans sponsored by us, we calculate our funding obligations based on calculations performed by independent actuaries using assumptions that we provide about interest rates, investment returns, levels of inflation, mortality rates and future employment levels. These assumptions directly impact our liability for accrued pension costs and the amounts we record as pension costs.

Deferred Taxes. We recognize deferred tax assets and liabilities based on the differences between the financial statement carrying amounts and the tax basis of assets and liabilities using prevailing rates. We regularly review any deferred tax assets for recoverability and reduce their carrying value, as required, based on our historical taxable income, projected future taxable income and the expected timing of any reversals of existing temporary differences. If one of our subsidiaries operates at a loss or is unable to generate sufficient future taxable income, or if there is a material change in the actual effective tax rates or the time period within which the underlying temporary differences become taxable or deductible, we evaluate the need to reduce partially or completely the carrying value of our deferred tax assets.

Contingencies. We are currently involved in numerous judicial and administrative proceedings, as described under *Business Legal Proceedings* and in notes 11, 17, 18 and 21 to our consolidated and combined financial statements. We record accrued liabilities for contingencies that we deem probable of creating an adverse effect on the result of operations or financial condition. We believe that these contingencies are properly recognized in our financial statements. We are also involved in judicial and administrative proceedings that are aimed at obtaining or defending our legal rights with respect to taxes that we believe to be unconstitutional or otherwise not required to be paid by our company. We believe that these proceedings will ultimately result in tax credits or benefits, which we do not recognize in our financial statements until the contingency has been resolved. When, based on favorable but appealable court decisions, we use tax credits or benefits in dispute to offset current tax obligations, we establish a provision equal to the amount used and maintain the provision until a final decision on those credits or benefits. Our provisions include interest on the tax obligations we have offset with disputed credits or benefits at the interest rate defined in the relevant tax law.

Principal Factors Affecting Our Results of Operations

Nova Camaçari Acquisition and Mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações

Before July 25, 2001, the date of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari, our operations consisted principally of the operations of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit.

As a result of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari on July 25, 2001:

we acquired Proppet, whose operations are accounted for in our Business Development segment;

we acquired control of Polialden, whose operations are accounted for in our Polyolefins segment; and

we acquired a substantial minority interest in Politeno.

On August 16, 2002, we merged with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações. As a result of these mergers:

we acquired OPP Química, whose operations are accounted for in our Polyolefins segment;

we acquired control of Trikem, whose operations are accounted for in our Vinyls segment;

we acquired control of Nitrocarbono, whose operations are accounted for in our Business Development segment; and

Table of Contents

we acquired a substantial minority interest in Copesul.

As a result of these acquisitions and mergers, our net sales revenue, gross profit and operating income have increased significantly. Because we and OPP Produtos have been under common control since July 25, 2001 (the date of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari), the results of OPP Química and Trikem have been included in our results of operations and the results of Copesul and Politeno have been proportionally consolidated in our results since that date.

In 2001, we identified an estimated total of R\$330 million in recurring and annualized cost reductions that could be realized as a result of the integration into our company of the companies that we have acquired since July 25, 2001. At December 31, 2003, we estimated that the implementation of our integration program will result in our achieving approximately R\$285 million in annual recurring cost reductions as compared to costs that would have been incurred by our company and the companies that we have acquired, as estimated by our management. These cost reduction have been achieved primarily in the areas of tax, logistics, operations and information technology, and personnel. We believe that we will be able to achieve additional annual recurring cost reductions over the next three years through other actions that are expected to complete our integration program. We cannot assure you that we will realize the full benefit of the existing or future identified annual cost savings in future years. To the extent that we fail to do so, for any reason, in any year, our results of operations for that year will be adversely affected.

Growth of Brazil's Gross Domestic Product and Domestic Demand for Our Products

In 2003, 74.2% of our net sales revenue was derived from sales in Brazil. As a Brazilian company with substantially all of our operations in Brazil, we are significantly affected by economic conditions in Brazil. Our results of operations and financial condition have been, and will continue to be, affected by the growth rate of GDP in Brazil because our products are used in the manufacture of a wide range of consumer and industrial products.

Because of our significant market share in many of the Brazilian markets in which our petrochemical products are sold, fluctuations in Brazilian demand for polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC affect our production levels and net sales revenue. GDP in Brazil grew at a compound average annual rate of 2.4% from 1994 through 2003, although Brazilian GDP declined by 0.2% in 2003. From 1994 through 2003, the consumption volumes in Brazil of polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC increased at compound average annual rates of 5.9%, 10.1% and 4.9%, respectively.

In 2001, GDP in Brazil increased by 1.4%. In 2001, Brazilian consumption volumes of polyethylene decreased by 2.5%, polypropylene increased by 5.1% and PVC decreased by 15.1% compared to consumption volumes in 2000. The decreased consumption volumes of polyethylene and PVC were primarily due to reductions in the operations of many of our customers as a result of the Brazilian government's electric power rationing program that was initiated in June 2001.

In 2002, GDP in Brazil increased by 1.5%. In 2002, Brazilian consumption volumes of polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC increased by 0.2%, 11.3% and 11.0%, respectively, compared to depressed 2001 levels, principally as a result of increased production of third generation products following the termination of the Brazilian government's electric power rationing program in February 2002.

In 2003, GDP in Brazil declined by 0.2%. In 2003, Brazilian consumption volumes of polyethylene decreased by 2.1%, polypropylene increased by 2.9% and PVC decreased by 12.4%, respectively, compared to 2002. The decreased consumption volumes of polyethylene and PVC were primarily a result of reduced economic activity.

Brazilian GDP growth has fluctuated significantly, and we anticipate that it will likely continue to do so. Our management believes that economic growth in Brazil would positively affect our future net sales revenue and results of operations. However, continued low growth or a recession in Brazil would likely reduce our future net sales revenue and have negative impacts on our results of operations.

Table of Contents

Our management believes that there has been a trend in Brazil during the last several years toward the substitution of plastics for more traditional packaging materials, such as glass and paper. Our management anticipates that this trend will continue to stimulate the domestic demand for petrochemical products suitable for use as packaging materials. However, trends in the substitution of packaging materials depend on many factors beyond our control, and the current beliefs of our management may prove to be incorrect.

Effects of Fluctuations in Naphtha Prices

Fluctuations in the international market price of naphtha have significant effects on our costs of goods sold and the prices that we are able to charge our customers for our first and second generation products.

Effects on Cost of Sales

Naphtha is the principal raw material used by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. In 2003, naphtha represented 81.8% of the total cost of sales and services rendered of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit and, directly and indirectly through the cost of basic petrochemicals that we bought from Copesul, 65.2% of our consolidated cost of sales and services rendered.

The cost of naphtha varies in accordance with international market prices, which fluctuate depending upon the supply and demand for oil and other refined petroleum products. We purchase naphtha under a long-term supply contract with Petrobras and we import naphtha through our terminal at Aratú. The prices that we pay for naphtha under all of these arrangements are based on the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price. As a result, fluctuations in the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price for naphtha have a direct impact on the cost of our first generation products.

Because the primary raw materials of our Polyolefins and Vinyls Units, principally ethylene and propylene, are first generation products produced by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit and Copesul, fluctuations in the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price for naphtha result in similar fluctuations in the cost of the primary raw materials of these Units.

The international price of naphtha has fluctuated significantly in the past, and we expect that it will continue to do so in the future. Significant increases in the price of naphtha and, consequently, the cost of producing our products, would likely reduce our gross margins and our results of operations to the extent that we are unable to pass all of these increased costs on to our customers and could result in reduced sales volumes of our products. Conversely, significant decreases in the price of naphtha and, consequently, the cost of producing our products, would likely increase our gross margins and our results of operations and could result in increased sales volumes if this lower cost leads us to lower our prices.

We do not currently hedge our exposure to changes in the prices of naphtha because a portion of our sales are exports payable in foreign currencies and linked to the international market prices of naphtha and also because the prices of our polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC products sold in Brazil generally reflect changes in the international market prices of these products.

Effects on Prices of Our Products

The prices that we charge for ethylene reflect both the international market prices for naphtha and the international and domestic prices for second generation products. The price of ethylene is calculated based on a margin sharing system described in Business Basic Petrochemicals Unit Sales and Marketing of Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit.

The prices that we charge for propylene are based on our ethylene prices and the ratio of the European contract price for propylene to the European contract price for ethylene. Over the past several years, this ratio has increased. The prices that we charge for butadiene are based on the European contract price for butadiene. Because European producers of these products primarily use naphtha as a raw material, changes in the European contract prices are strongly influenced by fluctuations in international

Table of Contents

market prices for naphtha. As our cost structures are similar to theirs, the prices that we charge for propylene and butadiene are also significantly influenced by international market prices for naphtha.

We negotiate the *real* prices for certain of our products, principally polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC, on a monthly basis with our domestic customers. We attempt to revise our prices to reflect changes in the international market prices of these products and the appreciation or depreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar. However, during periods of high volatility in international market prices or exchange rates, we are sometimes unable to reflect these changes fully in our prices quickly.

The international market prices of our petrochemical products have fluctuated significantly, and we believe that they will continue to do so. Significant increases in the international market prices of our petrochemical products and, consequently, the prices that we are able to charge, would likely increase our net sales revenue and our results of operations to the extent that we are able to maintain our operating margins and increased prices do not reduce sales volumes of our products. Conversely, significant decreases in the international prices of our petrochemical products, and, consequently, the prices that we are able to charge, would likely reduce our net sales revenue and our results of operations if we are unable to increase our operating margins or these reduced prices do not result in increased sales volumes of our products.

Cyclicalty Affecting the Petrochemical Industry and Capacity Utilization

Capacity Expansions

Global consumption of petrochemical products has increased significantly over the past 30 years. Due to this growth in consumption, producers have experienced periods of insufficient capacity for these products. Periods of insufficient capacity, including some due to raw material shortages, have usually resulted in increased capacity utilization rates and international market prices for our products, leading to increased operating margins. These periods have often been followed by periods of capacity additions, which have resulted in declining capacity utilization rates and international selling prices, leading to declining operating margins.

We expect that these cyclical trends in international selling prices and operating margins relating to global capacity shortfalls and additions will likely persist in the future, principally due to the continuing impact of four general factors:

cyclical trends in general business and economic activity produce swings in demand for petrochemicals;

during periods of reduced demand, the high fixed cost structure of the capital intensive petrochemicals industry generally leads producers to compete aggressively on price in order to maximize capacity utilization;

significant capacity additions, whether through plant expansion or construction, can take two to three years to implement and are therefore necessarily based upon estimates of future demand; and

as competition in petrochemical products is generally focused on price, being a low-cost producer is critical to improved profitability. This favors producers with larger plants that maximize economies of scale, but construction of plants high capacity may result in significant increases in capacity that can outstrip demand growth.

Rio Polímeros, a Brazilian petrochemical company, is currently constructing a petrochemical plant in Brazil that has announced plans to commence operations in December 2004. The announced annual capacity of this plant is 520,000 tons of ethylene, 75,000 tons of propylene and 540,000 tons of polyethylene, representing an increase of approximately 35% of the current total Brazilian production capacity of polyethylene. In 2003, Polibrasil Resinas S.A., or Polibrasil, commenced operation of polypropylene facility in Mauá, São Paulo with an annual capacity of 300,000 tons in 2003. In 2001, Dow Chemical commenced operation of a polyethylene facility in Argentina with an annual capacity of 700,000 tons. We plan to increase our annual production capacity of polypropylene by 100,000 tons by the end of 2004 and to increase our annual production capacity of PVC by 50,000 tons by the end of 2005.

Table of Contents

Based on historical growth of domestic demand for polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC, we believe that this additional capacity will be absorbed by the domestic market over the next several years. Although there may be a short period of overcapacity in the domestic market for several of our petrochemical products following Rio Polímeros commencement of operations, we believe that export opportunities will be available for the sale of these products not sold domestically. We cannot assure you, however, that the additional capacity will be so absorbed by the domestic market or that satisfactory export opportunities will be available for products not sold domestically. In the latter event, the additional capacity may result in pressure on prices for the affected products, which could adversely affect our net sales revenues, gross margins and overall results of operations.

Capacity Utilization

Our operations are capital intensive. Accordingly, to obtain lower unit production costs and maintain adequate operating margins, we seek to maintain a high capacity utilization rate at all of our production facilities.

The table below sets forth capacity utilization rates with respect to the production facilities for some of our principal products for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2003	2002(1)	2001(2)
Ethylene(3)	84%	83%	89%
Polyethylene	83	80	73
Polypropylene	95	90	84
PVC	85	86	76

- (1) Gives effect to our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações as if they had occurred on January 1, 2002.
- (2) Gives effect to our acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações as if they had occurred on January 1, 2001.
- (3) Based on production capacity of 1,280,000 tons in 2003 and 1,200,000 tons in 2002 and 2001.
The utilization rate of our ethylene production capacity was adversely affected during 2003 as a result of an unscheduled shutdown of one of our olefins units for 11 days due to a maintenance problem.

Effect of Export Levels on our Financial Performance

We generally obtain higher prices in Brazil for our products than the prevailing international prices. The difference in prices between the Brazilian and export markets results from:

- high costs of transporting products to and within Brazil;
- warehousing, and other logistics costs; and
- tariffs and duties.

In addition, we are generally able to charge higher prices for our products than the *real* price of imports because we are able to provide better product customization services to our customers than sellers of imported products.

During periods in which the domestic demand for our products is reduced, we actively pursue export opportunities for our products. In 2003, 25.8% of our net sales revenue were derived from export sales of our products. Exports to other countries in the Americas accounted for 54.0% of our export sales, with the remainder of our exports sold in Europe (20.0%), Far East (22.0%) and other regions (4.0%).

Our ability to export to other South American countries is a function of the level of economic growth in these countries and other economic conditions, including prevailing inflation rates. We believe that

Table of Contents

significant growth in the global economy would likely lead to increased global demand and international market prices for our products, and consequently increased domestic prices for our products. In addition, increased global demand for our products would enhance our ability to export our products in the event that the Brazilian economy does not similarly expand. Conversely, slow or negative growth of the global economy would have the opposite effects on our company.

Effects of Fluctuations in Exchange Rates between Real and U.S. Dollar

Our results of operations and financial condition have been, and will continue to be, affected by the rate of depreciation or appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar because:

a substantial portion of our net sales revenue is linked to U.S. dollars;

our costs for some of our raw materials, principally naphtha and certain catalysts required in our production processes, are incurred in U.S. dollars or are U.S. dollar-linked;

we have operating expenses, and make other expenditures, that are denominated in or linked to U.S. dollars; and

we have significant amounts of U.S. dollar-denominated liabilities that require us to make principal and interest payments in U.S. dollars.

Virtually all of our sales are of petrochemical products, which generally trade freely in the international markets at prices expressed in U.S. dollars. We generally attempt to set prices that take into account the international market prices for our petrochemical products and variations in the U.S. dollar/*real* exchange rate. As a result, although a significant portion of our net sales revenue is in *reais*, substantially all of our products are sold at prices that are based on international market prices that are quoted in the U.S. dollars.

During the year ended December 31, 2003, 65.2% of our direct and indirect cost of sales and services was represented by the cost of naphtha, the price of which is linked to the U.S. dollar. Our naphtha purchase contract with Petrobras provides that the prices that we pay to Petrobras for naphtha in any month are established based on the average Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price for naphtha in U.S. dollars during the previous month, converted into *reais* at the U.S. dollar/*real* exchange rate in effect on the last day of the previous month. Fluctuations in the *real* affect the cost of naphtha and other U.S. dollar-linked or imported raw materials.

When the *real* depreciates against the U.S. dollar, assuming naphtha costs and international market prices of our products remain constant in U.S. dollars, the production cost for our products increases and we generally attempt to increase the prices for our products in *reais* (to the extent possible in light of then-prevailing market conditions in Brazil), which may result in reduced sales volumes of our products. To the extent that our price increases are not sufficient to cover the increased costs for raw materials, our operating income decreases. Conversely, when the *real* appreciates against the U.S. dollar, assuming naphtha costs and international market prices of our products remain constant in U.S. dollars, the production cost for our products decreases and we generally decrease the prices for our products in *reais*, which may result in increased sales volumes of our products. In periods of high volatility in the U.S. dollar/*real* exchange rate, there is usually a lag between the time that the U.S. dollar appreciates or depreciates and the time that we are able to pass on increased or reduced costs in *reais* to our customers in Brazil. These pricing mismatches decrease when fluctuations in the U.S. dollar/*real* exchange rate are less volatile.

At December 31, 2003, 66.6% of our indebtedness was denominated in U.S. dollars. As a result, when the *real* depreciates against the U.S. dollar:

the interest costs on our U.S. dollar-denominated indebtedness increases in *reais*, which negatively affects our results of operations in *reais*;

Table of Contents

the amount of our U.S. dollar-denominated indebtedness increases in *reais*, and our total liabilities and debt service obligations in *reais* increase; and

our financial expenses increase as a result of foreign exchange losses that we must record.

For example, the 34.3% devaluation of the *real* in 2002 substantially increased our financial expenses and was a significant factor in our net loss for that year.

Conversely, when the *real* appreciates against the U.S. dollar:

the interest costs on our U.S. dollar-denominated indebtedness decreases in *reais*, which positively affects our results of operations in *reais*;

the amount of our U.S. dollar-denominated indebtedness decreases in *reais*, and our total liabilities and debt service obligations in *reais* decrease; and

our financial expenses tend to decrease as a result of foreign exchange gains that we must record.

Any major devaluation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar would significantly increase our financial expenses and our short-term and long-term indebtedness, as expressed in *reais*. Conversely, any major appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar would significantly decrease our financial expenses and our short-term and long-term indebtedness, as expressed in *reais*.

Export sales, which enable us to generate receivables payable in foreign currencies, tend to provide a hedge against a portion of our U.S. dollar-denominated debt service obligations, but they do not fully match them. Accordingly, we often enter into hedges to mitigate exchange rate fluctuations. To further mitigate our exposure to exchange rate risk, we try, where possible, to enter into trade finance loans for our working capital needs, which funding is generally available at a lower cost because it is linked to U.S. dollar exports. However, future U.S. dollars generated by us from exports may not be in an amount sufficient to cover our U.S. dollar trade finance liabilities.

Inflation affects our financial performance by increasing some of our operating expenses denominated in *reais* (and not linked to the U.S. dollar). A significant portion of our costs of sales and services rendered, however, are linked to the U.S. dollar and are not substantially affected by the Brazilian inflation rate. In addition, some of our *real*-denominated debt is indexed to take into account the effects of inflation. Under this debt, the principal amount generally is adjusted with reference to the General Price Index – Market (*Índice Geral de Preços Mercado*), or IGP – M, an inflation index, so that inflation results in increases in our financial expenses and debt service obligations. In addition, a significant portion of our *real*-denominated debt bears interest at the Long-Term Interest Rate, or the CDI (*Certificado Depositário Interbancário*) rate, which are partially adjusted for inflation.

Effect of Level of Indebtedness and Interest Rates

At December 31, 2003, our total outstanding consolidated indebtedness on a consolidated basis, excluding related party debt and advances for purchase of credit rights, was R\$7,833.8 million. The level of our indebtedness is responsible for significant financial expenses that are reflected in our statement of operations. Financial expenses consist of interest expense, exchange variations of U.S. dollar- and other foreign-currency denominated debt, foreign exchange losses or gains, and other items as set forth in note 23 to our consolidated and combined financial statements. In 2003, we recorded total financial expenses of R\$712.6 million, of which R\$543.6 million consisted of interest expense and R\$969.4 million consisted of foreign exchange gains. By contrast, in 2002, we recorded total financial expenses of R\$3,481.5 million, of which R\$735.4 million consisted of interest expense and R\$2,076.1 million consisted of foreign exchange losses. The interest rates that we pay depend on a variety of factors, including prevailing Brazilian and international interest rates and risk assessments of our company, our industry and the Brazilian economy made by potential lenders to our company, potential purchasers of our debt securities and the rating agencies that assess our company and its debt securities.

Table of Contents

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., and Fitch, Inc. maintain ratings of our company and our debt securities. As of the date of this prospectus, Standard and Poor's maintains a local rating for our company of Br A, a local currency rating for our company of BB- stable, and a foreign currency rating for our company of B+ positive, and Fitch maintains a local currency rating for our company of Br A with outlook stable. We have not been informed of any proposed actions by either of these ratings agencies to modify their ratings on our company or its indebtedness. Any rating downgradings in the future would likely result in increased interest and other financial expenses relating to borrowings and debt securities and could adversely affect our ability to obtain such financing on satisfactory terms or in amounts required by us.

Our debt obligations with variable interest rates expose our company to market risks from changes in the Long-Term Interest Rate, the CDI rate, IGP-M and LIBOR. The Long-Term Interest Rate is a Brazilian long-term interest rate that includes an inflation factor and is determined quarterly by the Central Bank. To mitigate our exposure to interest rate risk, we often have sought to enter into hedges to mitigate fluctuations in LIBOR.

Results of Operations of Jointly Controlled Companies

We own 29.5% of the voting and total share capital of Copesul. We also own 33.9% of Politeno's total share capital, including 35.0% of its voting share capital. The operations of Copesul are similar to the operations of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit and the operations of Politeno are similar to the operations of our Polyolefins Unit. Accordingly, the results of operations of these companies are influenced by factors similar to the factors that influence our results of operations. However, these companies have management that is independent from ours and capital structures, including levels of indebtedness and corresponding levels of financing costs, that are different from ours. As a result of the application of Instruction 247 to our financial statements, we are required to proportionally consolidate the results of jointly controlled companies that are not our subsidiaries, such as Copesul and Politeno. Consequently, our results of operations are subject to fluctuations that depend on the results of these jointly controlled companies.

However, in evaluating our results of operations, cash flows and liquidity, our management relies on financial information that does not include the effects of proportional consolidation, principally because we have limited, if any, control over the operations and policies of the companies whose results we are required to proportionally consolidate with our own. In our discussion of our consolidated and combined results of operations and our discussion of our liquidity and capital resources, we have provided supplemental information drawn from our accounting records with respect to our results of operations, working capital, cash flows and indebtedness without giving effect to this proportional consolidation to provide you with information that our management believes more accurately reflects the consolidated and combined results of operations and financial position of our company.

Effect of Taxes on Our Income

We are subject to a variety of generally applicable Brazilian federal and state taxes on our operations and results.

Tax Exemptions

We are generally subject to Brazilian federal income tax at an effective rate of 25%, which is the standard corporate tax rate in Brazil. We have available certain federal tax exemptions based upon federal law that offers tax incentives to companies that locate their manufacturing operations in the northeastern region of Brazil. These exemptions entitle us to pay only 25% of the statutory income tax rate on the profit arising from the sale of basic petrochemical products and utilities until December 31, 2011. We are also exempt from corporate income tax until December 31, 2004 on the results of our industrial operations at our PVC plant in the Northeastern Complex and until December 31, 2008 on the results of our industrial operations at our PVC plant in Alagoas. We are entitled to pay only 25.0% of the statutory income tax rate on the results of our industrial operations at our polyethylene plant in the Northeastern Complex.

Table of Contents

(until December 31, 2011) and at Polialden's plant in the Northeastern Complex (until December 31, 2012). We are also entitled to pay only 25.0% of the statutory income tax rate until December 31, 2011 on the results of our industrial operations at our caprolactam plant in the Northeastern Complex.

Our production of caustic soda and EDC in the States of Bahia and Alagoas, and our production of dimethyl terephthalate, or DMT, are not covered by these exemptions, but in accordance with Law No. 9,532/97, we are entitled to reductions in the statutory income tax rate with respect to the profits arising from sales by these plants and must pay only:

62.5% of the statutory income tax rate from January 1, 1998 to December 31, 2003;

75.0% of the statutory income tax rate from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2008; and

87.5% of the statutory income tax rate from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2013.

At the end of each year, if we or any of our affected subsidiaries has taxable profit resulting from the operations described above, the amount of the income tax exemption or reduction is credited to a capital reserve, which can only be used to increase capital or absorb losses.

Due to operating losses sustained by us in the past, we had R\$322.8 million of deferred tax assets made up of tax loss carryforwards available at December 31, 2003. Income tax loss carryforwards available for offset in Brazil do not expire. However, the annual offset is limited to 30% of our adjusted net income. This limit also affects the Social Contribution on Net Income.

Our export sales are currently exempt from PIS, COFINS, IPI and ICMS under generally available exemptions, subject to our compliance with the requirements of these exemptions.

The eventual expiration of the income tax exemptions will not affect our net income because we record the full amount of the income tax in our income statement and credit the amount of the income tax exemptions to a reserve account in shareholders' equity to increase our capital or absorb our losses.

Tax Disputes

We brought a suit against the Brazilian government claiming that we had the right to IPI tax credits on our purchases of raw materials that are in a zero percent tax bracket. In December 2002, the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court ruled in our favor in this suit. The Brazilian government has filed a special appeal requesting clarification of the calculation of these tax credits but not challenging their validity. Accordingly, we recognized a tax credit of R\$1,030.1 million in our consolidated and combined financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2002. Of this total tax credit, we used R\$265.6 million during the year ended December 31, 2002 and R\$364.9 million during the year ended December 31, 2002 to offset federal tax assessments, and we will use the remainder of this tax credit to offset against federal tax assessments in the future based on our earnings and future results. Although the ruling of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court only applies to our operations in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, we have also brought litigation against the Brazilian government in respect of our purchases of raw materials in the States of São Paulo, Bahia and Alagoas seeking to obtain a similar tax credit. We have not recognized any assets or gains in relation to our claims in these states.

We are currently involved in numerous tax proceedings. We have established reserves based on our obligations under current legislation, utilization of the contingent IPI tax credits, and our estimated costs of resolving other claims in which we believe we have a probable tax loss. The tax contingencies relate primarily to the Social Contribution on Net Income, PIS, COFINS and IPI. We do not believe these tax proceedings will have a material adverse effect on our financial position. It is possible, however, that future results of operations could be materially affected by changes in our assumptions and the effectiveness of our strategies with respect to these tax proceedings. For more information on our tax proceedings, see [Business Legal Proceedings Tax Proceedings](#).

Table of Contents

Tax Reform

In April 2003, the Brazilian Government presented a tax reform proposal, mainly designed to simplify tax assessments, to avoid internal disputes within and between the Brazilian states and municipalities, and to redistribute tax revenues. The tax reform proposal provided for changes in the rules governing PIS, COFINS, ICMS, CPMF and other taxes. The implementation of such changes depended on the approval of an amendment to the Brazilian Constitution.

In December 2003, the Brazilian Federal Senate approved part of this tax reform proposal following its approval by the Brazilian Federal House of Representatives. These tax reforms were consolidated in Constitutional Amendment No. 42, which became effective on December 31, 2003.

Constitutional Amendment No. 42 provides for the assessment of PIS and COFINS on import transactions. Provisional Measure No. 164/04, which implemented this provision, requires PIS and COFINS to be assessed on the import of goods, as well as on the remuneration paid to nonresidents for the rendering of services. We understand that such assessments will apply beginning on May 1, 2004. Constitutional Amendment No. 42 also provides for an extension of the CPMF assessment until December 31, 2007. Prior to the adoption of Amendment No. 42, CPMF was scheduled to expire on December 31, 2004.

Other parts of the tax reform proposal were amended by the Senate and returned to the House of Representatives for further examination. These parts of the tax reform proposal relate to:

harmonization of ICMS tax rules, which would be governed by a single federal legislation applicable to all Brazilian states;

equalization of ICMS rates, that would be applied uniformly by all states in Brazil; and

limitations on the grant of regional tax incentives.

If approved, these tax reform measures will be gradually adopted in 2005 and 2007.

We are unable to predict the effect of these proposed tax reform measures, if approved, on our results of operations. Although some of these measures may result in increases in our tax payments, others are likely to reduce our tax obligations. We currently believe that the effects of the changes to COFINS will be neutral to our results of operation. In addition, as discussed above, we have significant income tax loss carryforwards, tax exemptions and tax credits that should, to a degree, mitigate the effects of the tax reform measures on us. We currently do not anticipate that the tax reform measures will have a material adverse effect on our results of operations in future periods, although we cannot provide you with any assurances in this regard.

Recent Developments

Merger of Trikem with Our Company

On January 15, 2004, our subsidiary Trikem merged with and into our company. Trikem has been fully consolidated in our consolidated and combined financial statements since July 25, 2001, the date of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari.

Issuance and Sale of Eleventh Issue of Debentures

On December 1, 2003, we issued R\$1,200.0 million aggregate principal amount of our eleventh issue of secured non-convertible debentures in Brazil. These debentures were initially held in treasury and were sold on January 16, 2004 and February 4, 2004 following their registration with the Brazilian Securities Commission on January 14, 2004. These debentures will amortize in 36 equal monthly installments beginning on January 1, 2005, with a final maturity date of December 1, 2007, and bear interest at the CDI rate, an interbank rate, plus a margin of 4.5% per annum, payable monthly. These debentures are secured by a pledge of some of our current and future customer receivables.

Table of Contents

As part of our effort to extend the maturity profile of our indebtedness, we issued R\$243.0 million of these debentures to existing creditors in exchange for outstanding obligations with shorter maturities; and we issued R\$380.0 million of these new debentures in exchange for a portion of a series of our outstanding debentures that were scheduled to mature on October 1, 2006. We sold the remaining debentures for R\$584.8 million in cash.

Issuance and Sale of 11.75% Notes due 2014

On January 22, 2004, we issued and sold US\$250.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 11.75% Notes due 2014 pursuant to Rule 144A and Regulation S under our US\$1.0 billion medium-term note program. The notes have the latest maturity date of any of our outstanding debt obligations. Interest on these notes is payable on January 22 and July 22 of each year, commencing on July 22, 2004 and ending on January 22, 2014, the final maturity date for the notes.

Results of Operations

The following discussion of our results of operations is based on our consolidated and combined financial statements prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP.

The discussion of the results of our business segments is based upon financial information reported for each of the four segments of our business, as detailed in note 29 to our consolidated and combined financial statements. There are certain differences between the concepts used by our company in preparing information about segments and the requirements of Brazilian GAAP as applied in the statutory financial statements. The principal differences are:

investments in certain jointly controlled companies which are required to be proportionally consolidated under Brazilian GAAP are not considered as part of any segment for segment reporting purposes; and

the concept of operating income for segment reporting purposes does not consider the results of investments in associated companies and financial income and expenses whereas such results and income and expenses are classified as operating items for statutory reporting purposes.

As discussed above, the acquisitions of Nova Camaçari and OPP Produtos significantly affected our results due to the significant size of their operations in relation to the operations historically conducted by our company. As a result:

The results of operations of our Basic Petrochemicals segment are comparable for 2003, 2002 and 2001.

The results of operations of our Polyolefins segment, which consists of the operations historically conducted by OPP Química and Polialden, only include the results of these operations for the period after July 25, 2001. Therefore, the results of operations of our Polyolefins segment for 2002 and 2001 are not comparable.

The results of operations of our Vinyls segment, which consists of the operations historically conducted by Trikem, only include the results of these operations for the period after July 25, 2001. Therefore, the results of operations of our Vinyls segment for 2002 and 2001 are not comparable.

The results of operations of our Business Development segment, which consists of the operations historically conducted by Proppet and Nitrocarbano, only include the results of the operations of Proppet for the period after July 25, 2001, the date on which we acquired Proppet, and the results of the operations of Nitrocarbano for the period after August 16, 2002, the date of our merger with 52114 Participações. Therefore, the results of operations of our Business Development segment for 2003, 2002 and 2001 are not comparable.

In evaluating the results of operations of our business segments, our management relies on financial information that includes the aggregate results of operations of the companies that have historically

Table of Contents

conducted the operations of our Polyolefins, Vinyls and Business Development segments, principally to be able to make comparisons of the results of these segments with the historical results of the companies that were acquired to conduct the operations of these segments. In order to enhance comparability and make an analysis of the results of operations of our Polyolefins segment and our Vinyls segment during 2002 and 2001 more meaningful, our management has provided supplemental information drawn from the audited financial statements of OPP Química, Polialden and Trikem for the year ended December 31, 2001 prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP as the basis of comparisons between:

the results of operations of our Polyolefins segment during 2002 and the aggregate results of operations of the OPP Química and Polialden during 2001; and

the results of operations of our Vinyls segment during 2002 and the results of operations of Trikem for 2001.

The supplemental financial information for 2001 is not necessarily indicative of the results of operations of our Polyolefins and Vinyls segments that would have occurred had we acquired Nova Camaçari and merged with OPP Produtos on January 1, 2001. In addition, the supplemental financial information is not necessarily indicative of our future results of operations. We have not provided supplemental information with respect to our Business Development Unit because of its small size relative to our company.

In the following discussion, references to increases or decreases in any year are made by comparison with the corresponding prior year, except as the context otherwise indicates.

Table of Contents*Year Ended December 31, 2003 Compared with Year Ended December 31, 2002**Consolidated and Combined Results*

The following table sets forth consolidated and combined financial information for each of the two years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002.

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2003			2002		
	Consolidated	Effects of Instruction 247	Excluding Effects of Instruction 247	Combined	Effects of Instruction 247	Excluding Effects of Instruction 247
	(in millions of reais)					
Net sales revenue	R\$ 10,135.8	R\$ (944.9)	R\$ 9,190.9	R\$ 7,576.6	R\$ (709.0)	R\$ 6,867.6
Cost of sales and services rendered	(8,089.3)	747.7	(7,341.6)	(6,175.5)	546.6	(5,628.9)
Gross profit	2,046.5	(197.2)	1,849.3	1,401.1	(162.4)	1,238.7
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(471.9)	70.4	(401.5)	(577.7)	54.0	(523.7)
Investment in associated companies, net	(158.2)	38.8	(119.4)	(251.7)	(62.0)	(313.7)
Depreciation and amortization	(193.5)	5.3	(188.2)	(222.4)	49.9	(172.5)
Financial expenses, net	(703.6)	48.1	(655.5)	(2,861.9)	73.4	(2,788.5)
Other operating income	49.7	1.5	51.2	1,132.7	(18.9)	1,113.8
Operating income (loss)	569.0	(33.1)	535.9	(1,379.9)	(66.0)	(1,445.9)
Non-operating expenses, net	(4.8)	0.2	(4.6)	(98.0)	23.8	(74.2)
Income (loss) before income tax and social contribution and minority interest	564.2	(32.9)	531.3	(1,477.9)	(42.2)	(1,520.1)
Income tax and social contribution	(122.9)	31.1	(91.8)	(89.8)	32.1	(57.7)
Income (loss) before minority interest	441.3	(1.8)	439.5	(1,567.7)	(10.1)	(1,577.8)
Minority interest	(226.2)	1.8	(224.4)	189.0	10.1	199.1
Net income (loss) for the year	R\$ 215.1	R\$	R\$ 215.1	R\$ (1,378.7)	R\$	R\$ (1,378.7)

Net Sales Revenue

Edgar Filing: BRASKEM SA - Form F-1

Net sales revenue increased by 33.8% in 2003, primarily as a result of the growth in net sales revenue in each of our segments (as discussed below), particularly the 36.2% growth in net sales revenue of our Basic Petrochemicals segment and the 36.4% growth in net sales revenue of our Polyolefins segment. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, our net sales revenue increased by 33.8% in 2003.

Table of Contents

Cost of Sales and Services Rendered and Gross Profit

Cost of sales and services rendered increased by 31.0% in 2003, primarily as a result of the growth in cost of sales in each of our segments, particularly the 31.2% growth in cost of sales and services rendered of our Basic Petrochemicals segment and the 31.9% growth in cost of sales of our Polyolefins segment, both related to the greater direct and indirect cost of naphtha. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, our cost of sales and services rendered increased by 30.4% in 2003.

As a result, gross profit increased by 46.1% in 2003. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, gross profit increased by 49.3% in 2003.

Gross profit as a percentage of net sales revenue, or gross margin, for 2003 was 20.2% compared to 18.5% in 2002. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, gross margin increased to 20.1% for 2003 compared to 18.0% in 2002.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses decreased by 18.3% in 2003, primarily as a result of the incurrence of non-recurring expenses in 2002 in an aggregate amount of R\$136.0 million arising from our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações and the integration into our company of the companies that we acquired and with whom we merged. Our ongoing integration process generated efficiencies that reduced our selling, general and administrative expenses in both periods, particularly in 2003. Selling, general and administrative expenses represented 4.7% of net sales revenue in 2003 compared to 7.6% of net sales revenue in 2002. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, selling, general and administrative expenses decreased by 23.3% in 2003, and selling, general and administrative expenses represented 4.4% of net sales revenue in 2003 compared to 7.6% of net sales revenue in 2002.

Investment in Associated Companies, Net

Investment in associated companies, net, decreased by 37.1% in 2003, primarily as a result of the effect of tax benefits from our associated companies and a decrease of the amortization of goodwill. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, investment in associated companies, net, decreased by 61.9% in 2003.

Depreciation and Amortization

Depreciation and amortization decreased by 13.0% in 2003, primarily as a result of decrease of depreciation and amortization from proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies depreciation and amortization increased by 9.1% in 2003.

Financial Expenses, Net

Financial expenses, net, decreased by 75.4% in 2003, primarily as a result of the effects of the *real* U.S. dollar exchange rate on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed assets and liabilities. The 34.3% devaluation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar in 2002 resulted in a financial expense of R\$2,076.1 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed liabilities and financial income of R\$137.5 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated assets. By contrast, as a result of the 22.3% appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar in 2003, we recorded financial income of R\$969.4 million related to the exchange rate effect on our monetary liabilities and financial expense of R\$211.1 million related to the exchange rate effect on our monetary assets. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, financial expenses, net decreased by 76.5% in 2003.

Table of Contents

Other Operating Income, Net

Other operating income, net decreased by 95.6% in 2003, primarily as a result of our recognition of the IPI tax credit of R\$1,030.1 million that was recorded in the fourth quarter of 2002 as a result of a final judgment by the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court. See **Principal Factors Affecting Our Results of Operations** **Effect of Taxes on Our Income** **Tax Disputes**. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, other operating income, net decreased by 95.4% to R\$51.2 million in 2003 from R\$1,113.8 million in 2002.

Operating Income (Loss)

Operating income was R\$569.0 million in 2003 as compared to an operating loss of R\$1,379.9 million in 2002. Operating income represented 5.6% of net sales revenue in 2003, while operating loss represented 18.2% of net sales revenue in 2002. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, operating income was R\$535.9 million in 2003 as compared to an operating loss of R\$1,445.9 million in 2002, and operating income was 5.8% of net sales revenue in 2003, while operating loss represented 21.1% of net sales revenue in 2002.

Non-Operating Expenses, Net

Non-operating expenses decreased by 95.1% in 2003. This decrease was primarily as a result of the effects of a reversal in 2002 of the provision for losses in investments in Cetrel and Codeverde **Companhia de Desenvolvimento Rio Verde** in the amount of R\$70.7 million because we no longer expect to incur losses on these investments. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, non-operating expenses decreased by 93.8% in 2003.

Income Tax and Social Contribution

Income tax and social contribution increased by 36.9% in 2003. This increase was primarily as a result of our recording taxable income in 2003 as compared to our loss in 2002, the effect of which was partially offset by the net changes in the valuation of our deferred tax assets. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, income tax and social contribution increased by 59.1% in 2003.

Minority Interest

Minority interest was an expense of R\$226.2 million in 2003 compared to a gain of R\$189.0 million in 2002. This change was primarily as a result of the improved net results recorded in 2003 by Trikem, compared to the losses recorded by Trikem in 2002. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, minority interest was an expense of R\$224.4 million in 2003 compared to a gain of R\$199.1 million in 2002.

Net Income (Loss)

We recorded net income of R\$215.1 million, or 2.1% of net sales revenue, in 2003 compared to a net loss of R\$1,378.7 million, or 18.2% of net sales revenue, in 2002.

Table of Contents*Business Segment Results*

The following table sets forth consolidated and combined financial information for our business segments for each of the two years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002.

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2003	2002
	Consolidated	Combined
	(In millions of reais, except percentages)	
Basic Petrochemicals		
Net sales revenue	R\$ 4,765.3	R\$ 3,499.1
Cost of sales	(4,111.5)	(3,006.3)
Gross profit	653.8	492.8
Operating income(1)	499.9	409.1
Gross margin (%)	13.7%	14.1%
Operating margin (%)	10.5%	11.7%
Polyolefins		
Net sales revenue	R\$ 3,386.8	R\$ 2,482.3
Cost of sales	(2,719.7)	(2,062.4)
Gross profit	667.1	419.9
Operating income(1)	529.5	284.7
Gross margin (%)	19.7%	16.9%
Operating margin (%)	15.6%	11.5%
Vinyls		
Net sales revenue	R\$ 1,371.8	R\$ 1,117.8
Cost of sales	(1,007.0)	(804.7)
Gross profit	364.8	313.1
Operating income(1)	313.7	265.8
Gross margin (%)	26.6%	28.0%
Operating margin (%)	22.9%	23.8%
Business Development		
Net sales revenue	R\$ 455.3	R\$ 290.8
Cost of sales	(416.8)	(246.1)
Gross profit	38.5	44.7
Operating income(1)	28.8	35.3
Gross margin (%)	8.5%	15.4%
Operating margin (%)	6.3%	12.1%

(1) Operating income does not include financial income and expenses.

Basic Petrochemicals

Net Sales Revenue. Net sales revenue of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 36.2% in 2003. Significant factors contributing to this growth were:

a R\$266.3 million, or 39.1%, increase in net sales revenue from domestic sales of ethylene to third parties;

a R\$165.8 million, or 38.5%, increase in net sales revenue from domestic sales of propylene to third parties; and

Table of Contents

a R\$103.9 million, or 58.6%, increase in net sales revenue from domestic sales of butadiene to third parties.

For more information about the sales volumes and net sales revenue of our basic petrochemicals products by product lines and markets, see Business Basic Petrochemicals Unit Products of Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit.

Sales of basic petrochemicals by our Basic Petrochemicals segment to our other segments increased by 8.1% to R\$910.7 million in 2003 from R\$842.8 million in 2002 and sales of utilities by our Basic Petrochemicals segment to our other segments increased by 36.1% to R\$103.8 million in 2003 from R\$76.3 million in 2002. Sales of utilities to third parties increased by 15.1% to R\$280.7 million in 2003 from R\$244.0 million in 2002. Net export sales of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 58.4% to R\$490.7 million in 2003 from R\$309.7 million in 2002, primarily as a result of the recovery of our production levels following the scheduled stoppage of the pyrolysis plant that is part of our Olefins 1 unit for 92 days in 2002.

Domestic sales volume of ethylene to third parties increased by 6.9% to 559.1 thousand tons in 2003 from 522.8 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to the recovery of our production of ethylene following the maintenance shutdown of our Olefins 1 unit in 2002 and our increased production capacity for this product. Average domestic prices for ethylene increased by 30.1% to R\$1,694 per ton in 2003 from R\$1,302 per ton in 2002.

Domestic sales volume of propylene to third parties increased by 2.9% to 399.2 thousand tons in 2003 from 388.1 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to the recovery of our production of propylene following the maintenance shutdown of our Olefins 1 unit in 2002. Average domestic prices for propylene increased by 34.7% to R\$1,495 per ton in 2003 from R\$1,110 per ton in 2002.

Domestic sales volume of butadiene to third parties increased by 2.0% to 150.3 thousand tons in 2003 from 147.3 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to the recovery of our production of butadiene following the maintenance shutdown of our Olefins 1 unit in 2002. Average domestic prices for butadiene increased by 55.4% to R\$1,870 per ton in 2003 from R\$1,203 per ton in 2002.

Cost of Sales and Services and Gross Profit. Cost of sales and services of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 36.8% in 2003. This increase was primarily attributable to an increase of 34.1% in the average price of naphtha purchased in 2003, as well as the increased sales volume recorded in 2003. Naphtha accounted for 81.8% of the Basic Petrochemicals segment's cost of sales in 2003 and 83.0% in 2002.

Gross profit of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 32.7% in 2003, and gross margin decreased to 13.7% for 2003 compared to 14.1% for 2002.

Operating Income. Operating income of the Basic Petrochemicals segment (which excludes financial income and expense and results from investment in associated companies) increased by 22.2% in 2003, principally as a result of a R\$161.0 million increase in gross profit. The increase in gross profit was partially offset by a R\$37.9 million increase in selling, general and administrative expenses, primarily as a result of the allocation of overhead expenses in 2003, and a R\$33.1 million decrease in other income, net, primarily as a result of the decline in amounts of PIS recovered in 2003 as compared to 2002. Operating margin of the Basic Petrochemical segment for 2003 was 10.5% compared with 11.7% in 2002.

Polyolefins

Net Sales Revenue. Net sales revenue of the Polyolefins segment increased by 36.4% in 2003. This increase was primarily attributable to a 32.1% increase in domestic sales of polypropylene, a 60.1% increase in export sales of polyethylene, a 16.0% increase in domestic sales of polyethylene and a 359.8% increase in export sales of polypropylene. Net export sales of the Polyolefins segment increased by 68.5% to R\$1,233.7 million in 2003 from R\$732.2 million in 2002. For more information about the sales volumes

Table of Contents

and net sales revenue of our polyolefins products by product line and markets, see Business Polyolefins Unit Products of Our Polyolefins Unit.

Domestic sales volume of polyethylene decreased by 9.4% to 444.8 thousand tons in 2003 from 490.7 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to our strategic decision to maintain our margins on polyethylene despite decreased demand for polyethylene as a result of the recession in Brazil. Average domestic prices for polyethylene increased by 27.9% to R\$2,565 per ton in 2003 from R\$2,004 per ton in 2002.

Domestic sales volume of polypropylene decreased by 5.1% to 374.9 thousand tons in 2003 from 395.1 thousand tons in 2002, primarily as a result of reduced demand for polypropylene in 2003 and increased competition in this market as a result of the commencement of operations of Polibrasil's new polypropylene plant. Average domestic prices for polypropylene increased by 39.2% to R\$2,689 per ton in 2003 from R\$1,931 per ton in 2002.

Export sales volume of polyethylene increased by 32.8% to 204.4 thousand tons in 2003 from 153.9 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to our strategic decision to increase our exports of polyethylene despite the lower margins available in the international market rather than lower our capacity utilization rate in response to the reduced domestic demand for polyethylene. Average export prices for polyethylene increased by 20.6% to R\$1,888 per ton in 2003 from R\$1,565 per ton in 2002.

Export sales volume of polypropylene increased by 306.2% to 66.2 thousand tons in 2003 from 16.3 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to our strategic decision to increase our exports of polypropylene despite the lower margins available in the international market rather than lower our capacity utilization rate in response to the reduced domestic demand for, and increased domestic supply of, polypropylene. Average export prices for polypropylene increased by 13.2% to R\$1,781 per ton in 2003 from R\$1,573 per ton in 2002.

Cost of Sales and Gross Profit. Cost of sales of the Polyolefins segment increased by 31.9% in 2003. This increase was primarily attributable to increases in the prices of ethylene and propylene, the principal raw materials of this segment, as well as our increased sales volume in 2003.

Gross profit of the Polyolefins segment increased by 58.9% in 2003, and gross margin increased to 19.7% in 2003 compared to 16.9% in 2002.

Operating Income. Operating income of the Polyolefins segment (which excludes financial income and expenses and results from investment in associated companies) increased by 86.0% in 2003, primarily as a result of the R\$247.2 million increase in the gross profit of this segment. Our Polyolefins segment reduced its selling, general and administrative expenses to 4.1% of net sales revenue in 2003 from 5.5% of net sales revenue in 2002, primarily as a result of cost cutting initiatives introduced and efficiencies achieved in this segment following our merger with OPP Produtos. Operating margin of the Polyolefins segment increased to 15.6% in 2003 compared to 11.5% in 2002.

Vinyls

Net Sales Revenue. Net sales revenue of the Vinyls segment increased by 22.7% in 2003. This increase was primarily attributable to an 18.4% increase in this segment's domestic sales, principally as a result of the increase in the average domestic prices of our vinyls products. Net export sales of this segment increased by 55.5% to R\$203.7 million in 2003 from R\$131.0 million in 2002. This increase in net export sales was primarily attributable to our increased export sales of PVC and EDC. For more information about the sales volumes and net sales revenue of our vinyls products by product line and markets, see Business Vinyls Unit Products of Our Vinyls Unit.

Domestic sales volume of PVC decreased by 2.2% to 342.4 thousand tons in 2003 from 350.1 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to reduced demand for applications in the infrastructure, sanitation and construction sectors. This reduced demand was partially offset by increased exports of PVC and increased demand for PVC for applications in footwear, plastic films and laminates. Average domestic prices for PVC increased by 17.4% to R\$2,390 per ton in 2003 from R\$2,035 per ton in 2002.

Table of Contents

Export sales volume of PVC increased by 12.0% to 55.4 thousand tons in 2003 from 49.5 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to our strategic decision to increase our exports of PVC despite the lower margins available in the international market rather than lower our capacity utilization rate in response to the reduced domestic demand for PVC. Average export prices for PVC increased by 27.3% to R\$1,710 per ton in 2003 from R\$1,343 per ton in 2002.

Domestic sales of caustic soda increased by 6.4% to 426.6 thousand tons in 2003 from 400.9 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to increased demand by our customers in the domestic aluminum and pulp and paper industries. Average domestic prices for caustic soda increased by 20.1% to R\$681 per ton in 2003 from R\$567 per ton in 2002.

Export sales of EDC increased by 34.1% to 160.1 thousand tons in 2003 from 119.4 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to increased sales to our distributor in the Asian market as a result of increased demand by producers of PVC products in this market. Average export prices for EDC increased by 25.9% to R\$680 per ton in 2003 from R\$540 per ton in 2002, primarily due to the upward trend in international market prices for EDC in 2003 caused by, among other factors, the limited global production capacity for this product.

Cost of Sales and Gross Profit. Cost of sales of the Vinyls segment increased by 25.1% in 2003. This increase was primarily attributable to (1) the increased cost of ethylene, (2) the increased cost of electric power in 2003 resulting from the institution of a surcharge by the Brazilian federal energy regulator to compensate electric power companies for losses attributable to the Brazilian government's electric power rationing program in 2001 and 2002, and (3) our increased sales volume for most of our vinyls products in 2003.

Gross profit of the Vinyls segment increased by 16.5% to R\$364.8 million in 2003 from R\$313.1 million in 2002, while gross margin declined to 26.6% in 2003 from 28.0% in 2002.

Operating Income. Operating income of the Vinyls segment (which excludes financial income and expenses and results from investment in associated companies) increased by 18.0% in 2003, primarily as a result of the increase in gross profits of this segment. Operating margin of the Vinyls segment declined to 22.9% in 2002 from 23.8% in 2002.

Business Development

Our Business Development Unit is responsible for managing certain of our minority investments, principally our investments in Petroflex and Cetrel. However, as the results of our investments managed by our Business Development Unit are reported as investments in associated companies, the results of these companies are not included in the following segment discussion.

Net Sales Revenue. Net sales revenue of our Business Development segment increased by 56.6% in 2003. This increase was primarily attributable to the effects of our merger with 52114 Participações, through which we acquired the caprolactam and other operations of Nitrocarbano in August 2002. Net export sales of this segment, consisting primarily of caprolactam, increased to R\$34.3 million in 2003 from R\$20.1 million in 2002 due to the effects of our merger with 52114 Participações. For more information about the sales volumes and net sales revenue of our business development products by product line and markets, see Business Business Development Unit Products of Our Business Development Unit.

Domestic sales volume of PET decreased by 7.9% to 55.1 thousand tons in 2003 from 59.8 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to reduced demand for PET for soft drink packaging applications. This reduced demand was partially offset by increased demand for PET for packaging applications in the cleaning products, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals industries. Average domestic prices for PET increased by 19.9% to R\$3,056 per ton in 2003 from R\$2,548 per ton in 2002.

Domestic sales volume of caprolactam increased by 181.7% to 42.5 thousand tons in 2003 from 15.1 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to the effect of our merger with 52114 Participações. Average domestic prices for caprolactam declined by 5.8% to R\$4,237 per ton in 2003 from R\$4,500 per ton in

Table of Contents

2002, primarily as a result of the effects of price competition stemming from excess global capacity for this product.

Cost of Sales and Gross Profit. Cost of sales of the Business Development segment increased by 69.4% in 2003, reflecting the effects of our merger with 52114 Participações and the increased cost for caprolactam on a unit basis due to the shutdown of our caprolactam plant in the first quarter of 2003 for maintenance, and in the third quarter of 2003 due to temporary problems with the quality of the ammonia delivered to this plant. Gross profit of the Business Development segment decreased by 13.9% in 2003, resulting in a gross margin for 2003 of 8.5% from 15.4% in 2002.

Operating Income. Operating income of the Business Development segment (which excludes financial income and expenses and results from investment in associated companies) declined by 18.4% in 2003, principally as a result of a R\$9.6 million increase in the selling, general and administrative expenses of this segment due to the effects of our merger with 52114 Participações and the R\$6.2 million decline in this segment's gross profit. These factors were partially offset by a R\$9.6 million increase in other income, net, primarily as a result of our receipt of insurance proceeds related to the interruption of our caprolactam plant's operations. Operating margin of the Business Development segment declined to 6.3% in 2003 from 12.1% in 2002.

Table of Contents***Year Ended December 31, 2002 Compared with Year Ended December 31, 2001******Combined Results***

The following table sets forth combined financial information for our company for each of the two years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001.

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2002			2001		
	Combined	Effects of Instruction 247	Excluding Effects of Instruction 247	Combined	Effects of Instruction 247	Excluding Effects of Instruction 247
	<i>(in millions of reais)</i>					
Net sales revenue	R\$ 7,576.6	R\$ (709.0)	R\$ 6,867.6	R\$ 4,459.5	R\$ (323.0)	R\$ 4,136.5
Cost of sales and services rendered	(6,175.5)	546.6	(5,628.9)	(3,637.6)	254.2	(3,383.4)
Gross profit	1,401.1	(162.4)	1,238.7	821.9	(68.8)	753.1
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(577.7)	54.0	(523.7)	(210.3)	29.3	(181.0)
Investment in associated companies, net	(251.7)	(62.0)	(313.7)	(214.3)	(18.5)	(232.8)
Depreciation and amortization	(222.4)	49.9	(172.5)	(111.3)	(2.7)	(114.0)
Financial expenses, net	(2,861.9)	73.4	(2,788.5)	(506.5)	38.4	(468.1)
Other operating income	1,132.7	(18.9)	1,113.8	103.3	(0.7)	102.6
Operating loss	(1,379.9)	(66.0)	(1,445.9)	(117.2)	(23.0)	(140.2)
Non-operating expenses, net	(98.0)	23.8	(74.2)	(120.8)	4.7	(116.1)
Income (loss) before income tax and social contribution and minority interest	(1,477.9)	(42.2)	(1,520.1)	(238.0)	(18.3)	(256.3)
Income tax and social contribution	(89.8)	32.1	(57.7)	(77.6)	21.6	(56.0)
Loss before minority interest	(1,567.7)	(10.1)	(1,577.8)	(315.6)	3.3	(312.3)
Minority interest	189.0	10.1	199.1	(108.9)	(3.3)	(112.2)
Net loss for the year	R\$ (1,378.7)	R\$	R\$ (1,378.7)	R\$ (424.5)	R\$	R\$ (424.5)

Net Sales Revenue

Net sales revenue increased by 69.9% in 2002, primarily as a result of the inclusion of the net sales revenue of the Polyolefins, Vinyls and Business Development Units in our net sales revenue following the date of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari and the OPP Produtos Merger. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, our net sales revenue increased by 66.0% in 2002, primarily as a result of the inclusion of the net sales revenue of the Polyolefins, Vinyls and Business Development Units following the date of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our merger with OPP Produtos.

Table of Contents

Cost of Sales and Services Rendered and Gross Profit

Cost of sales and services rendered increased by 69.8% in 2002, primarily as a result of the inclusion of the cost of sales of the Polyolefins, Vinyls and Business Development Units following the date of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our merger with OPP Produtos. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, our cost of sales and services rendered increased by 66.4% in 2002, primarily as a result of the inclusion of the cost of sales of the Polyolefins, Vinyls and Business Development Units following the date of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our merger with OPP Produtos.

As a result, gross profit increased by 70.5% in 2002. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, gross profit increased by 64.5% in 2002.

Gross margin increased slightly to 18.5% in 2002 from 18.4% in 2001.

Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, gross margin declined to 18.0% for 2002 from 18.2% in 2001.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased by 174.7% in 2002, primarily as a result of the inclusion of the selling expenses of the Polyolefins, Vinyls and Business Development Units following the date of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our merger with OPP Produtos. As a percentage of net, sales, selling, general and administrative expenses increased to 7.6% of net sales revenue in 2002 from 4.7% in 2001, principally as a result of the incurrence of expenses related to our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações in 2002. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, selling, general and administrative expenses increased by 189.3% in 2002, and selling, general and administrative expenses increased to 7.6% of net sales revenue in 2002 from 4.4% in 2001.

Investment in Associated Companies, Net

Investment in associated companies, net, increased by 17.4% in 2002, primarily as a result of the amortization of goodwill on the associated companies from the acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our merger with OPP Produtos. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, investment in associated companies, net, increased by 34.7% in 2002.

Depreciation and Amortization

Depreciation and amortization increased by 99.8% in 2002, primarily as a result of the inclusion of a portion of the depreciation and amortization expenses of Copesul following the date of our merger with OPP Produtos.

Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, depreciation and amortization increased by 51.3% in 2002.

Financial Expenses, Net

Financial expenses, net increased by 465.0% in 2002, primarily as a result of the inclusion of the indebtedness from the companies that we acquired in the acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our merger with OPP Produtos. In addition, our financial expenses, net increased as a result of the effects of the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed assets and liabilities. The 34.3% devaluation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar in 2002 resulted in a financial expense of R\$2,076.1 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed liabilities and financial income of R\$137.5 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated assets. In contrast, as a result of the 15.7% depreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar in 2001, we recorded financial expense of R\$290.7 million related to the exchange rate effect

Table of Contents

on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed liabilities and financial income of R\$92.8 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated assets.

Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, financial expenses, net increased by 495.7% in 2002.

Other Operating Income

Other operating income increased to R\$1,132.7 million in 2002 from R\$103.3 million in 2001, primarily as a result of our recognition of the IPI tax credit of R\$1,030.1 million that was recorded in the fourth quarter of 2002 as a result of a final judgment by the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, other operating income increased to R\$1,113.8 million in 2002 from R\$102.6 million in 2001.

Operating Loss

Operating loss increased to R\$1,379.9 million in 2002 from R\$117.2 million in 2001. Operating loss represented 18.2% of net sales revenue in 2002 compared to 2.6% of net sales revenue in 2001. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, operating loss increased to R\$1,445.9 million in 2002 from R\$140.2 million in 2001, and operating loss increased to 21.1% of net sales revenue in 2002 from 3.4% of net sales revenue in 2001.

Non-Operating Expenses, Net

Non-operating expenses decreased by 18.9% in 2002. This decrease was primarily as a result of higher expenses on disposal of permanent assets in 2001. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, non-operating expenses decreased by 36.1% in 2002.

Income Tax and Social Contribution

Income tax and social contribution increased by 15.7% in 2002, primarily as a result of a R\$45.3 million increase of non-deductible amortization of goodwill, despite our larger losses in 2002 which was offset by a valuation allowance on our net operating loss carryforward. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, income tax and social contribution increased by 3.0% in 2002.

Minority Interest

Minority interest was R\$189.0 million in 2002 compared to negative R\$108.9 million in 2001. The gain recorded in 2002 primarily represented the proportion of the R\$476.7 million loss sustained by Trikem in that year that was attributable to the interests in Trikem held by Trikem's minority shareholders. In addition, the gain in 2002 was partially offset by the proportion of income earned by Polialden in 2002 that was attributable to the interests in Polialden held by its minority shareholders. In 2001, both Trikem and Polialden recorded net income, a portion of which was recorded as minority interest by our company to reflect the proportional interests of the minority shareholders in these companies. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, minority interest was R\$199.1 million in 2002 compared to negative R\$112.2 million in 2001.

Net Loss

Net loss increased by 224.8% in 2002. Net loss represented 18.2% of net sales revenue in 2002, compared to 9.5% of net sales revenue in 2001.

Table of Contents*Business Segment Results*

The following table sets forth combined financial information for our business segments for each of the two years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001.

	Year Ended December 31,	
	Combined	
	2002	2001
	(In millions of reais, except percentages)	
Basic Petrochemicals		
Net sales revenue	R\$ 3,499.1	R\$ 3,297.4
Cost of sales	(3,006.3)	(2,900.0)
Gross profit	492.8	397.4
Operating income(1)	409.1	299.1
Gross margin (%)	14.1%	12.1%
Operating margin (%)	11.7%	9.1%
Polyolefins		
Net sales revenue	R\$ 2,482.3	R\$ 896.8
Cost of sales	(2,062.4)	(679.1)
Gross profit	419.9	217.7
Operating income(1)	284.7	139.2
Gross margin (%)	16.9%	24.3%
Operating margin (%)	11.5%	15.5%
Vinyls		
Net sales revenue	R\$ 1,117.8	R\$ 377.5
Cost of sales	(804.7)	(274.9)
Gross profit	313.1	102.6
Operating income(1)	265.8	141.7
Gross margin (%)	28.0%	27.2%
Operating margin (%)	23.8%	37.5%
Business Development		
Net sales revenue	R\$ 290.8	R\$ 72.7
Cost of sales	(246.1)	(61.4)
Gross profit	44.7	11.3
Operating income(1)	35.3	7.7
Gross margin (%)	15.4%	15.5%
Operating margin (%)	12.1%	10.6%

(1) Operating income does not include financial income and expenses.

Basic Petrochemicals

Net Sales Revenue. Net sales revenue of our Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 6.1% in 2002. Significant factors contributing to this growth were:

a R\$111.9 million, or 35.1%, increase in net sales revenue from domestic sales of propylene to third parties;

a R\$99.1 million, or 167.4%, increase in net sales revenue from export sales of benzene to third parties;

Table of Contents

a R\$72.1 million, or 83.4%, increase in net sales revenue from export sales of methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE, to third parties;

a R\$68.8 million, or 61.4%, increase in net sales revenue from domestic sales of benzene to third parties; and

a R\$41.5 million, or 71.6%, increase in net sales revenue from export sales of propylene to third parties.

These factors were partially offset by:

a R\$302.2 million, or 30.8%, decline in net sales revenue from domestic sales of ethylene to third parties; and

a R\$49.2 million, or 40.8%, decline in net sales revenue from domestic sales of para-xylene to third parties.

Production and sales volumes of some of our basic petrochemical products were affected in 2002 by the scheduled stoppage of one of our pyrolysis plants for 92 days in 2002. Domestic sales volumes of certain of our basic petrochemical products decreased in 2002 primarily due to the effects of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our merger with OPP Produtos. Prior to the date of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari, sales of our basic petrochemicals products to the companies that currently form our other segments were classified as sales to third parties. Sales to Polialden, OPP Química, Trikem and Proppet following our acquisition of Nova Camaçari were classified as intercompany sales in our consolidated accounting records.

Sales of basic petrochemicals by our Basic Petrochemicals segment to our other segments increased by 84.4% to R\$842.8 million in 2002 from R\$457.0 million in 2001, and sales of utilities by our Basic Petrochemicals segment to our other segments increased by 34.3% to R\$76.3 million in 2002 from R\$56.8 million in 2001. Sales of utilities to third parties increased by 8.5% to R\$244.0 million in 2002 from R\$224.9 million in 2001. Net export sales of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 55.6% to R\$674.5 million in 2002 from R\$433.6 million in 2001, primarily as a result of the commencement of exports of gasoline and of a 68.8% increase in the average export price of benzene.

Domestic sales volume of propylene to third parties decreased by 5.9% to 388.1 thousand tons in 2002 from 412.6 thousand tons in 2001, principally due to a scheduled stoppage of one of our pyrolysis plants and the effects of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our merger with OPP Produtos. Average domestic prices for propylene increased by 43.6% to R\$1,110 per ton in 2002 from R\$773 per ton in 2001.

Export sales volume of benzene increased by 2.8% in 2002 to 96.3 thousand tons from 93.7 thousand tons in 2001, principally due to attractive export opportunities. Average export prices for benzene increased by 68.8% to R\$1,067 per ton in 2002 from R\$632 per ton in 2001.

Export sales volume of MTBE decreased by 5.7% in 2002 to 104.6 thousand tons from 110.9 thousand tons in 2001, principally due to a scheduled stoppage of our pyrolysis plants. Average export prices for MTBE increased by 26.3% to R\$985 per ton in 2002 from R\$780 per ton in 2001.

Domestic sales volume of benzene to third parties increased by 13.9% to 198.5 thousand tons in 2002 from 174.2 thousand tons in 2001, principally due to the recovery and growth in 2002 of the domestic benzene market. Average domestic prices for benzene increased by 41.7% to R\$911 per ton in 2002 from R\$643 per ton in 2001.

Export sales volume of propylene decreased by 31.4% in 2002 to 48.4 thousand tons from 70.6 thousand tons in 2001, principally due to a scheduled stoppage of our pyrolysis plants. Average export prices for propylene increased by 62.8% to R\$1,335 per ton in 2002 from R\$820 per ton in 2001.

Domestic sales volume of ethylene to third parties decreased by 42.8% to 522.8 thousand tons in 2002 from 914.6 thousand tons in 2001, principally due to a scheduled stoppage of one of our pyrolysis plants and the effects of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our merger with OPP Produtos. Prior to the date

Table of Contents

of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari, sales of our basic petrochemicals products to the companies that currently form our other segments were classified as sales to third parties. Average domestic prices for ethylene increased by 21.2% to R\$1,302 per ton in 2002 from R\$1,074 per ton in 2001.

Domestic sales volume of para-xylene to third parties decreased by 52.8% to 54.2 thousand tons in 2002 from 114.8 thousand tons in 2001, principally due to a scheduled stoppage of one of our pyrolysis plants and the effects of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari. Average domestic prices for para-xylene increased by 25.3% to R\$1,317 per ton in 2002 from R\$1,051 per ton in 2001, primarily as a result of increases in international market prices for ethylene in 2002 coupled with the effect of the significant devaluation of the *real* in 2002.

Cost of Sales and Services and Gross Profit. Cost of sales and services of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 3.7% in 2002. This increase was primarily attributable to a 22.7% increase in the average price of naphtha we purchased in 2002. Naphtha accounted for 83.0% of the Basic Petrochemicals segment's cost of sales in 2002 and 75.0% in 2001.

Gross profit of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 24.0% in 2002, and gross margin increased to 14.1% in 2002 from 12.1% in 2001.

Operating Income. The operating income of the Basic Petrochemicals segment (which excludes financial income and expenses and results from investment in associated companies) increased by 36.8% in 2002, principally as a result of a R\$95.4 million increase in the gross profit of this segment and a R\$59.3 million increase in other income, net, primarily as a result of the increase in amounts of PIS recovered in 2002 as compared to 2001. These factors were partially offset by a R\$41.7 million increase in selling, general and administrative expenses due to certain non-recurring expenses incurred in connection with our acquisitions and mergers and the integration into our company of the companies that we acquired and with which we merged. The Basic Petrochemical segment's operating margin increased to 11.7% in 2002 from 9.1% in 2001.

Polyolefins

Net Sales Revenue. Net sales revenue of our Polyolefins segment increased by 176.8% in 2002. This increase was primarily attributable to the effects of our merger with OPP Produtos and the acquisition of Nova Camaçari, as we did not produce polyolefins products prior to the date of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari. Net export sales of the Polyolefins segment increased by 267.9% to R\$732.2 million in 2002 from R\$199.0 million in 2001. This increase in net export sales was primarily attributable to the effects of our merger with OPP Produtos.

Net sales revenue of our Polyolefins segment increased by 27.6% to R\$2,482.3 million in 2002 as compared to aggregate net sales revenue of OPP Química and Polialden of R\$1,945.5 million in 2001. This increase was primarily attributable to the 18.9% increase of net export sales of polyethylene by the Polyolefins segment to R\$241.0 million in 2002 as compared to aggregate net export sales of polyethylene by OPP Química and Polialden of R\$202.7 million in 2001 and the 24.6% increase of domestic sales of polypropylene by the Polyolefins segment to R\$763.2 million in 2002 as compared to aggregate domestic sales of polypropylene by OPP Química and Polialden of R\$612.7 million in 2001.

Domestic sales volume of polyethylene decreased by 0.2% to 490.7 thousand tons in 2002 as compared to an aggregate of 491.9 thousand tons for OPP Química and Polialden in 2001, principally as a result of the reduced supply of ethylene available from our Basic Petrochemicals Unit as a result of the maintenance shutdown of our Olefins Unit 1 in 2002. Average domestic prices for polyethylene increased by 5.1% to R\$2,004 per ton in 2002 from R\$1,906 per ton in 2001.

Domestic sales volume of polypropylene increased by 16.7% to 395.1 thousand tons in 2002 as compared to an aggregate of 338.5 thousand tons for OPP Química and Polialden in 2001, reflecting improved demand for polypropylene in 2002 as a result of the growth of the Brazilian economy and the termination in February 2002 of the Brazilian government's electric power rationing program initiated in

Table of Contents

June 2001. Average domestic prices for polypropylene increased by 6.7% to R\$1,931 per ton in 2002 from R\$1,810 per ton in 2001.

Export sales volume of polyethylene increased by 17.7% to 153.9 thousand tons in 2002 as compared to an aggregate of 130.7 thousand tons for OPP Química and Polialden in 2001, principally as a result of favorable export prices. Average export prices for polyethylene increased by 0.9% to R\$1,565 per ton in 2002 from R\$1,551 per ton in 2001.

Export sales volume of polypropylene decreased by 57.5% to 16.3 thousand tons in 2002 as compared to an aggregate of 38.4 thousand tons for OPP Química and Polialden in 2001, reflecting our decision to decrease exports of polypropylene to take advantage of the improved demand for polypropylene in the domestic market. Average export prices for polypropylene increased by 24.2% to R\$1,573 per ton in 2002 from R\$1,267 per ton in 2001.

Cost of Sales and Gross Profit. Cost of sales of the Polyolefins segment increased by 203.7% in 2002. This increase was primarily attributable to the effects of our merger with OPP Produtos and the acquisition of Nova Camaçari. Gross profit of the Polyolefins segment increased by 92.9% in 2002, primarily due to the effects of our merger with OPP Produtos and the acquisition of Nova Camaçari.

Cost of sales of the Polyolefins segment increased by 37.3% to R\$2,062.4 million in 2002 as compared to aggregate cost of sales of OPP Química and Polialden of R\$1,502.4 million in 2001. This increase was primarily due to (1) increases in the cost of ethylene and propylene in 2002, (2) the inclusion of freight costs in cost of sales in 2002, and (3) our increased sales volume in 2002. Freight costs were previously classified as selling, general and administrative expenses.

Gross margin for the Polyolefins segment decreased to 16.9% in 2002 from 24.3% in 2001. This decrease was primarily due to increases in the cost of ethylene and propylene in 2002 resulting from the significant devaluation of the *real*, which we were not able to pass through quickly to our customers through increases in the prices of our polyolefins products and to the inclusion of freight costs in cost of sales in 2002.

Gross profit of the Polyolefins segment decreased by 5.3% to R\$419.9 million in 2002 as compared to aggregate gross profit of OPP Química and Polialden of R\$443.2 million in 2001, and gross margin decreased to 16.9% in 2002 from 22.8% in 2001, primarily as a result of our inability to pass through quickly the increased cost of raw materials to our customers through increases in the prices of our polyolefins products.

Operating Income. Operating income of the Polyolefins segment (which excludes financial income and expenses and results from investment in associated companies) increased by 104.5% in 2002, primarily due to a R\$202.2 million increase in this segment's gross profit and a R\$49.6 million increase in selling, general and administrative expenses, primarily due to the effects of our merger with OPP Produtos and the acquisition of Nova Camaçari.

Operating income of the Polyolefins segment increased by 13.5% to R\$284.7 million in 2002 as compared to aggregate operating income of OPP Química and Polialden of R\$250.8 million in 2001, principally due to a R\$54.3 million decline in selling, general and administrative expenses, primarily due to the effects of the reclassification of freight expenses as part of cost of sales in 2002. Operating margin for 2002 decreased to 11.5% from 12.9% in 2001.

Vinyls

Net Sales Revenue. Net sales revenue of the Vinyls segment increased by 196.1% in 2002. This increase was primarily attributable to the effects of our merger with OPP Produtos, as we did not produce vinyls products prior to July 25, 2001. Net export sales of the Vinyls segment increased by 249.3% to R\$131.0 million in 2002 from R\$37.5 million in 2001. This increase in net export sales was primarily attributable to the effects of our merger with OPP Produtos.

Table of Contents

Net sales revenue of our Vinyls unit increased by 18.4% to R\$1,117.8 million in 2002 as compared to net sales revenue of Trikem of R\$944.2 million in 2001. This increase was primarily attributable to a 30.6% increase in domestic sales of PVC and a 284.7% increase in export sales of EDC. Net export sales of the Vinyls segment increased by 60.7% in 2002 to R\$131.0 million as compared to net export sales by Trikem of R\$81.5 million in 2001.

Domestic sales volume of PVC by the Vinyls segment increased by 6.9% to 350.1 thousand tons in 2002 as compared to Trikem's sales volume of 327.6 thousand tons in 2001, principally as a result of the return to normal production and consumption levels in 2002 following the termination of the Brazilian government's electric power rationing program, which had depressed domestic consumption in 2001. Average domestic prices for PVC increased by 22.3% to R\$2,035 per ton in 2002 from R\$1,664 per ton in 2001.

Domestic sales volume of caustic soda by the Vinyls segment increased by 11.8% to 400.9 thousand tons in 2002 as compared to Trikem's sales volume of 358.7 thousand tons in 2001, principally due to higher domestic demand for caustic soda stemming from the termination of the Brazilian government's electric power rationing program. Average domestic prices for caustic soda decreased by 31.8% to R\$567 per ton in 2002 from R\$832 per ton in 2001.

Export sales volume of EDC by the Vinyls segment increased by 16.0% to 119.4 thousand tons in 2002 as compared to Trikem's sales volume of 102.9 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to increased sales to our distributor in the Asian market as a result of increased demand for EDC by producers of PVC products in this market. Average export prices for EDC increased by 231.3% to R\$540 per ton in 2002 from R\$163 per ton in 2001, primarily due to the upward trend in international market prices for EDC in 2002 caused by, among other factors, the limited global production capacity for this product, coupled with the effects of the significant devaluation of the *real* in 2002.

Cost of Sales and Gross Profit. Cost of sales of the Vinyls segment increased by 192.7% in 2002. This increase was primarily attributable to the effects of our merger with OPP Produtos.

Cost of sales of the Vinyls segment increased by 25.5% to R\$804.7 million in 2002 as compared to Trikem's cost of sales of R\$641.1 million in 2001. This increase was primarily a result of increases in the prices that this segment paid for ethylene and electric power, as well as our increased sales volume in 2002.

Gross profit of the Vinyls segment increased by 205.2% in 2002, and gross margin of the Vinyls segment declined to 28.0% for 2002 from 27.2% in 2001. This decline in gross margin was primarily due to the higher unit costs of the products of this segment in 2002 as a result of increases in the prices that this segment paid for ethylene and electric power.

Gross profit of the Vinyls segment increased by 3.3% to R\$313.1 million in 2002 as compared to Trikem's gross profit of R\$303.1 million in 2001, and gross margin decreased to 28.0% in 2002 from 32.1% in 2001.

Operating Income. The operating income of the Vinyls segment (which excludes financial income and expenses and results from investment in associated companies) increased by 87.6% in 2002, primarily as a result of an increase of R\$210.5 million in this segment's gross profit. This increase was partially offset by a decrease of R\$42.0 million in other income, net, primarily as a result of the effects of an insurance recovery recorded in 2001 in connection with an industrial accident at our PVC plant in Alagoas. This segment's selling, general and administrative expenses in 2002 decreased as a percentage of its net sales revenue from 1.4% in 2001 to 4.3% in 2002. Operating margin of the Vinyls segment declined to 23.8% in 2002 from 37.5% in 2001.

Operating income of our Vinyls segment declined by 13.9% to R\$265.8 million in 2002 as compared to Trikem's operating income of R\$308.8 million in 2001, principally as a result of a decrease of R\$41.5 million in other income, net, primarily as a result of the effects of an insurance recovery recorded

Table of Contents

in 2001 in connection with an industrial accident at our PVC plant in Alagoas. Operating margin of the Vinyls segment for 2002 was 23.8% in 2002 as compared to Trikem's operating margin of 32.7% in 2001.

Business Development

Net Sales Revenue. Net sales revenue of the Business Development segment increased by 300.0% in 2002. This increase was primarily attributable to effects of our merger with 52114 Participações and the acquisition of Proppet on July 25, 2001. Domestic sales volumes of PET increased by 148.2% to 59.8 thousand tons in 2002 from 24.1 thousand tons in 2001. Domestic sales volume of caprolactam was 15.1 thousand tons in 2002. We did not sell caprolactam prior to our acquisition of Nitrocarbono in our merger with 52114 Participações. Net export sales of this segment, consisting primarily of caprolactam, was R\$20.1 million in 2002. Exports of this segment were insignificant in 2001.

Cost of Sales and Gross Profit. Cost of sales of the Business Development segment increased by 300.8% in 2002, reflecting the effects of our merger with 52114 Participações and our acquisition of Proppet.

Gross profit of this segment increased by 295.6% in 2002. The gross margin of this segment remained relatively stable at 15.4% in 2002 compared to 15.5% in 2001.

Operating Income. Operating income of the Business Development segment (which excludes financial income and expenses and results from investment in associated companies) increased by 358.4% in 2002, primarily as a result of an increase of R\$33.4 million in this segment's gross profit. This increase was partially offset by a R\$7.6 million increase in selling, general and administrative expenses attributable to effects of our merger with 52114 Participações and the acquisition of Proppet on July 25, 2001. Operating margin of the Business Development segment increased to 12.1% in 2002 from 10.6% in 2001.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our principal cash requirements consist of the following:

working capital requirements;

the servicing of our indebtedness;

capital expenditures related to investments in operations, maintenance and expansion of plant facilities; and

in the future, dividends on our shares, including in the form of interest attributable to shareholders' equity.

Our principal sources of liquidity have traditionally consisted of the following:

cash flows from operating activities;

short-term and long-term borrowings; and

sales of debt securities in domestic and international capital markets.

In 2003, cash flow generated by operations was used primarily for investing activities, for working capital requirements and to service our outstanding debt obligations. At December 31, 2003, our consolidated cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities amounted to R\$1,184.3 million, including R\$148.1 million that has been included in our consolidated financial statements due to the effects of proportional consolidation and to which we do not generally have access because we jointly control our proportionally consolidated companies with third parties.

Working Capital

We had consolidated negative working capital of R\$726.8 million at December 31, 2003. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, we had consolidated

Table of Contents

negative working capital of R\$913.0 million at December 31, 2003. Our working capital deficit principally reflects the level of our outstanding short-term indebtedness, including the current portion of our long-term debt. Part of our debt strategy over the next few years involves the use of a substantial portion of our consolidated cash flow, including from synergies resulting from our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações, to pay principal and interest with respect to this indebtedness, including by repaying short-term debt through longer-term borrowings and issuing longer-term debt securities. As a result of our debt strategy and the improvement of our results of operations, our consolidated negative working capital decreased by 56.6% from R\$1,672.9 million at December 31, 2002. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, our consolidated negative working capital decreased by 45.0% to R\$913.0 million in 2003 from R\$1,658.9 million at December 31, 2002.

After December 31, 2003, we reduced our short-term indebtedness by issuing and selling US\$250.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 11.75% Notes due 2014 under our medium-term note program and R\$1,200.0 million aggregate principal amount of our eleventh series of debentures in January and February 2004. See Recent Developments. Some of these debentures were issued in exchange for a portion of our outstanding debt and the remainder of the proceeds of these transactions was used to repay a portion of our short-term debt. As a result, the average tenor of our indebtedness has been extended and we have experienced an increase in our liquidity. We believe that the proceeds of the offerings concluded in January and February 2004, together with our cash flows generated by operations, will be sufficient to meet our short-term financial obligations during 2004.

Our consolidated current assets increased by R\$527.1 million to R\$4,077.5 million at December 31, 2003 from R\$3,550.4 million at December 31, 2002. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, our consolidated current assets increased by R\$580.7 million to R\$3,654.5 million at December 31, 2003 compared to R\$3,073.8 million at December 31, 2002. The increase in our consolidated current assets was largely due to:

an increase of R\$363.3 million in cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities, primarily as a result of our strategy to increase the amount of our liquid assets;

an increase of R\$257.2 million in trade accounts receivable, primarily as a result of our higher sales volume and prices during the period in which the receivables recorded at December 31, 2003 were generated than during the corresponding period in 2002; and

an increase of R\$182.5 million in inventories, primarily as a result of our production of certain products for inventory in late 2003 in anticipation of the shutdown of our Olefins 2 Unit in February 2004 for maintenance.

Our marketable securities balance totaled R\$494.7 million at December 31, 2003 compared with R\$619.3 million at December 31, 2002. Of the year-end 2003 balance, R\$434.6 million consisted of interests in an investment fund managed, on a discretionary basis, by a leading international bank. The substantial portion of the assets of this investment fund at year-end 2003 was comprised of U.S. dollar-denominated debt securities issued by our company. We believe that the fund manager plans to remarket these debt securities from time to time and realize funds from the resale of these debt securities. In the event that investor interest in debt securities of our company specifically or Brazilian issuers generally deteriorates, then the market value of the investment fund would decline and the fund manager's ability to resell our debt securities would be affected, which could adversely impact our working capital and liquidity position. In addition, the U.S. GAAP reconciliation of shareholders' equity eliminates the marketable securities balances consisting of our own debt securities in the fund on the asset side of our balance sheet against long-term indebtedness on the liability side of our balance sheet. See note 29(p) to our consolidated and combined financial statements.

Our consolidated current liabilities decreased by R\$419.0 million to R\$4,804.3 million at December 31, 2003 compared to R\$5,223.3 million at December 31, 2002. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, our consolidated current liabilities decreased by R\$165.2 million to R\$4,567.5 million at December 31, 2003 compared to R\$4,732.7 million at

Table of Contents

December 31, 2002. The decrease in our consolidated current liabilities was largely due to a decrease of R\$525.4 million in suppliers, primarily as a result of our reduction of our accounts payable to Petrobras and Copesul as part of our strategy to reduce our use of relatively expensive credit lines from suppliers.

Cash Flows

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities was R\$580.5 million in 2003, R\$790.0 million in 2002 and R\$1,453.9 million in 2001. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation, net cash provided by operating activities was R\$431.9 million in 2003, R\$708.6 million in 2002 and R\$1,196.2 million in 2001.

The significant factors that led to the generation of our consolidated cash flows from operating activities in 2003 included our net income of R\$215.1 million, and a R\$321.2 million decrease in our taxes recoverable primarily as a result of the use of our tax credits to offset R\$364.9 million of our federal tax assessment in 2003.

These positive effects on our cash flows from operations were partially offset by the effects of:

a R\$609.7 million decrease in our accounts payable to suppliers as a result of our reduced reliance on this high-cost source of financing;

a R\$238.9 million increase in our trade accounts receivable resulting from increased prices for certain of our principal products due to our realignment of the prices of certain of our principal products with international market prices in 2003; and

a R\$197.3 million increase in inventories resulting from our production of certain products for inventory in late 2003 in anticipation of the shutdown of our Olefins 2 unit for maintenance in early 2004.

The significant factors that led to the generation of our consolidated cash flows from operating activities in 2002 included a R\$1,482.5 million increase in our balance due to suppliers as a result of our increased reliance on financing of purchases of our primary raw materials in 2002. This positive effect on our cash flows from operations was partially offset by the effects of (1) a R\$809.6 million increase in our trade accounts receivable resulting from increased prices for our products primarily due to the significant devaluation of the *real* in 2002, and (2) a R\$425.3 million increase in our marketable securities in 2002.

The significant factors that led to the generation of our consolidated cash flows from operating activities in 2001 included:

a R\$213.0 million decrease in our marketable securities as a result of our disposition of these investments; and

a R\$191.3 million decrease in our trade accounts receivable resulting from the reduced volume of our domestic sales as a result of the Brazilian government's electric power rationing program that was initiated in June 2001.

Cash Flows Used in Investing Activities

Investing activities used net cash of R\$460.4 million in 2003, compared to R\$646.7 million in 2002, and R\$862.2 million in 2001. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, investing activities used net cash of R\$494.8 million in 2003, compared to R\$611.0 million in 2002, and R\$1,086.4 million in 2001. In 2003, our cash investments on a consolidated basis primarily consisted of additions to equipment related to upgrading, maintaining and modernizing the Olefins 1 unit of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit during a scheduled stoppage. In 2002, our cash investments on a consolidated basis primarily consisted of additions to property, plant and equipment related to maintaining one of our pyrolysis plants and expanding the production capacity of the Olefins Unit 1 of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit during a scheduled stoppage. In 2001, our cash investments on a

Table of Contents

consolidated basis primarily consisted of acquisitions made by Nova Camaçari prior to our acquisition of Nova Camaçari.

Cash Flows from Financing Activities

Financing activities provided net cash of R\$367.8 million in 2003, used net cash of R\$237.2 million in 2002, and used net cash of R\$404.9 million in 2001. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, financing activities provided net cash of R\$481.9 million in 2003, used net cash of R\$185.0 million in 2002, and provided net cash of R\$88.4 million in 2001.

In 2003, our principal source of long-term borrowed funds were issuances in an aggregate amount of US\$461.0 million under our medium-term note program and US\$30 million of proceeds of a syndicated, secured pre-export finance facility. We used cash in 2003 to repay R\$389.3 million of our outstanding long-term debt and to reduce our outstanding short-term debt by R\$854.7 million as part of our strategy to increase the average maturity of our indebtedness. We borrowed R\$833.6 million on market terms from related parties, principally from Copesul Trading International Inc. and Petroflex, to finance our working capital requirements during 2003 and repaid R\$843.2 million to these related parties.

In 2002, our principal sources of long-term borrowed funds were an issuance of unsecured convertible debentures in an aggregate amount of R\$591.9 million, and an export prepayment financing in an aggregate amount of US\$97.2 million. We used cash in 2002 to reduce our outstanding short-term debt by R\$566.8 million as part of our strategy to increase the average maturity of our indebtedness. We borrowed R\$1,140.6 million on market terms from related parties, including members of the Odebrecht Group, Copesul Trading International Inc. and Petroflex, to finance our working capital requirements during 2002 and repaid R\$1,920.9 million to these related parties. All of these transactions to which members of the Odebrecht Group were parties were conducted by OPP Produtos prior to the legal date of its merger with our company.

In 2001, our principal sources of long-term borrowed funds were:

our issuance of two series of secured, nonconvertible debentures, in an aggregate principal amount of R\$625.0 million;

a syndicated export prepayment credit agreement in an aggregate principal amount equal to US\$250.0 million;

an export pre-payment loan entered into by Trikem in an aggregate principal amount equal to US\$50 million; and

a loan from BNDES Participações S.A. BNDESPAR, or BNDESPAR, in an aggregate principal amount of R\$163.9 million extended in connection with our purchase of BNDESPAR shares of Conepar.

We used cash in 2001 to repay R\$228.8 million of our outstanding long-term debt and to reduce our outstanding short-term debt by R\$2,862.3 million as part of our strategy to increase the average maturity of our indebtedness. We borrowed R\$1,476.8 million on market terms from related parties, primarily members of the Odebrecht Group, to finance our working capital requirements during 2001 and repaid R\$1,152.7 million to these related parties. All of these transactions to which members of the Odebrecht Group were parties were conducted by OPP Produtos prior to the legal date of its merger with our company.

We paid cash dividends and interest attributable to shareholders' equity (including withholding taxes paid by our company on behalf of our shareholders in respect thereof) of R\$19.1 million and R\$60.0 million for 2002 and 2001, respectively. Since May 20, 2002, we have suspended payment of the mandatory distribution because we did not have retained earnings (but rather had an accumulated deficit). As a result, we did not pay cash dividends or interest attributable to shareholders' equity in 2003. We anticipate that we will, in the future, resume paying dividends on our shares, including in the form of interest attributable to shareholders' equity, when our net income in future periods results in our having

Table of Contents

retained earnings (instead of our existing accumulated deficit at December 31, 2003). Payment of dividends is mandatory under our by-laws and also is required under agreements with two of our shareholders and, consequently, may give rise to a significant cash requirement in future periods. See *Dividends and Dividend Policy* *Payment of Dividends*. As a result of the effects of the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, we recorded dividend payments of R\$72.3 million in 2003, R\$32.4 million in 2002 and R\$131.8 million in 2001 in our combined and consolidated financial statements.

Indebtedness and Financing Strategy

At December 31, 2003, our total outstanding indebtedness on a consolidated basis, excluding related party debt and advances for purchase of credit rights, was R\$7,833.8 million, consisting of R\$3,075.5 million of short-term indebtedness (or 39.3% of our total indebtedness), including current portion of long-term indebtedness, and R\$4,758.3 million of long-term indebtedness (or 60.7% of our total indebtedness). Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, at December 31, 2003, our total outstanding indebtedness was R\$7,343.1 million, consisting of R\$2,858.0 million of short-term indebtedness, including current portion of long-term indebtedness, and R\$4,485.1 million of long-term indebtedness.

On a consolidated basis, our *real*-denominated indebtedness at December 31, 2003 was R\$2,613.8 million, and our foreign currency-denominated indebtedness was R\$5,220.0 million. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, our *real*-denominated indebtedness at December 31, 2003 was R\$2,540.0 million, and our foreign currency-denominated indebtedness was R\$4,803.1 million. At December 31, 2003, our total outstanding indebtedness to related parties on a consolidated basis was R\$177.8 million.

Our financing strategy has been to extend the average maturity of our outstanding indebtedness, including by repaying short-term debt through longer-term borrowings and issuing longer-term debt securities. In addition, we intend to use a portion of the proceeds of this offering to repay short-term debt. Part of our financing strategy over the next several years involves our use of a substantial portion of our consolidated cash flow, including from synergies resulting from our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações, to pay principal and interest with respect to its outstanding indebtedness.

Short-Term Indebtedness

Our consolidated short-term debt, including debentures and current portion of long-term debt, increased to R\$3,075.5 million at December 31, 2003 from R\$2,778.2 million at December 31, 2002 primarily as a result of the reclassification of debentures in the amount of R\$329.8 million as current portion of long-term debt to reflect a put option which may be exercised by the holders of these debentures on October 1, 2004. The effects of this reclassification were partially offset by our successful completion of several financing transactions. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, our short-term debt decreased to R\$2,858.0 million at December 31, 2003, compared to R\$2,540.9 million at December 31, 2002.

We maintain short-term finance lines denominated in *reais* with a number of financial institutions in Brazil. Although we have no committed lines of credit with these financial institutions, we believe that we will continue to be able to obtain sufficient credit to finance our working capital needs based on current market conditions. At December 31, 2003, the consolidated outstanding balance under our working capital lines denominated in *reais* was R\$556.0 million. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, the aggregate outstanding balance under our working capital lines was R\$516.4 million.

We also obtain advances on certain export contracts from a variety of Brazilian financial institutions. These advances generally have a maturity of less than one year and relatively low interest rates. These advances on export contracts are generally secured by receivables to be generated from future export sales under those contracts. At December 31, 2003, our consolidated outstanding advances on export contracts

Table of Contents

totalled R\$458.5 million (US\$158.7 million). Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, we had received outstanding advances on export contracts in an aggregate amount of R\$275.4 million (US\$95.3 million). See note 15 to our consolidated and combined financial statements included in this prospectus.

Long-Term Indebtedness

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to certain of our principal outstanding long-term debt instruments at December 31, 2003.

Instrument	Outstanding Principal Amount at December 31, 2003	Final Maturity	Principal Covenants
Debentures:			
10th Issue of Debentures (1st series)	R\$410.8 million	October 2006	Limitations on liens, dividends, indebtedness, financial ratios, asset sales and mergers
10th Issue of Debentures (2nd series)	R\$299.0 million	October 2006	Limitations on liens, dividends, indebtedness, financial ratios, asset sales and mergers
Subordinated Convertible Debentures	R\$636.6 million	July 2007	Limitations on liens, indebtedness and mergers
Medium-Term Notes:			
10.50% Notes due 2004	US\$121.0 million	July 2004	Limitations on liens, indebtedness and mergers
9.25% Notes due 2005	US\$65.0 million	October 2005	Limitations on liens, indebtedness and mergers
12.50% Notes due 2008	US\$275.0 million	November 2008	Limitations on liens, indebtedness and mergers
9.0% Notes due 2007	US\$150.0 million	June 2007	Limitations on liens
11.5% Notes due 2004		February 2004 (repaid)	Limitations on liens, dividends, indebtedness, related party transactions, asset sales, and mergers
11.0% Notes due 2004	US\$50.7 million		Limitations on liens, dividends, indebtedness, related party transactions, asset sales, and mergers
10.625% Notes due 2007	US\$100.0 million	October 2004	Limitations on liens, dividends, indebtedness, related party transactions, asset sales, and mergers
	US\$250.0 million	July 2007	Limitations on liens, dividends, indebtedness, related party transactions, asset sales, and mergers

Table of Contents

Instrument	Outstanding Principal Amount at December 31, 2003	Final Maturity	Principal Covenants
Bank Credit Facilities:			
Syndicated Bank Loan (acquisition financing)	US\$80.0 million	July 2004 (repaid)	Limitations on mergers (applicable to Odebrecht Química and OPE Investimentos)
Bank Loan (construction financing)	US\$15.0 million	December 2007	Limitations on liens and mergers
Acquisition Financing:			
Bank Loans (acquisition financing)	R\$74.6 million	October 2004/ March 2005	Limitations on liens
BNDESPAR Loan (acquisition financing)	R\$167.7 million	August 2006	Limitation on share transfers
Export Finance Facilities:			
Export Prepayment Credit Facility (1st and 2nd tranches)		December 2004 (1st tranche) December 2006 (2nd tranche)	Limitations on liens, dividends, investments, indebtedness, asset sales and mergers
6.73% Investor Certificates	US\$193.6 million	June 2004	
Export Prepayment Loan	US\$35.9 million	June 2004	Limitations on liens, dividends, indebtedness, investments and mergers
Customer Export Prepayment	US\$16.4 million	June 2004	Limitations on liens, dividends, indebtedness, investments, mergers and asset sales
Syndicated Secured Pre-Export Finance Facility	US\$93.9 million	June 2006	Limitations on liens on receivables, indebtedness, dividends, investments, asset sales and mergers
	US\$30.0 million	February 2005	

Many of the instruments governing our long-term indebtedness contain covenants that limit our ability to, among other things, incur additional indebtedness and grant liens on our property. We were in full compliance with the financial covenants in these instruments at December 31, 2003, and we believe that we will be able to comply with these financial covenants for the foreseeable future without any material effect on our business or financial performance.

At December 31, 2003, R\$840.8 million of our *real*-denominated debt and R\$232.8 million of our foreign currency-denominated debt (in each case, excluding related party debt) was secured. In order to secure this debt, we have pledged (1) a substantial number of shares owned by our company in subsidiaries and affiliates, including Copesul, Polialden and Odebrecht Química, and (2) certain of our property and equipment. The security arrangements for our secured debt vary depending on the transaction. In connection with our repayment of a syndicated bank loan on March 3, 2004, part of the pledge of our Copesul shares was released.

The following discussion briefly describes certain of our significant financing transactions. We have assumed the obligations of predecessor companies, including, among others, OPP Química (and its predecessor OPP Petroquímica) and Trikem, under these financing transactions as a result of mergers referred to under *Principal Factors Affecting Our Results of Operations* Nova Camaçari Acquisition and Mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações, *Recent Developments* and *History and Corporate Reorganization*.

Tenth Issue of Debentures. On October 1, 2001, we issued our tenth issue of secured non-convertible debentures. The debentures were issued in two series and are secured by a floating lien (*garantia*

Table of Contents

flutuante) over the assets of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. We used the proceeds from these debentures to refinance in part our obligations in connection with our acquisition of Nova Camaçari. The first series consisted of 4,108 debentures and the second series consisted of 2,142 debentures. At December 31, 2003, the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the first series was R\$410.8 million and the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the second series was R\$299.0 million. Between January 16, 2004 and February 4, 2004, we issued an aggregate of R\$380.0 million principal amount of our eleventh series of debentures in exchange for 2,289 debentures in the first series of the tenth issue and 945 debentures in the second series of the tenth issue. See Recent Developments Issuance and Sale of Eleventh Issue of Debentures.

Interest on the first series accrues at the rate of 118.33% of the CDI rate per annum and is payable semi-annually. The first series matures on October 1, 2006. Interest on the second series accrues at a rate of 13.25% per annum, payable annually, and the principal amount is adjusted for inflation on each payment date using the IGP-M. The second series matures on October 1, 2006. The initial interest rates described above in respect of both series of debentures will be in effect until October 1, 2004, when our board of directors will establish new interest rates for the period commencing on October 1, 2004 through the final maturity date thereof. We must redeem in full the debentures of any holders who do not accept the new interest rates established by our board of directors.

Subordinated Convertible Debentures. On May 31, 2002, OPP Produtos issued subordinated convertible debentures. As a result of our merger with OPP Produtos, these debentures became our obligations. At December 31, 2003, the outstanding principal amount of these debentures was R\$636.6 million. Interest and monetary adjustment on these debentures accrues at the Long-Term Interest Rate plus 5.0% per annum and will be accreted until their maturity on July 31, 2007. ODBPAR Investments, as the holder of these debentures, has the option to convert the debentures into shares of our share capital at any time. The initial conversion price of these debentures was R\$48.76 per 1,000 of our class A preferred shares, plus accrued interest. The conversion price increases at a rate equal to the Long-Term Interest Rate less 6.0% per annum from the date of the issuance of these debentures. At March 31, 2004, the conversion price of these debentures was R\$52.94 per 1,000 shares of our class A preferred stock. Upon conversion, we will issue class A preferred shares up to the legal limit for preferred shares of two-thirds of our total share capital. After this two-thirds limit is reached, we will issue any remaining shares to be converted in the following proportions: one-third in common shares; and two-thirds in class A preferred shares. If ODBPAR Investments had exercised its option to convert these debentures in full on March 31, 2004, ODBPAR Investments would have received 4,913,401,489 of our common shares and 9,826,802,978 of our class A preferred shares in exchange for these debentures.

Medium-Term Note Program. On July 16, 2003, we established a medium-term note program permitting us to issue up to US\$500.0 million aggregate principal amount of notes with maturities of up to five years from date of issuance. On December 16, 2003, we amended our medium-term note program to increase the maximum aggregate principal amount that we are permitted to issue to US\$1,000.0 million and to extend the maximum maturity of the notes issued under the program to ten years from the date of issuance. We have issued four series of notes under the program.

Between July 16, 2003 and October 23, 2003, we issued and sold US\$121.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 10.50% Notes due 2004. Interest on these notes is payable on January 16, 2004 and July 16, 2004, and the notes mature on July 16, 2004.

On October 28, 2003, we issued and sold US\$65.0 million in aggregate principal amount of our 9.25% Notes due 2005 under the medium-term note program. Interest on these notes is payable in April and October of each year, commencing on April 28, 2004, and the notes mature on October 28, 2005.

Between November 5, 2003 and November 26, 2003, we issued and sold US\$275.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 12.50% Notes due 2008. Interest on these notes is payable in May and November of each year, commencing on May 5, 2004, and the notes mature on November 5, 2008.

Table of Contents

Fixed Rate Notes. On June 25, 1997, we issued and sold US\$150.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 9.0% Notes due 2007. Interest on these notes is payable semi-annually in arrears in June and December in each year, and these notes mature on June 25, 2007.

On February 22, 1996, OPP Petroquímica issued and sold US\$125.0 million aggregate principal amount of its 11.5% Notes due 2004. At December 31, 2003, the outstanding principal amount of these notes was US\$50.7 million. These notes matured and were paid on February 23, 2004.

On October 29, 1996, OPP Petroquímica issued and sold US\$100.0 million aggregate principal amount of its 11.0% Notes due 2004. Interest on these notes is payable semi-annually in arrears in April and October in each year, and these notes mature on October 29, 2004.

On July 24, 1997, Trikem issued and sold US\$250.0 million aggregate principal amount of its 10.625% Notes due 2007. Interest on these notes is payable semi-annually in arrears in January and July in each year, and these notes mature on July 24, 2007. We assumed the obligations of Trikem under these notes as a result of the merger of Trikem with and into our company on January 15, 2004. We have the right to repurchase these notes on July 24 of each year.

Bank Credit Facilities. In July 1999, Odequi Overseas Inc., now one of our direct subsidiaries, received a loan in the principal amount of US\$110.0 million from a syndicate of financial institutions. The remaining amounts due under this loan were repaid on March 3, 2004.

In January 1998, several financial institutions granted a loan in the amount of US\$30.0 million to Proppet to finance construction of its PET plant in Camaçari, Bahia. This loan has since been amended to, among other provisions, reflect the merger of Proppet with and into our company. ODBPAR Investments, Norquisa and Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation, or Mitsubishi, have guaranteed this loan. ODBPAR Investments and Norquisa have also agreed to reimburse Mitsubishi for any payments that it makes in respect of this guarantee if we default on our payment obligations under the loan. To guarantee their reimbursement obligations, Norquisa and ODBPAR Investments have caused our company to grant Mitsubishi a second mortgage on its DMT and PET plants and to pledge the equipment related to its DMT and PET production. The loan amortizes in equal semi-annual installments until its final maturity in December 2007. At December 31, 2003, the outstanding principal balance of this loan was US\$15.0 million. The loan bears interest at the rate of LIBOR plus 3.875% per annum, payable semi-annually in arrears in June and December of each year. Ninety-five percent of the principal and interest of this loan is supported by insurance from Nippon Export and Investment Insurance, and we pay annual premiums in yen for this insurance.

Acquisition Financing. In September 1992, Odebrecht Química purchased shares of PPH Companhia Industrial de Polipropileno and Poliolefinas S/ A, predecessor companies of OPP Química. Odebrecht Química paid 10.0% of the purchase price in cash and the remaining 90.0% was financed by Banco do Brasil. At December 31, 2003, the aggregate outstanding principal balance of the Banco do Brasil loans was R\$74.6 million. On January 16, 2004, we issued R\$75.1 million aggregate principal amount of our eleventh series of debentures in exchange for the outstanding balance of these loans. See Recent Developments Issuance and Sale of Eleventh Issue of Debentures.

On December 17, 2003, we pledged 2,554,061 shares of Odebrecht Química with an aggregate estimated value of R\$153.7 million to Banco do Brasil in part as collateral security for these loans. Although these loans were exchanged for our eleventh series of debentures, the pledge of the Odebrecht Química shares continues to secure certain additional outstanding indebtedness that we owe to Banco do Brasil, as well as future indebtedness incurred with Banco do Brasil that we and Banco do Brasil agree will be subject to the pledge.

In September 2001, BNDESPAR sold 1,000,000,000 class B preferred shares of Conepar to Nova Camaçari for a purchase price of R\$163.9 million and, as part of this transaction, BNDESPAR extended a loan to Nova Camaçari in a principal amount equal to the purchase price. This loan bears interest at the Long-Term Interest Rate plus 4.0% per annum, payable annually each August 15, and matures on

Table of Contents

August 15, 2006. At December 31, 2003, the outstanding principal balance of this loan was R\$167.7 million.

Subject to the preemptive rights of existing shareholders, BNDESPAR has the option to convert the principal amount of and accrued interest on this loan into our class A preferred shares at any time prior to the maturity of this loan. If this loan is converted in connection with a public offering, the conversion price will be the offering price. If this loan is converted other than in connection with a public offering, the conversion price will be the greater of the offering price in our last public offering occurring within the nine months prior to the conversion, monetarily restated by the IGP-M, and the weighted average of the average daily prices for our class A preferred shares on the São Paulo Stock Exchange during the 60 days prior to the conversion. Upon conversion, we will issue class A preferred shares up to the legal limit for preferred shares of two-thirds of our total share capital. After this two-thirds limit is reached, we will issue any remaining shares to be converted in the following proportions: one-third in common shares; and two-thirds in class A preferred shares.

Export Prepayment Facilities. In December 2001, we entered into a US\$250.0 million syndicated credit agreement. The loan is secured by certain of our exports. We used the proceeds from the loan to refinance in part our obligations in connection with our acquisition of Nova Camaçari. The first tranche of this loan in the principal amount of US\$80.0 million bears interest at the rate of three-month LIBOR plus 3.75% per annum, payable quarterly in arrears. Principal on the first tranche is payable in seven installments beginning in June 2003 with a final maturity date in December 2004. Amortization of the principal is scheduled to match sales of our exports that are not pledged to support other obligations. The second tranche of this loan in the principal amount of US\$170.0 million bears interest at the rate of three-month LIBOR plus 4.75% per annum, payable quarterly in arrears. Principal on the second tranche is payable in 15 installments beginning in June 2003 with a final maturity date in December 2006. Amortization of the principal is scheduled to match sales of our exports that are not pledged to support other obligations. At December 31, 2003, the aggregate outstanding principal balance of the two tranches of this loan was US\$193.6 million.

On August 1, 1997, a trust formed by Trikem issued and sold US\$100 million aggregate principal amount of 6.73% Investor Certificates due 2004. The investor certificates are to be paid from the proceeds of accounts receivable generated from export sales of PVC and EDC to a Japanese company. The investor certificates represent fractional interests in the trust whose sole asset is receivables generated pursuant to a supply agreement with the Japanese company. At December 31, 2003, the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the investor certificates was US\$35.9 million. Interest on the investor certificates is payable quarterly in arrears in March, June, September and December of each year. Our obligation to sell products to our subsidiary is supported by a surety bond. We also guarantee payment on the investor certificates.

In April 2001, Trikem received an export pre-payment loan of US\$50.0 million from two financial institutions. This bears interest at the rate of three-month LIBOR plus 2.375% per annum payable quarterly in arrears. We assumed the obligations of Trikem under this loan as a result of its merger with and into our company on January 15, 2004. This loan amortizes in 13 equal quarterly installments structured to correspond to excess distributions to our company from the trust that issued the 6.73% Investor Certificates due 2004. At December 31, 2003, the outstanding principal balance of this loan was US\$16.4 million. This loan is secured by our right to payments from the trustee of that trust. Odebrecht Química guarantees payment of this loan.

In December 2002, OPP Química entered into a prepayment advance for products to be exported to a foreign customer in the amount of US\$97.2 million. This prepayment advance bears interest at the rate of six-month LIBOR plus 3.75% per annum. This prepayment advance will be paid through partial semi-annual shipments from December 2003 to June 2006. At December 31, 2003, the outstanding principal amount of this prepayment advance was US\$93.9 million. Our obligation to deliver export products is guaranteed by a surety bond.

On August 19, 2003, we entered into a syndicated, secured pre-export finance facility in an aggregate principal amount of US\$30.0 million. The loans under this facility are secured by certain of our exports

Table of Contents

and bear interest at a rate of 60-day LIBOR plus 4.625% per annum, payable bi-monthly in arrears commencing on October 24, 2003. The principal amount of this facility is payable in seven equal bi-monthly installments beginning on February 23, 2004, with a final maturity date of February 15, 2005.

BNDES Development Loans. We maintain credit facilities that are granted directly or indirectly by BNDES to fund general capital expenditures associated principally with the expansion of our production capacity, environmental projects and the development of operation control centers, laboratories and waste treatment station, of which R\$274.4 million principal amount was outstanding at December 31, 2003. Amounts borrowed from BNDES are secured by a pledge of certain equipment and machinery owned by us. The interest rate on most of the amounts we borrowed from BNDES is based on the Long-Term Interest Rate plus a margin of 2% to 5% per annum. Other amounts borrowed from BNDES bear interest at the *Taxa Referencial*, a government reference rate, plus a margin of 6.5%, or at a rate based on the UM, a BNDES rate based on a basket of currencies (which rate reflects the daily exchange rate fluctuations in the currencies in which BNDES borrows), plus a margin. The principal and interest on these credit facilities is payable monthly through July 2007.

Related Party Debt. During the second and third quarters of 2003, we, through our subsidiary Lantana Trading Co. Inc., entered into several loan agreements with Copesul International Trading Inc., an affiliate of Copesul, which loans have an aggregate outstanding amount of R\$157.4 million.

Assignment of Accounts Receivable

On October 24, 2003, we entered into a conditional receivables assignment agreement with a Brazilian financial institution under which we transferred a portion of the accounts receivable resulting from a specific polyethylene supply contract with a Brazilian company for the period from October 2003 through September 2004. In consideration of this assignment, this financial institution advanced to our company R\$66.7 million, net of taxes and a monthly fee equal to 1.89% of each monthly installment under the supply contract. We will repay this advance through collections on the assigned receivables. If the amount of receivables collected is greater than the amount of this advance, then the financial institution will pay us the outstanding balance, net of a monthly fee in an amount to be agreed from time to time. However, if the outstanding balance is negative, we must pay the difference to the financial institution. We are responsible for collecting the receivables, and if a receivable is past due, we must pay the financial institution the value thereof within 10 days from its due date. In connection with the receivables assignment, our company executed a promissory note in favor of the financial institution in an aggregate principal amount of R\$86.7 million and made the financial institution the beneficiary of an insurance policy in the amount of the advance. At December 31, 2003, the outstanding balance under this assignment of account receivables was R\$49.7 million.

Advance for Purchase of Credit Rights

In June 2002, OPP Química and Trikem entered into a facility under which they received advances for the assignment of credit rights. See note 7 to our consolidated and combined financial statements. At December 31, 2003, the aggregate outstanding principal balance under this advance for the assignment of credit rights was R\$113.4 million. On January 16, 2004, we issued R\$107.7 million in aggregate principal amount of our eleventh series of debentures in exchange for the outstanding balance under this facility. See Recent Developments Issuance and Sale of Our Eleventh Issue of Debentures.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We have retained an interest in subordinated quotas (shares) of the investment fund on securitization of receivables described below. The securitization of receivables is accounted for as a sale to the extent that consideration other than beneficial interests in transferred assets is received in exchange. This investment fund is qualified as a special-purpose entity and was not consolidated in our financial statements.

Table of Contents

On November 6, 2003, our company, Trikem and Polialden entered into a receivables purchase and sale agreement with a special purpose receivables investment fund under which our company, Trikem and Polialden agreed to sell to the fund from time to time, without recourse, certain trade receivables represented by negotiable invoices (*duplicatas*). Under this agreement, this fund may purchase these receivables using (1) the net proceeds that it obtains from the sale of interests, or senior quotas, in the fund to certain qualified investors in Brazil and (2) past due receivables that our company, Trikem or Polialden have previously sold to the fund and, although not obligated to do so, agree to repurchase. The fund may also invest a portion of such net proceeds in cash and certain cash equivalents. The aggregate amount of the quotas of all series outstanding at any time may not exceed R\$500.0 million. Each series of quotas will have a maturity of not less than 12 months from the date of issuance and will amortize on June 15 and December 15 of each year. The amortization payments will include amounts in respect of interest calculated as a multiple of the CDI rate.

The fund may cause the early amortization of quotas to the extent necessary to meet specified coverage ratios or to ensure that receivables constitute at least a specified percentage of the fund's net worth. We, Trikem and Polialden also agreed to purchase subordinated quotas from the fund to the extent necessary to enable the fund to meet specified coverage ratios, whether measured on periodic calculation dates or measured on a pro forma basis before the issuance of quotas to investors. In addition, we, Trikem and Polialden are required to maintain an insurance policy covering an aggregate amount of 20% of the value of any series of quotas issued by the fund, and the fund may demand payment under the insurance policy in the amount of the receivables under any negotiable invoice for which documents necessary to pursue a collection action against the applicable obligor are unavailable. We assumed the retained interests of Trikem under the sale of receivables as a result of its merger into our company on January 15, 2004.

On November 13, 2003, the fund commenced the offering of an initial series of quotas to be issued by the fund. On December 15, 2003, the fund issued R\$100.0 million in aggregate amount of quotas, and on January 9, 2004, the fund issued another R\$100.0 million in aggregate amount of quotas. These quotas will mature on December 15, 2006. The first series of quotas consists of 8,000 quotas, each with a unit value of R\$25,000. The quotas begin amortizing on June 15, 2004, and the amortization payments will include an amount in respect of interest based on the rate of 113.5% of the CDI rate. At December 31, 2003, we held R\$15.0 million of subordinated quotas. We purchased an additional R\$15.0 million of subordinated quotas on January 9, 2004.

Table of Contents**Contractual Commitments and Capital Expenditures***Contractual Commitments*

The following table summarizes significant contractual obligations and commitments at December 31, 2003 that have an impact on our liquidity:

	Payments Due by Period				Total
	Less than One Year	One to Three Years	Three to Five Years	More than Five Years	
(In millions of reais)					
Loans and financings	R\$ 2,726.5	R\$ 1,546.1	R\$ 2,069.2	R\$	R\$ 6,341.8
Debtentures	349.0	390.1	752.9		1,492.0
Purchase obligations(1)	3,757.0	5,634.6	4,951.1	1,304.0	15,646.7
Other long-term liabilities		270.4	37.8		308.2
Total contractual obligations	6,832.5	7,841.2	7,811.0	1,304.0	23,788.7
Exclusion of proportional consolidation:					
Loans and financings	(217.5)	(219.5)	(53.5)		(490.5)
Other long-term liabilities		(19.6)			(19.6)
Total contractual obligations, excluding the effects of proportional consolidation	R\$ 6,615.0	R\$ 7,602.1	R\$ 7,757.5	R\$ 1,304.0	R\$ 23,278.6

- (1) Consists of purchase commitments for raw material and electric power pursuant to binding obligations which include all significant terms, including fixed or minimum quantities to be purchased; fixed, minimum or variable price provisions; and the approximate timing of the transaction. Based upon the applicable purchase prices at December 31, 2003.

We are also subject to contingencies with respect to tax, labor, distributors, and other claims and has made provisions for accrued liability for legal proceedings related to certain tax claims of R\$1,149.1 million at December 31, 2003. The tax contingencies relate primarily to the COFINS, PIS, IPI federal income tax and Social Contribution on Net Income. See Business Legal Proceedings and notes 17, 18 and 21 to our consolidated and combined financial statements.

Capital Expenditures

Our capital expenditures on property, plant and equipment were R\$214.7 million in 2003, R\$419.9 million in 2002 and R\$318.0 million in 2001. Additionally, our investments in interest in other companies were R\$71.7 million in 2003, R\$13.1 million (excluding cash acquired of R\$4.1 million) in 2002 and R\$1,172.3 million (excluding cash acquired of R\$595.2 million) in 2001. Our principal capital expenditures projects during 2001 through 2003 were:

the acquisition of Nova Camaçari in 2001;

the expansion of our ethylene production capacity at the Northeastern Complex;

the upgrade in the facilities of the Aratú port terminal and the related pipeline system; and

other operating improvements made in our Vinyls, Polyolefins and Business Development Units to improve the operating reliability of our manufacturing facilities and to expand our production capacity.

In response to the termination of Petrobras monopoly over naphtha supply in Brazil, in 2001, we invested in the adaptation of the maritime pier located at Aratú and the construction of pipelines, storage tanks and other facilities necessary to receive and transport imported naphtha to our basic petrochemicals plants. This project was undertaken between 2001 and 2003 at a total cost of R\$83.5 million.

Table of Contents

In 2003, we completed the expansion of the ethylene production capacity of one of our pyrolysis plants. As a result of this expansion, this plant's ethylene production capacity has reached 1,280,000 tons of annual nominal capacity. The total cost of this expansion was R\$237.1 million. In connection with this expansion, we also (1) increased our steam production, which we intend to use to produce electric power, (2) installed new turbines, and (3) improved the technology and automation of our electric power production in the Northeastern Complex.

Our ability to compete in the Brazilian and foreign markets that we serve depends on our ability to integrate new production processes developed by our company and third parties in order to lower our costs and offer new thermoplastic products. In addition, our relationships with our customers are enhanced by our ability to develop new products and customize existing products to meet their needs. To meet these challenges, we maintain a research and development program that is primarily implemented at the Braskem Center for Innovation and Technology in the Southern Complex. We invested R\$35.5 million, R\$20.1 million and R\$14.5 million in research and development during 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

In 2003, we conducted studies to identify potential efficiency enhancements for our polyethylene plants and our polypropylene plants. We are investing approximately R\$21 million in an efficiency enhancement project at one of our polypropylene plants in the Southern Complex that we believe will increase its annual production capacity by 100,000 tons. This project was commenced in 2003, and we anticipate completing this project in 2004. In addition, we plan to invest approximately R\$84 million during 2004 and 2005 in an expansion project at our Alagoas PVC plant that we believe will increase its annual production capacity by 50,000 tons.

We currently are budgeting total capital expenditures of approximately R\$400 million for 2004. Our principal capital expenditures for 2004 consist of, in addition to the projects referred to in the preceding paragraph, approximately R\$100 million for health, environmental and quality improvement projects, approximately R\$88 million for the replacement of depreciated equipment, approximately R\$74 million for productivity improvements and approximately R\$55 million for plant modernization and information systems.

Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

We are exposed to market risks arising from our normal business activities. These market risks principally involve the possibility that changes in interest rates, exchange rates or commodity prices will adversely affect the value of our financial assets and liabilities or future cash flows and earnings. Market risk is the potential loss arising from adverse changes in market rates and prices. We enter into derivatives and other financial instruments for purposes other than trading, in order to manage and reduce the impact of fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and LIBOR. We have established policies and procedures for risk assessment and the approval, reporting and monitoring of derivative financial activities.

We developed a risk management policy as from December 31, 2001 to mitigate our exposure to exchange rate risks and risks of fluctuations of LIBOR with the objective of maintaining coverage of principal and interest settlements maturing within 12 months for, at a minimum:

60% of our total U.S. dollar-denominated indebtedness that is related to exports, or trade finance, excluding advances on currency contracts with a remaining maturity of up to six months and advances on export contracts; and

75% of the total in U.S. dollar-denominated indebtedness unrelated to exports, or non-trade finance.

Compliance with this policy varies based upon applicable market conditions, credit availability and our cash balances.

To further mitigate our exposure to exchange rate risk, we try, when possible, to borrow for our working capital needs using trade finance loans, which are generally available at a lower cost than other working capital financing because these loans are linked to our U.S. dollar-denominated exports. However,

Table of Contents

the U.S. dollar revenues that we generate from exports may not be in an amount sufficient to cover our U.S. dollar trade finance liabilities in the future.

On December 31, 2003, we had swap contracts for foreign currency and interest, with a total notional amount of US\$157.5 million. These instruments are intended to reduce the impacts of any devaluation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar and any increase in international interest rates on U.S. dollar liabilities. In addition, we have U.S. dollar-denominated cash equivalents, marketable securities and time deposits, which may partially offset the effects of any devaluation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar on our ability to service our U.S. dollar-denominated debt to the extent of these U.S. dollar denominated cash equivalents, marketable securities and time deposits.

Our derivative instruments do not qualify for deferral, hedge, accrual or settlement accounting and are marked to market, with the resulting gains and losses reflected in the statement of operations as financial income and expenses, respectively. See note 22 to our consolidated and combined financial statements for a discussion of our accounting policies and information on derivative financial instruments.

Interest Rate Risk

Our variable interest rate exposure is primarily subject to the variations of (1) LIBOR for U.S. dollar-denominated borrowings, and (2) the Long-Term Interest Rate, the CDI rate for *real*-denominated borrowings. In addition, the principal amounts of certain of our *real*-denominated obligations are periodically restated by the IGP-M.

The improvement of economic conditions in Brazil during 2003 due to the positive perception of the new administration resulted in a substantial decrease of risk spreads both in public and private internationally traded securities. The second half of 2003 was marked by an increase of international capital availability to Brazil and the maintenance of inflation indicators under control. As a result, the Central Bank lowered short term interest rates, expressed by the SELIC rate from 26.5% per annum to 16.5% per annum at December 31, 2003. The SELIC rate averaged 23.6% per annum during 2003. In addition, there was a gradual decrease in other interest rates during 2003 with:

the short-term domestic CDI rate ranging from 25.3% per annum at January 31, 2003 to 16.3% per annum at December 31, 2003, and averaging 23.2% per annum during 2003;

the Long-Term Interest Rate at 11.0% per annum in January 2003, increasing in April through September 2003 to 12.0% per annum and then returning to 11.0% per annum through December 2003; and

the IGP-M at 8.7% in 2003 compared to 25.3% in 2002.

Table of Contents

The table below provides information about our significant interest-rate sensitive instruments:

	Interest Rate Sensitivity		Principal (Notional) Amount by Expected Maturity					Fair Value
	Average Interest Rate		Average Interest Rate					
	At December 31, 2003 Expected Maturity Date							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Thereafter	Total	
(in millions of reais)								
LIABILITIES:								
Loans and financings (excluding debentures):								
Fixed rate, denominated in U.S. dollars	1,440.0	213.2	25.4	1,167.3	794.6		3,640.5	4,140.2
Average interest rate	8.7%	8.8%	5.8%	10.0%	12.5%		9.9%	
Variable rate, denominated in U.S. dollars	523.6	434.0	197.9				1,155.5	1,881.9
Average interest rate (over LIBOR)	6.3%	5.6%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%		5.5%	
Fixed rate, denominated in Japanese yen	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.6		7.1	6.0
Average interest rate	6.8%	6.9%	6.9%	6.9%	6.9%		6.9%	
Fixed rate, denominated in reais	85.5	0.1					85.6	67.9
Average interest rate	27.3%	21.4%					27.2%	
Variable rate, denominated in reais	356.1	7.1					363.2	199.6
Average interest rate (of CDI)	121.6%	130.0%					121.4%	
Variable rate, denominated in reais	86.2	130.7	200.4	8.9			426.2	407.8
Average interest rate (over Long-Term Interest Rate)	4.2%	4.5%	4.1%	3.5%	0.0%		4.2%	
Variable rate, denominated in reais		16.7					16.7	16.7
Average interest rate (over IGP-M)	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		12.8%	
Other variable rate, denominated in reais	15.0	55.2	43.2	42.9			156.3	156.3
<hr/>								
Loans and financings (excluding debentures) before proportional consolidation	2,509.0	858.3	468.2	1,220.4	795.2		5,851.1	6,876.4
Loans and financings, of proportionally consolidated companies	217.5	184.4	35.2	17.2	36.4		490.7	490.7
<hr/>								
Total loans and financings (excluding debentures)	2,726.5	1,042.7	503.4	1,237.6	831.6		6,341.8	7,367.1
<hr/>								
Debentures:								
Variable rate, denominated in reais	117.4		191.0				308.4	318.3
Average interest rate	13.3%	0.0%	13.3%	0.0%	0.0%		13.3%	

Edgar Filing: BRASKEM SA - Form F-1

Average interest rate (over IGP-M)								
Variable rate, denominated in reais	231.6		188.9				420.5	258.2
Average interest rate (of CDI)								
Variable rate, denominated in reais	118.3%	0.0%	118.3%	0.0%	0.0%		118.3%	
Average interest rate (over Long-Term Interest Rate)								
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%		5.0%	
Total debentures	349.0		379.9	763.1			1,492.0	1,201.2

Table of Contents

	Interest Rate Sensitivity		Principal (Notional) Amount by Expected Maturity					Fair Value
	Average Interest Rate		Average Interest Rate					
At December 31, 2003								
Expected Maturity Date								
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Thereafter	Total	Fair Value
(in millions of reais)								
ASSETS:								
Cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities:								
Fixed rate, denominated in U.S dollars	531.3						531.3	531.3
Average interest rate	7.1%						7.1%	
Cash and cash equivalents	202.6						202.6	202.6
Marketable securities	302.3						302.3	302.3
Average interest rate (of CDI)	100.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		100.3%	
Cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities, before proportional consolidation	1,036.2						1,036.2	1,036.2
Cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities of proportionally consolidated companies	148.1						148.1	148.1
Total cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities	1,184.3						1,184.3	1,184.3

Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk

Our liabilities that are exposed to foreign currency exchange rate risk are primarily denominated in U.S. dollars. To partially offset our risk of any devaluation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar, we maintain several derivative contracts. Because we borrow in the international markets to support our operations and investments, we are exposed to market risks from changes in foreign exchange rates and interest rates. Export sales, which generate receivables payable in U.S. dollars, do not cover all of our U.S. dollar-denominated liabilities.

Table of Contents

The table below provides information about our significant foreign currency exposure:

	Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Sensitivity Principal (Notional) Amount by Expected Maturity						Total	Fair Value
	At December 31, 2003 Expected Maturity Date							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Thereafter		
	(In millions of reais)							
LIABILITIES:								
Loans and financings (excluding debentures):								
Denominated in U.S. dollars	1,963.6	647.2	223.3	1,167.3	794.6		4,796.0	6,022.1
Denominated in Japanese Yen	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.6		7.1	6.0
Denominated in <i>reais</i>	542.8	209.8	243.6	51.8			1,048.0	843.3
Loans and financings (excluding debentures) before proportional consolidation	2,509.0	858.3	468.2	1,220.4	795.2		5,851.1	6,876.4
Loans and financings, of proportionally consolidated companies	217.5	184.4	35.2	17.2	36.4		490.7	490.7
Total loans and financings (excluding debentures)	2,726.5	1,042.7	503.4	1,237.6	831.6		6,341.8	7,367.1
Debentures:								
Denominated in <i>reais</i>	349.0		379.9	763.1			1,492.0	1,201.2
Total debentures, including current portion	349.0		379.9	763.1			1,492.0	1,201.2
ASSETS:								
Cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities:								
Denominated in U.S. dollars	531.3						531.3	531.3
Denominated in <i>reais</i>	504.9						504.9	504.9
Cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities, before proportional consolidation	1,036.2						1,036.2	1,036.2
Cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities of proportionally consolidated companies	148.1						148.1	148.1
Total cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities	1,184.3						1,184.3	1,184.3

Table of Contents

The table below provides information about our derivative instruments:

	At December 31, 2003 Expected Maturity Date						Total	Fair Value
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Thereafter		
Cross currency and interest rate swaps contracts (notional amounts)								
U.S. dollars to <i>reais</i> :								
Variable to fixed (US\$)	16.3						16.3	(0.6)
Average receiving rate (LIBOR 6M)	LIBOR + 0%						LIBOR + 0%	
Average paying rate (US\$)	4.87%						4.87%	
Foreign currency Non-deliverable Forward (NDF)								
Purchased US\$ NDF	10.0						10.0	(2.0)
Average strike prices (R\$ to US\$1.00)	3.17						3.17	
Foreign currency option:								
Purchased US\$ put options	30.0						30.0	2.8
Average strike prices (R\$ to US \$1.00)	3.04						3.04	
Sold US\$ put options	111.2						111.2	(4.3)
Average strike prices (R\$ to US \$1.00)	2.99						2.99	
Purchased US\$ call options	131.2						131.2	0.0
Average strike prices (R\$ to US \$1.00)	3.63						3.63	
Sold US\$ call options	121.2						121.2	(0.0)
Average strike prices (R\$ to US \$1.00)	3.73						3.73	

Our foreign currency exposure gives rise to market risks associated with exchange rate movements of the *real* against the U.S. dollar. Foreign currency-denominated liabilities at December 31, 2003 consisted primarily of U.S. dollar-denominated debt. Our foreign currency-denominated debt, including short-term debt and current portion of long-term debt, was R\$5,220.0 million (US\$1,806.7 million) at December 31, 2003 compared to R\$5,250.3 million (US\$1,485.9 million) at December 31, 2002. Our foreign currency exposure includes indebtedness of proportionally consolidated companies of R\$416.8 million (US\$144.3 million) at December 31, 2003 compared to R\$441.9 million (US\$125.1 million) at December 31, 2002. Our foreign currency exposure without the indebtedness of proportionally consolidated companies was R\$4,803.2 million (US\$1,662.5 million) at December 31, 2003 compared to R\$4,808.4 million (US\$1,360.9 million) at December 31, 2002. This foreign currency exposure is represented by debt in the form of notes, pre-export finance facilities and working capital loans. Our derivative U.S. instruments partially protect us against exposure arising from the U.S. dollar-denominated debt.

Commodity Prices

Although the majority of our revenues are in *reais*, we do not currently hedge our exposure to changes in prices of naphtha, our principal raw material, which are linked to the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price denominated in U.S. dollars. We do not hedge this exposure in part because a portion of our sales in 2003 were exports payable in foreign currencies and linked to the international market prices of these commodities, and in part because the prices of our polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC products sold in domestic markets generally reflect changes in the international market prices of these products. In periods of high volatility in the U.S. dollar/*real* exchange rate, there is usually a lag between the time that the U.S. dollar appreciates and the time that we can effectively pass on the resulting increased cost in *reais* to our customers in Brazil. Accordingly, if the *real* depreciates significantly against the U.S. dollar in the future, we may not immediately be able to pass on all of the corresponding increases in our naphtha costs to our customers in Brazil, which could materially adversely affect our results of operations and

Table of Contents

financial condition. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Company and the Petrochemical Industry We may be adversely affected by high naphtha costs.

U.S. GAAP Reconciliation

Our net income (loss) in accordance with Brazilian GAAP was R\$215.1 million in 2003, R\$(1,378.7) million in 2002 and R\$(424.5) million in 2001. Under U.S. GAAP, we would have reported net income (loss) of R\$378.7 million in 2003, R\$(698.7) million in 2002 and R\$(470.0) million in 2001.

Our shareholders' equity in accordance with Brazilian GAAP was R\$2,112.6 million at December 31, 2003 and R\$1,821.8 million at December 31, 2002. Under U.S. GAAP, we would have reported shareholders' equity of R\$7.1 million at December 31, 2003 and a shareholders' equity deficit of R\$416.5 million at December 31, 2002.

The principal differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP that affected our net income in 2003, 2002 and 2001, as well as shareholders' equity at December 31, 2003 and 2002, are described in note 29 to our consolidated and combined financial statements. The major differences relate to the accounting treatment of the following items:

supplementary inflation restatement of permanent assets and shareholders' equity in 1996 and 1997;

capitalized interest;

deferred charges and other intangible assets;

business combinations;

transactions giving rise to distributions to shareholders;

pension benefits;

earnings per share;

deferred taxes;

tax incentives;

sales shipped but not delivered; and

sales (securitization) of accounts receivable.

For a discussion of the principal differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP as they relate to our financial statements and a reconciliation of net income and shareholders' equity, see note 29 to our consolidated and combined financial statements.

Table of Contents

THE BRAZILIAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Structure

The petrochemical industry transforms crude oil by-products, principally naphtha, or natural gas into widely used industrial and consumer goods. The Brazilian petrochemical industry is generally organized into first, second and third generation producers based on the stage of transformation of various petrochemical raw materials, or feedstocks.

First Generation Producers

Brazil's first generation producers, which are referred to as crackers, break down or crack naphtha, their principal feedstock, into basic petrochemicals. The crackers purchase their naphtha, which is a by-product of the oil refining process, primarily from Petrobras, as well as from other suppliers located outside of Brazil. The basic petrochemicals produced by the crackers include:

olefins, primarily ethylene, propylene and butadiene; and

aromatics, such as benzene, toluene and xylenes.

We, Copesul and Petroquímica União operate Brazil's three crackers and sell basic petrochemicals to second generation producers, including, in our case, second generation producers that are part of our company. The basic petrochemicals, which are in gaseous or liquid form, are primarily transported via pipelines to the second generation producers' plants, generally located near the crackers, for further processing.

Second Generation Producers

Second generation producers process the basic petrochemicals obtained from the crackers to produce intermediate petrochemicals. These intermediate petrochemicals include:

polyethylene, polystyrene and PVC (each produced from ethylene);

polypropylene and acrylonitrile (each produced from propylene);

caprolactam (produced from benzene); and

polybutadiene (produced from butadiene).

There are approximately 50 second generation producers operating in Brazil. Intermediate petrochemicals are produced in solid form as plastic pellets or powders and are transported primarily by truck to third generation producers, which generally are located far from the second generation producers. We are currently the only integrated first and second generation petrochemical company in Brazil.

Third Generation Producers

Third generation producers, known as transformers, purchase the intermediate petrochemicals from second generation producers and transform them into final products including:

plastics (produced from polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC);

acrylic fibers (produced from acrylonitrile);

nylon (produced from caprolactam);

elastomers (produced from butadiene); and

disposable containers (produced from polystyrene).

Edgar Filing: BRASKEM SA - Form F-1

Third generation producers manufacture a variety of consumer and industrial goods, including containers and packaging materials, such as bags, film and bottles, textiles, detergents, paints, automobile parts, toys and consumer electronic goods. There are over 6,000 third generation producers operating in Brazil.

Table of Contents

Petrochemical Complexes

The production of first and second generation petrochemicals in Brazil centers around three major complexes. These complexes include:

the Northeastern Complex located in Camaçari in the State of Bahia, where we operate the cracker;

the São Paulo Complex located in Capuava in the State of São Paulo, or the São Paulo Complex, where Petroquímica União operates the cracker; and

the Southern Complex located in Triunfo in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, where Copesul operates the cracker.

Each complex has a single first generation producer, also known as the raw materials center, and several second generation producers that purchase feedstock from the raw materials center.

The Northeastern Complex began operations in 1978. The Northeastern Complex consists of 28 second generation producers situated around the raw materials center operated by our company. At December 31, 2003, our raw materials center had an annual ethylene production capacity of 1,280,000 tons, which we estimate accounted for approximately 44% of Brazil's ethylene production capacity.

The São Paulo Complex, which is the oldest petrochemical complex in Brazil, began operations in 1968. Petroquímica União is the raw materials center at the São Paulo Complex and supplies first generation petrochemicals to 11 second generation producers, including our company. At December 31, 2003, Petroquímica União had an annual ethylene production capacity of 500,000 tons.

The Southern Complex began operations in 1982. Copesul, in which we have a 29.5% equity interest, is the raw materials center at the Southern Complex and supplies first generation petrochemicals to six second generation producers, including our company's polyolefins business unit. At December 31, 2003, Copesul had an annual ethylene production capacity of 1,135,000 tons.

A fourth petrochemical complex is currently being constructed at Duque de Caxias in the State of Rio de Janeiro. Rio Polímeros, a Brazilian petrochemical company, will serve as the cracker for the new complex and has announced that the new petrochemical complex will be an integrated first and second generation producer with an annual production capacity of 520,000 tons of ethylene, 75,000 tons of propylene and 540,000 tons of LLDPE and HDPE. This plant will use natural gas as a feedstock, and Rio Polímeros has announced that it is expected to commence operation in December 2004.

Role of the Brazilian Government

The current structure of the Brazilian petrochemical industry reflects the Brazilian government's plan, developed during the 1970's, to establish a domestic petrochemical industry to serve Brazilian markets. First and second generation producers, including our company, are located within close proximity of each other to allow the common use of facilities, such as utilities, and to facilitate the delivery of feedstocks. Prior to their privatization by the Brazilian government, the expansion of production capacity at the crackers and the second generation producers was coordinated to ensure that the supply of petrochemicals met expected demand. The infrastructure developed around the complexes fostered the interdependence of first and second generation producers, as limited facilities were constructed for purposes of transportation and storage of feedstocks for import or export. Following their privatization, this interdependence has increased as second generation producers, which continue to rely upon the crackers for feedstocks and utilities, have increased their ownership of, and participation in the management of, the crackers.

The Brazilian government developed the Brazilian petrochemical industry generally by promoting the formation of three-way joint ventures among the Brazilian government, foreign petrochemical companies and private Brazilian investors. In these joint ventures, Petrobras subsidiary, Petroquisa, participated as the representative of the Brazilian government, with Petrobras as the supplier of naphtha; a foreign

Table of Contents

petrochemical company provided technology; and a Brazilian private sector company provided management.

In 1992, the Brazilian government began a privatization program to reduce significantly its ownership of the petrochemical industry. This program was designed to increase private investment in the petrochemical industry and to improve its efficiency. As a result of the privatization auctions, the Brazilian government's ownership of our common shares, and of the common shares of Copesul and Petroquímica União, was significantly reduced, replaced by private sector entities. As a result of a similar privatization process, private ownership of the second generation producers increased.

The following table sets forth the percentage of the indirect ownership interests held in the crackers' voting shares by Petroquisa, private sector entities and other investors before the privatization of the crackers and at December 31, 2003.

	Date of Privatization	Before Privatization			At December 31, 2003		
		Petroquisa	Private Sector Groups	Other Investors(1)	Petroquisa	Private Sector Groups	Other Investors(1)
Copesul	May 15, 1992	67.2%	2.1%	30.7%	15.6%	58.9%	25.4%
Petroquímica União	Jan. 24, 1994	67.8	31.9	0.3	17.5	58.3	4.2
Braskem	Aug. 15, 1995	48.2	50.4	1.4	11.1	83.8	5.1

(1) Pension funds, banks and employees.

Role of Petrobras

Prior to 1995, Brazil's Constitution granted a monopoly to the Brazilian government, exercised through Petrobras, over the research, exploration, production, refining, importing and transporting of crude oil and refined petroleum products (excluding petrochemical products) in Brazil. The Brazilian Constitution also provided that by-products of the refining process, such as naphtha, could only be supplied in Brazil by or through Petrobras. Naphtha is the principal feedstock used in Brazil for the production of basic petrochemicals such as ethylene and propylene. In 1995, the Brazilian Constitution was amended to allow petroleum and petroleum related activities to be carried out by private companies, by concession or authorization from the Brazilian government. Since 1995, the Brazilian government has taken several measures to liberalize the petrochemical industry in Brazil.

In 1997, Law No. 9,478/97 implemented the 1995 constitutional amendment by creating the Brazilian Energy Policy Council (*Conselho Nacional de Política Energética*) and the National Petroleum Agency (*Agência Nacional de Petróleo*), which were charged with regulating and monitoring of the oil industry and the Brazilian energy sector. Following the creation of the National Petroleum Agency, new rules and regulations have been implemented, aimed at gradually ending Petrobras' monopoly. Since 1997, first generation producers, including our company, have imported naphtha from trading companies and oil and gas producers located abroad.

During 2003, Petrobras produced and sold approximately 70% of the naphtha consumed in Brazil, and Copesul and our company collectively imported the remaining naphtha consumed in Brazil.

Tariffs

We set prices for ethylene, the principal first generation petrochemical product that we sell to second generation producers, using a margin sharing system. See Business Basic Petrochemicals Unit Sales and Marketing of Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. Prices paid by second generation producers for imported first generation petrochemical products partly reflect transportation and tariff costs. We establish the prices of ethylene by-products, such as butadiene, by reference to several market factors, including the prices paid by second generation producers for imported products, which also take into account transportation and tariff costs.

Table of Contents

Second generation producers, including our company, generally set prices for their petrochemical products by reference to several market factors, including the prices paid by third generation producers for imported products. Prices paid for such imports also reflect transportation and tariff costs.

The Brazilian government has frequently used import tariffs to implement economic policies. As a result, import tariffs generally vary significantly, especially those imposed on petrochemical products. In November 1997, for example, the import tariffs for polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC were increased from 14.0% to 17.0% but were subsequently reduced to 15.5% on January 1, 2002. On January 1, 2002, the import tariff for caustic soda was reduced from 10.5% to 9.5%. At December 31, 2003, the import tariffs for basic petrochemical products ranged between 3.5% and 5.5% (except for caustic soda) and the import tariffs for second generation petrochemical products ranged between 3.5% and 15.5%. Imports and exports within the free trade area composed of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay in South America, or Mercosul (*Mercado Comum do Sul*), have not been subject to tariffs since December 2001.

The following table shows the fluctuation of the tariffs on certain basic petrochemicals and second generation petrochemicals from 1994 through 2003. The tariff rates shown are those applicable at the end of the respective years.

	2003	2002(1)	2001(2)	2000	1999	1998	1997(3)	1996	1995	1994
	(%)									
First generation petrochemicals:										
Ethylene	3.5	3.5	4.5	5	5	5	5	2	2	
Propylene	3.5	3.5	4.5	5	5	5	5	2	2	
Caustic soda	9.5	9.5	10.5	11	11	11	11	8	1	(4)
Second generation petrochemicals:										
Polyethylene	15.5	15.5	16.5	17	17	17	17	14	2	2(5)
Polypropylene	15.5	15.5	16.5	17	17	17	17	14	2	2(5)
PVC	15.5	15.5	16.5	17	17	17	17	14	2	2(5)
Caprolactam	13.5	13.5	14.5	15	15	15	15	12	8(6)	2(7)

- (1) In 2002, the official tariff was 1.5% less than the rate shown. An additional surcharge of 1.5% assessed on imported products is included in the rate shown.
- (2) In 2001, the official tariff was 2.5% less than the rate shown. An additional surcharge of 2.5% assessed on imported products is included in the rate shown.
- (3) An additional tariff of 3% was assessed commencing on November 13, 1997, which is included in the rate shown.
- (4) A 5% rate applied until March 1, 1994; an 8% rate applied from March 1, 1994 through October 1, 1994; and a 0% rate applied from October 4, 1994.
- (5) A 15% rate applied until September 25, 1994; a 14% rate applied from September 26, 1994 through November 23, 1994; and a 2% rate applied beginning on November 24, 1994.
- (6) A 4% rate applied until April 27, 1995; and an 8% rate applied after that date.
- (7) A 15% rate applied until September 22, 1994; a 14% rate applied from September 26, 1994 through November 23, 1994; and a 2% rate applied beginning on November 24, 1994.

Source: Brazilian Association of Chemical Industry and Derivative Products.

Operating Environment

The Brazilian markets in which we compete are cyclical and are sensitive to relative changes in supply and demand. Demand for petrochemical products is significantly affected by general economic conditions in Brazil and other countries in Mercosul, particularly Argentina. The Brazilian markets are also impacted by the cyclical nature of international markets as prices for petrochemical products in Brazil are determined in part with reference to international market prices for these products and by the prices,

Table of Contents

including tariff and transportation costs, paid by importers of petrochemical products into Brazil. Reductions in tariffs and other trade barriers have increasingly exposed the Brazilian petrochemical industry to price competition in the international markets.

Traditionally, the second and third calendar quarters have been the periods of the year with the highest sales for the petrochemical industry in the Brazilian market. The increase during this six-month period is tied in part to the production of consumer goods for sale during the year-end holiday season.

Brazilian GDP decreased by 0.2% in 2003 compared to an increase of 1.5% in 2002. This decrease in Brazilian GDP in 2003 contributed to a decrease in domestic demand for two principal petrochemical product categories – elastomers and synthetic fibers because they are used in consumer goods for which demand is closely tied to the strength of the economy. As a result of this decrease in domestic demand, coupled with the increase in the production capacity of Brazilian producers, particularly Polibrasil, and increased rates of capacity utilization, Brazilian producers significantly increased their exports of polyolefins and vinyls products in 2003.

We anticipate that demand for our products in Brazil may grow due to increasing consumption of plastic-based products, as well as population growth and expected general economic growth in Brazil. In addition, Brazilian per capita consumption of second generation petrochemicals has been modest compared to per capita consumption in many other more developed countries, which we believe suggests a potential for future growth in demand in Brazil. However, that growth could be hindered by the factors described in Risk Factors Risks Relating to Brazil and Risks Relating to Our Company and the Petrochemical Industry.

The following table sets forth information relating to our production, the estimated production of other Brazilian companies and exports and imports of the products included therein for the years indicated.

	Total Brazilian Production	Our Total Production	Total Production of Other Brazilian Companies	Total Imports	Total Exports	Estimated Total Brazilian Domestic Consumption
(thousands of tons)						
Olefins(1)						
2003	4,455.6	1,675.8	2,779.8	24.0	127.7	4,351.8
2002	3,847.8	1,591.8	2,256.0	11.8	95.6	3,764.0
2001	4,077.8	1,705.4	2,372.4	29.1	108.6	3,998.2
Aromatics(2)						
2003	1,323.7	668.9	654.8	102.7	335.9	1,090.4
2002	1,541.2	666.6	874.6	126.9	295.2	1,372.9
2001	1,282.9	698.1	584.8	110.5	283.3	1,110.1
Polyolefins(3)						
2003	2,856.9	1,115.4	1,741.5	324.6	718.0	2,463.5
2002	2,623.0	1,064.7	1,558.3	335.6	492.0	2,466.6
2001	2,557.1	1,031.0	1,526.1	302.3	487.8	2,371.6
PVC						
2003	604.0	396.9	207.1	25.9	86.9	603.1
2002	602.4	401.8	200.6	141.8	55.5	688.8
2001	538.1	363.4	174.7	129.2	46.7	620.5

Table of Contents

	Total Brazilian Production	Our Total Production	Total Production of Other Brazilian Companies	Total Imports	Total Exports	Estimated Total Brazilian Domestic Consumption
(thousands of tons)						
PET						
2003	316.4	56.2	260.2	137.5	45.1	410.8
2002	333.0	59.0	274.0	147.2	55.8	423.5
2001	329.0	56.5	272.5	181.6	28.3	482.4
Caprolactam						
2003	49.6	49.6		4.9	7.8	46.7
2002	57.5	57.5		4.4	9.4	52.5
2001	48.2	48.2		3.3	4.2	47.3

- (1) Includes ethylene, propylene and butadiene.
- (2) Includes benzene, toluene, xylenes and C9 solvent.
- (3) Includes polyethylene, HDPE, LDPE, LLDPE and polypropylene.

Sources: Brazilian Association of Chemical Industry and Derivative Products and Braskem

The above estimates of total domestic consumption assume that all domestic production is immediately sold in the market and that there has been no change in total domestic inventory.

Table of Contents

HISTORY AND CORPORATE REORGANIZATION

We were founded in 1972 as Petroquímica do Nordeste Copene Ltda. to plan, execute and coordinate the activities of the Northeastern Complex. The construction of the Northeastern Complex formed part of a development policy of the Brazilian government implemented in the early 1970 s to diversify the geographical distribution of industrial assets and to promote economic growth across different regions of Brazil. On June 18, 1974, we were incorporated as a corporation (*sociedade anônima*) under the laws of Brazil (with Brazilian company registry No. 29300006939) and were renamed Copene Petroquímica do Nordeste S.A.

Acquisition of Control by Norquisa

In August 1995, as part of the Brazilian government s privatization program, Petroquisa sold 32.8% of our voting share capital to Norquisa, a company owned by several petrochemical producers located in the Northeastern Complex, and various Brazilian pension funds. Through this auction, Norquisa became our controlling shareholder, with 58.4% of our voting share capital. Smaller percentages of our share capital were held by Petroquisa, Previ, Petros and various other Brazilian pension funds and private investors.

The Econômico S.A. Empreendimentos Auction and Related Transactions

Late in 1995, a Brazilian financial institution, Banco Econômico S.A., or Banco Econômico, collapsed, and the Central Bank intervened. At that time, Banco Econômico held a majority of the voting share capital of Conepar Companhia Nordeste de Participações, or Conepar, which in turn held 35.0% of the voting share capital of Politeno and 66.7% of the voting share capital of Polialden.

The Brazilian government decided to liquidate the petrochemical assets of Banco Econômico as part of a broader initiative to restructure the ownership of the Brazilian petrochemical sector. The Central Bank, as liquidator of Banco Econômico, formed Econômico S.A. Empreendimentos to hold the share capital of Conepar owned by Banco Econômico and then conducted an auction of Econômico S.A. Empreendimentos on July 25, 2001.

Nova Camaçari, an entity formed by the Odebrecht Group for the specific purpose of participating in the auction, placed the winning bid in the auction and acquired Econômico S.A. Empreendimentos. On the same date, Nova Camaçari and the Odebrecht Group entered into the following coordinated transactions that were the first step in combining several Brazilian petrochemical companies into one company with integrated operations:

Nova Camaçari acquired the remainder of the share capital of Conepar through the acquisition of Intercapital Comércio e Participações Ltda., which held shares of Conepar, and through a purchase from BNDES Participações S.A. BNDESPAR;

Nova Camaçari acquired all the share capital of Proppet;

the Odebrecht Group acquired a total of 39.7% of the voting share capital of Norquisa from Trikem and Participações Petroquímicas do Nordeste Ltda.; and

we acquired Nova Camaçari.

In September 2001, Nova Camaçari, Intercapital Comércio e Participações Ltda. and Proppet merged into our company. As a result of these mergers, we held, directly and indirectly, 100% of the share capital of Conepar, as well as controlling and minority interests in several other petrochemical companies. We remained controlled by Norquisa. The Odebrecht Group owned 39.7% of the voting share capital of Norquisa and, together with the Mariani Group, held a combined 55.8% of the voting share capital of Norquisa. On July 27, 2001, Odebrecht Química, a member of the Odebrecht Group, and Petroquímica da Bahia, a member of the Mariani Group, entered into a shareholders agreement covering their direct and indirect equity interests in Norquisa and our company. In addition, on July 3, 2001 and July 20, 2001, Odebrecht Química and Petroquímica da Bahia entered into memoranda of understanding with respect to the terms of shareholders agreements to be entered into with Petroquisa, Previ and Petros. These

Table of Contents

agreements are described in Principal Shareholders and Related Party Transactions Principal Shareholders Shareholders Agreements.

The following chart presents the corporate structure of our principal subsidiaries and equity investments following the transactions described above. The percentages in bold italics represent the percentage of the voting share capital owned directly and indirectly by the parent company of each entity, and the percentages not in bold italics represent the percentage of the total share capital owned directly and indirectly by the parent company of each entity. All of these companies are or were organized under Brazilian law.

The Mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações

On August 16, 2002, to create a more fully integrated petrochemical company:

we merged with OPP Produtos, the holding company of the Odebrecht Group's chemical and petrochemical assets, and issued shares representing 43.7% of our voting and total share capital to the Odebrecht Group; and

we also merged with 52114 Participações S.A., the holding company of the Mariani Group's chemical and petrochemical assets, and issued shares representing 3.6% of our voting and total share capital to Pronor, a member of the Mariani Group.

Upon completing these mergers, we changed our corporate name to Braskem S.A.

The principal assets of OPP Produtos were:

81.3% of the total share capital of OPP Química, including 100% of its voting share capital. OPP Química, in turn, owned 64.4% of the voting share capital of Trikem.

29.5% of the total share capital and voting share capital of Copesul.

The principal asset of 52114 Participações was 92.3% of the total share capital of Nitrocarbono.

The following chart presents the corporate structure of our principal subsidiaries and equity investments following the transactions described above. The percentages in bold italics represent the percentage of the voting share capital owned directly and indirectly by the parent company of each entity, and the percentages not in bold italics represent the percentage of the total share capital owned directly

Table of Contents

and indirectly by the parent company of each entity. All of these companies are or were organized under Brazilian law.

- (1) Copene Participações S.A. was formerly named Conepar-Companhia Nordeste de Participações.
 - (2) Does not include 2.5% of OPP Química S.A.'s total share capital owned by Odequi Investments Ltd., our wholly-owned subsidiary.
- Transactions in 2003 and 2004**

Since August 2002, we have completed additional transactions to consolidate our ownership of some of our subsidiaries, further streamline our corporate structure and dispose of non-core assets.

Exchange Offer for Remaining Shares of Nitrocarbano and Subsidiary Mergers

In February 2003, as a result of our merger with 52114 Participações and as required by Brazilian Corporation Law, we commenced a public exchange offer for the remaining voting share capital of Nitrocarbano not owned by our company. On February 13, 2003, immediately following our purchase of the shares tendered in this exchange offer, we owned 93.8% of the total share capital of Nitrocarbano, including 99.99% of its voting share capital.

On March 31, 2003, we merged with OPP Química, Econômico S.A. Empreendimentos and Nitrocarbano. Before our merger with OPP Química, Odebrecht Química transferred the shares of OPP Química that it owned to our company.

Transfer of Polialden and Políteno Shares to Our Company

On June 30, 2003, we entered into an agreement under which we assumed debt of Conepar, which had since been renamed Copene Participações S.A., owed to Polialden in the amount of R\$30.2 million as well as debt of Conepar owed to the Brazilian National Bank for Economic and Social Development (*Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social*), or BNDES, in the amount of R\$38.9 million. In return, we received the shares of Polialden and Políteno owned by Conepar. As a result, all of our equity interests in Polialden and Políteno were, and continue to be, held directly by our company.

Acquisition of Common Shares of Trikem and Polialden Held by Mitsubishi

On July 14, 2003, we entered into a share purchase and sale agreement with Odebrecht and Mitsubishi under which Mitsubishi agreed to sell to us all of the share capital of Trikem and Polialden it

Table of Contents

owned, consisting of 16.7% of Polialden's voting share capital and 13.4% of Trikem's voting share capital. We paid a portion of the purchase price in cash, and we are obligated to pay the remaining US\$13.5 million to Mitsubishi on July 31, 2007, or earlier if before that date we meet certain financial tests, including specified net debt to EBITDA and short-term debt to EBITDA ratios. In addition, we are required to pay interest to Mitsubishi on the outstanding balance of the aggregate purchase price at an annual rate of LIBOR plus 3.0% in January and July of each year until the remaining balance is paid in full.

Under this agreement, we are required to make an additional payment to Mitsubishi in an amount that is contingent upon the outcome of pending litigation filed against Polialden by certain of its preferred shareholders. See Business Legal Proceedings Shareholders Rights Proceedings. The amount of the additional payment that we are obligated to pay to Mitsubishi is (1) R\$21.6 million if Polialden prevails in this litigation or if a definitive settlement is reached, or (2) R\$5.4 million if Polialden loses this litigation. In either event, we will convert the amount of this additional payment (as adjusted for inflation at the IGP-M rate from July 31, 2003 until the date that this litigation is finally adjudicated or settled) into U.S. dollars on the final adjudication or settlement date. We are required to make this additional payment either together with the remaining balance under the share purchase and sale agreement or, if the remaining balance is due prior to the date on which this litigation is finally adjudicated or settled, within 60 days from the later date. We will pay interest on this payment on the same terms as we are required to pay interest on the remaining balance under the share purchase and sale agreement.

Odebrecht has agreed to guarantee our obligation to pay Mitsubishi the remaining balance of the aggregate purchase price, together with the additional payment in connection with the Polialden shareholders' rights litigation.

Acquisition of Common Shares of Trikem and Polialden Held by Nissho Iwai

On July 14, 2003, Nissho Iwai and Odebrecht entered into a memorandum of understanding for the purchase by Odebrecht of the share capital of Trikem and Polialden held by Nissho Iwai. As a result of this transaction, which closed on July 31, 2003, and after giving effect to the purchase from Mitsubishi described above, we increased our direct and indirect ownership of Trikem's voting share capital to 87.9% and increased our ownership of Polialden's voting share capital to 100%.

Merger of Trikem into Braskem

On November 3, 2003, as a result of the increase of our holdings of Trikem and as required by Brazilian Corporation Law, we commenced a public exchange offer for the remaining voting share capital of Trikem not owned by our company. On December 4, 2003, immediately following our purchase of the shares tendered in this exchange offer, we owned, directly and indirectly, 53.8% of Trikem's total share capital, including 99.9% of its voting share capital.

On January 12, 2004, Odebrecht Química spun off to our company the 64.4% of the voting share capital of Trikem held by it. On January 15, 2004, Trikem merged with and into our company. In connection with this merger, we issued 148,083 of our class A preferred shares in exchange for 514,366 of Trikem's common shares and 8,136,017,401 of our class A preferred shares in exchange for 28,260,456,441 of Trikem's preferred shares.

In order to maintain the required minimum ratio of our common shares to preferred shares in accordance with Brazilian Corporation Law after completion of the merger, our shareholders approved an amendment to our by-laws at an extraordinary shareholders' meeting on January 15, 2004 to convert 121,948,261 of our class A preferred shares into 121,948,261 of our common shares.

Current Corporate Structure

The following chart presents the corporate structure of our principal subsidiaries and equity investments following the transactions described above. The percentages in bold italics represent the

Table of Contents

percentage of the voting share capital owned directly and indirectly by the parent company of each entity, and the percentages not in bold italics represent the percentage of the total share capital owned directly and indirectly by the parent company of each entity. All of these companies are organized under Brazilian law.

Our Principal Subsidiaries and Jointly Controlled Companies

Our principal subsidiary is Polialden. In addition, our equity investments in Copesul and Politeno have a significant impact on our consolidated and combined financial statements. The following is a summary of our equity investments in these companies and the shareholders agreements we have signed with respect to Copesul and Politeno

Polialden

Polialden is a corporation (*sociedade anônima*) organized under the laws of Brazil. At December 31, 2003, we indirectly owned all of the voting share capital and 56.3% of the total share capital of Polialden. Polialden is engaged in the manufacturing, processing, selling, importing and exporting of high-density polyethylene, ultra high molecular weight polyethylene and other chemical and petrochemical products. Polialden operates its industrial unit in the Northeastern Complex. For information concerning these operations, see Business Polyolefins Unit.

Copesul

Copesul is a corporation (*sociedade anônima*) organized under the laws of Brazil. At December 31, 2003, we owned, directly and indirectly, 29.5% of the voting and total share capital of Copesul. Copesul is the second largest petrochemical cracker in Brazil based on production capacity, with approximately 39% of Brazilian production capacity of ethylene. We provide more information about Copesul's business in Business Jointly Controlled Companies Copesul.

We have entered into a shareholders agreement with Ipiranga Petroquímica S.A., or Ipiranga, relating to our shares of Copesul. Ipiranga owns 29.5% of the voting and total share capital of Copesul. Under the Copesul shareholders agreement, we and Ipiranga jointly control Copesul. We have agreed to consult with Ipiranga prior to any meeting of Copesul's board of directors or shareholders and to vote our shares together with Ipiranga on specified matters, including policies relating to the allocation of excess amounts of raw materials, policies relating to the distribution of profits, the election of members to Copesul's board of directors, amendments to Copesul's by-laws, approval of indebtedness of Copesul in excess of certain limits, sales of assets in excess of specified limits, investments in excess of certain limits and the merger of Copesul with another company. We have also agreed that neither we nor Ipiranga will vote to approve any of the above matters unless we and Ipiranga vote 75% of the shares collectively held by us in favor of that action at a meeting between Ipiranga and our company or, if no quorum is obtained at such a meeting, of 75% of the shares present at a second meeting called for this purpose.

The Copesul shareholders agreement also provides a right of first refusal for transfers or sales of the voting share capital of Copesul to third parties, except for transfers and sales of Copesul voting share capital to companies directly or indirectly controlled by the selling shareholder. Third-party purchasers of

Table of Contents

common shares of Copesul from our company or Ipiranga also must agree to comply with the Copesul shareholders agreement. The shareholders agreement also includes provisions designed to ensure that each of our company and Ipiranga will continue to own the same proportion of shares of Copesul if it so elects.

The Copesul shareholders agreement provides that we will vote with Ipiranga in a manner designed to ensure that both we and Ipiranga are able to elect the maximum possible number of members of Copesul's board of directors. The shareholders agreement is effective until August 2022. We have agreed with Ipiranga not to enter into another shareholders agreement regarding Copesul with any other shareholders of Copesul.

Politeno

Politeno is a corporation (*sociedade anônima*) organized under the laws of Brazil. At December 31, 2003, we owned 33.9% of Politeno's total share capital, including 35.0% of its voting share capital. Politeno produces polyethylenes, which are widely used in the flexible and rigid packaging industries. Politeno produces low, medium and HDPE, LLDPE, linear medium density polyethylene, ethyl vinyl acetate copolymer and other special resins. We provide more information about Politeno's business in Business Jointly Controlled Companies Politeno.

Through Conepar, we have entered into a shareholders agreement with Companhia Suzano de Papel e Celulose, Sumitomo Chemical Company Limited and Itochu Corporation with respect to our shares of Politeno. Companhia Suzano de Papel e Celulose owns 33.9% of Politeno's total share capital, including 35.0% of its voting share capital; Sumitomo Chemical Company Limited owns 18.8% of Politeno's total share capital, including 20.0% of its voting share capital; and Itochu Corporation owns 9.4% of Politeno's total share capital, including 10.0% of its voting share capital. The Politeno shareholders agreement contains provisions governing voting, transfer and preemptive rights. We have the right to elect two of the seven members of Politeno's board of directors and the right to elect an additional member of Politeno's board of directors in alternating years. We also have the right to elect one of the six executive officers.

We have agreed in the Politeno shareholders agreement to attempt to reach unanimous decisions with the other parties with respect to certain actions to be taken by Politeno's board of directors or shareholders, including: changes to Politeno's by-laws, subject to certain exceptions; Politeno's dissolution or liquidation; the merger of Politeno with another company; certain transactions with holders of Politeno's common shares; transactions involving the purchase, sale, assignment or encumbrance of fixed assets of Politeno in excess of specified amounts; and Politeno's incurrence of secured indebtedness in excess of certain specified levels. The parties to the shareholders agreement also granted each other certain rights of first refusal and agreed not to encumber their shares of Politeno without the consent of parties representing at least 50% of Politeno's issued and outstanding common shares, subject to certain exceptions. Third-party purchasers of common shares of Politeno from any of the parties to the shareholders agreement also must agree to comply with its terms.

We also have equity interests in other companies, including Petroflex and Borealis Brasil S.A., for which we have entered into shareholders agreements that include provisions governing voting, transfer and preemptive rights.

Table of Contents

BUSINESS

We are the leading petrochemical company in Latin America and one of the five largest private sector industrial companies in Brazil, based on net sales revenue for 2003. We recorded net income of R\$215.1 million in 2003 on net sales revenue of R\$10,135.8 million, in each case under Brazilian GAAP. We produce a diversified portfolio of petrochemical products and have a strategic focus on polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC. We are the only Brazilian company with integrated first and second generation petrochemical production facilities, with 13 plants in Brazil.

We have grown over the past three years primarily as the result of the integration of the operations of six Brazilian petrochemical companies: our company; OPP Química; Polialden; Trikem; Proppet; and Nitrocarbano. We have merged with these companies, other than Polialden. Our business operations are organized into four business units, which correspond to our principal production processes and products:

Basic Petrochemicals, which accounted for R\$4,765.3 million, or 47.8%, of the net sales revenue of all segments, including net sales to our other business units, and had an operating margin of 10.5% in 2003;

Polyolefins, which accounted for R\$3,386.8 million, or 33.9%, of the net sales revenue of all segments and had an operating margin of 15.6% in 2003;

Vinyls, which accounted for R\$1,371.8 million, or 13.7%, of the net sales revenue of all segments and had an operating margin of 22.9% in 2003; and

Business Development, which accounted for R\$455.3 million, or 4.6%, of the net sales revenue of all segments and had an operating margin of 6.3% in 2003.

We believe the integration of the operations of the companies that formed our company has produced, and will continue to provide, significant synergies and cost savings from reduced taxes, procurement and logistics expenses, general and administrative expenses and other operating expenses.

Strategy

Our vision is to strengthen our position as a world-class petrochemical company. We seek to reinforce our leading position in the Latin American petrochemical market, with a focus on polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC and integration with our production of ethylene and propylene. Our business model focuses on enhancing shareholder value, with strategic drivers consisting of market leadership, cost competitiveness and technological autonomy.

We are the first Brazilian company to integrate first and second generation petrochemical production facilities. Our competitive advantages are derived from our leadership position in the Latin American market and on our favorable cost structure, resulting from our production scale and synergies realized from integration of the companies that formed our company.

We are committed to providing technological support to our customers through the Braskem Technology and Innovation Center, which has more than 100 professionals working to develop processes, products and applications for the sector.

The formation of our company marked a milestone in the restructuring of an industrial sector that is vital to Brazil's economic development. We supply petrochemical products with application in a wide variety of industries, such as food packaging, automotive parts, paints, construction, agriculture, fabrics and personal care products.

The key elements of our strategy include:

Focus on Customer Relationships: We seek to establish close, long-term relationships with our customers. We serve as partners with our customers in developing new products and applications and, consequently, business opportunities for them. We recognize the cyclical nature of the markets for our petrochemical products and believe that, by focusing on relationships with our customers,

Table of Contents

we can foster customer loyalty even during periods of lower demand. Our growth strategy is centered on increasing customers consumption of our products, and enable them to substitute non-plastic materials with thermoplastics.

Our Polyolefins Unit and our Vinyls Unit maintain technology and innovation centers that seek to:

optimize customers processing of our products;

identify new products and applications to meet our clients needs; and

increase customers productivity.

Pursuit of Selected Business Opportunities: We are pursuing new business opportunities by, for example:

developing new products like UTEC™, our ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene product that is used in technical applications. We are the world's second largest producer of ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene and sell it mainly in the United States;

manufacturing LLDPE and low density polyethylene using a specialized production process that permits us to produce thermoplastics with distinctive characteristics for the flexible packaging industry, including greater resistance to impact and punctures, improved polish and greater transparency; and

replacing traditional materials such as glass, wood, steel and paper, with our thermoplastics products.

Expansion of Our Production Capacity: We plan to expand the production capacity of our business units during the next several years based on anticipated growth in demand for our products. We plan to expand primarily through efficiency enhancement at our plants and by modernizing our production technology. We believe that additional capacity will enable us to maintain and expand our leadership position in Latin America and support our expansion into strategic export markets.

Continued Reductions in Operating Costs and Increases in Operating Efficiencies: As a result of the integration of our facilities and large production scale, we believe that we are a low-cost producer of second generation petrochemicals. We have an ongoing program the Braskem Production System to increase operating efficiencies and to reduce operating costs. We also continue to realize synergies from our integration process.

Our cost reduction program is linked to initiatives to purchase feedstocks at competitive prices. We began to import lower-cost naphtha in 2000, and during 2003, we imported 31.2% of our feedstock requirements, primarily from North Africa. We also intend to continue to substitute lower-cost petroleum condensate for a portion of our naphtha needs.

Commitment to Our Employees and Our Communities: We are focused on our human resources, which are vital to our competitiveness and growth. We continue to train our employees to develop skills necessary to operate an internationally competitive, vertically integrated petrochemical company. We have adopted a policy that makes all of our directors, officers, and employees responsible for worker safety and for preserving the environment. We are also committed to sustainable development and to improving the quality of life in the communities in which our facilities are located.

Table of Contents

Basic Petrochemicals Unit

We are the leading producer of ethylene and propylene in Brazil, based on sales volumes in 2003. At December 31, 2003, our Basic Petrochemicals facilities have the largest production capacity of all first generation producers in Latin America. Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit accounted for R\$4,765.3 million, or 47.8%, of the net sales revenue of all segments in 2003, including net sales to our other business units. Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit produces:

olefins, such as ethylene, polymer and chemical grade propylene, butadiene, isoprene and butene-1;

aromatics, such as benzene, toluene, para-xylene and ortho-xylene;

fuels, such as automotive gasoline and liquefied petroleum gas, or LPG; and

methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE, solvent C9 and pyrolysis C9.

We also supply utilities to other plants located in the Northeastern Complex and render services to the operators of those plants. In 2003, 86.7% of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit's sales (including intra-company sales) were derived from the sale of basic petrochemicals, 8.1% from the sale of utilities and 5.2% from the sale of fuels.

The products of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit are used primarily in the manufacture of intermediate petrochemical products, including those manufactured by our other business units. We believe that our Basic Petrochemicals Unit is well positioned to take advantage of increasing demand for basic petrochemicals products in Brazil, both by our other business units and by third parties. We anticipate that long-term growth for these products in Brazil will continue due to increasing consumption of plastic-based consumer products, the trend towards substitution of plastics for more traditional packaging materials, such as glass and paper, as well as general economic growth in Brazil.

Table of Contents**Products of Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit**

The following chart shows the major products produced by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit, their derivative intermediate products and their most common end uses.

Our Basic Petrochemical Products	Intermediate Products Derived from Our Basic Petrochemical Products	Common End Uses
Olefins		
Ethylene	LDPE/LLDPE(1)	Garbage bags, packaging film, toys, housewares, electrical insulation, paper coatings
	HDPE(1)	Blow-molded plastic bottles (such as milk bottles)
	Ethylene oxide, used to produce ethylene glycol	Polyester fibers and PET resin
	EDC, used to produce PVC(2)	Pipes, home siding, upholstery, floor coverings
Propylene (polymer and chemical grade)	Ethylbenzene, used to produce styrene monomer and then polystyrene	Disposable cups and containers, high-impact plastics
	Polypropylene(1)	Carpet-backing, luggage, bottles, diapers, raffia bags
	Acrylonitrile	Clothing, plastics
Butadiene	Propylene oxide	Polyurethane foams for furniture and insulation, cleaning compounds and coatings
	Synthetic rubber, elastomers, resins	Tires, shoes, hoses, surgical gloves
Butene 1	LLDPE(1)	Garbage bags, packaging film, toys housewares, electrical insulation, paper coatings
Aromatics		
Benzene	Ethylbenzene (used to make styrene monomer/polystyrene)	Disposable cups, containers, high- impact plastics
	Cumene	Epoxies
	Cyclohexane and cyclohexanone(3)	Nylon
	Linear alkyle benzene	Detergents
	Caprolactam(3)	Nylon
	Ammonium sulfate(3)	Fertilizers
Isoprene	Styrene-isoprene-styrene	Adhesive
Toluene	Toluenediisocyanate	Urethane foams
		Solvents
Para-xylene	Purified terephthalic acid and DMT(3)	Polyester film and fibers, PET resin(3)
Ortho-xylene	Phthalic anhydride and plasticizers	Flexible products from PVC
Others		
MTBE		Octane booster for gasoline
Solvent C9		Solvents and thinners
Pyrolysis C9		Octane booster for gasoline
Fuels		
Automotive Gasoline		Fuel for internal combustion engines
LPG		Cooking gas

(1) Produced by our Polyolefins Unit.

(2) Produced by our Vinyls Unit.

(3) Produced by our Business Development Unit.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth a breakdown of the sales volume and net sales revenue of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit (including our intra-company sales) by product line and by market for the years indicated.

	Years Ended December 31,								
	2003			2002			2001		
	Quantities Sold(1)	Net Sales Revenue		Quantities Sold(1)	Net Sales Revenue		Quantities Sold(1)	Net Sales Revenue	
	(thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)	(thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)	(thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)
Domestic net sales:									
Ethylene	1,047.3	R\$ 1,733.1	41.9%	994.8	R\$ 1,285.3	42.5%	1,064.8	R\$ 1,209.1	43.0%
Propylene	403.4	595.9	14.4	415.2	459.3	15.2	421.1	349.0	12.4
Para-xylene	117.3	195.5	4.7	99.4	121.9	4.0	114.8	129.6	4.6
Benzene	217.9	298.3	7.2	223.5	214.2	7.1	223.2	154.2	5.5
Butadiene	150.3	278.7	6.7	147.3	177.0	5.9	134.5	152.0	5.4
Mixed xylenes	53.7	83.4	2.0	52.9	52.9	1.7	50.6	44.5	1.6
Ortho-xylene	49.9	80.0	1.9	48.9	65.2	2.2	41.9	41.6	1.5
Toluene	38.9	51.4	1.2	78.7	74.6	2.5	108.0	83.9	3.0
Others	195.8	324.6	8.1	184.5	262.6	8.7	144.5	216.0	7.7
Total domestic net sales	2,274.5	3,640.9	88.1	2,245.2	2,713.0	89.8	2,303.4	2,379.9	84.6
Total export net sales	405.9	490.7	11.9	353.0	309.7	10.2	376.4	433.6	15.4
Total basic petrochemicals net sales	2,680.4	4,131.6	100%	2,598.2	3,022.7	100%	2,679.8	2,813.5	100%
Fuels and utilities(2)		633.7			476.4			483.9	
Total Basic Petrochemicals Unit net sales revenue(3)		R\$ 4,765.3			R\$ 3,499.1			R\$ 3,297.4	
% of the total net sales revenue of all segments			47.8%			47.3%			52.7%

(1) Includes the following intra-company sales:

488.3 thousand tons of ethylene in 2003, 472.0 thousand tons in 2002 and 150.2 thousand tons in 2001;

4.3 thousand tons of propylene in 2003, 27.1 thousand tons in 2002 and 8.5 thousand tons in 2001;

39.7 thousand tons of para-xylene in 2003 and 45.2 thousand tons in 2002; and

60.0 thousand tons of benzene in 2003, 25.0 thousand tons in 2002 and 48.9 thousand tons in 2001.

(2) Fuels include automotive gasoline and LPG. Utilities include electric power, steam, treated water and compressed air.

(3) Includes basic petrochemicals, fuels and utilities.

Olefins

Edgar Filing: BRASKEM SA - Form F-1

Olefins are relatively unstable hydrocarbons characterized by a structure that is chemically active and permits other chemically reactive elements, such as oxygen, to be added. Ethylene and propylene, which are types of olefins, are the chemical backbone for many consumer plastic products. Our primary olefins products include polymer grade ethylene and propylene, also known as monomers. Different combinations

Table of Contents

of monomers are polymerized, or linked together, to form polymers or plastic resins with different properties and characteristics.

Aromatics

Aromatics are hydrocarbons identified by one or more benzene rings or by chemical behavior similar to benzene. Aromatics readily react to add other active molecular groups, such as nitrates and sulfonates.

Fuels

Our company has been authorized by the National Petroleum Agency to produce and sell automotive gasoline since August 15, 2000 and LPG since October 2, 2001, both domestically and for export. We have been producing and selling both automotive gasoline and LPG since these dates. We have requested authorization from the National Petroleum Agency to produce and sell diesel fuel and expect this authorization to be granted during 2004.

Utilities

We also produce electric power, steam, compressed air and drinking and demineralized water as by-products of our production of basic petrochemicals. We use these utilities in our own production processes, including those of our Polyolefins Unit and our Vinyls Unit, and sell these utilities to approximately 40 companies in the Northeastern Complex. Our utilities facilities include units for thermoelectric power generation, water treatment and the production of steam and compressed air.

We self-generate approximately 70% of the Northeastern Complex's energy consumption requirements, and CHESF, a Brazilian government-owned electric power distribution company located in the State of Bahia, furnishes the remainder.

Production Facilities of Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit

We believe that the technological processes we use at our basic petrochemicals plants are among the most advanced in the world. We currently own and operate five major Basic Petrochemicals units (Olefins 1, Olefins 2, Aromatics 1, Aromatics 2 and energy and services), each of which is located at the Northeastern Complex. Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit defines the term "unit" to mean several plants that are linked together to produce olefins or aromatics. As a result, the production capacity of Aromatics units 1 and 2 is the sum of the production capacities of the various plants that form these units. At December 31, 2003, our basic petrochemicals plants had total annual production capacity of 1,280,000 tons of ethylene and 537,000 tons of propylene.

Table of Contents

The table below sets forth the name, primary products, annual production capacity at December 31, 2003 and annual production for the years presented for each of our principal Basic Petrochemicals units and plants.

Name	Main Products	Annual Production Capacity	Production Year Ended December 31,		
			2003	2002	2001
		(in tons, except automotive gasoline)	(in tons, except automotive gasoline)		
Olefins units 1 and 2	Ethylene	1,280,000	1,040,858	989,276	1,069,724
	Propylene	537,000	486,959	464,521	491,957
Plants of Aromatics units 1 and 2(2):					
Butadiene plants 1 and 2	Butadiene	180,000	150,719	137,976	143,700
MTBE plants 1 and 2	MTBE	140,000	113,996	106,449	108,251
Butene-1 plant	Butene-1	31,000	27,022	20,530	
Isoprene plant	Isoprene	19,000	16,396	16,380	
	Dicyclopentadiene(1)	24,000	20,459	19,799	18,897
Sulfolane plants 1, 2 and 3	Coperaf 1(2)	130,000	110,769	116,575	102,848
BTX fractionation plants 1 and 2	Benzene	432,000	364,762	318,373	317,223
	Toluene(1)	40,000	41,757	129,200	173,960
C8+ fractionation plant	Mixed xylenes(1)	60,000	65,932	62,679	50,137
	Ortho-xylene	60,000	54,475	48,135	46,001
	Solvent C9(2)	30,000	25,650	6,803	3,455
Parex plant	Para-xylene	150,000	116,203	101,426	107,321
Blending plant	Automotive gasoline(3)	570,000	365,256	326,493	351,806
	LPG(3)	18,000	17,403	30,780	4,553

(1) Actual production may exceed production capacity of certain plants when excess capacity of other plants in the Aromatics units is utilized.

(2) Solvents.

(3) Automotive gasoline in cubic meters per year.

Raw Materials of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit*Naphtha*

Naphtha, a crude oil derivative, is the principal raw material that we use to produce our basic petrochemical products and represents the principal production and operating cost of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. The price of naphtha that we purchase varies primarily based on changes in the U.S. dollar-based, international price of crude oil.

Both of our olefins plants are capable of using naphtha as a feedstock, and our Olefins 1 unit also uses petroleum condensate. Until the early 1980 s, gas oil represented approximately 60% of the feedstock used by first generation producers in Brazil and naphtha represented the remainder, but the increased use of diesel fuel by trucks and buses in Brazil in the 1980 s reduced the supply of gas oil available to petrochemical producers. Currently, we use naphtha as our primary feedstock, and in 2003, naphtha accounted for (1) 92.0% of the total cost of sales of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit and (2) 65.2% of our overall direct and indirect cost of sales. However, due to the high price of naphtha, we have increased our use of alternate feedstocks, such as petroleum condensate. We intend to further increase our use of alternate feedstocks in the future.

Table of Contents

The following table shows the average Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price of naphtha for the periods indicated.

	Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp Market Price of Naphtha		
	2003	2002	2001
	(in U.S. dollars per ton)		
Average(1)	US\$274.63	US\$228.00	US\$215.92
Month ended:			
January	319.00	173.00	267.50
February	359.00	205.00	255.50
March	267.00	225.00	240.00
April	203.00	225.00	275.00
May	231.00	210.00	268.00
June	254.00	218.50	221.00
July	253.50	232.00	191.00
August	269.00	247.50	215.00
September	258.00	255.00	183.00
October	275.00	230.00	162.50
November	294.00	228.00	145.00
December	313.00	287.00	167.50

(1) The information in the Average row represents the average of average monthly naphtha prices during the years presented.

Source: Bloomberg L.P.

Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit is located:

36 kilometers from the Madre de Deus Port Terminal (located in the State of Bahia), a port terminal owned and operated by Petrobras;

27 kilometers from Refinaria Landulfo Alves (located in the State of Bahia), one of the largest refineries in Brazil, which is owned and operated by Petrobras; and

22 kilometers from the port terminal of Aratú (located in the State of Bahia), which is operated by Terminal Químico de Aratú S.A. TEQUIMAR, a subsidiary of Ultrapar Participações S.A, a Brazilian LPG distribution company.

We use the Madre de Deus Port Terminal to unload naphtha imported by Petrobras or that is shipped from other Petrobras refineries located outside the State of Bahia. A pipeline owned and operated by Petrobras transports naphtha from the Madre de Deus Terminal to Refinaria Landulfo Alves where it interconnects with the refinery's naphtha pipeline system. Refinaria Landulfo Alves naphtha pipeline system interconnects with the pipeline system of the port terminal of Aratú, through which naphtha and petroleum condensate are transported to our basic petrochemicals plants.

Following the end of Petrobras' monopoly over the supply of naphtha, we invested approximately US\$37 million in our transportation infrastructure to enable our port facilities at Aratú to receive shipments of imported naphtha.

Table of Contents

Supply Contracts and Pricing

Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit purchased:

from Petrobras: 2,691 thousand tons of naphtha in 2003, representing 68.8% of our naphtha requirements; 2,778 thousand tons in 2002, representing 72.4% of our naphtha requirements; and 4,087 thousand tons in 2001, representing 99.1% of our naphtha requirements; and

from suppliers located principally in Africa and elsewhere in South America: 1,220 thousand tons of naphtha in 2003, representing 31.2% of our naphtha requirements; 1,059 thousand tons in 2002, representing 27.6% of our naphtha requirements; and 35 thousand tons in 2001, representing 0.9% of our naphtha requirements.

On June 22, 1978, we and Petrobras entered into a Naphtha and Gas Oil Purchase and Sale Contract (which was amended in February 1993 and in February 2003). This contract has a term of 10 years, expiring in 2008, and is automatically renewable for further 10-year periods, unless either party notifies the other party in writing at least one year prior to the expiration of the contract that it does not intend to renew the contract. Under this contract:

Petrobras has agreed to sell and deliver naphtha and gas oil to our basic petrochemicals plants in the Northeastern Complex exclusively for our use as a raw material;

we may establish on September 30 of each year the minimum volumes of naphtha and gas oil that we expect to consume in the following calendar year;

if we request to purchase volumes of naphtha and gas oil that exceed the minimum volumes we establish, Petrobras must use its best efforts to attempt to meet our higher demand;

if we fail to purchase the minimum volumes that we establish for a given year, we are required to pay damages to Petrobras, and if Petrobras fails to deliver the minimum volumes, Petrobras is required to pay damages to us;

Petrobras can suspend deliveries, in whole or in part, or may terminate this contract without penalties if required by the National Petroleum Agency as a result of a national contingency plan that adversely affects the supply of petroleum derivatives in Brazil; and

Petrobras can rescind the contract, without prior notice, if: (1) we violate any provision of the contract; (2) we declare bankruptcy, or we are declared bankrupt or are liquidated; (3) we transfer all or part of our rights and obligations under the contract to a third party without Petrobras' consent; or (4) we are involved in a reorganization or merger.

Petrobras has provided us with a R\$570.0 million credit line to purchase naphtha and gas oil that it produces. This credit line is secured by first mortgages on two parcels of our property used by our Polyolefins Unit in the Southern Complex.

On August 9, 2000, regulations issued by the National Petroleum Agency ended Petrobras' monopoly over the supply of naphtha in Brazil. These regulations also established a policy of free negotiation of naphtha prices. After a series of negotiations, the Brazilian basic petrochemicals producers and Petrobras entered into a pricing agreement for naphtha sales. According to this agreement, the price of naphtha supplied by Petrobras is linked to the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price for naphtha and to the U.S. dollar/*real* exchange rate.

La Société Nationale pour la Recherche, la Production, le Transport, la Transformation et la Commercialisation des Hydrocarbures SONATRACH (the Algerian national petroleum company), or SONATRACH, is our most important supplier of imported naphtha. We and SONATRACH entered into a Contract for the Sale and Purchase of Naphtha, which became effective on January 1, 2002. This contract has a one-year term and is renewable based on the mutual agreement of the parties for further

Table of Contents

one-year periods. We have renewed this contract twice, and the current contract expires on December 31, 2004. Under this contract:

SONATRACH has agreed to sell and deliver naphtha to us exclusively for our use as a raw material; and

we agreed to purchase, and SONATRACH agreed to sell, a minimum annual volume of naphtha up to a maximum annual volume.

On November 24, 2003, our company and our subsidiary CPN Incorporated Ltd. entered into a purchase agreement under which CPN Incorporated Ltd. agreed to sell, and certain companies and financial institutions agreed to purchase from time to time until February 19, 2004, bills of exchange in an aggregate principal amount of up to US\$38.0 million. We will be the obligor under each bill of exchange, which we will issue to CPN Incorporated Ltd. in connection with purchases by our company of naphtha and petroleum condensate from CPN Incorporated Ltd. Each bill of exchange will be sold at a discount of LIBOR plus 5.0% per year and will mature and be payable in full 270 days after the sale date thereof.

Technology of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit

We have entered into several license agreements with a number of leading petrochemical companies to use process technology for the production of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit's products. We pay no royalties under any of these license agreements. Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit also uses technology developed by our company.

Sales and Marketing of Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit

We sell our basic petrochemical products principally in Brazil, mainly to second generation petrochemical producers located in the Northeastern Complex, as well as to customers in the United States and Europe. Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit also produces utilities for its own use and for sale to approximately 40 companies located in the Northeastern Complex.

As is common with other first generation petrochemical producers, our Basic Petrochemicals Unit has a high concentration of sales to a limited number of customers. Net sales to our 10 largest customers (excluding intra-company sales) accounted for 72.3% of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit's total net sales revenue during the year ended December 31, 2003.

As part of our commercial strategy, our Basic Petrochemicals Unit has focused on developing longer-term relationships with our customers. We have entered into long-term supply contracts with several second generation producers located in the Northeastern Complex, including Politéno, Oxiteno, Polibrasil and Petroflex. These supply contracts generally have an initial 10-year term and are automatically renewable for five-year periods unless one party notifies the other of its intention not to renew. These contracts also provide for minimum and maximum quantities to be purchased and monthly deliveries. We also sell automotive gasoline and LPG to Petrobras pursuant to a long-term contract.

We determine the prices for our olefins and aromatics products with reference to several market factors. The price of ethylene that we charge is based on a margin sharing system. Under this system, the benefit or burden of higher or lower prices for naphtha and for ethylene derivatives, such as polyethylene, is shared between us and our customers. The margin shared by first and second generation producers is calculated for second generation products based on the market price charged by the second generation producer for its polyolefins resins. The market price for ethylene is based on benchmark costs imputed to, and actual costs incurred by, both first and second generation producers for the production of second generation products. The benchmark cost factors considered in determining the full cost margin are the fixed costs, including depreciation, of leading first and second generation producers located in Europe. European producers are included in the calculation because, like Brazilian producers, they generally use naphtha as their primary feedstock (whereas first generation producers in the United States generally use natural gas as a feedstock). The margin for each product is determined by subtracting the production cost of each product from the average market price charged by the second generation producers for such

Table of Contents

product. This margin is then divided between the relevant first and second generation producers *pro rata* based on the capital investments made by the first and second generation producers in the production process for each product. The actual margins received by the first and second generation producers vary depending on the degree to which their actual costs compare with the benchmark costs used in the pricing formula to calculate the margin. In light of the integration of our company with second generation producers, we are evaluating whether the margin sharing system is the optimal pricing structure for our company.

We calculate the monthly price of propylene by multiplying our monthly ethylene price (including Brazilian taxes) by the ratio of the European contract price for propylene to the European contract price for ethylene. We determine the price of butadiene by using the European contract price for butadiene, and our prices for butadiene, unlike our prices for our other basic petrochemical products, include freight costs. We set the prices of benzene, para-xylene and ortho-xylene monthly by determining the mean average of European contract prices and U.S. contract prices for those products as set forth in specialized trade publications. We set the prices of solvents, fuels and utilities with reference to Brazilian market prices for these products.

We are mainly focused on maintaining our leading position in the Brazilian market, while continuing to use our export operations to manage the relationship between our production capacity and domestic demand. Accordingly, we believe that our continued presence in export markets is essential to manage overcapacity in the Brazilian market. Our volume of export sales has generally varied based on the level of domestic demand for our products. Export sales represented 11.9% of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit's net sales revenue in 2003, 10.2% in 2002 and 15.4% in 2001. We exported mainly to customers in Europe and the United States. Our most important market for basic petrochemicals is Brazil, although we intend to increase export sales of automotive gasoline to the United States. The following table sets forth our export sales and export volumes of basic petrochemicals for the years indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2003	2002	2001
Export sales (in millions of reais)	490.7	309.7	433.6
As % of total net sales revenue of basic petrochemicals	11.9	10.2	15.4
Export volumes (thousands of tons)	405.9	353.0	376.4
As % of total production of basic petrochemicals	15.1	13.6	14.0

We set export prices for:

benzene, toluene, MTBE and gasoline with reference to market prices prevailing in the U.S. Gulf market;

propylene, para-xylene, ortho-xylene and butene-1 with reference to market prices prevailing in the European market; and

ethylene and butadiene on the basis of a derivative pricing formula.

Since August 15, 2000, we have been authorized by the National Petroleum Agency to produce and sell automotive gasoline. Our net sales revenue from gasoline was R\$249.2 million in 2003 as compared to R\$156.2 million in 2002 and R\$202.1 million in 2001. Our net export sales revenue from gasoline was R\$128.1 million in 2003 as compared to R\$82.6 million in 2002 and zero in 2001. Our sales of type A gasoline reached 360,458 cubic meters in 2003, as compared to 324,567 cubic meters in 2002, and 349,108 cubic meters in 2001. Over the last three years, we have continued to increase our supply of gasoline in the Northeastern Brazilian states of Pernambuco, Bahia, Paraíba and Alagoas.

In addition to basic petrochemicals and fuels, we produce electric power, steam, treated water and compressed air for our own use and for sale to other second generation producers in the Northeastern Complex. Our net sales revenue from sales of utilities (including sales to our other business units) was R\$384.5 million in 2003, R\$320.2 million in 2002 and R\$281.8 million in 2001. We also provide storage services to companies located in the Northeastern Complex through our subsidiary Tegal Terminal de

Table of Contents

Gases Ltda., providing storage for gaseous petrochemical products. Tegal Terminal de Gases Ltda. operates in the port terminal of Aratú in the State of Bahia. In 2003, our net sales revenue from services totaled R\$5.3 million.

Competition

Although there are currently three major petrochemical complexes in Brazil, our basic petrochemical customers, which are mostly second generation petrochemical producers with plants located in the Northeastern Complex, would have difficulty obtaining their feedstocks from other sources at lower prices due to the high cost of transportation of these products, as well as other logistical difficulties. In addition, because Brazil produces sufficient quantities of olefins to meet domestic demand, imports of these products are generally sporadic and usually related to scheduled plant maintenance shutdowns. In 2003, a very small quantity of ethylene was imported into Brazil.

Polyolefins Unit

We are the leading producer of polyolefins in Brazil, based on sales volumes in 2003. At December 31, 2003, our polyolefins production facilities have the largest production capacity of all second generation producers of polyolefins products in Latin America. Our Polyolefins Unit accounted for R\$3,386.8 million, or 33.9%, of the net sales revenue of all segments in 2003. Our Polyolefins Unit is comprised of the operations of Polialden and the operations historically conducted by OPP Química prior to its merger with our company. Historical information with respect to our Polyolefins Unit for the year ended December 31, 2001 that is set forth in this section is based on the sum of the annual results of Polialden and OPP Química, and may not be indicative of the results that our Polyolefins Unit will achieve in the future.

Our Polyolefins Unit produces:

polyethylene, including LDPE, LLDPE, HDPE and ultra high molecular weight polyethylene; and

polypropylene.

Approximately two-thirds of our Polyolefins Unit's sales volumes in 2003 were derived from the sale of polyethylene products, and the remainder was derived from the sale of polypropylene products.

We manufacture a broad range of polyolefins products for use in consumer and industrial applications, including:

plastic films for food and industrial packaging;

bottles, shopping bags and other consumer goods containers;

automotive parts; and

household appliances.

In 2003, we had an approximate 30% share of the Brazilian polyethylene market and an approximate 40% share of the Brazilian polypropylene market, based on sales volumes. We hold the leading market shares in Brazil in three of our four polyethylene product lines. We anticipate that domestic growth in demand for these products will continue to increase due to:

greater consumption of plastic-based consumer products, as Brazil's consumption of plastic-based products on a per-capita basis is low compared to that of the United States and many European countries; and

the trend towards substitution of plastics for more traditional packaging materials, such as glass and paper.

Table of Contents**Products of Our Polyolefins Unit**

The following table sets forth a breakdown of the sales volumes and net sales revenue of our Polyolefins Unit for 2003 and 2002 and the sum of the net sales of Polialden and OPP Química for 2001 by product and by market.

	Year Ended December 31,								
	2003			2002			2001		
	Quantities Sold	Net Sales Revenue		Quantities Sold	Net Sales Revenue		Quantities Sold	Net Sales Revenue	
	(thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)	(thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)	(thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)
Domestic net sales:									
Polypropylene	374.9	R\$ 1,008.0	29.8%	395.1	R\$ 763.2	30.7%	338.5	R\$ 612.7	31.5%
LDPE	120.4	314.9	9.3	133.0	269.0	10.8	116.5	232.6	12.0
LLDPE	119.8	311.0	9.2	130.0	264.6	10.7	124.7	238.7	12.3
HDPE	204.6	515.0	15.2	227.7	449.8	18.1	250.7	466.3	24.0
Ultra high molecular weight polyethylene	1.2	4.2	0.1	1.0	3.5	0.1	0.8	8.3	0.4
Total domestic net sales	820.9	2,153.1	63.6	886.8	1,750.1	70.5	833.4	1,558.6	80.1
Total export net sales	288.1	1,233.7	36.4	184.6	732.2	29.5	174.2	386.9	19.9
Total polyolefins net sales	1,109.0	R\$ 3,386.8	100.0%	1,071.4	R\$ 2,482.3	100.0%	1,007.6	R\$ 1,945.5	100.0%
% of the total net sales revenue of all segments			33.9%			33.6%			31.1%

We provide technical assistance to our customers to meet their specific needs by adapting and modifying our polyethylene and polypropylene products. In particular, we develop customized value-added polypropylene compounds for use by our customers in their specialized applications.

Polyethylene Products

Polyethylene has the simplest chemical structure of all commercial polymers and is a very versatile material. World production volume of polyethylene is the highest among all commercial plastics. Polyethylene is used to manufacture a wide variety of products.

Our customers purchase different polyethylene resins depending on the manufacturing process that they employ and the desired physical characteristics of the end products that they manufacture. LDPE is the most flexible of polyethylene products and is used in a variety of plastic or film applications and in food packaging, trash bags and shopping bags. LLDPE is used in applications that require greater sealing capacity and better mechanical resistance, including plastic films and flexible food packaging. HDPE is used for applications that require rigidity and strength.

While each form of polyethylene is used for different applications, there is some overlap in the uses of these resins, and with certain modifications, polyethylene resins may be substituted for each other in certain end product manufacturing processes. For example, demand for LLDPE has grown since it was first introduced in 1989 and has resulted in reduced demand for LDPE, as manufacturers of certain containers and plastic film applications have switched their production processes and technology to use LLDPE in a blend with LDPE. We expect that production of LDPE will be phased out for the packaging segment over the next few years and replaced by LLDPE. As a result, we believe that growth of the LDPE market should be limited, although the reduced supply of LDPE in the short term may temporarily result in its price exceeding the price of LLDPE.

Table of Contents*Polypropylene Products*

Polypropylene is a versatile polymer that serves both as a plastic and as a fiber and is typically used to manufacture bottles, crates and automotive fuel tanks. Ultra high molecular weight polyethylene is commonly used in compression molded sheets. As a plastic, polypropylene is also used to make products such as dishwasher-safe food containers because it has favorable thermal characteristics. As a fiber, polypropylene is used to make indoor-outdoor carpeting such as that commonly used around swimming pools and on miniature golf courses. Polypropylene is a suitable raw material for these products because it, unlike nylon, does not absorb water and can be produced in a variety of colors through a relatively simple production process.

We manufacture polypropylene and polypropylene copolymers for use in food and non-food packaging, as well as for use in consumer products such as housewares, bottles and industrial products, including automotive parts. Additional uses for polypropylene products include multifilament textiles and carpets, carpet liners and raffia, a long grass-like fiber.

Production Facilities of Our Polyolefins Unit

We believe that the technological processes at our polyolefins plants are among the most advanced in the world. We currently own and operate seven plants located in the Northeastern Complex and the Southern Complex. At December 31, 2003, our plants had a total annual production capacity of 550,000 tons of polypropylene and 840,000 tons of polyethylene.

The table below sets forth the location, the primary products, annual production capacity at December 31, 2003, and annual production for the years presented of each for our polyolefins plants.

Location (Complex)	Main Products	Annual Production Capacity	Production Year Ended December 31,		
			2003	2002	2001
		(in tons)		(in tons)	
Triunfo (Southern)	LDPE	210,000	195,637	184,861	194,060
	Polypropylene(1)	100,000			
	Polypropylene	215,000	212,433	195,935	184,371
	Polypropylene	235,000	226,313	216,308	192,316
	HDPE/ LLDPE(2)	300,000	229,237	212,184	197,319
Camaçari (Northeastern)	HDPE/ LLDPE(2)	200,000	152,087	151,506	165,800
	HDPE/ Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene	130,000	99,720	103,892	125,441

(1) This plant is currently inactive.

(2) Plant with swing line capable of producing two types of resins. Capacity varies depending on actual production.

Raw Materials of Our Polyolefins Unit*Ethylene and Propylene*

The most significant direct costs associated with our production of polyethylene and polypropylene are the costs of purchasing ethylene and propylene, which together accounted for approximately 78% of our Polyolefins Unit's total costs of sales for 2003, compared to 74% for 2002 and 64% for 2001. In 2003, approximately 40% of these raw materials were supplied by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit and 60% were supplied by Copesul. Because the costs of storing and transporting ethylene and propylene are substantial and there is inadequate infrastructure in Brazil to import large quantities of ethylene and propylene, our Polyolefins Unit is highly dependent on ethylene and propylene supplied by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit and by Copesul.

Table of Contents

At December 31, 2003, Copesul had an annual ethylene production capacity of 1,135,000 tons and an annual propylene production capacity of 581,000 tons. Copesul is our principal supplier of propylene.

Supply Contracts and Pricing

We have entered into a long-term ethylene and propylene supply contract with Copesul that extends through 2007 and is automatically renewable for additional five-year terms. We own 29.5% of the total share capital of Copesul. Under this contract, we are required to purchase an annual minimum of 268,200 tons of ethylene and an annual maximum of 451,000 tons, as well as an annual minimum of 262,200 tons of propylene and an annual maximum of 439,500 tons, in each case subject to daily and monthly limits. In 2003, we purchased 388,000 tons of ethylene and all of our requirements of propylene (approximately 390,000 tons) from Copesul for our polyolefins operations in the Southern Complex.

We negotiate the prices for the feedstocks for our polyolefins products with Copesul, based upon a pricing formula developed by the Brazilian petrochemical industry. The pricing formula provides for full cost margin sharing between the first generation and second petrochemical producers located at the respective petrochemical complexes. For a description of the pricing of ethylene that our Polyolefins Unit purchases from our Basic Petrochemicals Unit, see Basic Petrochemicals Unit Sales and Marketing of Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. The prices Copesul charges for ethylene that it supplies to our Polyolefins Unit are calculated based on a similar formula.

The following table sets forth the average prices per ton in *reais* paid by our company in 2003 and 2002 and paid by OPP Química and Polialden in 2001 for ethylene and propylene:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2003	2002	2001
	(R\$ per ton)		
Ethylene supplied by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit	R\$ 1,786	R\$ 1,360	R\$ 1,213
Ethylene supplied by Copesul	1,769	1,313	1,233
Propylene supplied by Copesul	1,608	1,111	931

We also use butene and hexene as raw materials in the production of LLDPE. Butene is supplied by Copesul and by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit, and we import hexene from suppliers located in South Africa.

Other Materials

In addition to overhead costs such as labor and maintenance, our other costs associated with the production of polyethylene and polypropylene include our purchase of chemical catalysts, solvents and utilities, such as electric power, water, steam and nitrogen.

Our Unipol® Plant in the Northeastern Complex uses catalysts supplied to us by Union Carbide under a 15-year license. Our HDPE slurry plant produces its own catalysts. Akzo Chemicals Inc. supplies us with catalysts for polypropylene production on our bulk production lines in the Southern Complex. We also import some catalysts from the United States and Europe. In addition, we have invested in the production of our own catalysts for use in most of our existing production processes, as we believe that increasing our production of catalysts will decrease our production costs and reduce our dependency on imported catalysts. We purchase other catalytic agents, together with the inputs that we need to produce our own catalysts for one of our plants in the Northeastern Complex (to produce high density and ultra high molecular weight polyethylene), from various suppliers at market prices.

Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit supplies our Polyolefins Unit's facilities in the Northeastern Complex with steam and water. In addition, we purchase electric power at both complexes from third parties pursuant to long-term power purchase agreements and, in the Northeastern Complex, from our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. Our polyolefins plants in the Northeastern Complex are able to purchase electric power from alternate sources if our Basic Petrochemicals Unit is unable to meet our total demand for electric power. In general, we believe that there are sufficient alternative sources available at reasonable

Table of Contents

prices for each of these other inputs used in our polyolefins production process such that the loss of any single supplier would not have a material adverse effect on our operations.

Technology of Our Polyolefins Unit

Rights to Use Technology

We have entered into several agreements with a number of leading petrochemical companies to use certain technology and catalysts for our Polyolefins Unit. The technology licensed by our Polyolefins Unit allows us to produce very high quality polyolefins products.

We pay no royalties under any of these agreements, except for two such agreements:

we pay fees and annual royalties based on the amounts of LLDPE produced with Spherilene™ technology at our swing HDPE/ LLDPE plant located at the Southern Complex; and

we pay fees and quarterly royalties based on amounts of LLDPE and very low density polyethylene produced with metallocene technology and catalysts at our Unipol™ polyethylene plant located in the Northeastern Complex.

Research and Development

We maintain technology, innovation and application facilities at the Southern Complex. Our Polyolefins Unit's research and development staff of approximately 150 employees seeks to:

optimize our products' processability;

identify new product market opportunities;

increase existing capacity;

reduce operating costs; and

upgrade and optimize product technology in order to develop new products in response to our customers' requirements.

Our Polyolefins Unit maintains six pilot plants located in the Southern Complex and the Northeastern Complex that use Spheripol®, Spherilene® and Unipol® technology. Two of our Polyolefins Unit pilot plants operate at 1/100 of the scale of our full-scale plants, and one pilot plant operates at 1/200 of the scale of our full-scale plants. Our Polyolefins Unit uses these pilot plants to test potential efficiency-enhancing modifications at various stages of our production processes, as well as new product formulations. We believe that these pilot plants give us a competitive advantage over our competitors in Brazil, which do not maintain any pilot plants.

Our Polyolefins Unit maintains catalysis, polymerization and polymer sciences laboratories in the Southern Complex and the Northeastern Complex. These laboratories enable us to identify new and to improve existing (licensed or otherwise) catalysts and grades of portfolio resins. We have developed or improved upon a majority of the polyethylene and polypropylene grades that we sell based on technology that we have created or improved.

Our Polyolefins Unit maintains process engineering and automation centers in the Southern Complex and the Northeastern Complex. These centers assist us in developing advanced process control technology that we make available for licensing through a partnership with Pavilion Technology Inc. in the United States. These centers also assist us to reduce our variable costs, achieve operational stability and increase our production of polyolefins.

While our Polyolefins Unit does not engage in new process technology research and development, it is in regular contact with international process technology licensors to follow new technologies and improvements. We test new processes on a regular basis, and we follow advances and trends in the petrochemical industry through our relationships with Brazilian and international research universities and

Table of Contents

consortia, such as the University of Wisconsin Polymerization Reaction Engineering Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition, we maintain ongoing contracts with licensors in order to receive and install improvements developed for our existing processes.

Sales and Marketing of Our Polyolefins Unit

We sell our polyethylene and polypropylene products to approximately 1,000 customers, and sales by our Polyolefins Unit accounted for 33.9% of our net sales revenue of all segments in 2003. We have a diversified product mix that allows us to serve a broad range of end users in several industries. Our customers generally are third generation petrochemical producers that manufacture a wide variety of plastic-based consumer and industrial goods.

Net sales revenue to our 10 largest customers accounted for 33.9% of our Polyolefins Unit's total net sales revenue during the year ended December 31, 2003. No customer accounted for more than 6.0% of our total net sales revenue during 2003, 2002 or 2001.

Domestic Sales

We are focused on developing longer-term relationships with our customers. Given the cyclical nature of the markets for our petrochemical products, we believe that we can strengthen customer loyalty during periods of reduced demand for polyethylene or polypropylene by providing a reliable source of supply to these customers during periods of high demand. We work closely with our customers to determine their needs, to provide technical assistance and to coordinate the production and delivery of our products. Customers submit annual proposals giving their estimated monthly requirements for the upcoming year for each of our polyolefins products, including technical specifications, delivery terms and proposed payment conditions. We evaluate these proposals on a monthly basis to make any required adjustments and to monitor and attempt to ensure adequate supply for each customer.

In addition to direct sales to our customers, our Polyolefins Unit sells our products in Brazil through eight exclusive independent distributors. These distributors sell our polyethylene and polypropylene products to manufacturers with lower production requirements and are able to aggregate multiple orders for production and delivery to customers that would otherwise be uneconomical for us to service. Furthermore, by serving smaller customers through a network of distributors, account managers in our Polyolefins Unit focus their efforts on delivering high quality service to a smaller number of large, direct customers. We have selected our distributors based on their ability to provide full service to their customers, including the ability to prepare our products on a customized basis. Our Polyolefins Unit intends to continue to establish relationships with additional distributors that can further consolidate sales to smaller customers and increase our polyolefins sales.

Export Sales

Our volume of export sales has generally varied based upon the level of domestic demand for our products. Export sales represented 36.4% of our Polyolefins Unit's net sales revenue in 2003, 29.5% in 2002 and 19.9% in 2001. Our principal export market for polyolefins is other countries in South America, particularly the Mercosul countries, and we intend to increase our export sales in the Mercosul countries as well as in Chile. We have established a strategic position in the Southern Cone countries through regular sales to local distributors and agents who understand their respective markets. Our strategy to increase our presence in the Southern Cone is intended, among other things, to reduce our exposure to the cyclicity of the international spot market for polyolefins through the development of long-term relationships with customers in neighboring countries.

Table of Contents

The following table sets out export sales and export volumes of polyolefins by our company in 2003 and 2002 and the sum of the export sales and export volumes of Polialden and OPP Química in 2001.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2003	2002	2001
Net export sales revenue (in millions of <i>reais</i>)	1,233.7	732.2	386.9
As % of total net sales revenue of polyolefins	36.4	29.5	19.9
Export volumes (thousands of tons)	288.1	184.6	174.2
As % of total production of polyolefins	26.0	17.2	17.3

In January 2002, we acquired the ultra high molecular weight polyethylene, or UHMWP, business of Basell Polyolefins Company N.V. in the United States and its Brazilian subsidiary, and as a result became the world's second largest producer of UHMWP, a high technical performance engineering plastic. Our exports of UHMWP increased by 22.1% in 2003, from 14,344 tons in 2002 to 17,514 tons in 2003, giving us an important strategic position for this product in the United States and in Europe. During 2002, our exports of UHMWP increased by 184.4% to 14,344 tons in 2002 from 5,044 tons in 2001.

The main focus of our Polyolefins Unit is to maintain our leading position in the Brazilian market while continuing to export in order to manage the relationship between our production capacity and domestic demand for our products. Currently, we target an annual average production that is approximately 20% in excess of anticipated Brazilian market demand in order to meet variations in local demand and to respond to production fluctuations, seasonality and export product sales. As a result, we believe that our continued presence in export markets is essential to help manage any overcapacity in the Brazilian market.

Prices and Sales Terms

We determine the prices for our polyethylene and polypropylene products with reference to several market factors that include international market prices and prevailing prices in Brazil. Our customers in Brazil may pay in full on delivery or elect credit terms that require payment in full within 14 to 63 days following delivery. We charge interest to our Brazilian customers that elect longer payment options based on prevailing market rates.

We generally conduct our export sales to buyers in countries outside the Southern Cone through the international spot market. Our customer base in these markets consists primarily of trading houses, most of which have operations in the United States or in Hong Kong. Pricing is based on international spot market prices. We make all sales in these markets with letters of credit. Export prices for polyolefins sales in the Southern Cone countries are based on regional prices and sales are generally made either with letters of credit or through direct bank collections.

Competition

We compete with a small number of Brazilian polyolefins producers and, to a lesser extent, with importers of these products. In the Brazilian polyethylene market, we compete with a number of companies that produce one or two of the products in our production line. LDPE is produced in Brazil by Polietilenos União with an annual production capacity in 2003 of 130,000 tons, Union Carbide do Brasil S.A. with 144,000 tons, Petroquímica Triunfo S.A. with 160,000 tons and Politeno with 145,000 tons, compared to our annual production capacity of 210,000 tons. Politeno, in which we own 33.9% of the total share capital (including 35.0% of the voting share capital), produces the same range of polyolefins products that we produce.

Politeno and Ipiranga Petroquímica S.A. are the only other Brazilian producers of LLDPE. In 2003, Politeno had an annual production capacity of 195,000 tons and Ipiranga Petroquímica S.A. had 150,000 tons, compared to our annual production capacity of 500,000 tons. Politeno, Ipiranga Petroquímica S.A. and our company produce LLDPE at swing plants that are also capable of producing HDPE. Rio Polímeros, a Brazilian petrochemical company, is constructing a petrochemical plant in Duque de Caxias,

Table of Contents

Rio de Janeiro, with an annual production capacity of 540,000 tons of LLDPE and HDPE, which is expected to increase annual aggregate Brazilian production capacity of polyethylene by approximately 35%.

Ipiranga, Politeno, and Solvay also produce HDPE. In 2003, Ipiranga had annual production capacity of 500,000 tons, Politeno had 195,000 tons and Solvay had 82,000 tons, compared to our annual production capacity of 600,000 tons. A portion of this production capacity includes swing plants that can also produce LLDPE.

In the Brazilian polypropylene market, we compete with Ipiranga and Polibrasil, which is controlled by Basell Polyolefins Company N.V. and Companhia Suzano de Papel e Celulose. In 2003, Ipiranga had annual production capacity of 150,000 tons and Polibrasil had 625,000 tons, compared to our annual production capacity of 550,000 tons. Polibrasil's annual production capacity includes a 300,000-ton polypropylene plant in Mauá, in the State of São Paulo, which commenced operation in 2003. Rio Polímeros has announced that its plant in Duque de Caxias, Rio de Janeiro will have an annual production capacity of 75,000 tons of propylene.

We do not have any domestic competitors in the Brazilian ultra high molecular weight polyethylene market. Internationally, our primary competitor in this market is Tacona, produced by Celanese AG, a German chemical company, which has approximately 52% of the worldwide production capacity of ultra high molecular weight polyethylene, approximately twice our production capacity.

Traditionally, we have not faced substantial competition from imports of polyethylene and polypropylene due to tariff rates, transportation costs for imported products and other factors relating primarily to the logistics involved in importing these products. In 2003, imports of polyethylene into Brazil represented 15.8% (16.3% in 2002) of Brazil's total consumption of polyethylene, and imports of polyethylene into Brazil represented 8.9% (8.9% in 2002) of Brazil's total consumption of polypropylene. We expect competition from international producers to increase substantially, both in Brazil and in selected foreign markets in which we intend to attempt to increase our sales of polyolefins products. For example, since 2001, Dow Chemical has operated a LLDPE facility in Bahía Blanca, Argentina, with an annual production capacity of 700,000 tons. However, in light of the apparent recent stabilization of the Argentine economy, we expect that Dow Chemical will increase its Argentine sales volumes of polyethylene and decrease its exports to Brazil.

Vinyls Unit

We are the leading producer of PVC, based on sales volumes in 2003. At December 31, 2003, our PVC production facilities have the largest production capacity of all second generation producers of PVC in Latin America. Our Vinyls Unit accounted for R\$1,371.8 million, or 13.7%, of our net sales revenue of all segments in 2003. Our Vinyls Unit is comprised of the operations historically conducted by Trikem prior to its merger with our company. Historical information with respect to our Vinyls Unit for 2001 that is set forth in this section is based on the annual results of Trikem, and may not be indicative of the results that our Vinyls Unit will achieve in the future.

Our Vinyls Unit is the only vertically integrated producer of PVC in Brazil. Our PVC production is integrated through our production of chlorine and other raw materials. Our Vinyls Unit also manufactures caustic soda, which is used by producers of aluminum and paper; EDC; and chlorine, which is used internally to manufacture EDC. In 2003, 66.6% of our Vinyls Unit's net sales revenue was derived from the sale of PVC products, 21.2% was derived from the sale of caustic soda, 7.9% from the sale of EDC and the remainder from the sale of other products.

In 2003, we had an approximate 57% share of the Brazilian PVC market based on sales volumes. PVC is a versatile polymer, and global production volume of PVC is the second highest among all commercial plastics. We manufacture a broad range of PVC resins used in the manufacture of pipes, fittings and wire and cable coverings for use in the construction industry. PVC is also used in many household and other products, including plastic films and laminated sheets, packaging materials, synthetic leather, window frames and bottles. We produce EDC for use in PVC production and caustic soda, which

Table of Contents

is used by producers of aluminum and of pulp and paper. We also produce chlorine, which we use to manufacture EDC. Our vinyls products are manufactured in facilities located in the Brazilian states of Bahia, Alagoas and São Paulo.

Products of Our Vinyls Unit

The following table sets forth a breakdown of the sales volume and net sales revenue of our Vinyls Unit for 2003 and 2002 and the net sales of Trikem for 2001, by product and by market:

	Years Ended December 31,								
	2003			2002			2001		
	Quantities Sold	Net Sales Revenue		Quantities Sold	Net Sales Revenue		Quantities Sold	Net Sales Revenue	
	(thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)	(thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)	(thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)
Domestic sales:									
PVC suspension	323.6	R\$ 756.5	55.1%	332.5	R\$ 663.3	59.3%	309.3	R\$ 502.1	53.2%
PVC emulsion	18.8	61.7	4.5	17.6	49.0	4.4	18.3	43.1	4.6
Caustic soda	426.6	290.4	21.2	400.9	227.3	20.3	358.7	298.3	31.6
Other(1)	126.0	59.5	4.3	122.4	47.2	4.2	137.1	26.9	2.8
Total domestic sales	895.0	1,168.1	85.2	873.4	986.8	88.2	823.4	870.4	92.2
Total exports	215.6	203.7	14.8	168.9	131.0	11.8	145.5	73.8	7.8
Total vinyl net sales	1,110.6	R\$ 1,371.8	100%	1,042.3	R\$ 1,117.8	100%	968.9	R\$ 944.2	100%
% of the total net sales revenue of all segments			13.7%			15.1%			15.1%

(1) Includes chlorine, hydrogen and sodium hypochlorite.

PVC

We produce suspension and dispersion PVC in various grades, as well as PVC copolymers and emulsion PVC. PVC is sold in bags and transported to third generation producers by truck. Approximately 94% of our PVC production is in the form of suspension PVC. The grades of PVC produced by the suspension production process are the most widely used, including for use in the manufacture of pipes, sheeting, flooring, cable insulation, electrical conduit, packaging, laminated products and medical applications. The grades of PVC produced by the dispersion and emulsion processes are more specialized products and are used in the manufacture of toys, synthetic leather, flooring materials, bottle caps and seals, automobile corrosion prevention treatments and wallpaper coatings. Our Vinyls Unit also produces EDC, the principal feedstock used in the production of PVC. We used approximately 65% of our EDC production in 2003 for further processing into PVC and exported the remainder.

Caustic Soda and Chlorine

Our Vinyls Unit also produces caustic soda and chlorine. Caustic soda is a basic commodity chemical that is sold to producers of aluminum, pulp and paper, petrochemicals and other chemicals, soaps and detergents and to waste treatment plants. Caustic soda is also used in the textile industry to make fabrics more absorbent and to improve the strength of dyes, as well as in food processing and electroplating. We consume approximately 5% of the caustic soda produced by our Vinyls Unit, and sell the remainder to third parties.

Chlorine is a basic chemical commodity that is used in a large variety of industries, including applications in water treatment and chemical and pharmaceutical production. We consume approximately 85% of our chlorine production in our production of EDC. We sell most of our remaining chlorine to a

Table of Contents

Brazilian company located near the Northeastern Complex that is connected to one of our plants via a specialized pipeline.

Production Facilities of Our Vinyls Unit

We own five vinyls production facilities. Two of our facilities are located in the Northeastern Complex, and two others are located in the State of Alagoas. Our fifth facility is located in the City of São Paulo.

The following table sets forth the name and location, primary products, annual production capacity at December 31, 2003, and annual production for the years presented for each of our vinyls plants.

Location (Complex)	Main Products	Annual Production Capacity	Production Year Ended December 31,		
			2003	2002	2001
		(in tons)		(in tons)	
Camaçari (Northeastern)	PVC	246,000	181,780	200,056	173,921
Camaçari (Northeastern)	Caustic Soda	73,000	72,458	68,964	70,420
	Chlorine	64,000	63,857	61,206	62,497
Maceió (Alagoas)	Caustic Soda	460,000	386,967	370,600	331,198
	Chlorine	400,000	360,677	342,700	314,091
	EDC	520,000	475,024	443,955	393,803
Marechal Deodoro (Alagoas)	PVC	204,000	193,150	180,870	166,882
Vila Prudente (São Paulo)	PVC	25,000	21,897	20,654	20,932

Raw Materials of Our Vinyls Unit***Ethylene***

The most significant direct cost associated with the production of PVC and EDC is the cost of ethylene, which accounted for 61.4% of our variable cost of PVC sales in 2003, as compared to 58.7% in 2002 and 60.0% in 2001, and 75.4% of EDC sales in 2003, as compared to 77.1% in 2002 and 80.0% in 2001. Our Basic Petrochemical Unit supplies all of the ethylene required by our Vinyls Unit. Ethylene is delivered to our Alagoas plant via a 477 kilometer pipeline that we own, and our São Paulo plant receives vinylchloride monomer (raw material used in manufacturing PVC) by ship from our plant in the Northeastern Complex. Because the cost of storing and transporting ethylene and propylene is substantial and there is inadequate infrastructure in Brazil to permit the importation of large quantities of ethylene or propylene, our Vinyls Unit is highly dependent on ethylene that is supplied by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. For a description of the pricing of ethylene purchased by our Vinyls Unit from our Basic Petrochemicals Unit, see Basic Petrochemicals Unit Sales and Marketing of Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit.

Electric Power

Electric power is a significant cost component in our production of chlorine and caustic soda. In 2003, electric power accounted for 69.0% of our Vinyls Unit's cost of caustic soda sales, as compared to 45.0% in 2002 and 43.0% in 2001, and 22.4% of our Vinyls Unit's cost of sales, as compared to 18.8% in 2002 and 16.0% in 2001.

Our Vinyls Unit obtains its electric power requirements from various generators under long-term power purchase agreements. Our caustic soda plants at Camaçari and Alagoas and our PVC plant at Camaçari purchase their electric power requirements from CHESF. Companhia Energética de Alagoas S.A. distributes electric power to our PVC plant in Alagoas. Our São Paulo plant obtains its electric power from Eletropaulo Metropolitana-Eletricidade de São Paulo S.A. The power purchase agreements are renewable contracts with automatic rolling three-year extensions. The agreements provide us with the option to purchase our total electric power requirements based on an annual estimate. The price terms of

Table of Contents

the contracts are based upon tariffs regulated by the Brazilian National Electrical Energy Agency (*Agência Nacional de Energia Elétrica*).

Salt

We used approximately 700,000 tons of salt during 2003 in our production of chlorine and caustic soda. Salt accounted for 3.4% of our variable costs of caustic soda sales in 2003, compared to 3.4% in 2002 and 3.7% in 2001, and 1.1% of our Vinyls Unit's total cost of sales, compared to 1.1% in 2002 and 1.5% in 2001. We have exclusive salt exploration rights at a salt mine located near our Alagoas plant. We estimate that the salt reserves of this mine are sufficient to allow us to produce chlorine, with which we produce EDC, at expected rates of production for approximately 40 to 50 years. During 2003, we drilled three new salt extraction wells at this mine, helping to ensure continued sufficient salt supplies. We enjoy significant cost advantages when compared to certain of our competitors due to low extraction costs of rock salt (particularly as compared to sea salt), low transportation costs due to the proximity of the salt mine to our production facility and the higher purity of rock salt as compared to sea salt.

Other Utilities

All of our Vinyls Unit's facilities in the Northeastern Complex are supplied with other required basic utilities, including steam, purified and demineralized water, compressed air and nitrogen, by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. Most basic utilities are supplied to our Alagoas PVC plant by Companhia Alagoas Industrial, which is owned by the companies operating in the Alagoas complex, including our company. We supply certain other basic utilities to our Alagoas PVC. Our chlorine and caustic soda plants in Alagoas supply their own utilities requirements. Our São Paulo plant supplies its own utility requirements.

Technology of Our Vinyls Unit

We have entered into several agreements with a number of leading petrochemical companies to use technology for our Vinyls Unit. We no longer pay royalties for any of the technology licensed to us, and these licenses are perpetual. Our vinyls production processes are not dependent on any other licenses or patents from third parties.

We also own 11 patents and six trademarks in Brazil related to our PVC production. Our plant in the Northeastern Complex uses mercury cell technology to produce chlorine, which technology can no longer be used in new petrochemical production facilities under recent Brazilian legislation due in part to environmental concerns regarding mercury emissions resulting from this manufacturing process. The Brazilian government may require us to shift to newer diaphragm technology, which we use in our Alagoas plant, or membrane technology. We have not shifted to these newer technologies yet, in part because the return from the capital expenditures associated with this shift would not be as high as those from other potential investments.

Center for Technology and Innovation

Our Vinyls Unit also maintains a center for technology and innovation in São Paulo. This center employs five product engineers and five technicians specializing in plastics, who render support services to our customers, develop applications for PVC and train our customers personnel. This center has developed new applications for PVC in Brazil, including vertical blinds, coatings for industrial PVC pipes and resins used in automotive parts and in the manufacture of doors, windows and other building components.

Sales and Marketing of Our Vinyls Unit

Net sales to our 10 largest Vinyls Unit customers accounted for approximately 48% of our Vinyls Unit's total net sales revenue during 2003. No customer accounted for more than 12% of the total net sales revenue of our Vinyls Unit during 2003, 2002 or 2001. One customer accounted for 73.0% of our total external EDC sales in 2003, compared to 89.6% in 2002 and 89.2% in 2001, and our largest caustic

Table of Contents

soda customer accounted for 13.4% of total caustic soda sales in 2003, compared to 5.2% in 2002 and 6.1% in 2001.

There is a structural link between the PVC and caustic soda markets that exists because caustic soda is a by-product of the production of chlorine required to produce PVC. When demand for PVC is high, then greater amounts of caustic soda are produced, leading to an increase in supply and generally lower prices for caustic soda. Conversely, when demand for PVC is low, prices for caustic soda tend to rise.

Domestic Sales

In 2003, our Vinyls Unit had domestic net sales revenue of R\$1,168.1 million, which accounted for 85.2% of our Vinyls Unit net sales revenue. In 2003, 70.0% of domestic net sales revenue was attributable to sales of PVC, 24.9% was attributable to sales of caustic soda and 5.1% was attributable to sales of other products.

We make most of our domestic sales of PVC and caustic soda directly to customers without the use of third party distributors. However, our Vinyls Unit maintains contractual relationships with three distribution centers located in Paulínea and Itapevi, both in the State of São Paulo, and Joinville in the State of Santa Catarina that provide logistical support. In addition, we operate three warehouse facilities for PVC and six terminal tank facilities for caustic soda strategically located along the Brazilian coast to enable us to deliver our products to our customers on a just-in-time basis. Our Vinyls Unit develops its business through close collaboration with its customers, working together to improve existing products as well as to develop new applications for PVC. Our marketing and technical assistance groups also advise customers and potential customers that are considering the installation of manufacturing equipment for PVC end products.

Export Sales

In 2003, our Vinyls Unit had export net sales revenue of R\$203.7 million, which accounted for 14.8% of our Vinyls Unit's total net sales revenue. We do not export chlorine and did not export caustic soda in 2003. Our export sales of PVC and EDC vary from year to year, influenced principally by domestic market demand.

In addition, we have an ongoing obligation to export PVC and EDC under a supply agreement with Nissho Iwai, which exports accounted for 64.9% of our total export sales PVC and EDC during 2003, compared to 78.5% during 2002 and 79.6% during 2001. Under this supply agreement, we have agreed to supply, and Nissho Iwai has agreed to purchase, minimum annual volumes of PVC, which increase from 21,000 to 24,000 tons during this agreement's term, and minimum annual volumes of EDC, which decline from 160,000 to 100,000 tons. The export receivables generated under this supply agreement are security for an export prepayment facility that we have entered into. Any PVC, EDC or caustic soda that is made available by our Vinyls Unit for export in excess of these contractual minimums, up to certain maximum amounts, must first be offered to Nissho Iwai. Our supply agreement with Nissho Iwai expires on May 1, 2004, but it will be automatically extended for additional one-year periods unless either party gives notice to the other that it does not wish to extend this agreement.

We use a variety of methods to distribute our exports, depending generally on the total size of the export market, including direct sales, independent distributors, negotiations conducted through trading companies and sales on the spot market.

We exported 13.9% of our PVC sales volume in 2003. Our export sales of PVC are focused principally on the Mercosul and Southeast Asian markets and to a lesser extent on the United States and Europe.

Prices and Sales Terms

We determine the domestic prices for our PVC resins with reference principally to the prices paid by third generation producers in Brazil for imports of PVC plus additional service charges. Our export price

Table of Contents

for PVC is generally equal to the international market price but also takes transportation costs into account. In addition to price, delivery, quality and technical service also affect the levels of sales of PVC resins. We establish our domestic price for caustic soda based on international market prices and domestic market prices charged by our three domestic competitors, taking into account any import duties and freight costs. Approximately 65% of our caustic soda sales are effected pursuant to agreements that are generally for one- to three-year terms and may include floor and ceiling prices. As with PVC, our export prices for caustic soda and EDC are generally determined according to international market prices but also take import duties and freight costs into account.

Prices that we charge for our vinyls products in the Brazilian market are traditionally higher than the prices that we obtain for our exports of these products. The difference in prices between the Brazilian and export markets results generally from:

transportation costs;

tariffs, duties and other trade barriers;

a pricing premium reflecting the tighter demand/supply relationship in Brazil; and

our reliability of supply, coupled with the technical support that we provide.

Our customers in Brazil may pay in full on delivery or elect credit terms that require payment in full within seven to 90 days following delivery. We charge interest to our Brazilian customers that elect longer payment options based on prevailing market rates. Sales terms for exports generally require payment between 90 and 120 days following delivery. We usually require irrevocable letters of credit for export sales made on the spot market.

Competition

PVC

We and Solvay are the only two producers of PVC in Brazil. Solvay's total Brazilian installed annual production capacity is 236,000 tons, compared to our annual production capacity of 475,000 tons. Solvay's two production facilities are located in São Paulo and, therefore, are closer than our facilities to the primary PVC market in Brazil. However, we believe that our vertical production capabilities, our modern PVC suspension plants, our strong customer service and our technical assistance programs enable us to compete effectively with Solvay.

We also compete with importers of PVC. Approximately 13% of Brazil's total PVC consumption in 2003 was imported, compared to approximately 20% in 2002 and approximately 21% in 2001. Domestically produced PVC is currently competitively priced with imported PVC after taking into account transportation costs and import duties. Solvay, which has an additional plant in Argentina, is also our principal competitor in the PVC market both in Brazil and elsewhere in South America.

We also compete with other producers of thermoplastics that manufacture the same line of vinyls products or products that compete with our vinyls product line. Thermoplastics principally consist of polyethylene and polypropylene and are used in certain applications as substitutes for PVC. Wood, glass and metals also are used in some cases as substitutes for PVC.

Other Products

The four largest Brazilian producers of caustic soda account for approximately 92% of Brazilian production. We estimate that our Vinyls Unit's share of this total production was approximately 38% in each of 2003, 2002 and 2001. Our company and Dow Chemical operate in this market throughout Brazil, while the other domestic producers of caustic soda generally operate on a local or regional basis. In 2003, approximately 34% of Brazil's total caustic soda consumption was imported, compared to approximately 30% in 2002 and approximately 25% in 2001. We do not believe that imports of caustic soda will increase

Table of Contents

substantially because of the high cost of transporting caustic soda, which is usually sold in suspension form. In the caustic soda market, we compete mainly on the basis of price and timeliness of delivery.

Our principal competitors in the caustic soda market elsewhere in South America are Dow Chemical, Solvay and producers located on the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Business Development Unit

Our Business Development Unit accounted for R\$455.3 million, or 4.6%, of the net sales revenue of all segments in 2003. Our Business Development Unit is comprised principally of the operations historically conducted by Proppet and Nitrocarbono prior to their mergers with us.

Our Business Development Unit produces PET resin, DMT, caprolactam, cyclohexane, cyclohexanone and ammonium sulfate. Our Business Development Unit also manages certain of our minority equity investments, principally our investments in Petroflex and Cetrel, and manages certain of our ventures in the energy and environmental areas. In 2003, 37.8% of our Business Development Unit's net sales revenue was derived from the sale of PET products and 45.9% was derived from the sale of caprolactam.

In 2003, we estimate that we had an approximate 13% share of the Brazilian PET market and an approximate 91% share of the caprolactam market, based on sales volumes. PET is used in manufacturing packaging for soft drinks, medications, cleaning products, mineral water and food products, and caprolactam is used in manufacturing Nylon-6 textile thread. We also produce DMT for use in PET production, ammonium sulfate for use as a fertilizer, and cyclohexane and cyclohexanone, both for use in paint solvents, pesticides, natural resins, oils and rubber. Our Business Development Unit conducts its manufacturing operations in two plants located in the Northeastern Complex.

Products of Our Business Development Unit

The following table sets forth a breakdown of the sales volume and net sales revenue of our Business Development Unit by product and by market for the years indicated.

	Year Ended December 31,								
	2003			2002			2001		
	Quantities Sold	Net Sales Revenue		Quantities Sold	Net Sales Revenue		Quantities Sold	Net Sales Revenue	
	(thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)	(thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)	(thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)
Domestic Sales:									
PET	55.1	R\$ 168.3	37.0%	59.8	R\$ 152.5	52.4%	24.1	R\$ 66.2	90.9%
Caprolactam	42.5	180.1	39.6	15.1	67.9	23.3			
Ammonium sulfate	96.9	29.7	6.5	41.0	10.8	3.7			
Others	15.0	42.9	9.4	16.8	39.5	13.7	4.7	6.6	9.0
Total domestic sales	209.5	R\$ 421.0	92.5	132.7	270.7	93.1	28.8	72.7	100
Total exports	9.1	34.3	7.5	5.2	20.1	6.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total net sales	218.6	R\$ 455.3	100%	137.9	R\$ 290.8	100%	28.8	R\$ 72.7	100%
% of total net sales revenue of all segments			4.6%			4.0%			1.1%

Caprolactam is a raw material (monomer) that forms the basis for the production of Nylon-6 fibers, engineering resins and film, and is a structural material in the motor and electronics industry. PET is one of the most widely used polymers in industry today and is used to make most plastic bottles, containers and textile fibers.

Table of Contents***Production Facilities of Our Business Development Unit***

Our Business Development Unit operates two plants at the Northeastern Complex. At December 31, 2003, our Business Development Unit plants had a total annual production capacity of 70,000 tons of PET and 62,000 tons of caprolactam.

The table below sets forth the location, primary products, annual production capacity at December 31, 2003, and annual production for the years presented for each of our Business Development Unit plants.

Location (Complex)	Main Products	Annual Production Capacity	Production Year Ended December 31,		
			2003	2002	2001
		(in tons)		(in tons)	
Camaçari (Northeastern)	PET	70,000	56,288	59,031	25,237
	DMT	80,000	63,369	76,899	31,094
Camaçari (Northeastern)	Caprolactam	62,000	48,850	19,699	
	Cyclohexane	72,000	63,712	24,403	
	Cyclohexanone	55,000	47,813	18,637	
	Ammonium sulfate	114,000	97,157	37,723	

Raw Materials of Our Business Development Unit

The most significant direct cost associated with the production of caprolactam is the cost of benzene, which accounted for approximately 39% of our Business Development Unit's variable caprolactam production costs in 2003. All of the benzene that we use in producing caprolactam is supplied by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit.

The most significant direct cost associated with our production of PET is the cost of para-xylene, which accounted for approximately 46% of our Business Development Unit's variable PET production costs in 2003, as compared to 47% in 2002 and 12% in 2001. All of the para-xylene that we use in producing PET is supplied by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit.

Technology of Our Business Development Unit

We have entered into several agreements with a number of leading petrochemical companies to use technology for our Business Development Unit. We no longer pay royalties under these agreements, and these licenses are perpetual.

Sales and Marketing of Business Development Unit

Our Business Development Unit sells its products primarily in northeastern Brazil, mainly to third generation petrochemical producers located in the Northeastern Complex. We determine the prices for the products of our Business Development Unit with reference to several market factors that include the prices paid by third generation producers for imports of these products and prevailing market prices in Brazil.

Our Business Development Unit sells its products to a highly concentrated customer base. Five customers accounted for approximately 70% of our total PET sales during the year ended December 31, 2003. Our Business Development Unit's caprolactam customer base is even more

concentrated, as one customer accounted for approximately 66% of our total caprolactam sales during the year ended December 31, 2003.

Competition

We are the only manufacturer of caprolactam in the Mercosul market. Imports of caprolactam represented only 29% of domestic consumption in 2003. Although there is a caprolactam plant in Colombia that is focused on the fertilizers market, it does not pose a significant competitive threat to our company's caprolactam sales.

Table of Contents

There are two other producers of PET in Brazil: Rhodia-ster S.A., or Rhodia-ster (a subsidiary of Mossi & Ghisolfi Group); and Vicunha Têxtil S.A., or Vicunha Têxtil. In 2003, Rhodia-ster had annual production capacity of 290,000 tons and Vicunha Têxtil had 10,000 tons, as compared to our annual production capacity of 70,000 tons. We also compete with importers of PET. Approximately 40% of Brazil's total PET consumption in 2003 was imported as compared to approximately 35% in 2002 and 38% in 2001. Although international producers of PET have greater economies of scales than our company, we are able to compete with these producers due to the high transportation costs and import duties applicable to PET imports. Our PET production is aimed principally at the bottled water segment of the PET market, and we believe that our quality products will continue to remain competitive in the Brazilian PET market.

Petroflex

Our Business Development Unit also manages certain of our minority equity investments, including our investment in Petroflex.

At December 31, 2003, we owned 20.1% of the total and voting share capital of Petroflex, a producer of synthetic rubber. We account for our interest in Petroflex in our Brazilian GAAP financial statements using the equity method. Petroflex is the leading producer of synthetic rubber in Latin America and produces approximately 370,000 tons of more than 50 types of elastomers per year. Petroflex operates three plants in Brazil located in Duque de Caxias, Rio de Janeiro; Cabo, Pernambuco; and Triunfo, Rio Grande do Sul. Petroflex sells its products to customers in approximately 60 countries throughout the world. Petroflex purchases butadiene from us from which it produces styrene-butadiene, polybutadiene, liquid hydroxylated polybutadiene and other elastomers.

Petroflex was formed in 1976 with Petroquisa as its majority shareholder. In 1992, as part of the Brazilian government's efforts to privatize the Brazilian petrochemical industry, Petroquisa auctioned a portion of its equity interest in Petroflex to private investors. At December 31, 2003, we and Suzano Química Ltda. each owned 20.1% of the voting and total share capital of Petroflex, Resitec Indústria Química Ltda. owned 12.9% of Petroflex's voting share capital and Unipar União de Indústrias Petroquímicas S.A. owned 9.8% of Petroflex's voting share capital.

The main customers of Petroflex are manufacturers of tires, shoes, adhesives and sealants. The major raw materials used in Petroflex's production process are butadiene and styrene. Petroflex purchases part of its raw materials requirements from our company. Due to high naphtha prices in 2003, the price of butadiene increased by 52% in the international market and the price of styrene increased by 32%. However, the recovery of rubber prices in *reais*, due to increases in international prices and the devaluation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar, allowed Petroflex to pass on these increased costs to its customers.

In 2003, Petroflex's net income was R\$60.3 million, compared to net income of R\$30.4 million in 2002 and R\$10.9 million in 2001.

Jointly Controlled Companies***Copesul***

At December 31, 2003, we owned 29.5% of the voting and total share capital of Copesul, the cracker based in the Southern Complex, as a result of our merger with OPP Produtos. We account for our interest in Copesul in our Brazilian GAAP financial statements using the proportional consolidation method.

Copesul is the second largest petrochemical cracker in Brazil based on production capacity, with approximately 39% of Brazilian production capacity of ethylene. It provides petrochemical feedstocks to second generation petrochemical producers located in the Southern Complex, including our Polyolefins Unit's plants located there. Copesul's manufacturing operations in the Southern Complex and the products that it produces are similar to the products of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit.

Table of Contents

Copesul's annual ethylene production capacity is 1,135,000 tons, the equivalent of approximately 39% of Brazilian total production capacity for this raw material, and its annual propylene production capacity is 581,000 tons. In 2003, Copesul produced 1,081 thousand tons of ethylene and 569,000 tons of propylene.

Copesul was formed in 1976 with Petroquisa as its majority shareholder and commenced operations in 1982. In May 1992, as part of the Brazilian government's efforts to privatize the Brazilian petrochemical industry, Petroquisa auctioned a portion of its interest in Copesul to private investors. At December 31, 2003, a consortium, including the Odebrecht Group and Ipiranga and its affiliates, owned 58.9% of the total share capital of Copesul. Petroquisa continued to own 15.6% of the total share capital of Copesul.

The main customers of Copesul are the second generation petrochemical producers located in the Southern Complex. Copesul has long-term supply contracts with its major customers, including our Polyolefins Unit.

In 2003, Copesul's net income on a consolidated basis was R\$149.9 million, compared to a net loss of R\$32.1 million in 2002 and a net loss of R\$12.6 million in 2001, in each case as adjusted to conform to our accounting policies. Copesul's net sales revenue on a consolidated basis was R\$4,177.9 million in 2003, R\$2,932.8 million in 2002 and R\$936.2 million in 2001, in each case as adjusted to conform to our accounting policies.

Politeno

At December 31, 2003, we owned 33.9% of the Politeno's total share capital, including 35.0% of its voting share capital. Politeno is a second generation petrochemical producer operating in the Northeastern Complex. We account for our interest in Politeno in our Brazilian GAAP financial statements using the proportional consolidation method.

Politeno produces polyethylenes, which are widely used in the flexible and rigid packaging industries. Politeno produces low, medium and HDPE, LLDPE, linear medium density polyethylene, ethyl vinyl acetate copolymer and other special resins.

The production facility of Politeno is comprised of two industrial plants, a LDPE facility and an linear polyethylene facility. The LDPE facility produces LDPE and ethyl vinyl acetate copolymer, with an annual production capacity of 145,000 tons. The linear polyethylene facility produces LLDPE and HDPE and has an annual production capacity of 195,000 tons.

The principal raw materials used in Politeno's production processes are ethylene and propylene, which are primarily supplied by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. Politeno also uses butadiene, benzene, toluene and xylene.

Politeno's principal customers are third generation petrochemical producers.

In 2003, Politeno's net income was R\$67.2 million, compared to net income of R\$45.6 million in 2002 and R\$47.2 million in 2001. Politeno's net sales revenue was R\$943.9 million in 2003, R\$733.6 million in 2002 and R\$983.9 million in 2001.

Environment

Environmental Regulation

We are subject to Brazilian federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the discharge of effluents and emissions into the environment and the handling and disposal of industrial waste and otherwise relating to the protection of the environment.

Under federal and state environmental laws and regulations, we are required to obtain operating permits for our manufacturing facilities. State authorities in the State of Bahia issued operating permits for our plants in the Northeastern Complex in 2000, which permits must be renewed in 2005 and every five years thereafter. Our environmental operating permit obligates us to engage in systematic measures for the treatment of wastewater and hazardous solid waste. State authorities in the State of Rio Grande do Sul,

Table of Contents

where our Southern Complex plants are located, regulate our operations by prescribing specific environmental standards in our operating permits, which must be renewed annually. State authorities in the States of Alagoas and São Paulo have issued permits for our plants in those respective complexes, which must be renewed every four years. If any of our environmental licenses and permits lapse or are not renewed or if we fail to obtain any required environmental licenses and permits, we may be subject to fines ranging from R\$500 to R\$10.0 million, and the Brazilian government may partially or totally suspend our activities and impose civil and criminal sanctions on our company or both. All our environmental licenses and permits are in full force and effect.

All projects for the installation and operation of industrial facilities in the Northeastern Complex are subject to approval by the Council for Environmental Protection of the State of Bahia. The State's Environmental Protection Council's technical office, the Environmental Resources Center, conducts an analysis of each project and enforces the State of Bahia's laws on environmental protection. The State's Research and Development Center and other outside consultants act as technical advisors to the Environmental Resources Center. The State's Environmental Protection Council must approve installed projects prior to their commencement of operations and must renew such approval every five years thereafter. In 2000, the State's Environmental Protection Council issued an authorization to our company for the construction of new pipelines between the Port of Aratú and our plant for the transportation of raw materials. This authorization required us to adopt measures to prevent and detect leaks and spillages.

The Brazilian government enacted an Environmental Crimes Law in 1998 that imposes criminal penalties on corporations and individuals causing environmental damage. Corporations found to be polluting can be fined up to R\$50 million, have their operations suspended, be prohibited from government contracting, be required to repair damage that they cause and lose certain tax benefits and incentives. Executive officers, directors and other individuals may be imprisoned for up to five years for environmental violations.

Cetrel treats wastewater generated by our company and the other petrochemical producers at the Northeastern Complex at a liquid effluents treatment station located in the Northeastern Complex. This treatment station also includes a system for the collection and disposal of wastewater contaminated with inorganic waste. Cetrel also stores and incinerates, treats and disposes of hazardous solid waste. For other kinds of solid waste, Cetrel maintains a landfill. In 1998, Cetrel installed of a hazardous solid waste incinerator with an annual incineration capacity of 4,400 tons. Another Brazilian company co-processes hazardous solid waste in a cement kiln located in the city of Pedro Leopoldo, State of Minas Gerais.

In January 1996, Cetrel obtained its BS 7750 environmental certification (British Standard) and in September 1996 became one of the first companies in the world to receive the ISO 14001 certification, an international standard for environmental control. In 1998, Cetrel obtained certification of its laboratory by the ISO Guide 25 standards system from the Brazilian Institute of Metrology and Industrial Quality.

We believe our operations are in compliance in all material respects with applicable environmental laws and regulations currently in effect. From time to time, environmental studies that we have commissioned have indicated instances of environmental contamination and atmospheric emissions at certain of our plants. In addition, we and certain of our subsidiaries and executive officers of our subsidiaries have received notices from time to time of environmental violations and are or have been subject to investigations or legal proceedings with respect to certain alleged environmental violations. These environmental issues, and any future environmental issues that may arise, could subject us to fines or other civil or criminal penalties imposed by Brazilian authorities. We are addressing all environmental issues of which we are aware, and we believe that none of these issues will have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or operations.

Our environmental compliance costs are likely to increase as a result of the projected increase in our production capacity, as well as due to future environmental regulations.

Table of Contents

Our environmental compliance in 2003 included the following results:

no significant environmental accidents in 2003; and

no fines were levied on any of our plants by state environmental authorities during 2003.

In September 2002, we created a Health, Safety and Environment Committee, composed of leaders of each of our business units and other members of our management. This committee supports and monitors our environmental, health and safety efforts. In February 2003, our board of directors approved a comprehensive health, safety and environment policy.

Safety and Quality Control*Safety*

We have adopted a policy that makes all of our officers, directors and employees responsible for the safety of our workers.

We participate in the Responsible Care program, which establishes international standards for environmental, occupational health and safety practices for chemical manufacturers. Through our participation in this program, we adopted policies and procedures that require us to follow detailed instructions in matters of health, safety and the environment. We seek to maintain these environmental standards and have qualified each of our plants for NBR-ISO 9001 and 14001 certification, which includes internationally prescribed environmental management practices.

We are currently seeking OHSAS 18000 certification for environmental, health and safety compliance for all of our plants.

Our safety record ranks above the average of companies in the Brazilian chemical industry. The following table illustrates our progress in terms of our safety record and compares our safety record to the average for the Brazilian chemical industry:

Safety Indicator	Year Ended December 31,		
	2003	2002	2002(1)
	Braskem		Brazilian Chemical Industry Average
Index of Accident Frequency (accidents/200,000 man-hours)	0.6	1.1	3.0
Index of Severity (lost and deducted days/200,000 man-hours)	5.0	17.0	70.1

(1) Brazilian petrochemical industry average of the members of the Brazilian Association of Chemical Industry and Derivative Products for 2002.

Source: Brazilian Association of Chemical Industry and Derivative Products.

Our safety record in 2003 included the following results:

a 60% reduction in our rate of accidents causing injuries and requiring a worker to be absent from work;

a 49% reduction in our rate of personal accidents of all types, compared to 2002;

eight of our 13 units had no accidents causing injuries requiring a worker to be absent from work during 2003; and

our total cost of accidents was approximately 52% lower in 2003 than in 2002.

The Northeastern Complex is equipped with a comprehensive firefighting safety system. Water is available from a 200,000 cubic meter artificial lake, connected to the companies in the Northeastern Complex by a pumping station and a distribution network and built according to international safety standards. We and the other companies in the Northeastern Complex maintain emergency equipment and trained safety crews. The safety plan for the Northeastern Complex provides for firefighting brigades of all

Table of Contents

companies in the complex to jointly assist in the event of any major accidents. The Northeastern Complex has safety standards for construction density and the design of pipelines and highways. Similar systems are employed at the Southern Complex, our plant in the State of Alagoas and our plant in the State of São Paulo (except with respect to safety standards for construction density and design of pipelines and highways, as we do not have such facilities in São Paulo).

Quality Control

Our quality control management uses the following international norms and regulations as its base:

ISO 9001/00, an internationally recognized quality control standard, and ISO 14,001, an internationally recognized environmental control standard;

OHSAS 18,000, a health and safety standard issued by the department of health in the United Kingdom;

standards issued by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration; and

Responsible Care standards implemented by the American Chemistry Council.

We have instituted systematic improvement processes in our operational areas, focusing on integrating production, maintenance, inventory management, customer satisfaction and profitability.

ISO Certifications

We have obtained ISO 9001 certifications for all of our products. We have also has obtained ISO 14001 certifications for all of our products.

These certifications take into account both the quality of our products and the quality of our operating procedures. We are currently seeking ISO 14001 certification for 12 of our 14 plants in respect of our environmental management systems.

Maintenance

Most of our maintenance is performed by third party service providers. For example, we have contracts with Asea Brown Boveri Ltd. and other service providers to perform maintenance for our Basic Petrochemicals Unit and our Business Development Unit. We also perform some of our ordinary course maintenance with our small team of maintenance technicians, which also coordinate the planning and execution of maintenance services performed by third parties.

Because we have two independent Olefins units and two independent Aromatics units, we may continue production of basic petrochemicals without interruption, even while we perform certain maintenance services. In addition, we occasionally undertake other brief stoppages of our operations that do not materially affect our production output, primarily for maintenance purposes, catalyst regeneration and equipment cleaning.

Regular basic petrochemicals plant maintenance requires complete plant shutdowns from time to time, and these shutdowns usually take approximately 30 days to complete. Since commencing operations in July 1978, our largest basic petrochemicals plant (Olefins 1) has undergone seven scheduled major maintenance services as part of our regular maintenance activities. The last general maintenance shutdown of our Olefins 1 unit was carried out in July and August 2001 and lasted for 25 days. This shutdown permitted inspection and maintenance of this unit, which had been operational for almost five years without a shutdown. This shutdown was intended to improve the plant's efficiency and production capacity. The cost of servicing the unit at this time was approximately US\$15 million (not including the value of lost production during this shutdown). The next general shutdown of our Olefins 1 unit has been scheduled for 2008 with an estimated duration of approximately 35 days.

In 2002, we also shut down our Olefins 1 unit for 92 days in order to increase its production capacity and to modernize and upgrade its technology. This shutdown reduced our Basic Petrochemical Unit's

Table of Contents

ethylene and propylene production in 2002. The cost of these improvements to this Unit was approximately US\$61 million (not including lost production).

The last general shutdown of our Olefins 2 unit was carried out in February 2004 and lasted 34 days. This shutdown permitted inspection and maintenance of this unit, which had been operational for almost seven years without a shutdown. This shutdown was intended to improve the plants efficiency and production capacity. The cost of servicing this unit was US\$20.0 million (not including the value of lost production during this shutdown). The next general shutdown of our Olefins 2 Unit has been scheduled for 2009 with an estimated duration of approximately 35 days.

We also have a regular maintenance program for each of our polyolefins plants. Production at each of our polyolefins plants generally is shut down for 15 to 30 days every two years to allow for regular inspection and maintenance. In addition, we occasionally undertake other brief stoppages for maintenance purposes that do not materially affect our production of polyolefins. We coordinate the maintenance cycles of our polyolefins plants with those of our basic petrochemicals plants. While our basic petrochemicals facilities must be shut down for up to 30 days for maintenance, our polyolefins facilities may be shut down for shorter periods because these facilities are less complex to operate and maintain than our basic petrochemicals facilities.

We also have a regular maintenance program for each of our vinyls plants. Our Camaçari and Alagoas PVC plants are generally shut down for 20 days every two years to allow for regular inspection and maintenance. Our São Paulo plant generally shuts down for five days of maintenance each year. Our caustic soda and chlorine plants generally shut down for 15 days of maintenance every two years.

Regular maintenance of our Business Development Unit plants usually requires plant shutdowns every two years that take approximately 20 days to complete. The last general maintenance shutdown of our caprolactam plant was carried out in March 2003 and lasted 20 days. During this maintenance shutdown, we also changed certain production equipment caprolactam, which (together with other measures that we have adopted) we anticipate will extend the periods between general maintenance shut downs of this plant from two to three years. The cost of the last maintenance shutdown was US\$2.5 million (not including lost production value). The last general maintenance shutdown of our Business Development Unit's DMT and PET plant was carried out in June 2003. The cost was US\$2.0 million (not including lost production value). During this maintenance shutdown, we successfully upgraded the PET plant's reactor, resulting in resin quality improvements as well as increasing the plant's annual production capacity from 60,000 tons to 70,000 tons.

Antitrust Matters

Under Brazilian Law No. 8,884/94, any transaction that results in a concentration of market share equal to or greater than 20.0% of any relevant market or that involves any company or group of companies with annual gross sales of R\$400.0 million or more must be submitted to and approved by the Brazilian antitrust authorities, which consist of three entities:

the Administrative Council for Economic Defense (*Conselho Administrativo de Defesa Econômica*), or CADE, an independent agency consisting of a president and six members;

the Economic Law Office of the Ministry of Justice (*Secretaria de Direito Econômico*), or SDE; and

the Economic Monitoring Office of the Ministry of Finance (*Secretaria de Acompanhamento Econômico*), or SEAE.

CADE is the antitrust authority responsible for reviewing and authorizing transactions that may lead to economic concentration. SEAE and SDE analyze the economic and legal implications of mergers and acquisitions under Brazilian antitrust law. As part of the antitrust review process, SDE, SEAE, the attorney general of CADE and the Brazilian federal public prosecutor each render preliminary opinions, which are delivered to the members of CADE. The members of CADE then render a final decision.

Table of Contents

As part of our corporate reorganization process that began in 2001, we merged with each of OPP Química, Trikem, Proppet and Nitrocarbano and we acquired Polialden as described in History and Corporate Reorganization. We closed these transactions, as permitted by Brazilian law, subject to the final approval of the Brazilian antitrust authorities. We submitted the terms and conditions of these transactions to the Brazilian antitrust authorities on September 18, 2001. We supplemented our submission to the antitrust authorities after September 2001 in order to update these authorities with respect to, among other transactions, our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações, Nitrocarbano and Trikem. These antitrust authorities will determine whether any of the transactions in our corporate reorganization process adversely impact competitive conditions in the Brazilian markets in which we compete or whether they would negatively affect consumers in these markets. Favorable non-binding opinions recommending the unconditional approval of our acquisition of Nova Camaçari and the subsequent steps in our reorganization, including our mergers with OPP Produtos, 52114 Participações, Nitrocarbano and Trikem, were issued by the SDE in July 2002 and the SEAE in May 2003. In addition, the attorney general of CADE in November 2003 and the Brazilian federal public prosecutor in February 2004 issued opinions approving these transactions. CADE is still reviewing these transactions and may disagree with those opinions and may impose conditions on our company. Any adverse decision by CADE could result in a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

Employees

The following table sets forth the number of our employees by main category of activity and location, giving effect to our acquisition of Nova Camaçari on July 25, 2001 and our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações on August 16, 2002.

Main Category of Activity	At December 31,	
	2003(1)	2002(2)
Coordinators and operators	1,494	1,474
Engineers and other professionals	491	440
Administrative and support	273	332
Technicians	223	211
Maintenance	206	212
Managers and directors	181	149
Total(3)	2,868	2,818

- (1) At December 31, 2003, 1,754 employees worked in the State of Bahia, 377 employees worked in the State of Alagoas, 372 employees worked in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, 341 employees worked in the State of São Paulo and 24 employees worked in other states in Brazil.
- (2) At December 31, 2002, 1,749 employees worked in the State of Bahia, 361 employees worked in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, 360 employees worked in the State of Alagoas, 323 employees worked in the State of São Paulo and 25 employees worked in other states in Brazil.
- (3) Our total number of employees at December 31, 2001 was 1,424. Information regarding the main category of activity and location of our employees at December 31, 2001 is not available.

In Brazil, both employees and employers have the right to organize unions. Employees belonging to a specific professional category and employers constituting a specific economic category may each be represented by a single union in a particular geographic area. Individual unions generally belong to state-wide union federations, which in turn belong to nationwide union confederations. We are a member of the Petrochemicals and Synthetic Resins Industries Union of the States of Bahia, Alagoas and Rio Grande do Sul, and our employees belong to the Petrochemicals Industries Workers Unions in each of these states.

Approximately 35% of our non-management employees were union members at December 31, 2003. We believe that we have good ongoing relations with our employees and their unions. We have not experienced a strike since OPP Química was privatized in 1992 and Trikem was privatized in 1995. The

Table of Contents

current collective bargaining agreements with our unions have one-year terms and are subject to annual renegotiation. We have traditionally applied the terms of bargaining agreements entered into with the unions equally to unionized and non-unionized employees.

Since coming under the control of the Odebrecht Group, we have adopted and applied the personnel management philosophy of the Odebrecht Group, which emphasizes a performance-related pay structure and a decentralized management structure. Employees in each of our business units participate in setting and achieving their business unit's annual objectives. As a result, employees in those business units that meet or exceed their goals share in our financial performance through performance-based employee compensation plans. During 2003, this program paid R\$27.3 million to 2,608 employees. We paid R\$4.8 million of this amount to our executive officers. The members of our board of directors do not participate in this program.

We seek to recruit top graduates from Brazilian technical schools and universities to work at each of our plants and offer career development training to employees to develop skills necessary to operate an internationally competitive, vertically integrated petrochemical company. We have invested in a series of training courses for our operating, laboratory and maintenance personnel through agreements with technical training organizations. During 2003, our total investment in education and training amounted to R\$4.1 million for 295,000 hours of training, representing an average of 102 hours per employee.

We tailor career development programs to each employee's individual needs and abilities. We established this program with our own resources and technology, and it has become a Brazilian benchmark in human resources practices. In 2003, 49.5% of our employees received salary increases as a result of their participation in our career development programs.

Our employees and their dependents receive medical and dental assistance through a network of accredited doctors. We pay most of the costs for these services, with a small portion being paid by our employees. A small monthly fee is also charged to our employees to pay for more costly medical services. In 2003, we spent R\$13.8 million on this assistance.

We pay part of the monthly payments made by our employees to three private pension funds: Odebrecht Pension Plan (*ODEPREV Odebrecht Previdência*); Petros and Previnor Pension Plan (*PREVINOR Associação de Previdência Privada*). The majority of our employees participate in these pension funds. These pension funds pay supplementary pension and retirement amounts similar in amount to those paid by the Brazilian government's pension system and are intended to provide their members with income on retirement. In 2003, we paid R\$9.1 million into these funds. The Odebrecht Pension Plan and the Previnor Pension Plan are defined contribution plans. The Petros plan is a defined benefit plan. The present value of our obligations under the Petros plan exceeded the value of the assets of that fund by R\$60.4 million at December 31, 2003 and R\$48.0 million at December 31, 2002. See note 26 to our consolidated financial statements.

Properties

Our properties consist primarily of petrochemical production facilities in Camaçari in the State of Bahia, in Maceió in the State of Alagoas, in Triunfo in the State of Rio Grande do Sul and in São Paulo in the State of São Paulo. Our principal executive offices are located in São Paulo in the State of São Paulo, and we have an administrative support office in the City of Rio de Janeiro. We also have equity interests in investments located in other parts of the country. We own all our production facilities, but we generally rent our administrative offices.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth our properties and the properties of our principal subsidiary by location of facilities, products produced and size of plant.

Name of Company	Type of Product	Location of Facilities	Size of Plant (in hectares (1))
Braskem	Basic petrochemicals	Camaçari	94.0
Braskem	Polyethylene	Triunfo	5.8
Braskem	Polypropylene	Triunfo	6.7
Polialden	Polyethylene	Camaçari	8.4
Braskem	PVC/caustic soda/chlorine	Camaçari	26.2
Braskem	Caustic soda/ EDC/chlorine	Maceió	10.9
Braskem	PVC	Marechal Deodoro	6.0
Braskem	PVC	Vila Prudente/ Capuava	2.1
Braskem	PET	Camaçari	3.8
Braskem	Caprolactam	Camaçari	4.8

(1) One hectare equals 10,000 square meters.

The descriptions of each of our business units above contain detailed charts showing the location, primary products, annual production capacity and historical annual production for each of our company's production facilities.

We believe that all of our production facilities are in good operating condition. At December 31, 2003, the consolidated net book value of our property, plant and equipment was R\$5,032.0 million. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, the net book value of our property, plant and equipment was R\$4,509.4 million.

Certain of our properties located in the Northeastern Complex (including our DMT and PET plants and all of the equipment located in these plants) and two of our polyolefins plants in the Southern Complex are mortgaged or pledged to secure certain of our financial transactions intended to generate working capital and funds for capital investments.

Insurance

We carry insurance for our plants against material damages and consequent business interruption through all risks policies with a total replacement value of US\$4.1 billion. Approximately 88% of our insurance coverage is written in the London insurance market. Our remaining insurance coverage is written in the Brazilian insurance market by large Brazilian insurance companies. Our existing all risks policies are in force until November 30, 2004 and are renewed annually.

The material damages insurance provides insurance coverage for losses due to material damages like fire and machinery breakdown. This coverage has a maximum indemnification limit of US\$1.87 billion (combined material damages and business interruption coverage) and has a deductible of US\$5.0 million. The business interruption coverage provides insurance for interruptions resulting from stoppages due to any material damage covered by the policy. This coverage is calculated to insure against losses up to US\$421 million due to stoppages extending beyond 60 days. The losses are covered until the plant and production are re-established, with maximum indemnity periods ranging from 12 to 24 months.

We also have a third party liability policy, which covers losses for damages caused to third parties from our operations, including sudden environmental pollution, up to a limit of US\$60.0 million per loss or occurrence.

In addition to these policies, we maintain other insurance policies for specific risks, including directors and officers liability coverage, marine and transport insurance, vehicles insurance and other kinds of coverages that are not covered by our all risks policies.

Table of Contents

We do not anticipate having any difficulties in renewing any of our insurance policies and believe that our insurance coverage is reasonable in amount and consistent with industry standards applicable to chemical companies operating in Brazil.

Legal Proceedings

Tax Proceedings

We are engaged in several legal proceedings with Brazilian tax authorities for which we have established provisions in an aggregate amount of R\$1,149.1 million at December 31, 2003. In addition, there are currently certain legal proceedings pending in which we are involved for which we have not established provisions. If any of these legal proceedings is decided adversely to us, our results of operations or financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

IPI

IPI Credits on Raw Materials Purchases. We pay IPI on industrial products that we manufacture. The regulations governing the IPI tax permit companies to offset their IPI tax obligations with the amount of IPI taxes paid by suppliers earlier in the production chain. The Brazilian federal tax authorities have asserted that the purchase of raw materials that are tax-exempt, non-taxable or taxed at a zero percent rate does not generate IPI tax credits. We believe that this interpretation is contrary to the Brazilian Constitution.

In July 2000, OPP Química filed suit requesting the acknowledgement of IPI tax credits for its purchases of raw materials from our company and Copesul. The Brazilian Federal Supreme Court held that OPP Química was entitled to IPI tax credits in an aggregate amount of R\$1,030.1 million for the ten-year period ended in 2002.

The Brazilian government has appealed the decision of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court. However, the appeal does not challenge the validity of IPI tax credits but questions the method used to calculate those credits. Based on the advice of our legal counsel, we believe that we will prevail in this appeal.

We used R\$630.5 million of the R\$1,030.1 million IPI tax credit to offset our federal tax liability during 2002 and 2003.

Trikem and Polialden filed similar suits. Based on favorable lower court decisions, Trikem has used R\$108.4 million in IPI tax credits to offset federal tax liabilities, and Polialden has used R\$78.8 million in IPI tax credits to offset federal tax liabilities. The Brazilian government has appealed all of these decisions to the Superior Court of Justice and/or the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court. Pending the resolution of these appeals and at December 31, 2003, Trikem has recorded a provision in the amount of R\$144.8 million, and Polialden has recorded a provision in the amount of R\$108.6 million. We have not recognized any assets or gains in relation to these claims.

In addition, we and our subsidiaries are involved in other similar suits, for which we have recorded total provisions in the amount of R\$53.6 million. We believe that we will prevail in each of these lawsuits in light of the recent Brazilian Federal Supreme Court decision in favor of OPP Química and precedents related to other companies. For further information on our accounting treatment of these IPI credits, see note 17 to our consolidated and combined financial statements.

IPI Export Credits. Brazilian Decree Law No. 491/69 provides a tax credit to exporters of manufactured products that may be used to offset other federal taxes and/or transferred to third parties. However, the Brazilian tax authorities issued a series of administrative rules that reduced, restricted and ultimately suspended the use of these credits. We believe that these administrative rules are unconstitutional. We and some of our subsidiaries filed suit against the Brazilian government challenging these administrative rules. At December 31, 2003, we have used a portion of these credits to offset other federal taxes and recorded a provision of R\$413.1 million because these suits remain pending.

Table of Contents

In one of these cases, the Regional Federal Court ruled against OPP Química, holding that it does not have the right to IPI export credits. OPP Química lost an appeal before the Superior Court of Justice, but its appeal before the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court remains pending. The Brazilian tax authorities have issued deficiency notices against us attempting to collect amounts offset using these credits. We lost administrative appeals in respect of these deficiency notices, but we have appealed to the taxpayers' council (an administrative appeal board). Based on recent Brazilian Federal Supreme Court jurisprudence and the advice of our legal counsel, we believe that we will prevail in all these judicial proceedings.

IPI Credits Arising from the Acquisition of Fixed Assets and Materials Not Used in Production. We are involved in suits against the Brazilian government seeking the acknowledgment of IPI credits arising from the acquisition of fixed assets and materials not used in our production. We lost one of these cases in the State of Alagoas and intend to appeal this decision to the Superior Court of Justice and the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court. The federal tax authorities have issued deficiency notices against us attempting to collect amounts offset using these credits. We appealed the issuance of these deficiency notices to the taxpayers' council. At December 31, 2003, we have used R\$31.9 million of these credits to offset other federal taxes and recorded a provision in an equal amount because these suits remain pending.

Social Contribution on Net Income

We and some of our subsidiaries, as well as many other Brazilian companies, filed suit challenging the constitutionality of the Social Contribution on Net Income. We received a final decision in our favor in 1992. However, in 1993, Brazilian tax authorities filed a rescission action (*ação rescisória*) against us seeking to overrule this decision on the basis of a ruling by the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court in an unrelated case that recognized the constitutionality of the Social Contribution on Net Income. The Brazilian tax authorities prevailed in their rescission action both in the first instance and on appeal. We filed further appeals in respect of this decision with the Superior Court of Justice and the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court, which appeals remain pending.

Brazilian tax authorities issued several deficiency notices against us and our subsidiaries attempting to collect Social Contribution on Net Income. We obtained suspensions of all deficiency notices we have received to date based on a Brazilian civil procedure provision that states that a rescission action may take effect only after the court publishes a final decision.

If we lose this suit and the Brazilian tax authorities demand that we pay Social Contribution on Net Income retroactively, our total estimated exposure would be R\$416.8 million, including interest. This amount does not include R\$226.1 million in penalties and interest on penalties, which we believe are not payable because we relied upon a judicial decision in not paying Social Contribution on Net Income. However, based upon the advice of our legal counsel, we believe that no Social Contribution on Net Income is payable for periods before the date the final decision is rendered in the rescission action.

We have not made any provision in our consolidated and combined financial statements for these contingencies.

PIS and COFINS

Prior to February 1999, PIS and COFINS were assessed on gross revenue, that is, revenue from sales of goods and services. In February 1999, the Brazilian government substantially broadened the concept of gross revenue to include other revenue. At the same time, the rate of COFINS increased from 2% to 3%. We believe that these changes are unconstitutional, and we and some of our subsidiaries have filed suit against the Brazilian government seeking to pay PIS and COFINS in accordance with the rules prevailing prior to February 1999.

We and some of our subsidiaries lost our suits challenging the change in the definition of gross revenue and have appealed these decisions to the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court. In spite of these unfavorable decisions, based on the advice of our legal counsel we believe that it is possible for us to prevail in these proceedings.

Table of Contents

We and some of our subsidiaries also lost suits challenging the increase in the COFINS tax rate and have appealed these decisions to the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court. Based on the advice of our external legal counsel and recent Brazilian Federal Supreme Court and Superior Court of Justice jurisprudence, we believe that our chances of success in these suits are remote. Two of our subsidiaries have voluntarily settled their COFINS liabilities under a special program created by the Brazilian government, for which we have recorded a long-term liability in an aggregate amount of R\$56.3 million.

We recorded a provision in respect of these proceedings in an aggregate amount of R\$284.9 million and have deposited R\$94.0 million of this amount in court.

Tax on Net Profits (ILL)

In 1997, we filed a lawsuit against the Brazilian government seeking to offset or refund ILL that we overpaid during the 1989 and 1990 tax years, which at December 31, 2003 totals approximately R\$67.0 million. We deposited a portion of this amount with the court and have been offsetting such portion against our PIS and COFINS liabilities. In March 2002, the Regional Federal Court recognized our right to offset these overpaid amounts, as adjusted for inflation and including interest accrued on these amounts at the SELIC rate. The Brazilian government filed a special appeal, which appeal is pending before the Superior Court of Justice. Based on the advice of our counsel, we believe that we will prevail in this lawsuit.

Other Tax Proceedings

We, our subsidiaries and our affiliates are involved in several other proceedings regarding corporate income taxes (*Imposto de Renda da Pessoa Jurídica*), the ICMS, monetary adjustments, the Social Investment Fund (*Fundo de Investimento Social*), compulsory loans to Eletrobrás and other issues related to tax matters. Some of these disputes involve substantial amounts, such as the action filed by Copesul seeking the right to deduct monetary adjustment losses incurred in 1990 from the calculation basis of the corporate income tax and the Social Contribution on Net Income.

Shareholders Rights Proceedings

Certain owners of our class B preferred shares have filed six suits against us. One of these suits was originally filed against Nitrocarbono and one against Trikem. The plaintiffs seek, among other rights, the right to receive dividend distributions equal to those paid to owners of our common shares and class A preferred shares. If we lose one or more of these lawsuits, we could be required, depending on the lawsuit, to (1) pay the preferred shareholders the difference between the dividends claimed and the dividends paid, as calculated by the courts, (2) grant voting rights to the preferred shareholders until we pay such additional dividend amounts, and/or (3) modify portions of our by-laws to reflect this right to receive dividend distributions. We lost one of these proceedings, but we filed a rescission action seeking to overturn that decision and obtained a stay of enforcement pending its final resolution. On December 11, 2003, we won our rescission action, but this decision may be appealed. We have recorded no provision in relation to these proceedings.

Certain of Polialden's preferred shareholders have filed five suits against Polialden claiming that they are entitled to receive dividend distributions equal to those paid to owners of our common shares. Polialden lost one of these cases in August 2001 in the Brazilian Superior Court of Justice (*Superior Tribunal de Justiça*), but has appealed this decision in this court and in the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court. Polialden also received a favorable decision in one of these cases in September 2003, which is subject to review by the appellate courts of the State of Bahia. The three remaining cases are pending in Brazilian trial courts. The remedies sought in this litigation are similar to those described above in the description of the class B preferred shareholder litigation pending against us. In one of these cases, we made a judicial deposit, and established a reserve in our financial statements in the amount of R\$4.9 million, covering a portion of the damages that may be due to this shareholder. No provision was recorded in the other cases. In the other cases, if these shareholders prevail with their claims, the court

Table of Contents

would determine any damages in the second phase of these suits. See note 21(b) to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Labor Proceedings

Clause Four Cláusula Quarta

Our company and other companies in the Northeastern Complex enter into annual collective bargaining agreements with the petrochemical workers union. The collective bargaining agreement that was valid between September 1989 and August 1990 required employers to pay workers monthly cost of living adjustments equal to 84.3% of the consumer price index (*Índice de Preços ao Consumidor*), or IPC, and prohibited the substitution of the IPC by another index with lower values.

In March 1990, the Brazilian government introduced an economic plan known as the Collor Plan, named after the then-President of Brazil. The Collor Plan provided that cost of living adjustments in wages could be based on other indices but not on the IPC. Based on judicial precedent, we interpreted the Collor Plan as prohibiting wage increases based on the IPC, which interpretation was contrary to the terms of the annual collective bargaining agreements. The petrochemical employers union filed a lawsuit against the petrochemical workers union, seeking to confirm that the cost of living adjustment indices provided in the Collor Plan preempted the conflicting provisions in the collective bargaining agreements. The Regional Labor Court ruled in favor of the workers union, and the decision was later modified in part on appeal to the Superior Labor Court. In 1998, the employers union filed an extraordinary appeal to the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court.

The Brazilian Federal Supreme Court initially held in favor of the workers union but reversed its decision in December 2002 and held that a private collective bargaining agreement cannot preempt federal law, especially a law that related to Brazilian public policy. In 2003, the workers union requested reconsideration of this decision. The decision of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court in this matter is not final and does not address damages. Any decision by the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court to overturn its determination could adversely affect us, as any judgment would most likely impact wages that we paid from April 1990 to the present.

Overtime

There are two claims by an employees union pending against our company. These claims were originally brought against OPP Química in its capacity as successor of OPP Petroquímica and OPP Polietilenos. The union alleges that there has been no valid collective bargaining agreement since 1991 and seeks payment of overtime. One of the claims was partially granted by the applicable Regional Labor Court, which reversed the initial decision and rendered a judgment requiring OPP Química to pay overtime from June 1997 through April 1999. OPP Química filed a motion for review, which was accepted and is pending judgment. The second claim was dismissed without prejudice by the Regional Labor Court, which ruled that the union had no standing to sue. The union filed a motion for review, which was denied. Currently, judgment on the appeal brought by the union against the decision denying the motion for review is pending.

Other

In addition, we and our subsidiaries are involved in approximately 970 labor lawsuits that involve claims totaling R\$53.4 million at December 31, 2003. We have established a provision for labor contingencies in an aggregate amount of R\$9.3 million at December 31, 2003.

Occupational Health and Safety Proceedings

We are party to a number of occupational health and safety proceedings as to which the total amounts claimed are not material. We do not believe that these proceedings will have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or operations.

Table of Contents

Social Security Proceedings

We are involved in several administrative and judicial proceedings regarding social security disputes, which totaled R\$45.4 million at December 31, 2003. We have deposited R\$10.2 million of this amount in court, and R\$24.8 million of this amount is secured by a portion of our inventory. We have established a provision for social security contingencies in an aggregate amount of R\$11.2 million at December 31, 2003.

Competition-Related Administrative Proceedings

On August 9, 2000, Campina Grande Industrial S.A. filed an administrative complaint against Trikem before SDE, claiming that Trikem adopted abusive increases in PVC resin prices between January 1999 and February 2000 and discriminated among purchasers. Trikem filed an answer, and the proceeding is being reviewed by SDE.

Silflex Indústria e Comércio de Produtos Plásticos Ltda. and other companies filed an administrative complaint against OPP Química and other unrelated petrochemical companies, claiming that these companies adopted abusive price increases from January 1999 to February 1999. On May 27, 2003, SDE issued a technical opinion recommending the dismissal of the administrative proceeding. The attorney general of CADE issued an opinion that also recommended the dismissal of the administrative complaint on July 10, 2003 and the federal prosecutor issued a similar opinion on November 12, 2003. The proceeding is currently pending final judgment by CADE. Based on the advice of our legal counsel, we believe that we will prevail in this administrative proceeding.

Other Proceedings

We (through Trikem prior to its merger into our company) are involved in several suits filed by some of our former customers for breach of a caustic soda distribution agreement. The plaintiffs in these suits are seeking damages in an aggregate amount of R\$206.0 million. We prevailed in two of these cases, one of which the plaintiff appealed. This appeal and the remaining suits are pending. Based on the advice of our legal counsel, we believe that we will prevail in these suits.

We have also filed a claim in the amount of R\$1.2 million against one of these plaintiffs that has declared bankruptcy.

Table of Contents**MANAGEMENT**

Our board of directors (*conselho de administração*) and our board of executive officers (*diretoria*) are responsible for operating our business.

Board of Directors

Our by-laws provide for a board of directors of eleven members and eleven alternate members. During periods of absence or temporary unavailability of a regular member of our board of directors, the corresponding alternate member substitutes for the absent or unavailable regular member. Our board of directors is a decision-making body responsible for, among other things, determining policies and guidelines for our business and our wholly-owned subsidiaries and controlled companies. Our board of directors also supervises our board of executive officers and monitors its implementation of the policies and guidelines that are established from time to time by the board of directors. Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, our board of directors is also responsible for hiring external independent auditors.

The members of our board of directors are elected at general meetings of shareholders for two-year terms and are eligible for reelection. The terms of all current members expire at our annual shareholders meeting in 2006. Members of our board of directors are subject to removal at any time with or without cause at a general meeting of shareholders. Although our by-laws do not contain any citizenship or residency requirements for members of our board of directors, the members of our board of directors must be shareholders of our company. Our board of directors is presided over by the president of the board of directors, and, in his absence, the vice president of the board of directors. The president and the vice president of our board of directors are elected at a general meeting of shareholders from among the members of our board of directors, serve for one-year terms and are eligible for reelection.

Our board of directors ordinarily meets four times a year and extraordinarily when a meeting is called by the president, the vice president or any two other members of our board of directors. Decisions of our board of directors require a quorum of a majority of the directors and are taken by majority vote, subject to the veto rights of Petroquisa and of Petros and Previ over resolutions of our board of directors relating to certain matters under the Petroquisa memorandum of understanding and the Pension Funds memorandum of understanding, respectively. See Principal Shareholders and Related Party Transactions Principal Shareholders Shareholders Agreements.

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the current members of our board of directors and their alternates:

Name	Member Since	Position Held	Age
Pedro Augusto Ribeiro Novis	Aug. 15, 2001	President of the Board	56
Ruy Lemos Sampaio	April 29, 2003	Alternate	53
Alvaro Fernandes da Cunha Filho	Nov. 6, 1997	Vice President of the Board	55
Adriano Sá de Seixas Maia	March 4, 2002	Alternate	29
José de Freitas Mascarenhas	Aug. 15, 2001	Board Member	62
Guilherme Simões de Abreu	March 4, 2002	Alternate	52
Luiz Fernando Cirne Lima	Aug. 15, 2001	Board Member	71
Hilberto Mascarenhas Alves da Silva Filho	April 29, 2003	Alternate	48
Newton Sergio de Souza	Aug. 15, 2001	Board Member	50
José Augusto Cardoso Mendes	Sept. 29, 2002	Alternate	43
Alvaro Pereira Novis	Aug 15, 2001	Board Member	60
Marcos Wilson Spyer Rezende	Sept. 29, 2002	Alternate	56
Francisco Teixeira de Sá	May 24, 2001	Board Member	55
Lucio Jose Santos Junior	Aug. 15, 2001	Alternate	38

Table of Contents

Name	Member Since	Position Held	Age
Fernando de Castro Sá	April 29, 2003	Board Member	36
Victor Manuel Martins Pais	April 29, 2003	Alternate	55
Carlos Alberto de Meira Fontes	Aug. 15, 2001	Board Member	53
Edmundo José Correia Aires	Aug. 15, 2001	Alternate	45
Margareth Feijó Brunnet	Sept. 27, 2002	Board Member	45
Rogério Gonçalves Mattos	Sept. 29, 2002	Alternate	48
Andre Tapajós Cunha	March 31, 2004	Board Member	35
Deusdedite Fagundes de Brito Filho	March 4, 2002	Alternate	55

The following is a summary of the business experience, areas of expertise and principal outside business interests of our current directors. Except as otherwise set forth below, the business address of each of our current directors is Avenida Nações Unidas, 4777, São Paulo, SP CEP 05477-000, Brazil.

Directors

Pedro Augusto Ribeiro Novis. Mr. Novis was elected to our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. He has been a member of our board of directors since August 2001 and was elected president of our board of directors in March 2002. He has served as a member of the board of directors of Odebrecht since October 1997 and as the chief executive officer of Odebrecht since January 2002. In addition, Mr. Novis serves in various capacities with other companies in the Odebrecht Group. He has been with the Odebrecht Group since 1985. He holds a law degree from the Universidade Federal da Bahia. Mr. Novis is a cousin of Mr. Alvaro Pereira Novis.

Alvaro Fernandes da Cunha Filho. Mr. Cunha Filho was elected to our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht and has been a member of our board of directors since 1997. He is currently the vice president of our board of directors and the president of Valora Participações Ltda. Mr. Cunha Filho served as vice president of the board of directors of Norquisa from 1997 through 1999, and from 2001 through 2003 as a member of the board of directors of Norquisa. He has also occupied several executive positions in subsidiaries and affiliates of Odebrecht. Mr. Cunha Filho holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in economics from the Universidade Federal da Bahia.

José de Freitas Mascarenhas. Mr. Mascarenhas has been a member of our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht since 2001. He has been an executive officer of Odebrecht since September 2001 and serves in various capacities with other companies in the Odebrecht Group. He also has served as vice president of CNI – Confederação Nacional das Indústrias since October 1985 and of the Brazilian Association of Chemical Industry and Derivative Products since May 1993. Mr. Mascarenhas holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Universidade Federal da Bahia. Mr. Mascarenhas' business address is Avenida Luiz Viana Filho, 2841, Salvador, BA CEP 41730-900, Brazil.

Luiz Fernando Cirne Lima. Mr. Lima has been a member of our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht since 2001. He is currently the superintendent executive officer of Copesul and a member of the board of directors of Banco Icatu S.A., a Brazilian bank. Mr. Lima has also served as the Brazilian Minister of Agriculture from 1969 through 1973. Mr. Lima holds a bachelor's degree in agronomical engineering from the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul. Mr. Lima's business address is Rua Dolores Alcaraz Caldas, 90, Porto Alegre, RS CEP 90110-180, Brazil.

Newton Sergio de Souza. Mr. Souza has been a member of our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht since 2001. He has been the general counsel and an executive officer of Odebrecht since May 1997, and the vice president of the board of directors and an executive officer of Norquisa since April 2003. He also serves in several executive positions in subsidiaries and affiliates of Odebrecht. Mr. Souza served as the president of the board of directors of Companhia de Concessões Rodoviárias – CCR. He was also a visiting lawyer at the law firm Dechert, Price & Rhoads (Philadelphia), a senior lawyer at the law firm Pinheiro Neto Advogados from 1976 through 1982 and a senior counsel of Latin America and

Table of Contents

Caribbean Division of the World Bank (Washington D.C.) from 1982 through 1987. Mr. Souza holds a law degree from Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro and an LL.M. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Alvaro Pereira Novis. Mr. Novis has been a member of our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht since 2001. He has been the administrator of the board of directors of Odebrecht since December 2003, the chief financial officer and an executive officer of Odebrecht since July 1998, and serves in various capacities with other companies in the Odebrecht Group. In 1980, he was elected managing director of Banco Iochpe de Investimentos, where he became president in 1995 upon its association with Bankers Trust Company. Mr. Novis holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the Universidade do Rio de Janeiro and a master's degree in Public Administration from Fundação Getúlio Vargas. Mr. Novis is a cousin of Pedro Augusto Ribeiro Novis.

Francisco Teixeira de Sá. Mr. Sá has been a member of our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht since 2001. He has been a member of the board of directors of Norquisa since April 2001 and served as president of the board of directors of Norquisa from April 2001 through April 2003. He is also president of Pronor. Mr. Sá served as engineering and production manager of Dow Química S.A. from 1973 through 1984. He holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Universidade Federal da Bahia. Mr. Sá's business address is Quadra 3 do SESFI, Cia Sul, Simões Filho, BA CEP 43780-000, Brazil.

Fernando de Castro Sá. Mr. Sá has been a member of our board of directors as a nominee of Petros since April 29, 2003. He is currently the legal manager in the supply division of Petrobras and a partner of the law office De Castro Sá e Pagnano Advogados Associados. Mr. Sá has served as a lawyer with the law firm of Teixeira & Advogados Associados. Mr. Sá holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and a post-graduate degree in business law from Fundação Getúlio Vargas. Mr. Sá's business address is Avenida República do Chile, 65, Rio de Janeiro, RJ CEP 20031-912, Brazil.

Carlos Alberto de Meira Fontes. Mr. Fontes has been a member of our board of directors as a nominee of Petroquisa since 2001. He has been the president of Petroquisa since April 2000 and is the petrochemical executive manager of Petrobras. He is also the president of the advisory council of the Fábrica Carioca de Catalisadores, a chemical catalyst company, a member of the board of directors of Petroquímica União S.A., the president of the board of directors of Rio Polímeros and a member of the officers council of the Brazilian Association of Chemical Industry and Derivative Products. Mr. Fontes holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Instituto Militar de Engenharia, took engineering courses given by Petrobras, holds a postgraduate degree in business management from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and attended an advanced management program. Mr. Fontes' business address is Avenida República do Chile, 65, Rio de Janeiro, RJ CEP 20031-912, Brazil.

Margareth Feijó Brunnet. Mrs. Brunnet has been a member of our board of directors as a nominee of Petroquisa since 2002. She is the general manager of Petrobras for investments in basic petrochemical companies in which Petrobras is a shareholder, an executive officer of Petroquisa, an executive officer of Downstream Participações S.A., a holding company, and a member of the board of directors of Copesul. Mrs. Brunnet holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, took courses in process engineering from Petrobras and holds a postgraduate degree in management development. Mrs. Brunnet's business address is Avenida República do Chile, 65, Rio de Janeiro, RJ CEP 20031-912, Brazil.

André Tapajós Cunha. Mr. Cunha has been a member of our board of directors as a nominee of Previ since March 31, 2004. Mr. Cunha has been the manager of real estate investments of Previ since April 2003, an alternate member of the Board of Directors of Valepar S.A. since April 2003 and a professor of economics of the Centro Universitário Unicarioca since July 2003. Mr. Cunha also served as a senior analyst in the management and investment policy area of Previ from February 1999 through April 2003. Mr. Cunha holds a degree in economics from the Universidade Gama Filho and in Corporate Economy (Economia Empresarial) from the Universidade Cândido Mendes, an MBA in finance from the

Table of Contents

Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, and a post-graduate degree in economics from Fundação Getúlio Vargas. Mr. Cunha's business address is Praia do Botafogo, 901, Rio de Janeiro, RJ CEP 22250-040, Brazil.

Board of Executive Officers

Our board of executive officers is our executive management body. Our executive officers are our legal representatives and are responsible for our internal organization and day-to-day operations and the implementation of the general policies and guidelines established from time to time by our board of directors.

Our by-laws require that the board of executive officers consist of a chief executive officer and between three and nine additional members, each responsible for business areas that our board of directors assigns to them. The members of our board of executive officers, other than our chief executive officer, have no formal titles (other than the title of executive officer or *diretor*) but have the informal titles set forth in the table below.

The members of our board of executive officers are elected by our board of directors for two-year terms, corresponding to the terms of the members of our board of directors, and are eligible for reelection. The current term of all of our executive officers ends at our annual shareholders meeting in 2006. Our board of directors may remove any executive officer from office at any time with or without cause. According to the Brazilian Corporation Law, executive officers must be residents of Brazil but need not be shareholders of our company. Our board of executive officers holds meetings when called by our chief executive officer.

The following table lists the current members of our board of executive officers:

Name	Year of Appointment	Position Held	Age
José Carlos Grubisich Filho	2002	Chief Executive Officer	47
Paul Elie Altit	2002	Vice President Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Investor Relations	45
Bernardo Afonso de Almeida Gradin	2002	Vice President Executive Officer	39
Luiz de Mendonça	2002	Vice President Executive Officer	40
Maurício Roberto de Carvalho Ferro	2002	Vice President Executive Officer and General Counsel	38
Roberto Prisco Paraíso Ramos	2002	Vice President Executive Officer	57
Rogério Affonso de Oliveira	2002	Vice President Executive Officer	53

Summarized below is information regarding the business experience, areas of expertise and principal outside business interests of our current executive officers. The business address of each of our current executive officers is Avenida Nações Unidas, 4777, São Paulo, SP CEP 05477-000, Brazil.

José Carlos Grubisich Filho. Mr. Grubisich is currently our chief executive officer. He is also currently the president of the board of directors of Copesul. He was the chief executive officer of OPP Química and the president of the board of directors of OPP Química. In January 1997, Mr. Grubisich became the chairman and the chief financial officer of Rhodia S.A. (currently known as Rhodia Brasil Ltda., a member of the Rhône Poulenc Group) for Brazil and Latin America. From 1999 to 2001, he served as vice-president of Rhodia Fine Organics worldwide and was a member of the executive committee of the Rhône Poulenc Group. Mr. Grubisich holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Escola Superior de Química Oswaldo Cruz and completed an Advanced Management Program at INSEAD France.

Paul Elie Altit. Mr. Altit is currently one of our vice president executive officers, our chief financial officer and director of investor relations. He is also a member of the board of directors of Copesul, a

Table of Contents

member of the board of directors of Politéno, a member of the board of directors of Polialden and the investor relations officer of Polialden. Mr. Altit has also served in several executive positions at Construtora Norberto Odebrecht S.A., most recently as the chief financial officer and investor relations officer of Construtora Norberto Odebrecht S.A. from 1994 through 2002. Mr. Altit holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and a post-graduate degree in finance from the Pontifícia Universidade do Rio de Janeiro.

Bernardo Afonso de Almeida Gradin. Mr. Gradin is currently one of our vice president executive officers and head of our Vinyls Unit. He is also a member of the board of directors of Cetrel. Mr. Gradin was a member of the board of directors of OPP Química and Trikem and an executive officer of Trikem. Mr. Gradin holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Universidade Federal da Bahia, a master's degree in international politics from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA degree from The Wharton School of Business.

Luiz de Mendonça. Mr. Mendonça is currently one of our vice president executive officers and head of our Polyolefins Unit. He is also an executive officer (Superintendent) of Polialden, a member of the board of directors of Polialden and an alternate member of the board of directors of Politéno. Mr. Mendonça also worked for 15 years at Rhodia S.A., where he served as general manager of production, supply and finance and marketing, as an officer in the chemical division (Latin America) and as vice president of Rhodia U.S.A. Mr. Mendonça holds a bachelor's degree in production engineering from Escola Politécnica da Universidade de São Paulo and an MBA degree from INSEAD France.

Mauricio Roberto de Carvalho Ferro. Mr. Ferro is currently our vice president executive officer and general counsel, the vice president of the board of directors of Politéno, a member of the board of directors of Polialden, and an alternate member of the board of directors of Petroflex. He served as a lawyer at the law firm of Carlos Eduardo Paladini Cardoso in 1989 and as a lawyer at the law firm of Bulhões Pedreira, Bulhões Carvalho e Advogados Associados from 1991 until 1995. Mr. Ferro holds a law degree from the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro and an LL.M. degree from the University of London and from the London School of Economics.

Roberto Prisco Paraíso Ramos. Mr. Ramos is currently one of our vice president executive officers and head of our Business Development Unit. He is a member of the board of directors of Cetrel, and the vice president of the board of directors of Petroflex. Mr. Ramos holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, a post-graduate degree in the Program for Management Development from Harvard Business School and a master's degree in finance from the University of Leicester, England.

Rogério Affonso de Oliveira. Mr. Oliveira is currently one of our vice president executive officers and head of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. He is also a member of the board of directors of Cetrel and Petroflex, and an alternate member of the board of directors of Polialden and of Politéno. Mr. Oliveira holds a degree of mechanical engineering from the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul and took courses in equipment engineering given by Petrobras.

Fiscal Council

The Brazilian Corporation Law permits us to establish, and allows shareholders to request the establishment of, a permanent or non-permanent fiscal council (*conselho fiscal*). Our by-laws provide for a permanent fiscal council composed of five members and their respective alternate members. The Brazilian Corporation Law requires that the fiscal council be independent of management and our external independent auditors. The primary responsibility of the fiscal council is to review our management's activities and our financial statements and to report their findings to the shareholders.

The members of our fiscal council are elected by our shareholders at the annual general shareholders meeting for one-year terms and are eligible for reelection. The terms of the members of our fiscal council expire at the next annual general shareholders meeting. Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, the fiscal council may not contain members who are members of our board of directors or our board of executive

Table of Contents

officers or are employees or spouses or relatives of any member of our management. To be eligible to serve on our fiscal council, a person must be a resident of Brazil and either be a university graduate or have been a company officer or fiscal council member of another Brazilian company for at least three years prior to election to our fiscal council.

Holders of preferred shares without voting rights and non-controlling common shareholders that together hold at least 10.0% of our voting shares are each entitled to elect one member and his or her respective alternate to the fiscal council.

The following table lists the current members of our fiscal council and their alternates:

Name	First Year of Appointment
Sérgio Pereira da Rocha	2001
Geraldo Humberto de Araújo (alternate)	
Júlio Diniz Bastos Pinto	1999
María Jesuina de Oliveira Rosa (alternate)	
Ismael Campos de Abreu	2003
Anna Cecilia Dutra da Silva (alternate)	
Manoel Mota Fonseca	2002
María Claudia Freitas Sampaio (alternate)	
Walter Muril Melo de Andrade	2002
Marcelo André Lajchter (alternate)	

Compensation

According to our by-laws, our shareholders are responsible for establishing the aggregate compensation we pay to the members of our board of directors, our board of executive officers and our fiscal council. Our shareholders determine this aggregate compensation at the general shareholders meeting each year. Once aggregate compensation is established, the members of the board of directors are responsible for distributing such aggregate compensation individually to the members of our board of directors and our board of executive officers in compliance with our by-laws. Our board of directors does not have a compensation committee.

The aggregate compensation paid by us to all members of our board of directors and board of executive officers for services in all capacities was R\$7.3 million in 2003, R\$4.4 million in 2002 and R\$2.9 million in 2001. On March 31, 2004, our shareholders (acting in the annual general meeting) established the following compensation for the year 2004:

board of directors: an aggregate limit of R\$1.0 million; and

board of executive officers: a total amount of R\$10.7 million.

Our executive officers receive the same benefits generally provided to our employees, such as medical (including dental) assistance, private pension plan and meal vouchers. Like our employees, our executive officers also receive a yearly bonus equal to one-month's salary (known as the thirteenth (monthly) salary in Brazil), an additional one-third of one-month's salary for vacation, and contributions of 8.0% of their salary into a defined contribution pension fund known as the Guarantee Fund for Time of Service (*Fundo de Garantia por Tempo de Serviço*). Members of our board of directors and fiscal council are not entitled to these benefits.

Members of our board of directors, board of executive officers and fiscal council are not parties to contracts providing for benefits upon the termination of employment other than, in the case of executive officers, the benefits described above.

Table of Contents**PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

At April 2, 2004, we had 25,730,061,841 outstanding common shares, 50,609,970,631 outstanding class A preferred shares (excluding 621,887,272 shares held in treasury), and 229,154,800 outstanding class B preferred shares, all without par value. Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, the aggregate number of our non-voting shares may not exceed two-thirds of the total number of our outstanding shares. At a general shareholders meeting on _____, 2004, certain holders of our class A preferred shares agreed to convert of our class A preferred shares into the same number of common shares so that we comply with Brazilian legal requirements regarding the ratio of preferred shares to common shares following the global offering. After giving effect to this conversion, which will take effect concurrently with to completion of the global offering, and after further giving effect to the issuance and sale of _____ class A preferred shares in the global offering, we will have _____ outstanding common shares, outstanding class A preferred shares and 229,154,800 outstanding class B preferred shares.

Principal Shareholders

The following table sets forth information concerning the ownership of our common shares and preferred shares at April _____, 2004, giving effect to the conversion described above, by each person whom we know to be the owner of more than 5.0% of any class of our outstanding share capital, and by all of our directors and executive officers as a group.

	Common Shares		Class A Preferred Shares		Class B Preferred Shares(1)		Total(2)	
	Number of		Number of		Number of		Number of	
	Shares	%	Shares	%	Shares	%	Shares	%
Odebrecht Group(3)								
Mariani Group(4)								
Norquisa								
Petroquisa(5)								
All directors and executive officers as a group (18 persons)(6)	100	*	18,157,614	*			18,157,714	*

* less than 1%.

- (1) All of our class B preferred shares were subscribed for by the Northeast Investment Fund (*Fundo de Investimento do Nordeste - FINOR*) and are subject to restrictions on transfer for four years from their exchange by FINOR with investors.
- (2) We have no management or employee option plans or management or employee options outstanding.
- (3) Represents direct ownership of _____ common shares owned by Odebrecht, _____ common shares owned by ODBPAR Investments, _____ common shares owned by Norquisa, _____ common shares owned by Copene Participações, _____ class A preferred shares owned by Odebrecht, _____ class A preferred shares owned by Norquisa and _____ class A preferred shares owned by Copene Participações. The Odebrecht Group disclaims ownership of our shares owned by Norquisa other than with respect to its proportionate interest in these shares. Odebrecht owns convertible debentures issued originally by OPP Produtos. These debentures may be converted into our shares at any time, at the discretion of the Odebrecht Group. If such right had been exercised at March 31, 2004, 4,913,401,489 new common shares and 9,826,802,978 new class A preferred shares of our company would have been issued. These shares have been included in the above table. Does not include _____ common shares owned by Pronor and _____ class A preferred shares owned by Pronor over which the Odebrecht Group has the power to control the vote. See Shareholders Agreements Mariani Group Shareholders Agreement. The Odebrecht Group disclaims ownership of our shares owned by Pronor.

Table of Contents

- (4) Represents direct ownership of common shares owned by Pronor and class A preferred shares owned by Pronor.
- (5) Represents direct ownership of common shares owned by Petroquisa and class A preferred shares owned by Petroquisa. Because (1) the price at which we will be required to issue shares to Petroquisa will be based on an independent enterprise valuation calculated from discounted cash flows of our company, and (2) the value of the Petroquisa shares that we would be required to purchase will be based on an independent enterprise valuation calculated from discounted cash flows of Copesul, that will not in either case be conducted prior to Petroquisa's exercise of the Petroquisa option, we cannot determine the number of common shares or class A preferred shares that we would be required to issue on the exercise of the Petroquisa option. Accordingly, we have not included these shares in the above table. See Shareholders Agreements Petroquisa Memorandum of Understanding.
- (6) Excludes 100 common shares and 120 class A preferred shares held by alternate directors (11 persons).

Changes in Ownership

At January 1, 2001:

Norquisa owned 22.8% of our total share capital, including 58.4% of our voting share capital;

Petroquisa owned 21.4% of our total share capital, including 15.4% of our voting share capital; and

Odebrecht Química, a member of the Odebrecht Group, owned 0.6% of our total share capital, including 1.7% of our voting share capital. In addition, Trikem, a member of the Odebrecht Group, owned 16.0% of the voting share capital of Norquisa.

On July 25, 2001, Nova Odequi Ltda., a subsidiary of Odebrecht Química, acquired common shares of Norquisa representing 20.4% of its total share capital and 23.7% of Norquisa's voting share capital from Participações Petroquímicas do Nordeste Ltda.

In December 2001, Odebrecht Química acquired common shares of Norquisa representing 13.8% of its total share capital and 16.0% of its voting share capital from Trikem. Following this transaction, Odebrecht Química transferred to ODBPAR Investments (1) common shares of Norquisa representing 34.2% of its total share capital and 39.7% of its voting share capital, and (2) common shares and class A preferred shares of our company, which then represented 0.6% of our total share capital and 1.7% of our voting share capital.

On August 16, 2002, we issued (1) 10,715,261,540 of our common shares and 18,983,847,740 of our class A preferred shares, which then represented 43.7% of our total share capital and 43.7% of our voting share capital, to Odebrecht in exchange for the share capital of OPP Produtos. Following the issuance of these shares:

Norquisa owned 12.2% of our total share capital, including 30.8% of our voting share capital;

Petroquisa owned 11.3% of our total share capital, including 8.1% of our voting share capital; and

the Odebrecht Group owned 44.0% of our total share capital, including 44.6% of our voting share capital.

Following our merger with OPP Produtos, Odebrecht transferred common shares and class A preferred shares, of our company which then represented 12.5% of our total share capital and 34.6% of our voting share capital, to ODBPAR Investments.

On January 15, 2003, Odebrecht transferred 11,467,000 class A preferred shares of our company to Oxiteno do Nordeste S.A. in exchange for 59,750,617 common shares and 675,460 preferred shares of Norquisa. Following this transaction, the Odebrecht Group owned 42.9% of Norquisa's total share capital,

Table of Contents

including 50.1% of its voting share capital, and the Odebrecht Group, including Norquisa, owned 56.2% of our total share capital, including 76.4% of our voting share capital.

On July 16, 2003, we issued 1,086,290,620 of our common shares to Nissho Iwai in exchange for the share capital of NI Participações Ltda. in connection with its merger into our company. Following the issuance of these shares:

Norquisa owned 12.0% of our total share capital, including 29.5% of our voting share capital;

Petroquisa owned 11.1% of our total share capital, including 7.8% of our voting share capital; and

the Odebrecht Group, including Norquisa, owned 55.3% of our total share capital, including 73.1% of our voting share capital.

On January 15, 2004, we issued 8,138,165,484 of our class A preferred shares to the shareholders of Trikem, other than our company, in exchange for their share capital of Trikem. In addition, at an extraordinary general shareholders meeting held on January 15, 2004, Norquisa, Odebrecht and Petroquisa converted 3,444,569, 91,006,882 and 27,496,810 of their class A preferred shares, respectively, into the same number of common shares.

As a result of these transactions, at April 2, 2004:

Norquisa owned 10.7% of our total share capital, including 29.4% of our voting share capital;

Petroquisa owned 9.9% of our total share capital, including 7.8% of our voting share capital; and

the Odebrecht Group, including Norquisa, owned 49.4% of our total share capital, including 72.8% of our voting share capital.

At a general shareholders meeting on _____, 2004, Norquisa, Odebrecht and Petroquisa agreed to convert _____, and of their class A preferred shares, respectively, into the same number of common shares so that we may comply with Brazilian legal requirements regarding the ratio of preferred shares to common shares following the global offering. This conversion will take effect when the global offering settles. Following this conversions and the issuance of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs in the global offering:

Norquisa will own _____ % of our total share capital including _____ % of our voting share capital;

Petroquisa owned _____ % of our total share capital including _____ % of our voting share capital; and

the Odebrecht Group, including Norquisa, will own _____ % of our total share capital, including _____ % of our voting share capital.

Shareholders Agreements

Mariani Group Shareholders Agreement

On July 27, 2001, Odebrecht Química and Petroquímica da Bahia entered into a shareholders agreement with respect to their shares of Norquisa and our company, which was amended on July 29, 2002 pursuant to the First Amendment to Shareholders Agreement among Odebrecht Química, Odebrecht, ODBPAR Investments and Petroquímica da Bahia. We refer to this agreement, as amended, as the Mariani Group Shareholders Agreement.

The Mariani Group Shareholders Agreement provides that:

The Odebrecht Group has the right to nominate a majority of Norquisa's board of directors and a majority of our board of directors;

The Mariani Group has the right to nominate at least one member of Norquisa's board of directors and at least one member of our board of directors;

Table of Contents

The Odebrecht Group has the right to nominate all of the members of Norquisa's board of executive officers and our board of executive officers; except that if Norquisa's board of directors is eliminated, the Mariani Group will have the right to nominate at least one member of Norquisa's board of executive officers; and

Odebrecht, ODBPAR Investments and Petroquímica da Bahia will exercise their voting rights with respect to our company and Norquisa, and cause their representatives on the boards of directors of our company and Norquisa to vote, to implement the organizational restructuring of our company.

Under the Mariani Group Shareholders Agreement, Odebrecht, ODBPAR Investments and Petroquímica da Bahia will vote their shares as a block in each general shareholders meeting of Norquisa. Odebrecht, ODBPAR Investments and Petroquímica da Bahia will meet prior to each meeting to determine how to vote these shares with respect to matters to be submitted to the meeting. These determinations will be made by majority vote among these shareholders based on the number of Norquisa shares held by each of them. As a result, the Odebrecht Group may effectively determine the vote for all of these shareholders.

Under the Mariani Group Shareholders Agreement, Odebrecht and ODBPAR Investments, on the one hand, and Petroquímica da Bahia, on the other hand, granted to the other a right of first refusal in respect of sales transfers or encumbrances of common shares of Norquisa owned directly or indirectly by either of them. If the Odebrecht Group intends to sell any of its shares of Norquisa, Petroquímica da Bahia has the right to sell a *pro rata* portion of its shares of Norquisa on the terms and conditions under which the Odebrecht Group intends to sell its shares. If the Odebrecht Group intends to sell a sufficient number of its shares of Norquisa to result in a change of joint control of Norquisa, Petroquímica da Bahia has the right to sell all of its shares of Norquisa on the same terms and conditions under which the Odebrecht Group intends to sell its shares. If the Odebrecht Group intends to sell or transfers direct or indirect control of our company to a third party, Petroquímica da Bahia also has the right to sell all of its shares of our company on the same terms offered by the third party acquiring control of our company from the Odebrecht Group.

On September 9, 2003, Odebrecht granted to Pronor an option to exchange all its shares of Norquisa for 363,606,220 of our class A preferred shares owned directly or indirectly by Odebrecht. On December 26, 2003, Pronor exercised its option and is required to complete the exchange of shares between January 30, 2005 and January 30, 2009.

Petroquisa Memorandum of Understanding

On July 3, 2001, Odebrecht Química and Petroquímica da Bahia entered into a Memorandum of Understanding regarding Shareholders Agreement with Petroquisa, which was amended on July 26, 2002 by Odebrecht and Petroquisa. The Petroquisa memorandum of understanding grants (1) an option to Petroquisa to purchase additional shares from our company and Odebrecht, (2) veto rights to Petroquisa over certain actions by the shareholders and the board of directors, and (3) tag-along rights to Petroquisa. The Petroquisa memorandum of understanding also grants Petroquisa a right to include a right of first refusal in respect of our common or preferred shares in the final shareholders agreement. The Petroquisa memorandum of understanding terminates on July 25, 2021, unless a shareholders agreement including the terms set forth below is entered into prior to that date.

Under the Petroquisa memorandum of understanding, Odebrecht granted to Petroquisa an option to purchase such number of our common shares and preferred shares as may be necessary for Petroquisa to own the same percentage of our total share capital and total voting shares as is held collectively by Odebrecht, Petroquímica da Bahia and Norquisa. Petroquisa can exercise the Petroquisa option in full on a single occasion on the last day of any month on or prior to April 30, 2005. If Petroquisa exercises the Petroquisa option, Odebrecht will cause our company to issue shares to Petroquisa in exchange for Copesul shares that Petroquisa holds. The exchange ratio will be determined based on independent enterprise valuations calculated from discounted cash flows of our company and Copesul. If we acquire all of Petroquisa's Copesul shares and the percentage of our total share capital and voting share capital held by

Table of Contents

Petroquisa continues to be less than the percentages owned collectively by Odebrecht, Petroquímica da Bahia and Norquisa, then Odebrecht must sell to Petroquisa a sufficient number of our shares, at a price based on the same enterprise valuation of our company, so that the resulting percentages become equal.

If at the time Petroquisa exercises the Petroquisa option the Copesul shares that Petroquisa will exchange for our shares constitute more than one-third of Copesul's outstanding share capital (excluding shares held by the controlling shareholders, their related parties, the management of Copesul and shares held in treasury), then we shall conduct a public exchange offer for all of Copesul's common shares not then-owned by our company, as required by the Brazilian Corporation Law.

Under the Petroquisa memorandum of understanding, Odebrecht, Petroquímica da Bahia and Petroquisa agreed that in the event that Petroquisa exercises the Petroquisa option:

Odebrecht and Petroquímica da Bahia, acting jointly, and Petroquisa will have equal decision-making powers with respect to our company, including the right to elect an equal number of members to our board of directors;

Odebrecht, Petroquímica da Bahia and Petroquisa will coordinate their votes in shareholders' meetings and meetings of our board of directors and will vote as a block;

Petroquisa would be required to sell all of its investments, other than passive investments, in companies that compete with us within 18 months of its exercise of the Petroquisa option;

Odebrecht, Petroquímica da Bahia and Petroquisa will be prohibited from acquiring additional common shares of our company from third parties unless otherwise agreed by the non-acquiring parties; and

Odebrecht, Petroquímica da Bahia and Petroquisa will each have tag-along rights and drag-along rights with respect to each of the other parties in the event of the direct or indirect sale of common shares representing control of our company.

Under the Petroquisa memorandum of understanding, Petroquisa has veto rights over the following matters at any general meeting of our shareholders:

any modification of the rights conferred on our shares by our by-laws if that modification would adversely affect the value of our shares;

any change, increase or reduction of the scope of our corporate purpose, except as necessary for us to operate as an integrated petrochemical company;

any increase in the number of members of our board of directors;

any decrease in the number of members of our board of directors to be nominated by Petroquisa;

any capital increase by us paid in by tendering goods or rights, unless those goods or rights relate to our corporate purpose and a valuation of those goods or rights is performed by a first tier investment bank or independent auditing firm;

any merger or spin-off of our company into another company or of another company into our company that could result in the unjustified dilution of the percentage ownership of Petroquisa except that the integration of the second generation petrochemical producers controlled by the Odebrecht Group is expressly permitted; and

our dissolution or liquidation.

Under the Petroquisa memorandum of understanding, Petroquisa has veto rights over resolutions of our board of directors relating to the following matters:

acquisitions, sales or granting of liens against our fixed assets with values in excess of 30.0% of our net worth, if such acquisition, sale or grant of a lien is not related to, or is outside the scope of, our corporate purpose;

Table of Contents

transactions involving affiliates of the parties to the Petroquisa memorandum of understanding, other than transactions involving the integration of the second generation petrochemical producers controlled by the Odebrecht Group or the Mariani Group;

investments in other companies, unless they are in the same business as our company; and

any resolution that would cause us to fail to meet any of the following financial ratios, with any projections to determine compliance with this provision to be performed by an internationally recognized entity:

projected net debt to EBITDA;

EBITDA to interest expense; and

EBITDA to debt service (excluding trade finance).

Petroquisa has the right to sell a *pro rata* portion of its shares of our company in connection with any direct or indirect sale of our common shares by the Odebrecht Group to a third party that involves a change of our control.

Pension Funds Memorandum of Understanding

On July 20, 2001, Odebrecht Química and Petroquímica da Bahia entered into a Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Shareholders Agreement with Petros and Previ, which we refer to as the Pension Funds memorandum of understanding. The Pension Funds memorandum of understanding grants certain preemptive, share transfer and voting rights to Petros and Previ, including veto rights to Petros and Previ over certain actions by our shareholders and our board of directors. The Pension Funds memorandum of understanding has a term of 20 years, unless a shareholders agreement containing the terms set out below is entered into prior to that date.

Under the Pension Funds memorandum of understanding, the parties agreed to adopt the following basic principles for our management:

our board of executive officers will be composed of competent professionals;

our dividend policy will have as its objective the distribution of at least 50.0% of net income available during the relevant period, provided that all necessary reserves for the efficient operation and development of our business are established and maintained; and

we will adopt a commercial policy that assures the regular and continuous supply of raw materials and utilities on a competitive basis and consistent with the domestic and international markets.

Under the Pension Funds memorandum of understanding, Petros and Previ have veto rights (to be exercised jointly) over the matters for which Petroquisa would have veto rights at meetings of our shareholders under the Petroquisa memorandum of understanding.

Under the Pension Funds memorandum of understanding, Petros and Previ have veto rights (to be exercised jointly) over resolutions of our board of directors relating to same matters for which Petroquisa has veto rights (except that Petros and Previ have no veto right over investments in other companies, unless they are in the same business as our company).

The veto rights of Petros and Previ are valid so long as on a combined basis they own, together with other private pension funds, at least 15.0% of our voting capital. If the percentage of voting capital owned by Petros and Previ together is diluted below 15.0% at any time due to the integration of the second generation petrochemical producers, those veto rights will remain in effect for three years after that time, during which Petros and Previ may purchase more of our shares in order to maintain their veto rights beyond such three-year period. Accordingly, although as a result of our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações, the participation of Petros and Previ in our voting capital was diluted to 6.1%, their veto rights remain in effect until August 16, 2005.

Table of Contents

The Pension Funds memorandum of understanding contains the following liquidity provisions with respect to our shares owned by Petros and Previ:

Petros and Previ have the right to sell our shares owned by each of them in connection with any sale of our shares by our controlling shareholders to a third party that involves a change of our control; and

In order to transfer their veto rights under the Pension Funds memorandum of understanding, Petros and Previ must give our controlling shareholders a right of first refusal to purchase our shares owned by each of them in the event of a proposed sale except that our controlling shareholders will not have a right of first refusal if our shares are being sold to another private pension fund or to a company that does not compete with our controlling shareholders.

Trikem Shareholders Agreement

Prior to the merger of Trikem with and into our company, we (through OPP Química), Odebrecht and BNDESPAR had entered into a shareholders agreement in respect of Trikem. Under that shareholders agreement, we and Odebrecht agreed to vote our shares to elect one member of Trikem's board of directors designated by BNDESPAR. In connection with our merger of Trikem, we, Odebrecht Química, Odebrecht and BNDESPAR entered into an amendment of the Trikem shareholders agreement on January 12, 2004. This amendment provides that BNDESPAR has the right to appoint one member of our board of directors if it owns more than 5.0% of our total share capital within six months after the date of the Trikem merger. During this six-month period or until BNDESPAR earlier appoints a member of our board of directors, a representative of BNDESPAR may attend meetings of our board of directors, but is not allowed to participate or to vote in such meetings. The amended shareholders agreement expires on January 12, 2014, or on any earlier date (after the expiration of the six month period described above) that BNDESPAR ceases to own more than 5.0% of our total share capital. All other provisions of the Trikem shareholders agreement remain in effect, including BNDESPAR's rights to (1) require our company and Odebrecht to purchase the shares that it owns in our company if we do not comply with the terms of the shareholders agreement and do not cure any such non-compliance within a specified period and (2) sell its shares in the event that Odebrecht sells its voting control of our company to a third party.

Related Party Transactions

The following summarizes the material transactions that we have engaged in with our principal shareholders and their affiliates since January 1, 2001.

We and our subsidiaries have engaged in extensive transactions with our principal shareholders and their affiliates and expect to do so in the future. The Odebrecht Group was a party to several of the mergers, acquisitions and other transactions described in History and Corporate Reorganization. We also have commercial relationships with some of our affiliates and, as a result, record trade accounts receivable and current and long-term liabilities mainly from purchases and sales of goods and services at prices and on terms equivalent to the average terms and prices of transactions that we enter into with third parties. In addition, we have entered into financial and other transactions with our principal shareholders and their affiliates, including, among others, as obligor on R\$636.6 million, at December 31, 2003, of convertible subordinated debentures held by the Odebrecht Group and as a party to three shareholder's agreements or memoranda of understandings.

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, our directors and executive officers cannot vote on any matter in which they have a conflict of interest and such transactions can only be approved on reasonable and fair terms and conditions that are no more favorable than the terms and conditions prevailing in the market or offered by third parties. See Description of Share Capital Board of Directors Fiduciary Duties and Conflicts of Interest.

Table of Contents***The Odebrecht Group***

On July 25, 2001, we acquired Nova Camaçari from the Odebrecht Group for R\$100. In connection with our acquisition of Nova Camaçari, Nova Camaçari acquired (1) 51% of the share capital of Intercapital Comércio e Participações Ltda. from the Odebrecht Group for R\$226.9 million, and (2) 49% of the share capital of Proppet from the Odebrecht Group for R\$11.5 million. In addition, prior to our acquisition of Nova Camaçari, Nova Camaçari's newly acquired subsidiary, Participações Petroquímicas do Nordeste Ltda. sold 23.7% of the voting shares of Norquisa to the Odebrecht Group for R\$241.9 million. See *History and Corporate Reorganization* *The Econômico S.A. Empreendimentos Auction and Related Transactions*.

On July 27, 2001, Odebrecht Química, a member of the Odebrecht Group, and Petroquímica da Bahia entered into a shareholders agreement with respect to their direct and indirect equity interests in Norquisa and our company. In addition, on July 3, 2001 and July 20, 2001, Odebrecht Química and Petroquímica da Bahia entered into memoranda of understanding with respect to the terms of shareholders agreements to be entered into with three other significant shareholders of our company: (1) Petroquisa; (2) the pension fund of Petrobras; and (3) the pension fund of Banco do Brasil. See *Principal Shareholders* *Shareholders Agreements*.

On May 31, 2002, OPP Produtos issued subordinated convertible debentures to Odebrecht. These debentures became our obligations as a result of the merger of OPP Produtos into our company on August 16, 2002. Odebrecht has the option to convert these debentures into shares of our share capital at any time. See *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations* *Liquidity and Capital Resources* *Indebtedness and Financing Strategy*.

On August 16, 2002, we merged with OPP Produtos, the holding company of the Odebrecht Group's chemical and petrochemical assets. In connection with our merger with OPP Produtos, we issued shares representing 43.7% of our total share capital and voting share capital to Odebrecht, in exchange for the share capital of OPP Produtos. See *History and Corporate Reorganization* *The Mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações*.

In early 2004, Construtora Norberto Odebrecht S.A. served as the general contractor for maintenance services related to the shutdown of our Olefins 2 unit. We paid approximately R\$6 million to Construtora Norberto Odebrecht S.A. for these services.

OPP Química

OPP Química merged into our company on March 31, 2003. From August 16, 2002 until March 31, 2003, OPP Química was our subsidiary. From July 25, 2001 to August 16, 2002, OPP Química was our affiliate as a result of the common control exercised by the Odebrecht Group over OPP Química and our company. OPP Química has been fully consolidated in our financial statements since July 25, 2001. Prior to our merger with OPP Química, we sold ethylene and propylene to OPP Química under a long-term contract.

Trikem

Trikem merged into our company on January 15, 2004. From August 16, 2002 until January 15, 2004, Trikem was our subsidiary. From July 25, 2001 until August 16, 2002, Trikem was our affiliate as a result of the common control exercised by the Odebrecht Group over Trikem and our company. Trikem has been fully consolidated in our financial statements since July 25, 2001. Prior to our merger with Trikem, Trikem purchased all its ethylene, its primary raw material, from our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. Trikem also purchased electric power, steam, water, compressed air and nitrogen on markets terms from our Basic Petrochemicals Unit.

Table of Contents

Petrobras

Petrobras is the controlling shareholder of Petroquisa, which owns 9.9% of our total share capital, including 7.8% of our voting share capital. We purchase naphtha from Petrobras, and we sell automotive gasoline and LPG to Petrobras Distribuidora S.A., a wholly owned subsidiary of Petrobras.

On June 22, 1978, we entered into a 10-year renewable contract with Petrobras under which the prices paid by us to Petrobras for naphtha are established based on the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price and are linked to fluctuations in the U.S. dollar/*real* exchange rate. This contract was amended and renewed in February 1993 and in February 2003.

We maintain a rotating naphtha supply line of credit with Petrobras that permits us to finance purchases of naphtha from Petrobras. We are permitted to maintain balances up to an aggregate of R\$570.0 million under this line of credit. This line of credit is guaranteed by the mortgage of two of our plants located in the Southern Complex.

We purchased raw materials and utilities from Petrobras and Petrobras Distribuidora S.A. of R\$4,546.9 million in 2003, R\$2,801.1 million in 2002 and R\$2,978.3 million in 2001. We sold automotive gasoline and LPG to Petrobras and Petrobras Distribuidora S.A. of R\$14.1 million in 2003, R\$14.0 million in 2002 and R\$55.6 million in 2001.

Petrobras subsidiary, Petroquisa, is a party to the Petroquisa memorandum of understanding with Odebrecht and Petroquímica da Bahia. This agreement grants certain voting and other rights in respect of our company to Petroquisa, together with an option to purchase a number of our common and preferred shares that would provide it with the same equity participation in our share capital as the participation owned collectively by our controlling shareholder and certain of our other shareholders. See *Principal Shareholders Shareholders Agreements Petroquisa Memorandum of Understanding*.

Petros and Previ

Petros and Previ are party to the Pension Funds memorandum of understanding with Odebrecht and Petroquímica da Bahia. This agreement grants certain voting and other rights in respect of our company to Petros and Previ. See *Principal Shareholders Shareholders Agreements Pension Funds Memorandum of Understanding*.

Our Subsidiaries, Jointly Controlled Companies and Associated Companies

Copesul

Our Polyolefins Unit purchases ethylene and propylene from Copesul, in which we have a 29.5% interest. We have a long-term supply contract with Copesul that is described in *Business Polyolefins Unit Raw Materials of Our Polyolefins Unit Supply Contracts and Pricing*. Our Polyolefins Unit also buys nitrogen on market terms from Copesul. We recorded purchases from Copesul of R\$1,220.9 million in 2003, R\$1,196.9 million in 2002 and R\$984.9 million in 2001.

COPEL International Trading Inc.

COPEL International Trading Inc. is a subsidiary of Copesul, in which we have a 29.5% interest. At December 31, 2003, we had four outstanding loans from COPEL International Trading Inc. of R\$157.4 million (including the eliminations from proportional consolidation), which arise from an arrangement with our subsidiary Lantana Trading Company Inc., with interest rates equivalent to the market rates.

Polialden Petroquímica S.A.

Polialden has been our subsidiary since July 25, 2001. Polialden has been fully consolidated in our financial statements since July 25, 2001. Prior to July 25, 2001, Polialden indirectly owned 23.7% of our voting share capital through Participações Petroquímicas do Nordeste Ltda. In connection with the

Table of Contents

Auction of Econômico S.A. Empreendimentos, on July 25, 2001 Polialden sold all of our shares that it owned to Odebrecht Química. We sell ethylene, utilities and hydrogen to Polialden under long-term contracts that are renewable automatically for five-year periods.

Politeno

We own 33.9% of the total share capital of Politeno, including 35.0% of its voting share capital. Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit supplies ethylene to Politeno. Politeno recorded purchases from our company of R\$451.4 million in 2003, R\$352.2 million in 2002 and R\$341.3 million in 2001. We had accounts receivable from Politeno of R\$11.6 million at December 31, 2003 and R\$50.9 million at December 31, 2002.

CETREL S.A. Empresa de Proteção Ambiental

We own, directly and indirectly, 41.0% of the voting and total share capital of Cetrel. We purchase treatment services on market terms from Cetrel for the wastewater and organic residues generated by us in the Northeastern Complex. We recorded purchases from Cetrel of R\$7.5 million in 2003, R\$13.5 million in 2002 and R\$5.4 million in 2001.

Petroflex Indústria e Comércio S.A.

We own 20.1% of the voting and total share capital of Petroflex. We sell butadiene-1 to Petroflex on market terms under a long-term contract that is renewable automatically for five-year periods. We recorded net sales to Petroflex of R\$331.3 million in 2003, R\$216.9 million in 2002 and R\$177.6 million in 2001.

Borealis Brasil S.A.

We sell polypropylene and polyethylene to Borealis Brasil S.A. in which we have a 20.0% interest. We recorded sales to Borealis of R\$107.6 million in 2003, R\$62.9 million in 2002 and R\$50.4 million in 2001. We paid Borealis R\$0.2 million in interest expense during 2003 and had a current liability to Borealis of R\$6.0 million at December 31, 2002.

Pronor Petroquímica S.A.

During 2001, our Basic Petrochemicals Unit sold R\$54.2 million in ethylene, propylene, electricity and other utilities to Pronor, a subsidiary of the Mariani Group. We also paid R\$0.8 million in interest expense to Pronor during 2001. At December 31, 2003, we had long-term liabilities to Pronor of R\$3.1 million.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF SHARE CAPITAL

The following is a summary of the material provisions of our by-laws and of the Brazilian Corporation Law. In Brazil, a company's by-laws (*estatuto social*) is the principal governing document of a corporation (*sociedade anônima*). This description does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Brazilian Corporation Law and our by-laws. We are filing an English translation of our by-laws together with this prospectus.

General

Our registered name is Braskem S.A., and our registered office is located in the Municipality of Camaçari, State of Bahia, Brazil. Our registration number with the Brazilian Commercial Registry is No. 29300006939. We are duly registered with the Brazilian Securities Commission under No. 4820. Our principal place of business is in the Municipality of Camaçari, State of Bahia, Brazil.

At April 2, 2004, we have an authorized share capital of 122,000,000,000 shares consisting of 43,920,000,000 common shares, 76,860,000,000 class A preferred shares and 1,220,000,000 class B preferred shares. Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, the aggregate number of our limited voting class A and class B preferred shares may not exceed two-thirds of the total number of our outstanding shares.

At April 2, 2004, we have outstanding share capital of R\$2,192,018,293.84, equal to 71,568,187,272 total outstanding shares consisting of 25,730,061,841 outstanding common shares, 50,608,970,631 outstanding class A preferred shares (excluding 621,887,272 shares held in treasury), and 229,154,800 outstanding class B preferred shares. At a general shareholders' meeting held on _____, 2004, certain holders of our class A preferred shares agreed to convert class A preferred shares into the same number of common shares to enable us to comply, after the global offering, with the above-mentioned Brazilian Corporation Law requirement limiting our limited voting class A and class B preferred shares to two-thirds of the total number of our outstanding shares. After giving effect to this conversion, which will take effect concurrently with completion of the global offering, and after further giving effect to the issuance and sale of _____ class A preferred shares in the global offering, we will have outstanding share capital of R\$ _____, equal to _____ total outstanding shares consisting of _____ outstanding common shares, _____ outstanding class A preferred shares and 229,154,800 outstanding class B preferred shares.

All of our shares are without par value.

Corporate Purposes

Our by-laws establish our corporate purposes to include:

the manufacture, trading, import and export of chemical and petrochemical products;

the production of utilities for use by component companies of the Northeastern Complex, including the supply of steam, water, compressed air, industrial gases, electric power, as well as the provision of various services to these companies;

the holdings of equity stakes (quotas or shares) in other companies; and

the manufacture, distribution, sale, import and export of gasoline, diesel oil, LPG and other oil derivatives.

Board of Directors

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, any matters subject to the approval of our board of directors can be approved by a simple majority of votes of the members present at a duly convened meeting, unless our by-laws otherwise specify. Under our by-laws, our board of directors may only deliberate if a majority of its members are present at a duly convened meeting. Any resolutions of our board of directors may be approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting, subject to veto rights of Petroquisa, Petros and Previ over resolutions of our board of directors relating to certain matters

Table of Contents

under the Petroquisa memorandum of understanding and the Pension Funds memorandum of understanding. See [Principal Shareholders and Related Party Transactions](#) [Principal Shareholders](#) [Shareholders Agreements](#) [Petroquisa Memorandum of Understanding](#) and [Pension Funds Memorandum of Understanding](#).

Election of Directors

In accordance with the provisions of the Mariani Group Shareholders Agreement and the Brazilian Corporation Law, the majority of the members of our board of directors are elected by the Odebrecht Group. In addition, any director appointed by a shareholder pursuant to a shareholders agreement is bound by the terms of such agreement. See [Principal Shareholders and Related Party Transactions](#) [Principal Shareholders](#) [Shareholders Agreements](#).

The members of our board of directors are elected at general meetings of shareholders for concurrent two-year terms.

Qualification of Directors

The Brazilian Corporation Law requires members of our board of directors to own shares of our company. However, there is no minimum share ownership or residency requirement to qualify for membership on our board of directors. Our by-laws do not require the members of our board of directors to be resident in Brazil. The Brazilian Corporation Law requires each of our executive officers to be residents of Brazil.

Fiduciary Duties and Conflicts of Interest

All members of our board of directors owe fiduciary duties towards us and all of our shareholders.

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, if one of our directors or executive officers has a conflict of interest with our company in connection with any proposed transaction, the director or executive officer may not vote in any decision of our board of directors or of our board of executive officers, as the case may be, regarding such transaction and must disclose the nature and extent of his conflicting interest for inclusion in the minutes of the applicable meeting.

Any transaction in which one of our directors or executive officers may have an interest, including any financings, can only be approved on reasonable and fair terms and conditions that are no more favorable than the terms and conditions prevailing in the market or offered by third parties. If any such transaction does not meet this requirement, then the Brazilian Corporation Law provides that the transaction may be nullified and the interested director or executive officer must return to us any benefits or other advantages that he obtained from, or as result of, such transaction. Under the Brazilian Corporation Law and upon the request of a shareholder who owns at least 5% of our total share capital, our directors and executive officers must reveal to our shareholders at an ordinary meeting of our shareholders certain transactions and circumstances that may give rise to a conflict of interest. In addition, our company or shareholders who own 5% or more of our share capital may bring to an action for civil liability against directors and executive officers for any losses caused to us as a result of a conflict of interest.

Compensation

Under our by-laws, our common shareholders approve the aggregate compensation payable to our directors, executive officers and members of our fiscal council. Subject to this approval, our board of directors establishes the compensation of its members and of our executive officers. See [Management Compensation](#).

Mandatory Retirement

Neither the Brazilian Corporation Law nor our by-laws establish any mandatory retirement age for our directors or executive officers.

Table of Contents

Share Capital

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, the number of our issued and outstanding non-voting shares or shares with limited voting rights, such as our class A preferred shares and class B preferred shares, may not exceed two-thirds of the total number of our issued and outstanding shares.

Each of our common shares entitles its holder to one vote at our annual and extraordinary shareholders' meetings. Holders of our common shares are not entitled to any preference in respect of our dividends or other distributions or otherwise in case of our liquidation.

Our class A preferred shares and class B preferred shares are non-voting, except in limited circumstances, and have priority over our common shares in the case of our liquidation. See [Voting Rights](#) for information regarding the voting rights of our preferred shares, [Liquidation](#) for information regarding the liquidation preferences of our preferred shares, and [Dividends and Dividend Policy](#) [Amounts Available for Distribution](#) [Dividend Preference of Preferred Shares](#) for information regarding the distribution preferences of our preferred shares.

Shareholders' Meetings

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, we must hold an annual shareholders' meeting by April 30 of each year in order to:

approve the financial statements approved by our board of directors, including the recommendation by our board of directors for the allocation of net profits and the distributable amount for payment of any mandatory distribution of dividends and any allocations to our various reserve accounts;

elect members of our board of directors and members of our fiscal council, subject to the right of minority shareholders to elect members of our board of directors and our fiscal council; and

approve any monetary adjustment to our shareholders' equity.

In addition to the annual shareholders' meetings, holders of our common shares have the power to determine any matters related to changes in our corporate purposes and to pass any resolutions they deem necessary to protect and enhance our development whenever our interests so require, by means of extraordinary shareholders' meetings.

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, our holders of our common shares have the power, among other powers, to vote at shareholders' meetings to:

amend our by-laws;

approve any capital increase in excess of the amount of our authorized capital;

approve any capital reduction;

accept or reject the valuation of assets contributed by any of our shareholders in exchange for the issuance of our share capital;

suspend the rights of any of our shareholders in default of their obligations established by law or by our by-laws;

authorize the issuance of convertible debentures;

approve any reorganization of our legal form or any merger, consolidation or split-off involving us;

authorize our dissolution and liquidation, the election and dismissal of liquidators appointed in connection with any dissolution or liquidation of our company, and the examination of the liquidators' accounts;

participate in a centralized group of companies;

Table of Contents

approve the aggregate compensation payable to our directors and executive officers; and

authorize management to declare us insolvent or bankrupt and to request a *concordata* (a procedure involving our protection from our creditors similar in nature to a reorganization under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code).

We convene our shareholders' meetings, including our annual shareholders' meeting, by publishing a notice in the *Diário Oficial do Estado da Bahia*, in at least one additional newspaper designated by our shareholders with general circulation in Bahia, where we maintain our registered office, and in at least one newspaper with general circulation in São Paulo, where the São Paulo Stock Exchange, the principal securities market for our shares, is located. On the first call of any meeting, the notice must be published no fewer than three times, beginning at least 15 calendar days prior to the scheduled meeting date. The notice must contain the meeting's place, date, time, agenda and, in the case of a proposed amendment to our by-laws, a description of the subject matter of the proposed amendment.

Our board of directors may convene a shareholders' meeting. Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, shareholders' meetings may also be convened by our shareholders as follows:

by any of our shareholders if, under certain circumstances set forth in the Brazilian Corporation Law, our directors do not convene a shareholders' meeting within 60 days;

by shareholders holding at least 5% of our total share capital if, after a period of eight days, our directors fail to call a shareholders' meeting that has been requested by such shareholders;

by shareholders holding at least 5% of either our total voting share capital or our total non-voting share capital, if after a period of eight days, our directors fail to call a shareholders' meeting for the purpose of appointing a fiscal council that has been requested by such shareholders; and

by the fiscal council, if the board of directors does not convene the annual shareholders' meetings within 30 days or at any other time to consider any urgent and serious matters.

Each shareholders' meeting is presided over by a president and secretary elected by the shareholders present at the meeting. A shareholder may be represented at a shareholders' meeting by an attorney-in-fact appointed by the shareholder not more than one year before the meeting. The attorney-in-fact must be a shareholder, one of our officers, a lawyer or a financial institution, and the power of attorney appointing the attorney-in-fact must comply with certain formalities set forth under Brazilian law. To be admitted to a shareholders' meeting, a person must produce proof of his or her shareholder status or a valid power of attorney.

In order for a valid action to be taken at a shareholders' meeting, shareholders representing at least one quarter of our issued and outstanding common shares must be present on first call. However, shareholders representing at least two-thirds of our issued and outstanding common shares must be present at a shareholders' meeting to amend our by-laws. If a quorum is not present, our board of directors may issue a second call by publishing a notice as described above at least eight calendar days prior to the scheduled meeting. The quorum requirements do not apply to the second call, when the shareholders' meetings shall be convened with the presence of shareholders representing any number of shares (subject to the voting requirements for certain matters described below). A shareholder without a right to vote may attend a shareholders' meeting and take part in the discussion of matters submitted for consideration.

Voting Rights

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law and our by-laws, each of our common shares carries the right to vote at a shareholders' meeting. Our preferred shares generally do not confer voting rights, except in limited circumstances described below. We may not restrain or deny any voting rights without the consent of the majority of the shares affected. Whenever the shares of any class of share capital are entitled to vote, each share is entitled to one vote.

Table of Contents

Except as otherwise provided by law, resolutions of a shareholders' meeting are passed by a simple majority vote of the holders of our common shares present or represented at the meeting, without taking abstentions into account. Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, the approval of shareholders representing at least a majority of our issued and outstanding voting shares is required for the types of action described below, as well as, in the case of the first and second bullet points below, ratification by the majority of issued and outstanding shares of the affected class within one year from the shareholders' meeting:

creating a new class of our preferred shares or disproportionately increasing an existing class of our preferred shares relative to the other classes of our preferred shares, other than to the extent permitted by our by-laws, which permit us to modify the proportion between the various classes of our preferred shares;

changing a priority, preference, right, privilege or condition of redemption or amortization of any class of our preferred shares or creating a new class of preferred shares that has a priority, preference, right, condition or redemption or amortization superior to an existing class of our preferred shares;

reducing the mandatory distribution of dividends;

changing our corporate purpose;

merging our company with another company, or consolidating our company, subject to the conditions set forth in the Brazilian Corporation Law;

transferring all of our shares to another company, known as an *incorporação de ações* under the Brazilian Corporation Law;

participating in a centralized group of companies as defined under the Brazilian Corporation Law and subject to the conditions set forth in the Brazilian Corporation Law;

dissolving or liquidating our company or canceling any ongoing liquidation of our company;

creating any participation certificates entitling the holders thereof to participate in the profits of our company; and

spinning-off of all or any part of our company.

Decisions on the transformation of our company into another form of company require the unanimous approval of our shareholders, including the holders of our class A and class B preferred shares.

Our company is required to give effect to shareholders' agreements for the purchase or sale of our shares, options to acquire our shares, or relating to the exercise of the right to vote our shares, if these agreements are filed with our headquarters in Camaçari. Brazilian Corporation Law obligates the president of any shareholder or board of directors meeting to disregard any vote taken that violates the provisions of any shareholders' agreement that has been duly filed with our company. In the event that a shareholder that is party to a shareholders' agreement (or a director appointed by such shareholder) is absent from any shareholders' or board of directors' meeting or abstains from voting, the other party or parties to that shareholders' agreement have the right to vote the shares of the absent or abstaining shareholder in compliance with that shareholders' agreement.

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, neither our by-laws nor actions taken at a shareholders' meeting may deprive any of our shareholders of certain specific rights, including:

the right to participate in the distribution of our profits;

the right to participate equally and ratably in any remaining residual assets in the event of our liquidation;

the right to supervise the management of the corporate business as specified in the Brazilian Corporation Law;

Table of Contents

the right to preemptive rights in the event of an issuance of our shares, debentures convertible into our shares or subscription bonuses, other than with respect to a public offering of our securities; and

the right to withdraw from our company under the circumstances specified in the Brazilian Corporation Law.

Voting Rights of Minority Shareholders

Shareholders holding shares representing not less than 5% of our shares entitled to vote at our shareholders' meeting have the right to request that we adopt a cumulative voting procedure. Under a cumulative voting procedure, each voting share shall have as many votes as there are positions of directors to be filled, and each shareholder may cast all of its votes for a single candidate or distribute them among various candidates. If the cumulative voting procedure is adopted, our controlling shareholders always retain the right to elect at least one more than the number of members elected by the other shareholders, independently of the total number of members of our board of directors. This procedure must be requested by the required number of shareholders at least 48 hours prior to a shareholders' meeting.

Under the cumulative voting procedure set forth by the Brazilian Corporation Law, shareholders that are not controlling shareholders, but that together hold either

preferred shares representing at least 10% of our total share capital, or

common shares representing at least 15% of our voting capital,

have the right to separately appoint one member and an alternate to our board of directors at our shareholders' meeting. If no group of our common or preferred shareholders meets the thresholds described above, shareholders holding preferred shares or common shares representing at least 10% of our total share capital are entitled to combine their holdings to appoint one member and an alternate to our board of directors. The shareholders seeking to exercise these minority rights must prove that they have held their shares for not less than three months preceding the shareholders' meeting at which the director will be appointed. Until 2005, the director or directors appointed in a cumulative voting procedure by our preferred shareholders as a group, or collectively with our common shareholders, will be chosen from a list of three names prepared by the Odebrecht Group, our controlling shareholder. Any directors appointed by the non-controlling shareholders have the right to veto for cause the selection of our independent auditors.

In accordance with the Brazilian Corporation Law, the holders of preferred shares without voting rights or with restricted voting rights shall be entitled to elect one member and an alternate to our fiscal council in a separate election; the minority shareholders shall have the same right as long as they jointly represent 10% or more of the voting shares. The other shareholders with the right to vote may elect the remaining members and alternates, who, in any event, must number more than the directors and alternates elected by the holders of the non-voting preferred shares and the minority shareholders.

Voting Rights of Preferred Shares

Holders of our preferred shares are not entitled to vote on any matter, except with respect to the election of a member of our board of directors by preferred shareholders holding at least 10% of our total share capital, the election of a member of the fiscal council and in the limited circumstances described above and, in addition, as provided below.

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, our preferred shareholders and non-controlling common shareholders that together hold at least 10% of our voting shares are each entitled to elect one member and his or her respective alternate to the fiscal council. Under our by-laws, one of the members of our fiscal council and his or her alternate may be appointed by a majority vote of the holders of our preferred shares.

The Brazilian Corporation Law and our by-laws provide our preferred shares will acquire unrestricted voting rights if we fail to pay any minimum dividend to which our preferred shares are entitled for three consecutive fiscal years. This voting right shall continue until payment in full has been made of the past

Table of Contents

due minimum dividend. Our preferred shareholders will also obtain unrestricted voting rights if we enter into a liquidation process.

Liquidation

We may be liquidated in accordance with the provisions of Brazilian law. In the event of our extrajudicial liquidation, a shareholders meeting shall determine the manner of our liquidation, appoint our liquidator and our fiscal council that will function during the liquidation period.

Upon our liquidation, our preferred shares have a liquidation preference over our common shares. In the event of our liquidation, the assets available for distribution to our shareholders would be distributed first to our preferred shareholders in an amount equal to their *pro rata* share of our legal capital, prior to making any distributions to our common shareholders. If the assets to be so distributed are insufficient to fully compensate our preferred shareholders for their legal capital, each of our preferred shareholders would receive a *pro rata* amount (based on their *pro rata* share of our legal capital, excluding our common shares in such calculation) of any assets available for distribution.

Conversion Rights

Under our by-laws, the general shareholders meeting may authorize the conversion of our preferred class A shares into common shares by means of the affirmative vote of shareholders representing the majority of our common shares, which will establish:

the number of shares to be converted;

the ratio of any such conversion; and

the term during which any conversion must be performed.

Holders of our class B preferred shares are not permitted to convert their shares into common shares, but are permitted by our by-laws to convert their shares into our class A preferred shares. The ratio for any such conversion is two class B preferred shares for each class A preferred share.

Preemptive Rights

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, each of our shareholders has a general preemptive right to subscribe for our shares or securities convertible into our shares in any capital increase, in proportion to the number of our shares held by such shareholder. However, under our by-laws, the holders of our class B preferred shares do not have preemptive rights. In the event of a capital increase that would maintain or increase the proportion of our capital represented by our preferred shares, holders of our preferred shares would have preemptive rights to subscribe to newly issued preferred shares only. In the event of a capital increase that would reduce the proportion of our capital represented by our preferred shares, holders of our preferred shares would have preemptive rights to subscribe to any new preferred shares in proportion to the number of our shares that they hold, and to our common shares only to the extent necessary to prevent dilution of their interests in our total capital.

Under our by-laws, except when issuing voting shares or securities convertible into voting shares, our board of directors or our shareholders, as the case may be, may decide not to extend preemptive rights to our shareholders with respect to any issuance of our shares, debentures convertible into our shares or warrants made in connection with a public exchange made to acquire control of another company or in connection with a public offering. Preemptive rights are not being extended to shareholders in connection with the global offering in accordance with our by-laws.

The preemptive rights are transferable and must be exercised within a period of at least 30 days following the publication of notice of the issuance of securities convertible into our shares. Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, our board of directors may reduce the 30 day period for the exercise of preemptive rights with respect to any issuance of our shares, debentures convertible into our shares or

Table of Contents

warrants in connection with a public exchange made to acquire control of another company or in connection with a public offering.

In the event of a capital increase that would maintain or increase the proportion of our capital represented by our preferred shares, holders of ADSs would have, except under the circumstances described above, preemptive rights to subscribe to newly issued preferred shares. In the event of a capital increase which would reduce the proportion of our capital represented by our preferred shares, holders of ADSs would have preemptive rights to subscribe for preferred shares, in proportion to their shareholdings, and for common shares to the extent necessary to prevent dilution of their overall interest in our company. However, U.S. holders may not be able to exercise the preemptive rights relating to our preferred shares underlying their ADSs unless a registration statement under the Securities Act is effective with respect to those rights or an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act is available.

Redemption, Amortization, Tender Offers and Rights of Withdrawal

Our by-laws or our shareholders at a shareholders meeting may authorize us to use our profits or reserves to redeem or amortize our shares in accordance with conditions and procedures established for such redemption or amortization. The Brazilian Corporation Law defines redemption (*resgate de ações*) as the payment of the value of the shares in order to permanently remove such shares from circulation, with or without a corresponding reduction of our total capital. The Brazilian Corporation Law defines amortization (*amortização*) as the distribution to the shareholders, without a corresponding capital reduction, of amounts that they would otherwise receive if we were liquidated. If an amortization distribution has been paid prior to our liquidation, then upon our liquidation, the shareholders who did not receive an amortization distribution will have a preference equal to the amount of the amortization distribution in the distribution of our capital.

Brazilian Corporation Law authorizes us to redeem shares not held by our controlling shareholders, if, after a tender offer effected as a consequence of delisting or a substantial reduction in the liquidity of our shares, our controlling shareholders increase their participation in our total share capital to more than 95%. The redemption price in such case would be the same price paid for our shares in any such tender offer.

The Brazilian Corporation Law and our by-laws also require the acquiror (in case of a change of control) or the controller (in case of delisting or a substantial reduction in liquidity of our shares) to make a tender offer for the shares held by minority shareholders under certain circumstances described below under Mandatory Tender Offers, and to permit dissenting shareholders to withdraw their capital from our company under certain circumstances described under Rights of Withdrawal.

Mandatory Tender Offers

Brazilian Corporation Law requires that if we are delisted or there is a substantial reduction in liquidity of our shares, as defined by the Brazilian Securities Commission, in each case as a result of purchases by our controlling shareholders, our controlling shareholders must effect a tender offer for our remaining shares at a purchase price equal to the fair value of our shares taking into account the total number of our outstanding shares.

Our by-laws provide that all of our shares, including our class A preferred shares, would be entitled to such tag-along rights in the event that the control of our company is transferred, with all shares receiving the same price per share paid to the controlling shareholders. If our controlling shareholders enter into a transaction which results in a change of control of our company, the controlling shareholders must include in the documents governing such transaction an obligation on the part of the acquiring party to make a public offer for the purchase of all our common shares and preferred shares for the same price per share paid to the controlling shareholders. The tender offer must be made within a period of 30 days prior to the formal transfer of the shares representing the controlling stake and must be effected through the financial institution responsible for the custody of our shares.

Table of Contents

Our by-laws provide that no change of control will be deemed to occur if the party acquiring control is an existing member of the block of controlling shareholders, and/or a signatory to an agreement among our shareholders governing the exercise of rights over the shares held by the controlling shareholders. Our by-laws also provide that the tag-along right will not apply in the event that the change of control occurs as a result of:

a court ruling or act, such as a judicial seizure or execution; or

a final decision by regulatory authorities, including CADE, that obliges our controlling shareholders to divest all or part of their shares in our company.

Rights of Withdrawal

Brazilian law provides that, in certain limited circumstances, a dissenting shareholder may withdraw its equity interest from our company and be reimbursed by us for the value of our common or preferred shares that it then holds.

This right of withdrawal may be exercised by the holders of the adversely affected common or preferred shares if we decide:

to create a new class of our preferred shares with greater privileges than the existing classes of our preferred shares;

to increase disproportionately an existing class of our preferred shares relative to the other classes of our preferred shares (unless such actions are provided for or authorized by our by-laws, which permit us to modify the proportion between the various classes of our preferred shares); or

to modify a preference, privilege or condition of redemption or amortization conferred on one or more classes of our preferred shares.

In addition, holders of our common and preferred shares may exercise their right of withdrawal if we decide to undertake any of the following actions:

to merge with another company or to consolidate with another company in a transaction in which our company is not the surviving entity;

to transfer all of our shares to another company (*incorporação de ações*);

to participate in a centralized group of companies as defined under the Brazilian Corporation Law;

to reduce the mandatory distribution provided in our by-laws;

to change our corporate purposes; or

to spin-off a portion of our company, subject to certain conditions set forth in the Brazilian Corporation Law.

Only shareholders who own shares on the date of the first notice convening the relevant shareholders meeting or the press release concerning the relevant shareholders meeting is published, whichever is earlier, will be entitled to withdrawal rights.

Shareholders will not be entitled to this right of withdrawal if the shares of the entity resulting from a merger, incorporation, consolidation of our company or participation of our company in a group of companies have market liquidity and are dispersed among a sufficient number of shareholders. For this purpose, shares that are part of general indices representative of portfolios of securities traded in Brazil or abroad are considered liquid and sufficient dispersion will exist if the controlling shareholder holds less than half of the class and type of the outstanding shares. In case of a spin-off, the right of withdrawal will only exist if there is a significant change in the corporate purpose or a reduction in the mandatory dividend.

Table of Contents

Any redemption of shares arising out of the exercise of any withdrawal rights would be made at book value per share, determined on the basis of their most recent audited balance sheet approved by our shareholders. However, if the shareholders' meeting approving the action giving rise to withdrawal rights occurred more than 60 days after the date of the most recent approved audited balance sheet, a shareholder may demand that its shares be valued on the basis of a balance sheet dated within 60 days of such shareholders' meeting. The right of withdrawal lapses 30 days after the date of publication of the minutes of the shareholders' meeting that approved the corporate action described above. We may reconsider any action giving rise to withdrawal rights within 10 days following the expiration date for such rights if we believe that the withdrawal of shares of dissenting shareholders would jeopardize our financial stability.

Liability of Our Shareholders for Further Capital Calls

