

BRASKEM SA
Form 20-F
July 14, 2009

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 14, 2009

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 20-F

o REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR 12(g) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

x ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

OR

o TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 OR

o SHELL COMPANY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission file number: 001-14862

BRASKEM S.A.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

N/A

(Translation of Registrant's Name into English)

The Federative Republic of Brazil

(Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

Av. das Nações Unidas, 8,501
São Paulo, SP CEP 05425-070 Brazil
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

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Braskem S.A.

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Telephone: + (55 11) 3576-9000
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(Name, Telephone, E-mail and/or Facsimile number and Address of Company Contact Person)

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class	Name of Each Exchange on which Registered
Preferred Shares, Class A, without par value per share, each represented by American Depositary Receipts	New York Stock Exchange

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Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None
Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act: None
The total number of issued shares of each class of stock of Braskem S.A. as of December 31, 2008 was:

190,462,446 Common Shares, without par value
316,484,733 Preferred Shares, Class A, without par value
593,818 Preferred Shares, Class B, without par value

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes No

If this report is an annual or transition report, indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of accelerated filer and large accelerated filer in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

Indicate by check mark which basis of accounting the registrant has used to prepare the financial statements included in this filing:

U.S. GAAP International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board Other

If Other has been checked in response to the previous question, indicate by check mark which financial statement item the registrant has elected to follow.

Item 17 Item 18

If this is an annual report, indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

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PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL AND OTHER INFORMATION

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

All references herein (1) to we, us or our company are references to Braskem S.A., its consolidated subsidiaries and jointly controlled entities, and (2) to Braskem are references solely to Braskem S.A.

On July 7, 2009, the exchange rate for *reais* into U.S. dollars was R\$1.964 to US\$1.00, based on the selling rate as reported by the Central Bank of Brazil (*Banco Central do Brasil*), or the Central Bank. The selling rate was R\$2.337 to US\$1.00 at December 31, 2008, R\$1.771 to US\$1.00 at December 31, 2007 and the commercial selling rate was R\$2.138 to US\$1.00 at December 31, 2006, in each case, as reported by the Central Bank. The *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate fluctuates widely, and the selling rate at July 7, 2009 may not be indicative of future exchange rates. See Item 3. Key Information Exchange Rates for information regarding exchange rates for the Brazilian currency since January 1, 2004.

Solely for the convenience of the reader, we have translated some amounts included in Item 3. Key Information Selected Financial Information and elsewhere in this annual report from *reais* into U.S. dollars using the selling rate as reported by the Central Bank at December 31, 2008 of R\$2.337 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

Braskem Financial Statements

We maintain our books and records in *reais*.

Our consolidated financial statements at December 31, 2008 and 2007 and for the three years ended December 31, 2008 have been audited, as stated in the report appearing herein, and are included in this annual report.

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, which we refer to as the Brazilian Corporation Law;
- the rules and regulations of the Brazilian Securities Commission (*Comissão de Valores Mobiliários*), or CVM; and
- the accounting standards issued by the Brazilian Institute of Independent Accountants (*Instituto dos Auditores Independentes do Brasil IBRACON*), or IBRACON.

Brazilian GAAP differs in certain respects from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or U.S. GAAP. For a discussion of certain differences relating to these financial statements, see note 32 to our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report.

On December 28, 2007, the Brazilian government enacted Law No. 11,638/07, which became effective on January 1, 2008, amended Law No. 6,404/76, as amended, and changed certain accounting policies under Brazilian GAAP. In December 2008, the CVM issued *Deliberação* No. 565/08, or Deliberation No. 565, implementing these changes in accounting policies. For a discussion of the principal changes introduced by Law No. 11,638/07 and Deliberation 565 as they relate to our financial statements, see Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects Financial Presentation and Accounting Policies Presentation of Financial Statements and notes 2 and 3 to our audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report.

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In order to make our financial statements at December 31, 2007 and for each of the two years ended December 31, 2007 comparable to our financial statements at December 31, 2008 and for the year ended December 31, 2008, we have retrospectively revised our previously issued financial statements at December 31, 2007 and for each of the two years ended December 31, 2007 to conform to the changes in accounting policy introduced by Law No. 11,638/07 and Deliberation No. 565.

Consistent with Brazilian GAAP, our audited consolidated financial statements at December 31, 2008 and 2007 and for the three years ended December 31, 2008 have been prepared in accordance with CVM Instruction No. 247/96, as amended, or Instruction 247. Instruction 247 requires our company to proportionally consolidate jointly controlled companies that are not our subsidiaries but which we jointly control with one or more other shareholders.

Prior to April 1, 2006, we proportionally consolidated the results of Politeño Indústria e Comércio S.A., or Politeño, in our consolidated financial statements. As a result of the Politeño Acquisition described under Item 4. Information on the Company History and Development of Our Company Consolidation of Minority Interests, we have fully consolidated Politeño's results in our consolidated financial statements and included Politeño's results in our Polyolefins segment as from April 1, 2006. Politeño merged with and into Braskem on April 2, 2007.

Prior to April 1, 2007, we proportionally consolidated the results of Copesul Companhia Petroquímica do Sul, or Copesul, in our consolidated financial statements. As a result of the Ipiranga Transaction described under Item 4. Information on the Company History and Development of Our Company Ipiranga Transaction, we have fully consolidated Copesul's results in our consolidated financial statements as from April 1, 2007. Copesul merged with and into Ipiranga Petroquímica S.A., or Ipiranga Petroquímica, on September 11, 2008 and Ipiranga Petroquímica merged with and into Braskem on September 30, 2008.

Prior to December 1, 2007, we proportionally consolidated the results of Petroflex Indústria e Comércio S.A., or Petroflex, in our consolidated financial statements. As a result of our entering into an agreement in December 2007 to sell our interests in Petroflex, we accounted for our interest in Petroflex in our Brazilian GAAP financial statements using the equity method as from December 1, 2007. In April 2008, we sold all of our share capital in Petroflex.

Prior to April 1, 2008, we proportionally consolidated the results of Petroquímica Paulínia S.A., or Paulínia, in our consolidated financial statements. As a result of the completion of the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction described under Item 4. Information on the Company History and Development of Our Company Petrobras Transaction, we have fully consolidated the results of Paulínia and its subsidiaries in our consolidated financial statements as from April 1, 2008. On September 30, 2008, Ipiranga Petroquímica and Paulínia merged with and into Braskem.

Copesul Financial Statements

Prior to April 1, 2007, Copesul's consolidated financial statements were proportionally consolidated into the Braskem's consolidated financial statements under Brazilian GAAP, as described above under Braskem Financial Statements. As a result of the Ipiranga Transaction and our obtaining effective management control over Copesul, we have fully consolidated the results of Copesul and its subsidiaries into our financial statements as from April 1, 2007.

We have included separate consolidated financial statements of Copesul in this annual report because Copesul constituted a significant jointly controlled company, accounting for 85.0% of our income from continuing operations before income taxes in the three months ended March 31, 2007 and 96.6% in 2006. Copesul maintained its books and records in *reais* and prepared its financial statements in accordance with Brazilian GAAP.

Copesul's consolidated financial statements at December 31, 2007 and 2006 and for each of the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 included in this annual report have been audited, as stated in the report appearing herein. Copesul's consolidated financial statements at March 31, 2008 and for each of the three month periods ended March 31, 2008 and 2007 included in this annual report have not been audited.

Copesul's consolidated financial statements at December 31, 2007 and 2006 and for each of the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 were prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP in force at the time these financial statements were issued and do not reflect the changes in accounting policy introduced by Law No. 11,638/07 and Deliberation No. 565. As a result, the information in these financial statements may not be comparable to the information with respect to our company at the dates and for the periods presented in these financial statements.

Share Split

On March 31, 2005, we authorized the reverse split of all of our issued common shares, class A preferred shares and class B preferred shares into one share for each 250 issued shares. This reverse share split became effective on May 16, 2005. In connection with this reverse share split, we authorized a change in the ratio of our American Depositary Shares, or ADSs. Upon the effectiveness of our reverse share split and the ratio change, the ratio of our class A preferred shares to ADSs changed from 1,000 class A preferred shares per ADS to two class A preferred shares per ADS. All references to numbers of shares and dividend amounts in this annual report have been adjusted to give effect to the 20-for-one share split and the one-for-250 reverse share split.

Market Share and Other Information

We make statements in this annual report 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 Chemical Industry Association (*Associação Brasileira da Indústria Química*), or ABIQUIM. We derive information regarding 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 ABIQUIM. Although we have no reason to believe that any of this information is inaccurate in any material respect, we have not independently verified the production capacity, market share, market size or similar data provided by third parties or derived from industry or general publications. We derive information regarding the size of the chemical distribution industry and our market share in this industry principally from reports published by the Brazilian Chemical and Petrochemical Distributors Association (*Associação Brasileira dos Distribuidores de Produtos Químicos e Petroquímicos*).

Production Capacity and Sales Volume

As used in this annual report:

- production capacity means the annual projected capacity for a particular facility, calculated based upon operations for 24 hours each day of a year and deducting scheduled downtime for regular maintenance; and
- ton means 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 annual report. As a result, numerical figures shown as totals in some tables may not be arithmetic aggregations of the figures that precede them.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This annual report contains forward-looking statements. Some of the matters discussed concerning our business operations and financial performance include forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, which we refer to as the Securities Act, or the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which we refer to as 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;
- competition;
- prices of naphtha and other raw materials;
- actions taken by our major shareholders;
- our ability to obtain financing on satisfactory terms;
- our progress in integrating Copesul, Ipiranga Química S.A., or Ipiranga Química, and Ipiranga Petroquímica as well as other companies or assets acquired in the future, so as to achieve the anticipated benefits of these acquisitions;
- changes in laws and regulations, including, among others, those affecting tax and environmental matters;
- a continuation of the current worldwide economic downturn or further deterioration in the Brazilian and world economies;
- decisions rendered in pending major tax, labor and other legal proceedings; and
- other factors identified or discussed under Item 3. Key Information Risk Factors.

Our forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and our actual results or other developments may differ materially from the expectations expressed in the forward-looking statements. As for 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, potential investors 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.

PART I**ITEM 1. IDENTITY OF DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND ADVISERS**

Not applicable.

ITEM 2. OFFER STATISTICS AND EXPECTED TIMETABLE

Not applicable.

ITEM 3. KEY INFORMATION**Selected Financial Information**

The following selected financial data have been derived from our consolidated financial statements. The selected financial data at December 31, 2008 and 2007 and for the three years ended December 31, 2008 have been derived from our consolidated financial statements included in this annual report. The selected financial data at December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004 and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements that are not included in this annual report.

On December 28, 2007, the Brazilian government enacted Law No. 11,638/07, which became effective on January 1, 2008, amended Law No. 6,404/76, as amended, and changed certain accounting policies under Brazilian GAAP. In December 2008, the CVM issued Deliberation No. 565 implementing these changes in accounting policies. For additional information with respect to these changes and their effects on our financial statements, see *Presentation of Financial and Other Information* and notes 2 and 3 to our audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report.

In order to make our financial statements at December 31, 2007 and for the two years ended December 31, 2007 comparable to our financial statements at December 31, 2008 and for the year ended December 31, 2008, we have retrospectively revised our previously issued financial statements at December 31, 2007 and for the two years ended December 31, 2007 to conform to the changes in accounting policy introduced by Law No. 11,638/07 and Deliberation No. 565. We have not retrospectively revised our financial statements at December 31, 2005 or 2004 and for the two years ended December 31, 2005 to conform these changes in accounting policy because we cannot provide this information without unreasonable effort and expense and, therefore, the selected financial data at and for these periods may not be comparable.

We have included information with respect to the dividends and/or interest attributable to shareholders' equity paid to holders of our common shares and preferred shares since January 1, 2004 in *reais* and in U.S. dollars translated from *reais* at the commercial market selling rate in effect as of the payment date under the caption *Item 8. Financial Information - Dividends and Dividend Policy - Payment of Dividends*.

Our consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, which differs in certain respects from U.S. GAAP. For a discussion of certain differences relating to these financial statements, see note 32 to our audited consolidated financial statements included in this annual report.

	2008(1)	At and for the Year Ended December 31,				
		2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
			Retrospect- ively Revised	Retrospect- ively Revised		
(in millions of US\$, except per share amounts)	(in millions of <i>reais</i> , except per share amounts and as otherwise indicated)					
Statement of Operations Data						
Brazilian GAAP:						
Net sales revenue	US\$7,684.9	R\$17,959.5	R\$17,642.5	R\$12,992.7	R\$13,075.1	R\$12,389.5
Cost of sales and services rendered	(6,478.7)	(15,140.8)	(14,331.4)	(10,759.2)	(10,361.7)	(9,223.0)
Gross profit	1,206.2	2,818.7	3,311.1	2,233.5	2,713.4	3,166.5
Selling, general and administrative	(499.4)	(1,167.1)	(1,238.7)	(951.4)	(787.1)	(677.0)

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	2008(1)	At and for the Year Ended December 31,				
		2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
	(in millions of US\$, except per share amounts)	(in millions of reais, except per share amounts and as otherwise indicated)				
			Retrospect- ively Revised	Retrospect- ively Revised		
expenses						
Depreciation and amortization	(232.6)	(543.6)	(486.6)	(363.3)	(355.6)	(359.7)
Other operating income, net	36.8	86.0	131.5	186.1	22.8	43.0
Operating income before equity accounting and financial income (expense)	511.0	1,194.0	1,717.3	1,104.9	1,593.5	2,172.8
Results from equity accounting(2)	(27.3)	(63.7)	(64.6)	3.4	(109.8)	(107.6)
Financial expenses	(1,884.1)	(4,403.1)	212.1	(1,097.9)	(675.8)	(1,307.2)
Financial income	307.5	718.6	(588.8)	159.5	(33.6)	68.6
Operating income (loss)	(1,092.9)	(2,554.2)	1,276.0	169.9	774.3	826.6
Non-operating expenses, net	(67.9)	(158.7)	(67.2)	7.1	(25.2)	(29.8)
Income (loss) before income tax and social contribution (current and deferred) and minority interest	(1,160.8)	(2,712.9)	1,208.8	177.0	749.1	796.8
Income tax and social contribution (current and deferred)	119.0	278.2	(327.4)	47.5	(177.3)	(85.1)
Income (loss) before profit sharing and minority interest	(1,041.8)	(2,434.7)	881.4	224.5	571.8	711.7
Profit sharing	(8.1)	(18.9)	(18.7)			
Income (loss) before minority interest	(1,049.9)	(2,453.6)	862.7	224.5	571.8	711.7
Minority interest	(16.5)	(38.5)	(240.9)	(1.6)	54.0	(24.6)
Net income (loss)	US\$ (1,066.4)	R\$ (2,492.1)	R\$621.8	R\$222.8	R\$625.8	R\$687.1
Number of shares outstanding at year end, excluding treasury shares (in thousands):						
Common shares		190,462	149,810	123,492	120,860	120,860
Class A preferred shares		316,485	282,223	231,744	240,393	240,373
Class B preferred shares		594	803	803	803	842
Net income (loss) per share at year end	(2.10)	(4.91)	1.44	0.63	1.73	1.90
Net income (loss) per ADS at year end	(4.20)	(9.82)	2.87	1.25	3.46	3.80
Dividends declared per share:						
Common shares			0.64		0.90	0.56
Class A preferred shares			0.64	0.16	0.90	0.56
Class B preferred shares			0.64	0.16	0.56	0.56
Dividends declared per ADS			1.28	0.32	1.80	1.12

(1) Translated for convenience only using the selling rate as reported by the Central Bank at December 31, 2008 for reais into U.S. dollars of R\$2.337=US\$1.00.

(2) Results from equity accounting comprises equity in the results of associated companies (which, in the case of the year ended December 31, 2008, consisted of Borealis Brasil S.A., or Borealis and Sansuyl Administração, Participação, Representação e Serviços Ltda.), amortization of goodwill, net, foreign exchange variation and tax incentives and other.

	At and for the Year Ended December 31,				
2008(1)	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004

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(in millions of
US\$, except per
share amounts)

(in millions of *reais*, except per share amounts and as otherwise indicated)

Statement of Operations Data

U.S. GAAP:

Net income (loss) for the year	US\$(781.6)	R\$(1,826.7)	R\$1,089.1	R\$161.6	R\$741.2	R\$843.1
Basic earnings (loss) per share						
(weighted average):						
Common shares	(4.41)	(10.31)	2.77	0.13	2.05	2.63
Class A preferred shares			2.78	0.59	2.05	2.69
Class B preferred shares			2.75	0.63	0.63	0.56
Basic earnings (loss) per ADS						
(weighted average)			5.56	1.18	4.10	5.38
Diluted earnings (loss) per share						
(weighted average):						

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	At and for the Year Ended December 31,					
	2008 (1)	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
	(in millions of US\$, except per share amounts)	(in millions of reais, except per share amounts and as otherwise indicated)				
Common shares	(4.48)	(10.48)	2.56	0.13	1.95	2.40
Class A preferred shares			2.54	0.59	1.95	2.40
Class B preferred shares			2.75	0.63	0.63	0.56
Diluted earnings (loss) per ADS (weighted average)			5.08	1.18	3.90	4.80

(1) Translated for convenience only using the selling rate as reported by the Central Bank at December 31, 2008 for reais into U.S. dollars of R\$2.337=US\$1.00.

	At and for the Year Ended December 31,					
	2008(1)	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
	(in millions of US\$, except per share amounts)	(in millions of reais, except per share amounts and as otherwise indicated)				
			Retrospect- ively Revised	Retrospect- ively Revised		

Balance Sheet Data

Brazilian GAAP:

Cash, cash equivalents and other						
investments	US\$1,261.7	R\$2,948.6	R\$2,138.9	R\$1,961.0	R\$2,281.5	R\$1,815.6
Short-term trade accounts receivable	426.3	996.2	1,497.0	1,594.9	1,493.3	1,630.6
Short-term inventories	1,261.5	2,948.1	2,264.3	1,767.3	1,567.4	1,562.4
Property, plant and equipment, net	4,398.1	10,278.4	8,404.1	6,688.7	6,364.4	5,830.4
Total assets	9,714.1	22,701.9	20,780.7	16,168.3	15,590.8	15,050.4
Short-term loans and financing (including current portion of long-						
term debt)(3)	907.1	2,120.0	1,068.4	653.9	1,120.4	1,808.3
Short-term debentures	11.3	26.3	111.6	1,157.7	9.3	5.0
Short-term related party debt					3.1	
Long-term loans and financing(2)	3,868.1	9,039.8	6,401.9	3,935.8	3,261.6	3,261.4
Long-term debentures	342.3	800.0	800.0	982.2	1,599.3	1,167.9
Long-term related party debt				4.8	3.0	115.8
Minority interest			598.0	21.8	121.2	203.1
Share capital	2,300.3	5,375.8	4,641.0	3,508.3	3,403.0	3,403.0
Shareholders' equity	1,574.6	3,679.8	5,678.5	4,208.7	4,535.8	4,183.7

Other Financial Information

Brazilian GAAP:

Cash Flow Data:

Net cash provided by (used in):						
Operating activities	US\$1,232.0	R\$2,879.3	R\$2,474.5	R\$(317.6)	R\$1,719.4	R\$1,916.0
Investing activities	(922.0)	(2,154.7)	(3,649.5)	(1,206.3)	(1,048.0)	(1,014.4)
Financing activities	(1.3)	(3.1)	1,518.0	935.3	(329.7)	166.0

Other Information:

Capital expenditures:						
Property, plant and equipment	US\$600.9	R\$1,404.2	R\$1,277.2	R\$889.7	R\$930.2	R\$704.4
Investments in other companies	279.8	653.8	1,345.5	222.7	34.0	23.6

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- (1) Translated for convenience only using the selling rate as reported by the Central Bank at December 31, 2008 for reais into U.S. dollars of R\$2.337=US\$1.00.
- (2) Includes quotas (i.e., shares) subject to mandatory redemption at and prior to December 31, 2006. Prior to January 1, 2006, we recorded quotas subject to mandatory redemption as a separate line item of our balance sheet and not as part of loans and financing. Accordingly, short-term loans and financing (including current portion of long-term debt) at December 31, 2005 and 2004 reflect the reclassification of quotas subject to mandatory redemption in the amount of R\$225.4 million and R\$22.4 million, respectively, and long-term loans and financing at December 31, 2005 and 2004 reflect the reclassification of quotas subject to mandatory redemption in the amount of R\$404.1 million and R\$201.8 million, respectively.

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	At and for the Year Ended December 31,					
	2008(1)	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
	(in millions of US\$, except per share amounts)	(in millions of reais, except per share amounts and as otherwise indicated)				
Balance Sheet Data						
<i>U.S. GAAP</i>						
Total assets	US\$10,741.2	R\$25,102.3	R\$23,373.1	R\$14,890.7	R\$13,634.0	R\$12,671.7
Shareholders' equity	1,722.6	4,025.7	5,031.9	2,966.8	2,918.4	2,439.6

(1) Translated for convenience only using the selling rate as reported by the Central Bank at December 31, 2008 for reais into U.S. dollars of R\$2.337=US\$1.00.

	At and for the Year Ended December 31,				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Operating Data(1):					
Ethylene:					
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)	2,095.1	2,068.4	1,108.5	1,169.8	1,098.9
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)	2,692	2,333	2,282	2,204	2,095
Propylene:					
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)	994.5	945.1	413.0	497.5	446.8
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)	2,316	2,164	2,110	2,132	1,833
Polyethylene:					
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)	977.3	943.9	604.7	502.3	498.7
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)	3,871	3,572	3,253	3,072	2,987
Polypropylene:					
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)	606.2	573.1	453.2	419.9	418.5
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)	3,569	3,458	3,344	3,344	3,155
PVC:					
Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons)	496.3	464.9	400.4	378.9	394.4
Average domestic price per ton (in R\$)	2,678	2,616	2,511	2,747	3,042
Number of employees (at period end)	4,802	4,783	3,494	3,262	2,996

(1) Including intra-company sales within our company. Intra-company sales of ethylene totaled approximately 1,708,300 tons in 2008, 1,644,000 tons in 2007, 882,500 tons in 2006, 588,700 tons in 2005 and 537,100 tons in 2004. Intra-company sales of propylene totaled approximately 634,400 tons in 2008, 567,800 tons in 2007, 86,500 tons in 2006, 89,300 tons in 2005 and 31,300 tons in 2004.

Exchange Rates

Prior to March 14, 2005, there were two principal foreign exchange markets in Brazil:

- the commercial rate exchange market; and
- the floating rate exchange market.

Most trade and financial foreign-exchange transactions were carried out on the commercial rate exchange market. The floating rate exchange market generally applied to transactions to which the commercial market rate did not apply.

On March 4, 2005, the National Monetary Council (*Conselho Monetário Nacional*) enacted Resolution No. 3,265, as well as additional regulations, that consolidated the two foreign exchange markets into a single foreign exchange market, effective as of March 14, 2005, in order to make foreign exchange transactions more straightforward and efficient. Consequently, all foreign exchange transactions in Brazil are now carried out in this single foreign exchange market through authorized financial institutions. We cannot predict the impact of the enactment of any new regulations on the foreign exchange market.

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Foreign exchange rates continue to be freely negotiated, but may be influenced from time to time by Central Bank intervention. From March 1995 through January 1999, the Central Bank allowed the gradual depreciation 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, 2000 through December 31, 2002, the *real* depreciated by

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80.6% against the U.S. dollar. From December 31, 2002 through December 31, 2007, the *real* appreciated by 49.9% against the U.S. dollar, and in 2008, the *real* depreciated by 31.9% against the U.S. dollar. At July 7, 2009, the selling rate for U.S. dollars was R\$1.964 per US\$1.00. In the past, the Central Bank has intervened occasionally to control unstable movements in foreign exchange rates. We cannot predict whether the Central Bank or the Brazilian government will continue to allow the *real* to float freely or will intervene in the exchange rate market through a currency band system or otherwise, or that the exchange market will not be volatile as a result of political or economic instability or other factors. We also cannot predict whether the *real* will depreciate or appreciate in value in relation to the U.S. dollar in the future.

The following table shows the commercial selling rate or selling rate, as applicable, 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 periods presented.

<u>Year</u>	<i>Reais per U.S. Dollar</i>			
	High	Low	Average	Period End
2004	R\$3.205	R\$2.654	R\$2.917	R\$2.654
2005	2.762	2.163	2.413	2.341
2006	2.371	2.059	2.168	2.138
2007	2.156	1.733	1.930	1.771
2008	2.500	1.559	1.834	2.337

<u>Month</u>	<i>Reais per U.S. Dollar</i>	
	High	Low
December 2008	R\$2.500	R\$2.337
January 2009	2.380	2.189
February 2009	2.392	2.245
March 2009	2.422	2.238
April 2009	2.290	2.170
May 2009	2.148	1.973
June 2009	2.007	1.930
July 2009 (through July 7)	1.971	1.934

Source: Central Bank

Risk Factors

Risks Relating to Our Company and the Petrochemical Industry

The global financial and credit crisis has adversely affected economic growth in Brazil and elsewhere, and may limit our access to the financial markets.

The global financial and credit crisis and related instability in the international financial system have had, and may continue to have, a negative effect on economic growth in Brazil and in the countries to which we export our products. The ongoing crisis has reduced the availability of liquidity and credit to fund the continuation and expansion of industrial business operations worldwide. The shortage of liquidity and credit combined with recent substantial losses in worldwide equity markets, including in Brazil, could lead to an extended worldwide economic recession or depression. A prolonged slowdown in economic activity in Brazil and elsewhere has and could continue to reduce demand for some of our products, which would adversely affect our results of operations.

We may also face significant liquidity challenges if conditions in the financial markets do not improve. Our ability to access the capital markets or the commercial bank lending markets may be severely restricted at a time when we would like, or need, to access such markets, which could have an impact on our flexibility to react to changing economic and business conditions. The financial and credit crisis could have an impact on the lenders under our existing credit facilities, on our customers, or on the ability of our suppliers to meet scheduled deliveries,

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causing them to fail to meet their obligations to us. If the global financial and credit crisis deepens further, it could have an adverse affect the demand for our products and our ability to fund our planned growth.

The cyclical nature of the petrochemical industry may reduce our net sales revenue and gross margin.

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 reduce our net sales revenue and gross margin. In particular:

- downturns in general business and economic activity may cause demand for our products to decline;
- when demand falls, we may face competitive pressures 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 commodities. We establish the prices for the products we sell in Brazil with reference to international market prices. Our net sales revenue and gross margin are 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, we generally set the prices for our second generation products 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 other 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.

Higher naphtha costs would increase our cost of sales and services rendered and may reduce our gross margin and negatively affect our overall financial performance.

Naphtha, a crude oil derivative, is the principal raw material of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit and, indirectly, of our other business units. Naphtha accounted, directly and indirectly, for approximately 80.2% of our consolidated cost of sales and services rendered in 2008. The price of naphtha supplied by Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. Petrobras, or Petrobras, has historically been linked to the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price of naphtha and to the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate. The price of naphtha that we purchase from other international suppliers is also linked to the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price. The Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price of naphtha fluctuates primarily based on changes in the U.S. dollar-based price of crude oil in the international markets.

Since March 2009, the price that we have paid for naphtha that we purchase from Petrobras has been based on a variety of factors, including the market prices of a naphtha and a variety of other petroleum derivatives, the volatility of the prices of these products in the international markets, the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate, and the level of paraffinicity of the naphtha that is delivered. We expect these pricing terms to be reflected in the new naphtha supply contract between our company and Petrobras that will replace (1) the existing naphtha supply contract between our company and Petrobras for the supply of naphtha to our basic petrochemicals plants located in the petrochemical complex located in Triunfo in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, which we refer to as the Southern Complex, and (2) the naphtha supply contract between our company and Petrobras for the supply naphtha of

naphtha to our basic petrochemicals plants located in the petrochemical complex located in Camaçari in the State of Bahia, which we refer to as the Northeastern Complex, which was terminated in June 2008. The negotiations of the new naphtha supply contract have been substantially completed and we expect that the new naphtha supply contract will be executed during the third quarter of 2009.

During 2008, the average Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price of naphtha in U.S. dollars increased by 17.2% to US\$791.34 per ton in 2008 from US\$675.48 per ton in 2007. The U.S. dollar price of naphtha was volatile during 2008, increasing from an average of US\$834.14 per ton in December 2007 to an average of US\$1,091.85 per ton in June 2008 followed by a dramatic decline to US\$258.16 per ton in December 2008. Since December 31, 2008, the price of naphtha in U.S. dollars has increased to US\$567.50 per ton at July 7, 2009. The price of naphtha in U.S. dollars may continue to be volatile. In addition, the *real* may depreciate against the U.S. dollar in the future, effectively increasing our naphtha costs in *reais*. Any increase in naphtha costs would reduce our gross margin and negatively affect our overall financial performance to the extent that we are unable to pass on these increased costs to our customers and could result in reduced sales volumes of our products.

We do not hedge against changes in naphtha prices, so that we are exposed to fluctuations in the price of our primary raw material.

We currently do not hedge our exposure to fluctuations in naphtha prices, which are linked to the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate. Although we attempt to pass on increases in naphtha prices through higher prices for our products, in periods of high volatility in the U.S. dollar price of naphtha or the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate, there is usually a lag between the time that the U.S. dollar price of naphtha increases or the *real* depreciates against the U.S. dollar and the time that we may effectively pass on those increased costs in *reais* to our customers in Brazil. As a result, if the U.S. dollar price of naphtha increases precipitously or 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 would likely reduce our gross margin and net income.

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

Petrobras currently is the only Brazilian supplier of naphtha and supplied 63.6% of the naphtha consumed by our company in 2008. Petrobras produces most of the naphtha it sells to us and imports the balance. Our production volume and net sales revenue would likely decrease and our overall financial performance would likely be negatively affected in the event of:

- significant damage to Petrobras refineries or to the port facilities through which Petrobras imports naphtha or to any of the pipelines connecting our plants to Petrobras facilities, whether as a consequence of an accident, natural disaster, fire or otherwise;
- our failure to enter into a new naphtha supply contract with Petrobras on satisfactory terms to replace the existing supply contract under which Petrobras supplies naphtha to our basic petrochemicals plants located in the Southern Complex and the agreement that terminated in June 2008 under which Petrobras supplied naphtha to our basic petrochemicals plants located in the Northeastern Complex; or
- any termination by Petrobras of the naphtha supply contract with our company under which Petrobras supplies naphtha to our basic petrochemicals plants located in the Southern Complex, which provides that Petrobras may terminate the contract for a number of reasons, including as a result of a national emergency affecting the supply of petroleum derivatives in Brazil.

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 increase our production costs.

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Our Polyolefins and Vinyls Units depend on our Basic Petrochemicals Unit to supply them with their ethylene and propylene requirements.

Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit is the only supplier of ethylene to our Vinyls Unit and the only supplier of ethylene and propylene to our Polyolefins Unit. Because the cost of storing ethylene and propylene is substantial and there is inadequate infrastructure in Brazil to permit the importation of large quantities of these products, our production volumes of, and net sales revenue from, vinyls and polyolefins products would decrease, and our overall financial performance would be negatively affected, in the event of:

- significant damage to our Basic Petrochemicals Unit's facilities through which ethylene or propylene is produced, or to the pipeline or other facilities that connect our Vinyls and Polyolefins Units to our Basic Petrochemicals Unit, whether as a consequence of an accident, natural disaster, fire or otherwise; or
- any significant reduction in the supply of naphtha to our Basic Petrochemicals Unit, as naphtha is the principal raw material used in the production of ethylene and propylene.

Any downgrade in the ratings of our company or our debt securities would likely result in increased interest and other financial expenses related to our borrowings and debt securities and could reduce our liquidity.

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., or Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investors Service, or Moody's, and Fitch, Inc., or Fitch, maintain ratings of our company and our debt securities. Currently, Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch maintain ratings of our company on a local and a global basis. Standard & Poor's maintains a rating of our company on a local basis of 'br AA+/Stable Outlook', Moody's maintains a rating of our company on a local basis of 'Aa2.br/Stable Outlook' and Fitch maintains a local rating for our company of 'AA (bra)/Stable Outlook'. On a global basis, Standard & Poor's maintains a local currency rating for our company of 'BB+' (stable) and a foreign currency rating for our company of 'BB+' (stable), Moody's maintains a local currency rating for our company of 'Ba1' and a foreign currency rating for our company of 'Ba1' and Fitch maintains a local currency rating for our company of 'BB+/Stable Outlook' and a foreign currency rating for our company of 'BB+/Stable Outlook'. Any decision by these or other rating agencies to downgrade the ratings of our company or of our debt securities in the future would likely result in increased interest and other financial expenses relating to our borrowings and debt securities and could significantly reduce our ability to obtain such financing on satisfactory terms or in amounts required by us and our liquidity.

Some of our shareholders may have the ability to determine the outcome of corporate actions or decisions, which could affect the holders of our class A preferred shares and the ADS.

Odebrecht S.A., or Odebrecht, a member of a group of companies controlled by the Odebrecht family, which we refer to as the Odebrecht Group, holds, directly and indirectly, 62.3% of our voting share capital and Petrobras holds, directly and indirectly, 31.0% of our voting share capital. Designees of Odebrecht constitute a majority of the members of our board of directors, and Petrobras and Petrobras Química S.A., or Petroquisa, a subsidiary of Petrobras, have veto and other rights under the Petrobras Shareholders' Agreement as described under Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions Major Shareholders' Shareholders' Agreements. As a result, Odebrecht, Petrobras and Petroquisa will have the ability to determine 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 our class A preferred shares and the ADS.

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). Currently, Petrobras, through Petroquisa, is the indirect holder of 31.0% of our voting share capital and 25.3% 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, other than the prices that we have paid for naphtha purchased from Petrobras since March 2009 for our basic petrochemical plant in the Northeastern Complex, which we believe are more suitable to the products that we

receive from Petrobras compared to products and prices available in transactions that we enter into with other third parties. We also engage in financial and other transactions with some of our shareholders. These and other commercial and financial transactions between us and our affiliates could result in conflicting interests.

We may make significant acquisitions which, if not successfully integrated with our company, may adversely affect our operating results.

We may make significant acquisitions in the future, to continue our growth. Acquisitions involve risks, including the following:

- failure of acquired businesses to achieve expected results;
- possible inability to retain or hire key personnel of acquired businesses;
- possible inability to achieve expected synergies and/or economies of scale;
- unanticipated liabilities; and
- antitrust considerations.

If we are unable to integrate or manage acquired businesses successfully, we may not realize anticipated cost savings, revenue growth and levels of integration, which may result in reduced profitability or operating losses.

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

We currently benefit from tariffs imposed by the Brazilian government on imports that allow us to charge prices for our polyolefins and vinyls products in the domestic market that include a factor based on the tariffs levied on comparable imports of those products. 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. For example, in 2004 the Brazilian government lowered the tariffs applicable to most of the thermoplastic products that we produce by 1.5%. Future adjustments of tariffs could cause us to lower our domestic prices, which would likely result in lower net sales revenue and could negatively affect our overall financial performance.

Our business is subject to stringent environmental regulations, and the imposition of new regulations could require significant capital expenditures and increase our operating costs.

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 for us to remain compliant could increase substantially and could decrease 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 shutdowns 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.

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Unfavorable outcomes in pending litigation may reduce our liquidity and negatively affect our financial performance and financial condition.

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 as to the likelihood of winning these lawsuits.

The principal lawsuits for which we have not established provisions include the following:

- *IPI Credits on Raw Materials Purchases.* We have challenged the constitutionality of the Brazilian federal tax authorities interpretation of the regulations governing the assessment of the *Imposto sobre Produtos Industrializados*, or IPI, tax (a federal value-added tax on industrial products). In December 2002, the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court (*Supremo Tribunal Federal*) held that OPP Química S.A., or OPP Química, was entitled to IPI tax credits in an aggregate amount of R\$1,030.1 million. We have recognized these tax credits and have used the full amount of these tax credits to offset IPI and other federal tax obligations. In a procedural decision on December 11, 2007, the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court held that a new judgment should be rendered and, in view of the importance of the matters raised by our lawsuit, the parties were granted an opportunity to make new oral arguments concerning the matter. In December 2007, the First Panel of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court agreed to hear the special appeal. This decision was published in March 2009 and does not clearly identify the subject matter to be reviewed in the special appeal. Based on the opinions rendered by a majority of the justices sitting on the First Panel, we believe that the only matters to be heard in the special appeal will be those raised by the Brazilian government in the special appeal, and that the court will not revisit the validity of IPI tax credits. Despite the possibility of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court's review of the merits of its former decision and its ruling against us, we believe that the December 2002 decision should nonetheless be given *res judicata* (i.e., final and binding) effect. The tax credits used by us relating to both the 10-year period preceding the filing of our suit and the subsequent period during which we have relied on the favorable ruling of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court in December 2002, as adjusted by applying the *Sistema Especial de Liquidação e de Custódia*, or SELIC, interest rate through December 31, 2008, amount to R\$2,682.2 million at December 31, 2008. The various collection proceedings instituted by the Brazilian federal tax authorities based on their interpretation of the regulations that is in dispute have claimed R\$2,423.2 million (which includes interest) as of December 31, 2008, plus fines in the aggregate amount of R\$783.4 million. We have not established a provision for these tax claims against us.
- *Social Contribution on Net Income.* We have challenged the constitutionality of the Brazilian federal Social Contribution on Net Income (*Contribuição Social Sobre o Lucro Líquido*), or CSLL. A Brazilian Federal Supreme Court 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. We believe that it is reasonably possible that we will lose our appeal. If we lose our appeal, we believe that we would be required to pay CSLL only from the date that a final decision is published. However, as Brazilian law allows rescission actions to relate back to, and to take effect from, the date of the initial decision, we believe that it is reasonably possible that we will be required to pay this tax from the date of the original decision, in which case our total estimated exposure at December 31, 2008, including interest, would be R\$835.4 million. This amount does not include approximately R\$242.0 million in penalties at December 31, 2008 that we believe we would not be required to pay because we relied upon a judicial decision in not paying the CSLL. We believe that there is a possibility that we will be required to pay related interest and a remote possibility that we will be required to pay fines as a result of this tax litigation. We have not established a provision for these lawsuits.
- *Cost of Living Adjustments on Workers' Wages.* The unions that represent employers and workers at the facilities located 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. As we believe that it is not probable that the employers' union will lose this lawsuit, we have not recorded a provision in respect of this suit. If the employers' union loses this lawsuit and we are required to pay damages from

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April 1990 to September 1990, we estimate that we could be subject to liability of up to R\$35.0 million, although additional claims would have to be brought by the workers' union or individual employees to quantify the amount of damages that we would be required to pay.

In addition, we believe that our chances of success are remote in a series of lawsuits in which we challenged the constitutionality of an increase in the federal Contribution for Social Security Financing (*Contribuição para Financiamento da Seguridade Social - COFINS*), or COFINS, tax rate. We had established total provisions of R\$60.8 million at December 31, 2008 for all of our lawsuits relating to the Social Integration Program (*Programa de Integração Social*), or PIS, and COFINS, including separate lawsuits challenging the basis of calculation of PIS and COFINS. Because we have deposited only R\$28.9 million of this amount with the courts, we would be required, in the event we receive final, unfavorable decisions, to pay the remaining amounts for which we have not made 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 or applicable law. In some cases in which 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. These provisions totaled R\$1,231.2 million at December 31, 2008, as adjusted based on the SELIC interest rate. 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 reduce our liquidity. We believe that losses related to some of these lawsuits are reasonably possible.

For more information about our legal proceedings, see Item 8. Financial Information - Legal Proceedings.

Risks Relating to Brazil

Brazilian political and economic conditions, and the Brazilian government's economic and other policies, may negatively affect demand for our products as well as our net sales revenue and overall financial performance.

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.

Our results of operations and financial condition 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;
- liquidity of domestic capital and lending markets; and
- other political, diplomatic, social and economic developments in or affecting Brazil.

Uncertainty over whether possible changes in policies or rules affecting these or other factors may contribute to economic uncertainties in Brazil and to heightened volatility in the Brazilian securities markets and securities issued

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abroad by Brazilian issuers. The President of Brazil has considerable power to determine governmental policies and actions that relate to the Brazilian economy and, consequently, affect the operations and financial performance of businesses, such as our company. The term of Brazil's current President, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, expires in January 2011, and under Brazilian law he is not permitted to run for another four-year term in the October 2010 elections. Uncertainty regarding the election of President Lula's successor and speculation about the policies that may be implemented by the Brazilian federal or state governments could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Fluctuations in the real/U.S. dollar exchange rate could increase inflation in Brazil, raise the cost of servicing our foreign currency-denominated debt and negatively affect our overall financial performance.

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 been 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* appreciated in value against the U.S. dollar by 8.1% in 2004, 11.8% in 2005, 8.7% in 2006 and 17.2% in 2007. In 2008, primarily as a result of the international financial crisis, the *real* depreciated by 31.9% against the U.S. dollar and prompted foreign investors to remove billions of *reais* from the *BM&FBOVESPA S.A. - Bolsa de Valores Mercadorias e Futuros* (Securities, Commodities and Futures Exchange), which we refer to as the *BM&FBOVESPA*.

Depreciation of the *real* relative to the U.S. dollar also could result in inflationary pressures in Brazil by generally increasing the price of imported products and services and requiring recessionary government policies to curb demand. In addition, depreciation of the *real* could weaken investor confidence in Brazil and reduce the market price of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs. On the other hand, the 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 principal amount of R\$9,104.9 million (US\$3,896.0 million) at December 31, 2008, representing 76.0% of our consolidated indebtedness, excluding related party debt. Our indebtedness denominated in dollars represented 74.3% of our consolidated indebtedness and our indebtedness denominated in Japanese Yen represented 1.6% of our consolidated indebtedness. At December 31, 2008, we had US\$453.2 million in U.S. dollar-denominated cash equivalents and other investments. The 31.9% depreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar in 2008 was the primary factor in the 878% increase in our net financial expenses in 2008 which, in turn, was a significant factor in our net loss for 2008. A significant depreciation of the *real* in relation to the U.S. dollar or other currencies could increase our financial expenses as a result of foreign exchange losses that we must record and could reduce our ability to meet debt service requirements of our foreign currency-denominated obligations, particularly as our net sales revenue is primarily denominated in *reais*.

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 2008, naphtha and condensate accounted for 64.8% of our direct and indirect consolidated cost of sales and services rendered. 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 to the extent that we are unable to pass on these cost increases to our customers.

The Brazilian government's actions to combat inflation may contribute significantly to economic uncertainty in Brazil and reduce demand for our products.

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 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 12.1% in 2004, 1.2% in 2005, 3.8% in 2006, 7.9% in 2007 and 9.1% in 2008, as measured by the General Price Index Internal Availability. The Brazilian government's measures to control inflation have often included maintaining a tight monetary policy with high interest rates, thereby restricting availability of credit and reducing economic growth. 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 slow the rate of growth of the Brazilian economy, which would lead to reduced demand for our products in Brazil and decreased net sales revenue. Inflation is also likely to increase some of our costs and expenses, which we may not be able to pass on to our customers and, as a result, may reduce our profit margins and net income. In addition, high inflation generally leads to higher domestic interest rates, and, as a result, the costs of servicing our *real* denominated debt may increase, causing our net income to be reduced. Inflation and its effect on domestic interest rates can, in addition, lead to reduced liquidity in the domestic capital and lending markets, which could adversely affect our ability to refinance our indebtedness in those markets. Any decline in our net sales revenue or net income and any deterioration in our financial condition would also likely lead to a decline in the market price of our class A preferred shares and the ADS.

Fluctuations in interest rates could raise the cost of servicing our debt and negatively affect our overall financial performance.

Our financial expenses are affected by changes in the interest rates that apply to our floating rate debt. At December 31, 2008, we had, among other debt obligations, R\$1,435.9 million of loans and financing and debentures that were subject to the TJLP (*Taxa de Juros de Longo Prazo*), or TJLP, a long-term interest rate, R\$1,189.9 million of loans and financing and debentures that were subject to the *Certificado Depositário Interbancário*, or CDI, rate, an interbank rate, and R\$3,965.8 million of loans and financing that were subject to the London Interbank Offered Rate, or LIBOR. The TJLP includes an inflation factor and is determined quarterly by the Central Bank. In particular, the TJLP and the CDI rate have fluctuated significantly in the past in response to the expansion or contraction of the Brazilian economy, inflation, Brazilian government policies and other factors. For example, in 2008 the CDI rate declined from 11.1% per annum at December 31, 2007 to 13.6% per annum at December 31, 2008. See Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk. A significant increase in any of these interest rates could adversely affect our financial expenses and negatively affect our overall financial performance.

Brazilian government exchange control policies could increase the cost of servicing our foreign currency-denominated debt and impair our liquidity.

The purchase and sale of foreign currency in Brazil is subject to governmental control. In 1990, the Central Bank 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 increase the cost of servicing, and thereby reduce our ability to pay, our foreign currency-denominated debt obligations and other liabilities. Our foreign-currency debt denominated in dollars and Japanese Yen represented an aggregate of 76.0% of our indebtedness on a consolidated basis at December 31, 2008. If we fail to make payments under any of these obligations, we will be in default under those obligations, which could reduce our liquidity as well as the market price of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs.

Changes in tax laws may result in increases in certain direct and indirect taxes, which could reduce our gross margin and negatively affect our overall financial performance.

The Brazilian government implements from time to time changes to tax regimes that may increase our and our customers' tax burdens. These changes include modifications in the rate of assessments and, on occasion, enactment of temporary taxes, the proceeds of which are earmarked for designated governmental purposes. We cannot predict the changes to Brazilian tax law that may be proposed and enacted in the future. However, future changes in Brazilian tax law may result in increases in our overall tax burden, which could reduce our gross margin and negatively affect our overall financial performance.

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. Holders of preferred shares without voting rights are entitled to elect one member and his or her respective alternate to our board of directors and our fiscal council. 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 the ADSs may find it difficult to exercise even their limited voting rights at our shareholders' meetings.

Holders may exercise their 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 the ADSs will receive notice of a shareholders' meeting by mail from the depositary following our notice to the American Depositary Receipt, or ADR, depositary requesting the ADR depositary to do so. To exercise their voting rights, ADS holders must instruct the depositary 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 all or part of the ADSs, the depositary will assume that the holders of those ADSs are instructing it to give a discretionary proxy to a person designated by us to vote their ADSs, except in limited circumstances.

In the limited circumstances in which holders of the ADSs have voting rights, they may not receive the voting materials in time to instruct the depositary to vote the class A preferred shares underlying their ADSs. In addition, the depositary and its agents are not responsible for failing to carry out the voting instructions of the holders of the ADSs or for the manner of carrying out those voting instructions. Accordingly, holders of the ADSs may not be able to exercise their voting rights, and they will have no recourse if the class A preferred shares underlying their ADSs are not voted as requested.

Exchange controls and restrictions on remittances abroad may adversely affect holders of the ADSs and the underlying class A preferred shares.

The Brazilian government may impose temporary restrictions on the conversion of Brazilian currency into foreign currencies and on the remittance to foreign investors of proceeds of 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 1990.

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These restrictions could hinder or prevent the Brazilian custodian of the class A preferred shares underlying the ADSs or holders who have exchanged the ADSs for the underlying class A preferred shares from converting dividends, distributions or the proceeds from any sale of such shares into U.S. dollars and remitting such U.S. dollars abroad. In such an event, the Brazilian custodian for our class A preferred shares will hold the *reais* that it cannot convert for the account of holders of the ADSs who have not been paid. Neither the custodian nor the depository will be required to invest the *reais* or be liable for any interest.

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

Holders of the ADSs are not direct shareholders of our company and are unable to enforce the rights of shareholders under our by-laws and the Brazilian Corporation Law.

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. Even if a holder of ADSs surrenders its ADSs and becomes a direct shareholder, its rights as a holder of the class A preferred shares underlying the ADSs under the Brazilian Corporation Law to protect its 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 the 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.

Holders of the 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 holders of the ADSs to effect service of process upon us or these other persons within the United States or other jurisdictions outside Brazil or to enforce against us or these other persons judgments obtained in the United States or other jurisdictions outside Brazil. Because judgments of U.S. courts for civil liabilities based upon the U.S. federal securities laws may only be enforced in Brazil if certain conditions are met, holders may face greater difficulties in protecting their interests 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 could negatively affect the market prices of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs. If, in the future, substantial sales of shares are made by Odebrecht or its affiliates, 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, holders of the ADSs may not be able to sell the ADSs at or above the price they paid for them.

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

Holders of the ADSs will be unable to exercise the preemptive rights relating to the class A preferred shares underlying the 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 or to take any other action to

make preemptive rights available to holders of the ADSs, and we may not file any such registration statement. If we do not file a registration statement or if we and the depositary decide not to make preemptive rights available to holders of the ADSs, those holders may receive only the net proceeds from the sale of their preemptive rights by the depositary, or if they are not sold, their preemptive rights will be allowed to lapse.

Holders of the 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 between non-Brazilian holders outside Brazil was not subject to Brazilian income tax. However, 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 acquiror is resident or domiciled abroad, shall be responsible for the retention and payment of the income tax applicable to capital gains earned by the individual or legal entity resident or domiciled abroad who disposes of property located in Brazil. The Brazilian tax authorities have recently issued a normative instruction confirming that they intend to assess income tax on capital gains earned by non-Brazilian residents whose assets are located in Brazil. In our view, ADSs representing class A preferred shares, which are issued by the depositary outside Brazil, will not be deemed to be property located in Brazil for purposes of this law. However, we cannot assure holders of our ADSs whether Brazilian tax authorities will attempt to tax any capital gains arising from the sale or other disposition of ADSs, even when the transaction is consummated outside Brazil between non-Brazilian residents.

The relative volatility and liquidity of the Brazilian securities markets may decrease the liquidity and market price of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs.

The Brazilian securities markets are substantially smaller, less liquid and more volatile than major securities markets in the United States. The BM&FBOVESPA, which is the principal Brazilian stock exchange, had a market capitalization of R\$1,375.3 billion (US\$588.5 billion) at December 31, 2008 and an average daily trading volume of US\$3.1 billion for 2008. In comparison, The New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, had a market capitalization of US\$14.3 trillion at December 31, 2008 and an average daily trading volume of US\$152.6 billion for 2008. There is also significantly greater concentration in the Brazilian securities markets. The ten largest companies in terms of market capitalization represented approximately 52% of the aggregate market capitalization of the BM&FBOVESPA at December 31, 2008. The ten most widely traded stocks in terms of trading volume accounted for approximately 53% of all shares traded on the BM&FBOVESPA in 2008. 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 and, as a result, could negatively impact the market price of the ADSs themselves.

Developments in other emerging markets may decrease the market price of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs.

The market price of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs may decrease due to 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 our class A preferred shares and the ADSs.

ITEM 4. INFORMATION ON THE COMPANY

We are the leading petrochemical company in Latin America, based on average annual production capacity in 2008. We are also the third largest Brazilian-owned private sector industrial company, based on net sales revenue in 2008. We recorded net sales revenue of R\$17,959.5 million and a net loss of R\$2,492.1 million in 2008, in each case under Brazilian GAAP. We produce a diversified portfolio of petrochemical products and have a strategic focus on polyethylene, polypropylene and polyvinyl chloride, or PVC. We have integrated first and second generation petrochemical production facilities, with 18 plants in Brazil.

Our registered office is at Rua Eteno, 1561, CEP 42810-000, Camaçari, Bahia, Brazil, and our telephone number at this address is 55-71-3413-2102. Our principal executive office is at Avenida das Nações Unidas, 8,501, São Paulo, SP, CEP 05425-070, Brazil, and our telephone number at this address is 55-11-3576-9000.

History and Development of Our Company

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 under the laws of Brazil (with Brazilian company registry No. 29300006939) and were renamed Copene Petroquímica do Nordeste S.A.

Prior to August 1995, Petroquisa, the petrochemical subsidiary of Petrobras, owned 36.2% of our total share capital, representing 48.2% of our voting share capital. At that time, Nordeste Química S.A. Norquisa, or Norquisa, owned 17.3% of our total share capital, representing 47.6% of our voting share capital, and the remainder of our share capital was owned by various Brazilian private sector groups, pension funds, banks and our employees.

Privatization of Our Company

In August 1995, as part of the Brazilian government s privatization program, Petroquisa sold 14.8% of our total share capital, representing 32.8% of our voting share capital, through an auction. Norquisa acquired 5.5% of our total share capital, representing 10.8% of our voting share capital, in this auction, and the remaining shares were acquired by various Brazilian pension funds. At the time of this auction, Norquisa was controlled by several second generation producers in the Northeastern Complex. As a result of this auction, Norquisa became our controlling shareholder.

Consolidation of Petrochemical Assets

In 2001, the Odebrecht Group and a group of companies controlled by the Mariani family, or the Mariani Group, acquired control of Norquisa through purchases of shares of Norquisa and the contribution to our company of:

- 66.7% of the voting share capital of Polialden Petroquímica S.A., or Polialden;
- 35.0% of the voting share capital of Politeno; and
- Proppet S.A., or Proppet, which was merged into our company in 2001.

In 2002, we acquired from the Odebrecht Group and the Mariani Group in exchange for shares representing 47.3% of our voting and total share capital:

- OPP Química, which in turn owned 41.6% of the total share capital of Trikem S.A., or Trikem, representing 64.4% of its voting share capital;
- 29.5% of the total share capital and voting share capital of Copesul; and

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- 92.3% of the total share capital of Nitrocarbano S.A., or Nitrocarbano, representing 95.5% of its voting share capital.

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

Consolidation of Minority Interests

Between 2003 and 2007, we have purchased the minority interests of Nitrocarbano, OPP Química, Polialden, Trikem and Politeno, and merged these companies into Braskem through the following transactions:

- In 2003, (1) we conducted a public exchange offer for the remaining voting share capital of Nitrocarbano not owned by our company and, following the completion of this exchange offer, we merged with Nitrocarbano, (2) we merged with OPP Química, (3) we acquired the remaining outstanding common shares of Polialden, and (4) we acquired substantially all of the remaining outstanding common shares of Trikem and conducted a public exchange offer for the remaining voting share capital of Trikem not owned by our company.
- In 2004, (1) we merged with Trikem, and (2) we acquired additional shares of Polialden, increasing our interest in the total share capital of Polialden from 56.3% to 63.7%.
- In April 2006, we purchased all of the common and preferred shares of Politeno that were owned by SPQ Investimentos e Participações Ltda., or SPQ, a subsidiary of Suzano Petroquímica S.A., or Suzano, Sumitomo Chemical Company Limited, or Sumitomo, and Itochu Corporation, or Itochu. We refer to this transaction as the Politeno Acquisition. Following the Politeno Acquisition, we owned 100% of the voting share capital and 96.2% of the total share capital of Politeno.
- In May 2006, Polialden merged with and into Braskem. In connection with this merger, (1) we converted 2,632,043 of our class A preferred shares into 2,632,043 common shares in order to maintain the required minimum ratio of our common shares to preferred shares in accordance with the Brazilian Corporation Law after the completion of our merger with Polialden, and (2) we issued 7,878,825 of our class A preferred shares in exchange for 264,886,083 of Polialden's preferred shares.
- In April 2007, Politeno merged with and into Braskem. In connection with this merger, (1) we converted 486,530 of our class A preferred shares into 486,530 common shares in order to maintain the required minimum ratio of our common shares to preferred shares in accordance with the Brazilian Corporation Law after the completion of our merger with Politeno, and (2) we issued 1,533,670 of our class A preferred shares in exchange for 412,901,157 of Politeno's class A preferred shares and 2,126,856,433 of Politeno's class B preferred shares.

Ipiranga Transaction

In March 2007, we entered into an investment agreement with Ultrapar Participações S.A., or Ultrapar, and Petrobras, which we refer to as the Ipiranga Investment Agreement. On the same date, Ultrapar and the controlling shareholders of Refinaria de Petróleo Ipiranga S.A., or RPI, Companhia Brasileira de Petróleo Ipiranga, or CBPI, and Distribuidora de Produtos de Petróleo Ipiranga S.A., or DPPI, entered into a share purchase and sale agreement, which refer to as the Purchase Agreement, with our company and Petrobras as intervening parties. We refer to the Ipiranga Investment Agreement and the Purchase Agreement together as the Ipiranga Transaction Agreement, and we refer to the transactions contemplated by the Ipiranga Transaction Agreement and the related transactions described below as, collectively, the Ipiranga Transaction.

Under the Ipiranga Investment Agreement, Ultrapar, as a commission agent acting on behalf of Braskem and Petrobras, acquired 100% of the share capital of Ipiranga Química. As of March 18, 2007, Ipiranga Química owned 86.9% of the voting share capital and 92.4% of the total share capital of Ipiranga Petroquímica. Ipiranga Petroquímica, in turn, owned 29.5% of the share capital of Copesul. In February 2008, Ultrapar transferred 60.0% of the share capital of Ipiranga Química to our company and 40.0% of the share capital of Ipiranga Química to

Petrobras, as required by the Ipiranga Investment Agreement. In addition, under the Ipiranga Investment Agreement, Ultrapar was obligated to transfer 33.3% of the share capital of RPI to our company and 33.3% of the share capital of RPI to Petrobras. As a result of this transfer, which occurred on March 18, 2009, we jointly and equally control RPI with Petrobras and Ultrapar. Under the Ipiranga Investment Agreement, we paid Ultrapar R\$651.9 million in April 2007, R\$156.7 million in October 2007, R\$47.0 million in November 2007 and R\$633.5 million in February 2008 for the shares of Ipiranga Química and RPI that we have acquired from Ultrapar in the Ipiranga Transaction.

Our company, together with Ultrapar and Petrobras, submitted the terms and conditions of the Ipiranga Transaction for review by the Brazilian antitrust authorities in April 2007. On July 9, 2008, the Administrative Council for Economic Defense (*Conselho Administrativo de Defesa Econômica*) or CADE, approved the Ipiranga Transaction.

At the time that we entered into the Ipiranga Transaction Agreement, we entered into a memorandum of understanding with Petrobras regarding the interests of Ipiranga Petroquímica in Copesul and the control of Ipiranga Química and Ipiranga Petroquímica, which we refer to as the Ipiranga Memorandum of Understanding. The Ipiranga Memorandum of Understanding granted Petrobras veto rights with respect to certain matters that are subject to the approval of the shareholders and boards of directors of Ipiranga Química, Ipiranga Petroquímica and Copesul.

As of the date of the Ipiranga Transaction Agreement, RPI owned:

- 7.7% of the total capital of DPPI, including 15.3% of its voting share capital;
- 11.4% of the total share capital of CBPI, including 24.8% of its voting share capital; and
- 58.5% of the total share capital and voting share capital of Ipiranga Química.

In addition, as of the date of the Ipiranga Transaction Agreement, DPPI owned 21.0% of the total share capital of CBPI, including 62.9% of its voting share capital, and CBPI owned 41.5% of the total share capital and voting share capital of Ipiranga Química. Under the Ipiranga Transaction Agreement and applicable law, Ultrapar was obligated to acquire the share capital of RPI, DPPI and CBPI that it did not own as of the date of the Ipiranga Transaction Agreement through a series of transactions as detailed below.

First Phase of the Ipiranga Transaction

In April 2007, Ultrapar acquired from the controlling shareholders of RPI, DPPI and CBPI for a purchase price of R\$2,113.1 million:

- 30.0% of the total share capital of RPI, including 66.2% of its voting share capital;
- 30.2% of the total capital of DPPI, including 69.2% of its voting share capital; and
- 1.3% of the total share capital of CBPI, including 3.8% of its voting share capital.

At the time of this acquisition, we entered into a shareholders agreement with Ultrapar and Petrobras, which we refer to as the Interim Shareholders Agreement, under which we obtained effective management control over Ipiranga Química and, consequently, Ipiranga Petroquímica and the interest of Ipiranga Petroquímica in Copesul. Under the Interim Shareholders Agreement, we were granted the right to nominate a majority of the board of directors of Ipiranga Química and Ipiranga Petroquímica, and the right to nominate a majority of the nominees of Ipiranga Petroquímica to the board of directors of Copesul. As a result of our acquiring effective management control of Copesul, Ipiranga Química and Ipiranga Petroquímica at that time, we have fully consolidated the results of Copesul and its subsidiaries and consolidated the results of Ipiranga Química and its subsidiaries, including Ipiranga Petroquímica, into our financial statements as from April 1, 2007. The Interim Shareholders Agreement terminated in February 2008 upon the transfer of the shares of Ipiranga Química to our company and Petrobras.

Purchases of Minority Interests in Ipiranga Petroquímica and Copesul

As part of the Ipiranga Transaction:

- in June 2007, EDSP67 Participações S.A., or EDSP67, acquired the 7.6% of the total share capital of Ipiranga Petroquímica not owned by Ipiranga Química for a purchase price of R\$117.9 million. In July 2007, Ipiranga Petroquímica was delisted from the São Paulo Stock Exchange, and in August 2007, EDSP67 merged with and into Ipiranga Petroquímica. As a result of these transactions, Ipiranga Petroquímica became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ipiranga Química; and
- in October 2007, our subsidiary EDSP58 Participações S.A., or EDSP58, acquired 22.7% of the total and voting share capital of Copesul through a public tender offer, or the Copesul Tender Offer, for the Copesul shares not then owned by our company, Ipiranga Petroquímica, Petroquisa or its affiliate, Petroquímica Triunfo S.A., or Triunfo. The purchase price for these shares was R\$1,294.2 million. At the time of the Copesul Tender Offer, we owned 60% of the total and voting share capital of EDSP58, and Petrobras owned the remaining share capital of EDSP58. As a result of the Copesul Tender Offer, Copesul was delisted from the São Paulo Stock Exchange in October 2007. In October 2007 and November 2007, EDSP58 purchased additional shares of Copesul at the price per share paid in the Copesul Tender Offer. In November 2007, Copesul redeemed all of its outstanding shares, other than shares held by our company, EDSP58, Ipiranga Petroquímica, Petroquisa and Triunfo at the price per share paid in the Copesul Tender Offer. The aggregate purchase price for the shares purchased and redeemed after the completion of the Copesul Tender Offer was R\$124.3 million. In December 2007, EDSP58 merged with and into Copesul. Following this merger, Braskem owned 39.2% of the total and voting share capital of Copesul, Ipiranga Petroquímica owned 39.2% of the total and voting share capital of Copesul and Petroquisa and Triunfo owned 21.6% of the total and voting share capital of Copesul.

Second Phase of Ipiranga Transaction

In the second phase of the Ipiranga Transaction:

- in October and November 2007, Ultrapar acquired 88.4% of the voting share capital of RPI not then owned by Ultrapar through a public tender offer for the RPI voting shares and additional purchases of RPI voting shares. As a result, Ultrapar owned 96.0% of the voting share capital, including 32.4% of the total share capital, of RPI;
- in October and November 2007, Ultrapar acquired 82.1% of the voting share capital of DPPI not then owned by Ultrapar through a public tender offer for the DPPI voting shares and additional purchases of DPPI voting shares. As a result, Ultrapar owned 81.9% of the voting share capital, including 27.4% of the total share capital, of DPPI; and
- in November 2007, Ultrapar acquired 53.9% of the voting share capital of CBPI not then owned by Ultrapar through a public tender offer for the CBPI voting shares. As a result of this tender offer, Ultrapar owned 8.3% of the voting share capital, including 2.8% of the total share capital, of CBPI.

Third Phase of Ipiranga Transaction

In the third phase of the Ipiranga Transaction, in December 2007 the shareholders of Ultrapar, RPI, DPPI and CBPI approved the issuance of preferred shares of Ultrapar in exchange for the outstanding shares of RPI, DPPI and CBPI that Ultrapar did not own through an exchange of shares (*incorporação de ações*). This exchange was completed in January 2008 and, as a result of the completion of this exchange, Ultrapar became the sole owner of the share capital of RPI, DPPI and CBPI.

Fourth Phase of Ipiranga Transaction

In the fourth phase of the Ipiranga Transaction, in February 2008 Ultrapar delivered:

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- shares representing 60% of the total share capital and voting share capital of Ipiranga Química to our company; and
- shares representing 40% of the total share capital and voting share capital of Ipiranga Química to Petrobras.

The fourth phase of the Ipiranga Transaction was completed on March 18, 2009 when Ultrapar delivered 33.2% of the total share capital and voting share capital of RPI to our company and 33.2% of the total share capital and voting share capital of RPI to Petrobras.

Acquisition of Additional Interest in Petroflex

In October 2007, we acquired shares of Petroflex representing 13.4% of its total and voting share capital from Suzano for an aggregate purchase price of R\$61.0 million as a result of our exercise of our preemptive rights in August 2007 following the announcement of the acquisition of control of Suzano by Petrobras. As a result of this acquisition, we owned 33.5% of the total share capital of Petroflex including 33.6% of its voting share capital.

Petrobras Transaction

On November 30, 2007, Braskem entered into an investment agreement with Odebrecht, Petrobras, Petroquisa and Norquisa. On May 14, 2008, Braskem, Odebrecht, Norquisa, Petrobras and Petroquisa entered into an amendment to this agreement. We refer to this agreement, as amended, as the Petrobras Investment Agreement. We refer to the transactions under the Petrobras Investment Agreement as the Petrobras Transaction. Under the Petrobras Investment Agreement, the Petrobras Transaction was completed in two phases.

In the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction, on May 30, 2008:

• Petroquisa contributed the following assets to its wholly-owned subsidiary Grust Holdings S.A., or Grust:

- 36.4% of the voting and outstanding share capital of Copesul;
- 40.0% of the voting and outstanding share capital of Ipiranga Química; and
- 40.0% of the voting and outstanding share capital of Paulínia; and

• Braskem, Petroquisa and Grust engaged in an exchange of shares transaction (*incorporação de ações*) in which an aggregate of 46,903,320 of our common shares and 43,144,662 of our class A preferred shares were issued to Petroquisa in exchange for all of the outstanding share capital of Grust.

As a result of the completion of the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction, Petrobras owns, directly and indirectly, 23.1% of our total share capital, including 30.0% of our voting share capital, and Braskem owned, directly and indirectly:

- 99.2% of the outstanding share capital of Copesul;
- all of the outstanding share capital of Ipiranga Química, which in turn owns all of the outstanding share capital of Ipiranga Petroquímica; and
- all of the outstanding share capital of Paulínia.

Paulínia was incorporated on September 16, 2005 to construct and operate a polypropylene plant that has been constructed in Paulínia, in the State of São Paulo. On that date, we acquired 60.0% of the total and voting share capital of Paulínia. Prior to the completion of the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction, Paulínia was a joint venture between our company and Petroquisa and its results were proportionally consolidated in our financial statements. As a result of the completion of the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction, we have fully consolidated the results of Paulínia into our financial statements as from April 1, 2008.

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Upon the completion of the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction, Petrobras, Petroquisa, Odebrecht and Norquisa, with Braskem as intervening party, entered into a shareholders' agreement with a term of 25 years, which we refer to as the Petrobras Shareholders' Agreement. The Petrobras Shareholders' Agreement superseded the Ipiranga Memorandum of Understanding.

We and Petrobras submitted the terms and conditions of the Petrobras Transaction to the Brazilian antitrust authorities in December 2007. On July 9, 2008, CADE approved the Ipiranga Transaction.

Under the Petrobras Investment Agreement, Petrobras had the option in the second phase of the Petrobras Transaction to contribute up to 100% of the share capital of Triunfo to Braskem in exchange for approximately 13.4 million of our class A preferred shares. We refer to this option as the Triunfo Option. The Triunfo Option was exercised on May 5, 2009. See Other Developments Since January 1, 2008 Acquisition of Triunfo.

Other Developments Since January 1, 2008

Sale of Interest in Petroflex

In April 2008, we sold all of our share capital in Petroflex to Lanxess Participações Ltda., or Lanxess, for an aggregate price of R\$252.1 million. As a result of this transaction, Petroflex registered a non-operational gain of R\$115.6 million.

Mergers of Copesul, Ipiranga Petroquímica and Paulínia into Braskem

On July 16, 2008, Grust contributed all of the share capital of Copesul that it owned to Ipiranga Petroquímica in exchange for common shares of Ipiranga Petroquímica. On July 28, 2008, Grust distributed these shares of Ipiranga Petroquímica, together with all of the share capital that it owned in Ipiranga Química and Paulínia, to Braskem. On September 11, 2008, Copesul merged with and into Ipiranga Petroquímica. In connection with this merger, Ipiranga Petroquímica issued 494,052,653 of its preferred shares, representing 0.71% of its total share capital, to Triunfo as consideration for the share capital of Copesul that Triunfo owned.

On September 30, 2008, (1) the share capital of Ipiranga Petroquímica owned by Ipiranga Química was transferred to Braskem, and (2) Ipiranga Petroquímica merged with and into Braskem. In connection with this merger, we issued 1,506,060 of our preferred shares, representing 0.5% of our total share capital, to Triunfo as consideration for the share capital of Ipiranga Petroquímica that it acquired in the merger of Copesul into Ipiranga Petroquímica.

On September 30, 2009, Paulínia merged with and into Braskem.

Change of Corporate Name of Ipiranga Química

On October 2, 2008, Ipiranga Química changed its corporate name to IQ Soluções & Química.

Acquisition of Minority Interest in RPI

On March 18, 2009, the fourth phase of the Ipiranga Transaction was completed when Ultrapar delivered 33.2% of the total share capital and voting share capital of RPI to our company; and 33.2% of the total share capital and voting share capital of RPI to Petrobras. In October 2008, RPI changed its corporate name to Refinaria de Petróleo Riograndense S.A.

Acquisition of Triunfo

On May 5, 2009, the second phase of the Petrobras Transaction was completed with the merger of Triunfo with and into Braskem. Braskem issued an aggregate of 13,387,157 of our class A preferred shares to the shareholders of Triunfo as consideration for their equity interests in Triunfo. Prior to this merger, Triunfo owned and operated a

polyethylene plant located in the Southern Complex with an annual production capacity of 160,000 tons. As a result of the merger, we will consolidate the results of Triunfo into our financial statements as from May 1, 2009.

The following chart presents the corporate structure of our principal subsidiary and equity investment as of July 7, 2009. 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 organized under Brazilian law.

Petrochemical Industry Overview

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 or natural gas, their principal feedstock, into basic petrochemicals. There are four crackers in Brazil. Three of these crackers purchase 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 fourth, Rio Polímeros S.A., or Rio Polímeros, purchases natural gas from Petrobras. The basic petrochemicals produced by the crackers include:

- olefins, primarily ethylene, propylene and butadiene; and
- aromatics, such as benzene, toluene and xylenes.

We and Quattor Participações S.A., or Quattor, operate Brazil's four crackers and sell basic petrochemicals to second generation producers, including second generation producers that are part of our respective companies. The basic petrochemicals, which are in gaseous or liquid form, are transported primarily through 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 petrochemicals include:

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

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- polypropylene and acrylonitrile (each produced from propylene);
- caprolactam (produced from benzene); and
- polybutadiene (produced from butadiene).

There are 11 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.

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 and polypropylene).

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 more than 11,200 third generation producers operating in Brazil.

Petrochemical Complexes

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

- the Northeastern Complex located in Camaçari in the State of Bahia, where we operate the cracker;
- the Southern Complex located in Triunfo in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, 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, or PQU, a subsidiary of Quattor, operates the cracker; and
- the Rio de Janeiro Complex located in Duque de Caxias in the State of Rio de Janeiro, or the Rio de Janeiro Complex, where Rio Polímeros, a subsidiary of Quattor, 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 commenced operations in 1978. We operate the raw materials center at the Northeastern Complex and it supplies first generation petrochemicals to eight second generation producers located at the Northeastern Complex and elsewhere, including our Polyolefins Unit. At December 31, 2008, our raw materials center in the Northeastern Complex had an annual ethylene production capacity of 1,280,000 tons, which accounted for 36.3% of Brazil's ethylene production capacity, according to data published by ABIQUIM.

The Southern Complex commenced operations in 1982. We operate the raw materials center at the Southern Complex and it supplies first generation petrochemicals to seven second generation producers located at the Southern Complex, including our Polyolefins Unit. At December 31, 2008, our raw materials center in the Southern Complex had an annual ethylene production capacity of 1,252,000 tons, which accounted for 35.5% of Brazil's ethylene production capacity, according to data published by ABIQUIM.

The São Paulo Complex, which is the oldest petrochemical complex in Brazil, commenced operations in 1972. PQU operates the raw materials center and integrated first and second generation facilities located at the São Paulo Complex. At December 31, 2008, PQU had an annual ethylene production capacity of 700,000 tons, according to our internal estimates.

The Rio de Janeiro Complex commenced operations in 2005. Rio Polímeros operates the raw materials center at the Rio de Janeiro Complex and supplies first generation petrochemicals to one second generation producer located at the Rio de Janeiro Complex. At December 31, 2008, Rio Polímeros had a maximum annual ethylene production capacity of 520,000 tons, according to our internal estimates.

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 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 that was 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.

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's subsidiary, Petroquisa, participated as the representative of the Brazilian government, with Petrobras as the supplier of naphtha; a foreign 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 program, the Brazilian government's ownership of our common shares, and of the common shares of Copesul and PQU, was significantly reduced, replaced by private sector entities. As a result of a similar privatization process, private ownership of the second generation producers increased.

Beginning in 2001, our company began the process of consolidating first and second generation petrochemical assets as described in History and Development of Our Company. Between 2001 and 2006, we acquired control over OPP Química, Polialden, Politeno, Trikem, Proppet and Nitrocarbono, each of which produced second generation petrochemicals, as well as a minority interest in Copesul.

In 2007, the consolidation of the Brazilian petrochemical industry continued. In March 2007, we entered into agreements under which we acquired control of the petrochemical assets of the Ipiranga Group, including a controlling interest in Ipiranga Petroquímica and a minority interest in Copesul, which resulted in our achieving control over Copesul, as described in History and Development of Our Company Ipiranga Transaction. In November 2007, Petrobras entered into the agreements with us described in History and Development of Our Company Petrobras Transaction, and entered into agreements with Unipar União de Indústrias Petroquímicas S.A., or Unipar, under which Quattor was formed.

Quattor was formed by Petrobras and Unipar in June 2008 with Unipar owning 60% of its share capital and Petrobras owning, directly and indirectly, 40% of its share capital. As a result of contributions made to Quattor by

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Unipar and Petrobras, Quattor controls Rio Polímeros, PQU, Suzano (which Petrobras acquired in November 2008), Polietilenos União S.A. and Unipar's chemical division.

As a result of these transactions, all of the ethylene production capacity in Brazil is owned by our company and Quattor and substantially all of the polyethylene and polypropylene production capacity in Brazil is owned by our company and Quattor.

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 byproducts 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 through concessions or authorizations granted by 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 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. Our company has imported naphtha from trading companies and oil and gas producers located abroad since 1997 and Copesul began doing so in 2000. During 2008, Petrobras produced and sold 60.3% of the naphtha consumed by our company, and the remaining naphtha consumed by our company was imported.

As a result of the Petrobras Transaction and the formation of Quattor, Petrobras owns substantial minority interests in both our company and Quattor.

Tariffs

We set prices for ethylene, the principal first generation petrochemical product that we sell to third-party second generation producers, by reference to international market prices. See Item 4. Information on the Company 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. Prices paid for such imports also reflect transportation and tariff costs.

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. Imports and exports within the free trade area composed of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay in South America (*Mercado Comum do Sul*), or Mercosul, 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 1999 through 2008. The tariff rates shown are those applicable at the end of the respective years, except where indicated.

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	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002 (1)	2001 (2)	2000	1999
						(%)				
First generation										
Petrochemicals:										
Ethylene	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.5	3.5	4.5	5.0	5.0
Propylene	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.5	3.5	4.5	5.0	5.0
Caustic soda	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	9.5	9.5	10.5	11.0	11.0
Second generation										
Petrochemicals:										
Polyethylene	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	15.5	15.5	16.5	17.0	17.0
Polypropylene	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	15.5	15.5	16.5	17.0	17.0
PVC (3)	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	15.5	15.5	16.5	17.0	17.0
Caprolactam	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	13.5	13.5	14.5	15.0	15.0

- (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) Imports of suspension PVC from the U.S. and Mexico have been subject to tariffs of 16.0% and 18.0%, respectively, since 1992 as a result of the imposition of anti-dumping duties by the Brazilian Foreign Trade Chamber (*CAMEX Câmara de Comércio Exterior*) of the Ministry of Development, Industry and Trade. These duties will expire on December 14, 2009, unless extended.

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, 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 increased by an estimated 5.1% in 2008, but declined by an estimated 3.6% in the fourth quarter of 2008. The moderate growth of Brazilian GDP during the first three quarters of 2008 contributed to a 27.0% annual increase in domestic PVC consumption and a 4.9% increase in annual domestic polyolefins consumption (excluding consumption of ethyl vinyl acetate copolymer, or EVA). The strong growth in civil construction sector positively affected domestic PVC consumption and the significant growth in other industrial sectors, such as non-durable goods, automotive and food, positively affected domestic consumption of thermoplastic resins generally. However, in the fourth quarter of 2008, as a result of the steep decline in naphtha prices domestic consumers of PVC and polyolefins resins reduced their purchases of thermoplastic resins, utilizing inventories for their own production, in anticipation of reductions in the prices of thermoplastic resins. In addition, the depreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar and the reduced availability of liquidity and credit as a result of the global financial and credit crisis contributed to a decline in Brazilian GDP in the fourth quarter of 2008. Although we believe that domestic demand for thermoplastic resins from the consumer goods sector may offset the decline in demand for thermoplastic resins from economic sectors that are dependent on exports and credit (such as the agribusiness, automotive and home appliance sectors), we can offer no assurances that domestic demand for thermoplastic will not continue to be affected by global macroeconomic factors.

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Price competition in the international markets in 2008 as a result of reduced global demand for polyolefins resulted in a 24.2% increase in Brazilian polyolefins imports, which represented 18.3% of Brazilian consumption in 2008, and a 33.4% decline in Brazilian polyolefins exports. This increased competition, together with the shutdown of Solvay's Brazilian PVC production for almost three months in the third quarter of 2008, resulted in a 106.9% increase in Brazilian PVC imports, which represented 35.1% of Brazilian consumption in 2008, and a 49.8% decline in Brazilian PVC exports.

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 (1)	Total Production of Other Brazilian Companies (thousands of tons)	Total Imports	Total Exports	Estimated Total Brazilian Domestic Consumption
Olefins(2)						
2008(3)	4,882.1	3,380.1	1,501.9	36.9	58.1	4,860.9
2007	5,414.4	3,321.2	2,093.2	9.2	163.8	5,259.8
2006	5,288.1	1,778.6	3,509.5	3.2	166.1	5,125.2
Aromatics(4)						
2008(3)	1,340.9	1,006.2	334.7	8.9	543.8	806.0
2007	1,564.8	1,059.6	502.2	55.3	558.4	1,061.7
2006	1,433.3	704.9	728.4	87.5	388.1	1,132.8
Polyolefins(5)						
2008(3)	3,451.0	2,234.1	1,273.7	619.4	690.6	3,379.8
2007	3,760.3	2,257.1	1,402.0	498.8	1,036.9	3,222.2
2006	3,669.9	1,709.5	1,960.4	415.2	1,031.3	3,053.8
PVC						
2008(3)	698.7	508.5	190.2	365.6	21.7	1,042.6
2007	686.5	465.4	221.0	176.7	43.2	820.0
2006	676.3	447.4	228.9	126.6	35.6	767.3

(1) Includes Paulínia as from April 1, 2008, Copesul and Ipiranga Petroquímica as from April 1, 2007, and Politeno as from April 1, 2006.

(2) Includes ethylene, propylene and butadiene.

(3) Preliminary data.

(4) Includes benzene, toluene and xylenes.

(5) Includes polyethylene, ethyl vinyl acetate copolymer 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.

Overview of Our Company's Operations

We are the leading petrochemical company in Latin America, based on average annual production capacity in 2008. We are also the third largest Brazilian-owned private sector industrial company, based on net sales revenue in 2008. We recorded net sales revenue of R\$17,959.5 million and a net loss of R\$2,492.1 million in 2008. We produce a diversified portfolio of petrochemical products in our 18 plants in Brazil and have a strategic focus on polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC. We were the first Brazilian company with integrated first and second generation petrochemical production facilities.

We have grown over the past five years primarily as the result of the integration of the operations of nine Brazilian petrochemical companies: our company, which was formerly named Copene Petroquímica do Nordeste

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S.A.; OPP Química; Polialden; Politeno; Trikem; Proppet; Nitrocarbono; Copesul and Ipiranga Petroquímica. All of these companies have been merged with and into Braskem.

Our business operations are organized into four business units, which correspond to our principal production processes and products. Our business units are as follows:

- Basic Petrochemicals, which accounted for R\$14,257.5 million, or 58.3%, of the net sales revenue of all segments, including net sales to our other business units, and had an operating margin of 6.1% in 2008;
- Polyolefins, which accounted for R\$7,534.0 million, or 30.8%, of the net sales revenue of all segments and had an operating margin of 10.1% in 2008;
- Vinyls, which accounted for R\$2,052.8 million, or 8.4%, of the net sales revenue of all segments and had an operating margin of 15.1% in 2008; and
- IQ Soluções & Química, which accounted for R\$601.8 million, or 2.5%, of the net sales revenue of all segments and had an operating margin of 5.9% in 2008.

Our IQ Soluções & Química business unit was created in April 2007 following our acquisition of control of Ipiranga Química. The operations of Copesul that we acquired in the Ipiranga Transaction are now part of our Basic Petrochemicals business unit and the operations of Ipiranga Petroquímica that we acquired in the Ipiranga Transaction are now part of our Polyolefins business unit. In 2008, we implemented an organizational structure under which the operations of our former Business Development business unit were split; our caprolactam production operations are now included in our Basic Petrochemicals business unit and the remaining operations of our former Business Development unit are now included in our Polyolefins business unit.

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

Basic Petrochemicals Unit

At December 31, 2008, our Basic Petrochemicals facilities had one of the largest average annual production capacities of all first generation producers in Latin America. Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit accounted for R\$14,257.5 million, or 58.3%, of the net sales revenue of all segments in 2008, including net sales to our other business units. Net sales to our other business units were R\$6,552.7 million in 2008, representing 46.0% of the net sales revenue of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit.

Prior to April 2007, our Basic Petrochemicals Unit was comprised of the operations conducted by our company in the Northeastern Complex. As a result of our obtaining effective management control over Copesul in April 2007, we have fully consolidated Copesul's results in our consolidated financial statements and included Copesul's results in our Basic Petrochemicals segment as from April 1, 2007. On September 11, 2008, Copesul merged with and into Ipiranga Petroquímica, and on September 30, 2008, Ipiranga Petroquímica merged with and into Braskem.

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, ortho-xylene and mixed xylene;
- caprolactam, cyclohexane, cyclohexanone and ammonium sulfate;
- fuels, such as automotive gasoline and liquefied petroleum gas, or LPG; and
- methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE, solvent C9 and pyrolysis C9.

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The products of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit are used primarily in the manufacture of intermediate second generation petrochemical products, including those manufactured by our other business units. Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit also supply utilities to other plants located in the Northeastern Complex and the Southern Complex and render services to the operators of those plants.

In 2008, 83.1% of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit's sales (including intra-company sales) were derived from the sale of basic petrochemicals, 6.1% from the sale of condensate, 4.9% from the sale of fuels, 4.2% from the sale of utilities and services and 1.7% from the sale of caprolactam and related products. In 2008, 46.0% of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit's net sales revenue from sales of basic petrochemicals was derived from sales made to our other business units.

Although we anticipate that long-term growth for thermoplastic products in Brazil will continue due to increasing demand for consumer products, domestic demand for thermoplastic products and, consequently, many of the products of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit, was adversely effected in the second half of 2008, particularly in the fourth quarter, reflecting a general decline in economic growth in Brazil related to the global financial and credit crisis. We believe that our Basic Petrochemicals Unit is well positioned to take advantage of increased demand for basic petrochemicals products in Brazil, both by our other business units and by third parties, as domestic demand recovers. As a result of the weakness in domestic demand for thermoplastics, as well as price instability as domestic prices of our products were realigned following the decline in global petroleum prices and the significant depreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar in the second half of 2008, we temporarily shut down one of our ethylene crackers in the Northeastern Complex and one of our ethylene crackers in the Southern Complex in December 2008. We resumed production at these facilities in February 2009 and beginning in March 2009 production reached historical capacity utilization rates. Also in reaction to the weakness in demand for our basic petrochemical products from second-generation producers in Brazil, we diverted sales of these products to the export market in the second half of 2008 and continue to export a greater percentage of these products than we have historically exported. As the margins that we are able to generate on our exported basic petrochemical products are similar to those we have historically generated, we do not believe that the temporary diversion of our basic petrochemical products to the export markets will have a material adverse effect on our operations or operating income. However, a prolonged slowdown in economic activity in Brazil and elsewhere could continue to reduce demand for some of our basic petrochemical products, which would adversely affect our results of operations.

Products of Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit

Our other business units and third-party petrochemical producers use ethylene and propylene produced by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit to produce second generation products such as polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC. We also sell butadiene and a variety of aromatics, such as benzene, para-xylene, ortho-xylene and mixed xylenes, to third-party petrochemical producers for use as raw materials in the production of a variety of second generation products, including synthetic rubber, elastomers, resins, ethyl benzene (which is used to make styrene monomer/polystyrene), cumene, linear alkyl benzene, purified terephthalic acid, dimethyl terephthalate, or DMT, phthalic anhydride, plasticizers and paint.

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 periods indicated.

	Years Ended December 31,								
	2008			2007 (1)			2006		
	Quantities			Quantities			Quantities		
	Sold (2)	Net Sales Revenue		Sold (2)	Net Sales Revenue		Sold (2)	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	2,095.1	R\$5,639.2	39.6%	2,068.4	R\$4,826.4	37.0%	1,108.5	R\$2,529.4	35.3%
Propylene	994.5	2,303.3	16.2	945.1	2,045.3	15.7	413.0	871.6	12.2
Butadiene	212.2	655.4	4.6	195.6	447.9	3.4	140.9	341.9	4.8
Benzene	295.2	590.0	4.1	341.3	722.8	5.5	203.0	398.0	5.6
Others	478.1	956.9	6.7	497.6	892.2	6.8	377.0	837.8	11.7
Total domestic net sales of									
basic petrochemicals	4,075.0	10,144.7	71.2	4,047.9	8,934.7	68.2	2,242.4	4,978.6	69.9

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Years Ended December
31,

	2008			2007 (1)			2006		
	Quantities Sold (2) (thousands of tons)	Net Sales Revenue (millions of reais) (%)		Quantities Sold (2) (thousands of tons)	Net Sales Revenue (millions of reais) (%)		Quantities Sold (2) (thousands of tons)	Net Sales Revenue (millions of reais) (%)	
Total export net sales of basic									
petrochemicals	946.2	1,708.2	12.0	956.7	2,186.6	16.7	541.6	953.4	13.3
Total net sales of basic									
petrochemicals	5,021.2	11,852.9	83.1	5,004.6	11,121.3	84.9	2,784.1	5,932.0	82.9
Condensate		863.6	6.1		375.9	2.8			
Caprolactam and related products(3)	111.1	241.9	1.7	142.9	299.3	2.3	134.8	273.5	3.8
Fuels		701.9	4.9		627.9	4.8		417.3	5.8
Utilities (4)		597.2	4.2		611.7	4.8		534.7	7.5
Total Basic Petrochemicals									
Unit net sales revenue (5)		R\$14,257.5	100%		R\$13,036.1	100%		R\$7,157.6	100%

(1) Includes Copesul as from April 1, 2007.

(2) Includes the following intra-company sales:

- approximately 1,708,300 tons of ethylene in 2008, 1,644,000 tons in 2007 and 800,600 tons in 2006;
- approximately 634,400 tons of propylene in 2008, 567,800 tons in 2007 and 86,500 tons in 2006;
- approximately 18,400 tons of para-xylene in 2007 and 42,300 tons in 2006; and
- approximately 55,800 tons of benzene in 2008, 62,800 tons in 2007 and 53,400 tons in 2006.

(3) In May 2009, we temporarily closed our caprolactam plant.

(4) Utilities include electric power, steam, treated water and compressed air.

(5) Includes basic petrochemicals, condensate, caprolactam and related products, fuels and utilities.

Olefins

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 plastic resins used to manufacture consumer products. Our primary olefins products include polymer grade ethylene and propylene, also known as monomers. Different combinations 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.

Condensate

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Condensate is a low-density mixture of hydrocarbon liquids that are present in gaseous form in the raw natural gas produced from many natural fields and recovered through a condensation process. We resell condensate that we purchase from our raw material suppliers to RPI for further refining into naphtha which we then purchase from RPI.

Caprolactam and Related Products

Caprolactam is a raw material that forms the basis for the production of Nylon-6 textile thread, engineering resins and film, and is a structural material in the motor and electronics industries. We also produce ammonium sulfate for use as a fertilizer, and cyclohexane and cyclohexanone, both for use in paint solvents, pesticides, natural resins, oils and rubber.

In May 2009, we temporarily closed our caprolactam plant. We are continuing to analyze our options regarding the resumption of caprolactam production based on our estimate of Brazilian demand for this product and our cost of

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production. Pending completion of this review, we are continuing to serve our caprolactam customers with our inventory of caprolactam and related products.

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.

Utilities

We produce electric power, steam, compressed air and purified drinking and demineralized water, some of which are 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 and six companies in the Southern Complex. Our utilities facilities include units for thermoelectric power generation, water treatment and the production of steam and compressed air.

We self-generate approximately 45% of the Northeastern Complex's energy consumption requirements, and the remainder is furnished by Companhia Hidro Elétrica do São Francisco - CHESF, or CHESF, a Brazilian government-owned electric power generation company located in the State of Bahia, and by Companhia de Eletricidade do Estado da Bahia - COELBA.

We self-generate approximately 35% of the Southern Complex's energy consumption requirements, and the remainder is acquired primarily under auction contracts in the free market for energy (*Mercado Livre de Energia*) from several companies.

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) in the Northeastern Complex and four major basic petrochemicals units (two olefins units, one aromatics unit and a utilities unit) located in the Southern Complex. We define the term "unit" to mean several plants that are linked together to produce olefins, aromatics or utilities. 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. During 2008, we expanded the annual production capacity of our Olefins 1 Unit in the Southern Complex by 52,000 tons of ethylene and 30,000 tons of propylene. At December 31, 2008, our basic petrochemicals plants had total annual production capacity of 2,532,000 tons of ethylene and 1,210,000 tons of propylene.

The table below sets forth the name, primary products, annual production capacity at December 31, 2008 and annual production for the years presented for each of our principal Basic Petrochemicals units and plants.

Name	Primary Products	Annual Production Capacity	Production For the Year Ended December 31,		
			2008	2007	2006
(in tons, except automotive gasoline)					
<i>Northeastern Complex:</i>					
Olefins units 1 and 2	Ethylene	1,280,000	1,047,349	1,170,000	1,103,969
	Propylene	550,000	472,285	561,648	520,413
Plants of aromatics units 1 and 2:					
Butadiene plants 1 and 2	Butadiene	175,000	144,917	145,616	154,227
MTBE plants 1 and 2	MTBE	140,000	112,807	114,979	118,691
Butene-1 plant	Butene-1	35,000	25,515	27,750	24,701
Isoprene plant	Isoprene	26,800	18,904	13,024	12,500

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Name	Primary Products	Annual Production Capacity	Production For the Year Ended December 31,		
			2008	2007	2006
(in tons, except automotive gasoline)					
	Dicyclopentadiene	24,000	22,388	25,011	16,517
Sulfolane plants 1, 2 and 3	Coperaf 1 (1)	120,000	26,813	49,933	86,773
BTX fractionation plants 1 and 2	Benzene	427,000	360,127	409,733	400,793
	Toluene (2)	42,000	40,876	47,954	44,778
C8+ fractionation plant	Mixed xylenes (2)	40,000	30,773	56,197	55,853
	Ortho-xylene	62,000	57,407	70,207	76,450
	Solvent C9 (1)	30,000	21,661	36,565	23,426
Parex plant	Para-xylene	203,000	129,231	141,664	128,672
Blending plant	Automotive gasoline (3)	600,000	410,308	322,266	374,504
	LPG	25,000	5,154	8,135	15,476
Caprolactam plant(4)	Caprolactam	56,000	37,095	46,087	41,615
	Cyclohexane	78,000	16,641	66,793	57,764
	Cyclohexanone	49,000	2,580	44,574	40,964
	Ammonium sulfate	103,000	63,311	89,740	78,296
Southern Complex(5):					
Olefins units 1 and 2	Ethylene	1,252,000	1,069,576	899,753	
	Propylene	660,000	560,093	466,106	
	Propane	16,000	1,946	2,797	
	Low Sulphur Fuel Oil	169,000	57,722	135,910	
Aromatics unit:					
Butadiene plant	Butadiene	105,000	85,883	77,302	
MTBE plant	MTBE	132,000		43,628	
	ETBE	155,000	145,619	47,358	
Butene-1 plant	Butene-1	60,000	54,299	30,052	
	Heavy C4 (6)	52,000	53,728	27,948	
BTX fractionation plant	Benzene	275,000	268,543	228,184	
	Toluene (2)	91,000	69,942	64,405	
	Mixed xylenes (2)	77,000	49,273	41,217	
	Aromatic C7C8	95,000	43,729	19,394	
	Aromatic C9	12,000	4,910	3,369	
	C6C8 Rafinate	87,000	10,642	5,714	
PGH plant	Pyrolysis C9	76,000	39,217	11,168	
Solvent plant	C6 Solvent	27,000	3,521	4,338	
Blending plant	Automotive gasoline (3)	500,000	282,213	247,626	
	LPG	45,000	1,331	2,704	

(1) Solvents.

(2) Actual production may exceed production capacity based on the quantity of toluene and mixed xylenes consumed in the production of para-xylene.

(3) Automotive gasoline in cubic meters per year.

(4) In May 2009, we temporarily closed our caprolactam plant.

(5) Represents Copesul as from April 1, 2007.

(6)

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Actual production may exceed production capacity based on the quantity of heavy C4 consumed in the production of butadiene and butane-1.

Raw Materials of Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit

Naphtha

Naphtha, a petroleum 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. We also use

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condensate as a raw material in our basic petrochemical units in the Southern Complex. The price of naphtha and condensate that we purchase varies primarily based on changes in the U.S. dollar-based international price of crude oil. In 2008, naphtha and condensate accounted for 80.4% of the total cost of sales of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit and 64.8% of our direct and indirect consolidated cost of sales and services rendered.

The following table shows the average Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price of naphtha for the periods indicated.

	2009	Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp Market Price of Naphtha		
		2008	2007	2006
(in U.S. dollars per ton)				
Average(1)	US\$455.34	US\$791.34	US\$675.48	US\$564.74
Month ended:				
January	352.37	827.43	509.23	561.81
February	397.74	832.87	550.85	529.67
March	398.36	864.49	603.95	528.65
April	425.55	909.74	655.37	588.84
May	477.22	986.96	685.22	601.91
June	568.67	1,091.85	663.05	613.14
July	567.50(2)	1,082.31	683.82	644.24
August		955.41	645.09	620.04
September		846.83	692.60	524.71
October		528.75	745.87	509.91
November		306.27	828.41	514.96
December		258.16	834.14	545.11

(1) The information in the Average row represents (i) during 2008, 2007 and 2006, the mean average of average monthly naphtha prices during the year, and (ii) during 2009, the mean average of average monthly naphtha prices from January through June.

(2) Through July 7, 2009.

Source: Platts.

The Northeastern Complex is located:

- 36 kilometers from the Madre de Deus Port Terminal (located in the City of Madre de Deus 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).

We use the Madre de Deus Port Terminal to unload naphtha that is imported or that is shipped from Petrobras refineries located outside the State of Bahia. At the port terminal of Aratú, we use (1) the Raw Materials Terminal (which we own) to import naphtha and condensate, (2) the Terminal Químico de Aratú (which is owned by Terminal Químico de Aratú S.A. TEQUIMAR, a Brazilian fuel distribution company which is a subsidiary of Ultrapar) to distribute our liquid products, and (3) the Terminal de Gases (which we own) to distribute our gas products.

A pipeline that is 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

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Alves naphtha pipeline system interconnects with the pipeline system of the port terminal of Aratú, through which naphtha is transported to our basic petrochemicals plants in the Northeastern Complex.

The Southern Complex is located:

- 24 kilometers from Refinaria Alberto Pasqualini Refap, or REFAP (located in Canoas in the State of Rio Grande do Sul), a refinery that is owned and operated by Petrobras; and
- 122 kilometers from the Almirante Soares Dutra Terminal (located in Osório in the State of Rio Grande do Sul), a port terminal owned and operated by Petrobras Transporte S.A. Transpetro, or Transpetro, a subsidiary of Petrobras.

We use the Almirante Soares Dutra Terminal to unload naphtha and condensate that is imported or that is shipped from Petrobras refineries located outside the State of Rio Grande do Sul. We own a pipeline that is operated by Transpetro which transports naphtha from the Almirante Soares Dutra Terminal to REFAP. This pipeline interconnects with REFAP's naphtha pipeline system. Naphtha and condensate are transported to the Southern Complex's basic petrochemicals plants through REFAP's naphtha pipeline system.

Supply Contracts and Pricing of the Basic Petrochemicals Unit

The following table shows the distribution of the naphtha purchases by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit for the periods indicated.

	Years Ended December 31,					
	2008		2007 (1)		2006	
	(thousands of tons)	(%)	(thousands of tons)	(%)	(thousands of tons)	(%)
Petrobras	4,726	61.8 %	5,012	56.6 %	3,123	74.9 %
SONATRACH	1,196	15.6	2,195	24.8	1,045	25.1
Ryttsa	861	11.2	951	10.7		
Others	870	11.4	701	7.9		
Total	7,654	100 %	8,859	100 %	4,168	100 %

(1) Includes Copesul as from April 1, 2007.

Supply Contracts with Petrobras

On June 22, 1978, we and Petrobras entered into a Naphtha and Gas Oil Purchase and Sale Contract (which was amended in February 1993, February 2003 and May 2005). This contract was terminated in June 2008. We have substantially completed the negotiation of a new naphtha supply contract with Petrobras that will replace the contract that was terminated in June 2008 as well as the existing naphtha supply contract between our company and Petrobras for the supply of naphtha to our basic petrochemicals plants located in the Southern Complex. We have received, and expect to continue to receive, naphtha from Petrobras under substantially the same terms as the contract that terminated in June 2008, other than terms relating to pricing and volume commitments which will be revised in the new naphtha supply contract. Since March 2009, the price that we have paid for naphtha that we purchase from Petrobras has been based on a variety of factors, including the market prices of naphtha and a variety of other petroleum derivatives, the volatility of the prices of these products in the international markets, the real/U.S. dollar exchange rate, and the level of paraffinicity of the naphtha that is delivered. These pricing terms have applied to naphtha delivered to our basic petrochemicals plants located in both the Northeastern Complex and the Southern Complex.

On February 23, 1996, Copesul and Petrobras entered into a Naphtha, LPG and Condensate Purchase and Sale Contract. As a result of the merger of Copesul with and into Ipiranga Petroquímica on September 11, 2008 and the merger of Ipiranga Petroquímica with and into Braskem on September 30, 2008, we have succeeded to Copesul's

rights and obligations under this contract. This contract has a term of 16 years, expiring in 2012 and is automatically renewable for further five-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. We expect this contract to be superseded by the new naphtha contract that we are negotiating with Petrobras as described above.

Under the current contract for the supply of naphtha to the Southern Complex:

- Petrobras has agreed to sell and deliver naphtha and condensate to our basic petrochemicals plants in the Southern Complex exclusively for our use as a raw material;
- we provide Petrobras with a firm commitment order for naphtha each month, together with an estimate of the volume of naphtha that we will purchase for the Southern Complex over the following six months;
- if we request to purchase volumes of naphtha 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 may 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 may rescind the contract, without prior notice, if: (1) we violate any provision of the contract; (2) we declare bankruptcy, or 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 reorganization or merger.

Supply Arrangements with SONATRACH

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 and condensate. We have imported naphtha supplied by SONATRACH since 2002. On an annual basis, we negotiate the minimum and maximum volumes of naphtha and condensate that we will purchase from SONATRACH and the pricing formula for the naphtha and condensate supplied by SONATRACH. In the event that we were unable to renew our supply arrangements with SONATRACH, we believe that we could purchase sufficient quantities of naphtha from other suppliers, including Petrobras, to meet the supply needs of our basic petrochemicals plants.

Supply Contract with Ryttsa

Copesul began importing naphtha from Repsol YPF Trading y Transporte S.A., or Ryttsa, in 2002. On an annual basis, we negotiate the minimum and maximum volumes of naphtha that we will purchase from Ryttsa and the pricing formula for the naphtha and condensate supplied by Ryttsa. In the event that we were unable to renew our supply arrangements with Ryttsa, we believe that we could purchase sufficient quantities of naphtha from other suppliers, including Petrobras, to meet the supply needs of our basic petrochemicals plants.

Spot Market Purchases of Naphtha

In addition to our supplies of naphtha under the agreements described above, we purchase naphtha on the spot market from time to time from foreign suppliers located in North Africa and South America.

Financing of Naphtha Purchases

On December 15, 2005, our company entered into a revolving import note program with certain financial institutions. Under this program, our company was permitted for three years to issue short-term non-interest bearing notes, or import notes, in an aggregate principal amount of up to US\$400 million outstanding at any time to designated trading companies outside Brazil to evidence our obligation to pay for purchases of naphtha and condensate from these trading companies. This program was extended until March 2009 and has expired in accordance with its terms. These designated trading companies had the right to assign these import notes to the specified financial institutions during the term of the program. These assignments were made at a discount based on a rate of LIBOR plus 0.75% per annum during the first year of this program, and LIBOR plus 0.85% per annum to 1.25% per annum, based on fluctuations in the Emerging Markets Bond Index Brazil, during the second and third years of the program, and LIBOR plus 5.00% thereafter. These companies were permitted to use the proceeds of these assignments to purchase imported naphtha or condensate.

Technology of Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit

We use engineering process technology under non-exclusive arrangements from a variety of sources for specific production processes. We do not pay any continuing royalties under any of these arrangements. If any of these arrangements were terminated or no longer available to us, we believe that we would be able to replace this technology with comparable or better technology from other sources. 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 and the Southern Complex, including our other business units, as well as to customers in the United States, Europe, South America and Asia. We sell caprolactam and related products in northeastern Brazil, primarily to third generation petrochemical producers located in the Northeastern Complex, as well as to customers in South America and Asia. Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit also produces utilities for its own use and for sale to 46 companies, including companies located outside of the Northeastern Complex and the Southern 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 Basic Petrochemicals Unit's 10 largest customers (excluding intra-company sales) accounted for 28.6% of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit's total net sales revenue (excluding intra-company sales) during the year ended December 31, 2008.

As part of our commercial strategy, our Basic Petrochemicals Unit focuses 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 and the Southern Complex, including Oxiteno do Nordeste S.A. and Polibrasil Resinas S.A. 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 and fuel distribution companies.

We determine the prices that we charge for ethylene by reference to international market prices. We calculate the monthly price of propylene by multiplying our monthly ethylene price by the ratio of the European contract price for propylene to the European contract price for ethylene. We determine the prices for our other olefins and aromatics products with reference to several market indicators. We determine the price of butadiene and para-xylene by reference to the U.S. contract price for these products, and our prices for butadiene and para-xylene, unlike our prices for our other basic petrochemical products, include freight costs. We set the prices of benzene 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 by reference to international market prices and the prices for fuels by reference to Brazilian market prices. We set the prices of utilities based on our production costs.

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We are focused on maintaining our leading position in the Brazilian market, while continuing to use our exports to hedge our operations and adjust the imbalances between demand and production. In 2008, export net sales of basic petrochemicals (which exclude caprolactam and related products, utilities and automotive gasoline) represented 12.4% of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit's net sales revenue. We exported basic petrochemicals mainly to customers in the United States and in Europe.

The following table sets forth our export sales and export volumes of basic petrochemicals for the years indicated:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2007 (1)	2006
Export sales (in millions of <i>reais</i>)	R\$1,708.2	R\$2,186.6	R\$953.4
As % of total net sales revenue of Basic Petrochemicals Unit	12.4%	16.7%	13.3%
Export volumes (thousands of tons)	946.2	956.7	541.6
As % of total basic petrochemical sales volume of Basic Petrochemicals Unit	18.8%	19.1%	19.5%

(1) Includes Copesul as from April 1, 2007.

Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit has been authorized by the National Petroleum Agency to produce and sell automotive gasoline since August 15, 2000. We sold approximately 610,700 cubic meters of type A automotive gasoline in 2008. Net domestic sales revenue of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit from automotive gasoline was R\$571.4 million in 2008, and net export sales revenue of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit from automotive gasoline was R\$130.5 million in 2008.

We set export prices for:

- benzene, toluene, para-xylene, dicyclopentadiene and automotive gasoline with reference to market prices prevailing in the U.S. Gulf market; and
- propylene, MTBE, ethyl tertiary butyl ether, or ETBE, ortho-xylene, butene-1 and isoprene with reference to market prices prevailing in the European market.

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 and the Southern Complex. In 2008, our net sales revenue from sales of utilities (including sales to our other business units) was R\$597.2 million.

Competition

Although there are currently four major petrochemical complexes in Brazil, our basic petrochemical customers, which are mostly second generation petrochemical producers with plants located in the Northeastern Complex and the Southern 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 or to meet unsatisfied domestic demand.

As a result of the weakness in demand for our basic petrochemical products from second-generation producers in Brazil in the second half of 2008, we diverted sales of these products to the export market and continue to export a greater percentage of these products than we have historically exported. Competition in the international markets for these products is primarily based on the price of delivered products and competition has increased since mid-2008 as the balance between supply and demand has been disrupted due to the impact of the global financial and credit crisis on consumers of these products. In the international markets for our basic petrochemical products, we

compete with a large number of producers, some of which are substantially larger and have substantially greater financial, manufacturing, technological and marketing resources than our company.

Polyolefins Unit

At December 31, 2008, our polyolefins production facilities had the largest average annual production capacity of all second generation producers of polyolefins products in Brazil and elsewhere in Latin America. Our Polyolefins Unit accounted for R\$7,534.0 million, or 30.8%, of the net sales revenue of all segments in 2008.

Prior to April 2006, our Polyolefins Unit was comprised of the operations conducted by our company and Polialden. On May 31, 2006, Polialden merged with and into Braskem.

Prior to the Politeno Acquisition in April 2006, we owned 35.0% of Politeno's voting share capital and 34.0% of its total share capital. As a result, at dates and for periods prior to March 31, 2006, we proportionally consolidated Politeno's results in our consolidated financial statements and did not include Politeno's results in our Polyolefins segment. Following the Politeno Acquisition in April 2006, we owned 100% of the voting share capital and 96.2% of the total share capital of Politeno, and have fully consolidated Politeno's results in our consolidated financial statements and included Politeno's results in our Polyolefins segment as from April 1, 2006. In April 2007, Politeno merged with and into Braskem.

As a result of our obtaining effective management control over Ipiranga Petroquímica in April 2007, we have fully consolidated Ipiranga Petroquímica's results in our consolidated financial statements and included Ipiranga Petroquímica's results in our Polyolefins segment as from April 1, 2007. On September 30, 2008, Ipiranga Petroquímica merged with and into Braskem.

Prior to the completion of the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction on May 30, 2008, we owned 60.0% of the total and voting share capital of Paulínia. As a result, at dates and for periods prior to April 1, 2008, we proportionally consolidated Paulínia's results in our consolidated financial statements and did not include Paulínia's results in our Polyolefins segment. Following the completion of the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction on May 30, 2008, we owned 100% of the total and voting share capital of Paulínia, and have fully consolidated Paulínia's results in our consolidated financial statements and included Paulínia's results in our Polyolefins segment as from April 1, 2008. The Paulínia plant commenced operations in April 2008 with an initial annual production capacity of 300,000 tons of polypropylene. On September 30, 2008, Paulínia merged with and into Braskem.

On May 5, 2009, the second phase of the Petrobras Transaction was completed with the merger of Triunfo with and into Braskem. Prior to this merger, Triunfo owned and operated a polyethylene plant located in the Southern Complex with an annual production capacity of 160,000 tons. As a result of the merger, we will consolidate the results of Triunfo into our financial statements as from May 1, 2009.

Our Polyolefins Unit produces:

- polyethylene, including low density polyethylene, or LDPE, linear low density polyethylene, or LLDPE, high density polyethylene, or HDPE, ultra high molecular weight polyethylene, or UHMWP, and EVA;
- polypropylene; and
- medium density polyethylene, or MDPE.

Approximately two-thirds of the sales volume of our Polyolefins Unit in 2008 was derived from the sale of polyethylene products, and most of 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;

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- bottles, shopping bags and other consumer goods containers;
- automotive parts; and
- household appliances.

In 2008, we had an approximate 50% share of the Brazilian polyethylene market and an approximate 53% share of the Brazilian polypropylene market, based on sales volumes of our Polyolefins Unit. We anticipate that long-term growth in domestic 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 when compared to the United States and many European countries; and
- the trend towards substitution of plastics for more traditional packaging materials, such as glass and paper.

Prior to May 2007, our Polyolefins Unit also produced polyethylene terephthalate, or PET, resin and DMT. In May 2007, we permanently closed the DMT unit in our PET plant as a result of this plant's high maintenance and operational costs due to its aging technology. DMT is the primary raw material used by our PET plant. As a result, our PET plant was also temporarily closed in May 2007 in order for us to review the technology used to produce PET. Pending completion of a review of our options to resume PET production, we continued to serve our PET customers with PET purchased from M&G Polimeros Brasil S.A., which we refer to as M&G, the largest PET producer in Brazil and a subsidiary of M&G Finanziaria Industriale S.p.A. In December 2008, we permanently closed our PET plant. We continued to purchase PET from M&G until the expiration of our purchase agreement with M&G in April 2009 and we continued to serve our PET customers with PET purchased under this agreement until June 2009.

Products of Our Polyolefins Unit

The following table sets forth a breakdown of the sales volume and net sales revenue of our Polyolefins Unit by product line and by market for the years indicated.

	For the Year Ended December 31,								
	2008(1)			2007(2)			2006(3)		
	Quantities Sold (thousands of tons)	Net Sales Revenue (millions of reais)	(%)	Quantities sold (thousands of tons)	Net Sales Revenue (millions of reais)	(%)	Quantities sold (thousands of tons)	Net Sales Revenue (millions of reais)	(%)
Domestic net sales:									
Polypropylene	606.2	R\$2,163.6	28.7%	573.1	R\$1,982.1	26.7%	453.2	R\$1,515.5	30.4%
LDPE	228.6	875.2	11.6	240.7	849.1	11.5	194.0	623.2	12.5
LLDPE	286.5	1,094.6	14.5	272.3	976.5	13.2	186.3	607.3	12.2
HDPE	447.1	1,732.0	23.0	413.6	1,478.0	19.9	186.6	600.4	12.0
PET(4)	42.9	134.6	1.8	60.3	175.9	2.4	50.6	152.7	3.1
Other	23.1	81.2	1.1	17.2	93.1	1.3	37.8	182.2	3.7
Total domestic net sales	1,634.5	6,081.1	80.7	1,577.3	5,554.7	75.0	1,108.5	3,681.3	73.8
Total export net sales	538.9	1,452.8	19.3	662.3	1,856.3	25.0	480.6	1,303.6	26.2
Total polyolefins net sales	2,173.3	R\$7,534.0	100%	2,239.6	R\$7,411.0	100%	1,589.1	R\$4,984.9	100%

(1) Includes Paulínia as from April 1, 2008.

(2) Includes Ipiranga Petroquímica as from April 1, 2007.

(3) Includes Politeno as from April 1, 2006.

(4) In May 2007, we temporarily closed our PET plant. In December 2008, we permanently closed our PET plant.

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. We believe that the variety of technological processes at our polyolefins plants provides us with a competitive advantage in meeting our customers' needs.

Polyethylene Products

Polyethylene has the simplest chemical structure of all commercial polymers and is a very versatile material. Global 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 and extrusion coating. LLDPE is used in applications that require greater sealing capacity and better mechanical resistance, including plastic films and flexible food packaging. MDPE is used in applications that require impact resistance and stiffness, such as diapers and hygienic articles, water storage tanks, technical parts and industrial containers. HDPE is used for applications that require higher mechanical resistance, such as high strength films, food packaging, merchandise bags, telecommunications and sewage pipes, pails, lids, trash containers, bottles, flasks, safety helmets, sporting goods, pallets and toys.

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.

Polypropylene Products

Polypropylene is a versatile polymer with a high strength-to-weight ratio. This thermoplastic resin may be manufactured with a variety of properties that permit its use in different processes, such as injection, extrusion, blow molding and thermoforming. Through these processes, polypropylene may be used as a primary raw material for many applications, including the manufacture of carpet fibers, non-woven fabrics for diapers, injection molded parts for durable packaging and automobiles, medical instruments, flexible packaging for candy, pasta and cookies, as well as bottles for beverages. The balance between the mechanical properties and the high thermal resistance of polypropylene is a primary reason why this thermoplastic resin has begun to replace engineering materials such as acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (known as ABS), polycarbonate and nylon in domestic appliances and machinery. The lack of toxicity and high chemical resistance of polypropylene permits it to be used in applications with strict sanitary specifications, including in the food and pharmaceutical industries.

PET

PET is one of the most widely used polymers in industry today and is used in manufacturing packaging for soft drinks, medications, cleaning products, mineral water and food products.

Production Facilities of Our Polyolefins Unit

At December 31, 2008, our Polyolefins Unit owned 17 polyolefins production facilities. Our Polyolefins Unit operates five plants located in the Southern Complex and three plants located in the Northeastern Complex. During 2006, we expanded the annual production capacity of our polyethylene plants in the Northeastern Complex by 30,000 tons. During 2008, we expanded the annual production capacity of our polyethylene plants in the Northeastern Complex by 20,000 tons and expanded the annual production capacity of our polypropylene plant in the Southern Complex by 30,000 tons.

The table below sets forth the location, the primary products, annual production capacity at December 31, 2008, and annual production for the years presented of each of the plants of our Polyolefins Unit.

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Location (Complex)	Primary Products	Annual Production Capacity (in tons)	Production For the Year Ended December 31,		
			2008(1)	2007(2)	2006(3)
Triunfo (Southern)	LDPE	215,000	197,310	207,286	209,209
	Polypropylene	740,000	692,920	671,350	542,781
	HDPE/LLDPE(4)	450,000	298,691	354,730	268,762
	HDPE	400,000	357,257	278,480	
Camaçari (Northeastern)	HDPE/LLDPE(4)	230,000	204,078	218,671	216,822
	HDPE/LLDPE(4)	220,000	181,526	218,622	133,088
	LDPE	160,000	121,902	140,971	102,684
	HDPE/UHMWP(4)	160,000	87,322	106,741	103,034
	PET (5)			25,569	57,155
	DMT (6)			34,653	76,070
Paulínia	Polypropylene	300,000	93,096		

- (1) Includes Paulínia as from April 1, 2008.
- (2) Includes Ipiranga Petroquímica as from April 1, 2007.
- (3) Includes Politenó as from April 1, 2006.
- (4) Plant with swing line capable of producing three types of resins. Capacity varies depending on actual production.
- (5) In May 2007, we temporarily closed our PET plant. In December 2008, we permanently closed our PET plant.
- (6) In May 2007, we permanently closed the DMT unit in our PET plant.

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 89.3% of our Polyolefins Unit's total variable cost of production in 2008. In 2008, raw materials representing 85.7% of this cost were supplied by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. Our Polyolefins Unit purchases ethylene and propylene from our Basic Petrochemicals Unit at prices determined by reference to international market prices for ethylene. Our Polyolefins Unit is highly dependent on ethylene and propylene supplied by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit 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.

The following table sets forth the average prices per ton in *reais* paid by our Polyolefins Unit to our Basic Petrochemicals Unit for ethylene and propylene for the years indicated:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
	(R\$ per ton)		
Ethylene	R\$2,750	R\$4,933	R\$5,000
Propylene	2,400	2,480	2,570

In March 2007, we entered into two five-year propylene supply contracts with REFAP. Under these contracts, we will purchase an initial annual supply of between 92,500 and 100,000 tons of propylene, representing between 92.5% to 100% of REFAP's current annual propylene

production capacity of 100,000 tons. As REFAP expands its propylene production capacity, we will be obligated to purchase at least 70% of REFAP's propylene production until REFAP's annual production capacity reaches 162,000 tons. We will have the right to purchase 100% of

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REFAP's production in excess of 162,000 tons. If we exercise this right, our minimum purchase obligation under these contracts will be increased correspondingly. Under these contracts:

- REFAP has agreed to sell and deliver propylene to us exclusively for our use as a raw material; and
- we agreed to purchase, and REFAP agreed to sell, at prices determined by reference to U.S. Gulf Coast prices for propylene.

This volume will be used to supply the existing plants of our Polyolefins Unit in the Southern Complex and will be available to meet additional demand that arises through the expansion of these plants and the acquisition of additional plants. Propylene will be delivered to our plants through a pipeline.

In May 2008, Paulínia entered into a 20-year propylene supply contract with Petrobras. This contract is automatically renewable for consecutive two-year terms following the initial term, unless terminated by one of the parties. Under this contract, Paulínia will purchase an initial monthly supply of 25,000 tons of propylene per month beginning in the second quarter of 2009 and 300,000 tons of propylene per year beginning in 2010. Under this contract:

- Petrobras has agreed to sell and deliver propylene to us exclusively for our use as a raw material; and
- we agreed to purchase, and Petrobras agreed to sell, at prices determined by reference to U.S. Gulf Coast prices for propylene.

Prior to the second quarter of 2009, Paulínia operated using propylene that it purchased from Refinaria do Planalto REPLAN, or REPLAN, a refinery that is owned and operated by Petrobras, and our company.

Other Materials

Our Polyolefins Unit also uses butene and hexene as raw materials in the production of HDPE and LLDPE. Butene is supplied by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit, and we import hexene from suppliers located in South Africa.

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 Univation Technologies. Our HDPE slurry plant in the Northeastern Complex produces its own catalysts, and we purchase the inputs that we need to produce our own catalysts from various suppliers at market prices. We purchase most of the catalysts that we use in our Polyolefins Unit's polypropylene plants from Basell Polyolefins Company N.V., or Basell, and we also import some catalysts from suppliers in the United States and Europe.

We purchase the catalysts that our Polyolefins Unit uses in its swing line LLDPE/HDPE plant from Basell. We produce our own catalysts for our HDPE plants in the Southern Complex using Hoechst technology, and we purchase the inputs that we need to produce these catalysts from various suppliers at market prices.

Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit supplies our Polyolefins Unit's facilities in the Northeastern Complex and Southern 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 alternative 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 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 non-exclusive agreements with a number of leading petrochemical companies to use certain technology and catalysts for our Polyolefins Unit. We have fully paid all royalties due under the terms of most of these license agreements. Under some of our license agreements, we pay royalties on a quarterly basis based on the volume of the products produced using the licensed technology. Some of our license agreements allow us to use the licensed technology in existing and future plants. If any of these licenses were terminated, we believe that we would be able to replace the relevant technology with comparable technology from other sources.

Research and Development

Our Polyolefins Unit coordinates and maintains a research and development program, which includes (1) the Braskem Center for Technology and Innovation, (2) pilot plants, (3) catalysis, polymerization and polymer sciences laboratories, and (4) process engineering and automation centers.

The Braskem Center for Technology and Innovation includes a staff of approximately 200 employees, which seek to:

- develop new products and applications in response to our customers' requirements;
- upgrade or improve the properties and processability of our products;
- identify new product market opportunities;
- implement improvements in our production processes and reduce our operating costs; and
- expand and optimize the capacity and the flexibility of production at our plants.

In 2006, we opened a new development center dedicated to UHMWP, a high value-added resin of which we are one of the largest producers in the world. This center works in coordination with the Braskem Center for Technology and Innovation.

Our Polyolefins Unit maintains seven pilot plants located in the Southern Complex and the Northeastern Complex that use Spheripol®, Spherilene®, Unipol® and Mitsubishi slurry technology. Two of our Polyolefins Unit pilot plants operate at approximately 1/150 of the scale of our full-scale plants, and our other pilot plants operate at approximately 1/400 of the scale of our full-scale plants. Our Polyolefins Unit uses these pilot plants to (1) produce small quantities of new products to test them in our laboratories and with our customers, (2) develop new conditions and formulations for the creation of new products, and (3) increase the efficiency of our production processes. We believe that these pilot plants give us a competitive advantage over our competitors in Latin America, which do not have similar resources.

We also operate a smaller Technology and Innovation Center located in the Southern Complex which is similar to the Braskem Center for Technology and Innovation. This center includes laboratories and a slurry Hostalen® pilot plant used to develop new high density polyethylene grades, as well as to evaluate and develop catalysts and to test new raw materials. This pilot plant operates at approximately 1/200 of the scale of the industrial plants and complements the pilot plants of our Polyolefins Unit. We also operate a process development department and a product development department with a combined staff of approximately 35 employees to coordinate our research and development activities at the smaller center.

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 catalysts. 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, reducing our variable costs, achieving operational stability and increasing our production of polyolefins.

Our Polyolefins Unit is in regular contact with international process technology licensors to acquire 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 consortia. In addition, we maintain ongoing contracts with licensors that permit us to upgrade our technology in order to receive and install improvements developed for our existing processes.

Sales and Marketing of Our Polyolefins Unit

Our Polyolefins Unit sells polyethylene and polypropylene products to approximately 1,400 customers. We have a diversified product mix that allows us to serve a broad range of end users in several industries. The customers of our Polyolefins Unit generally are third generation petrochemical producers that manufacture a wide variety of plastic-based consumer and industrial goods.

Net sales revenue to the 10 largest customers of our Polyolefins Unit accounted for 24.0% of our Polyolefins Unit's total net sales revenue during the year ended December 31, 2008. No customer of our Polyolefins Unit accounted for more than 4.5% of our total net sales revenue in 2008, 2007 or 2006.

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 products in Brazil through exclusive independent distributors. Our Polyolefins Unit has seven distributors and has entered into agreements with five of these distributors. Three of these agreements have terms expiring in 2010, one expires in 2009, and is automatically renewable for 18-month periods, and one has an indefinite term, subject to termination on one year's notice by either party.

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. 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 serve. Furthermore, by serving smaller customers through a network of distributors, our account managers focus their efforts on delivering high quality service to a smaller number of large, direct customers.

Export Sales

Our volume of export sales has generally varied based upon the level of domestic demand for our products. Export sales represented 19.3% of our Polyolefins Unit's net sales revenue in 2008. In 2006, our Polyolefins Unit opened sales offices in Argentina and The Netherlands. We use our Argentine office to consolidate our marketing efforts in Argentina. We use our office in The Netherlands to support our European customers, improve our knowledge of the European market, optimize our logistics process in this market and develop regional partners. In addition to our offices in Argentina and The Netherlands, our Polyolefins Unit maintains an office in the United States that is focused on further developing the market for engineering plastics under the UTEC brand. We also maintain a sales offices in Chile.

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We have established a strategic position in the polyolefins business in South America and Europe through regular direct sales, local distributors and agents who understand their respective markets. Our strategy to increase our presence in these foreign markets is intended, among other things, to reduce our exposure to the cyclical nature of the international spot market for polyolefins through the development of long-term relationships with customers in neighboring countries.

The following table sets forth export sales and export volumes of our Polyolefins Unit for the periods indicated.

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2008 (1)	2007 (2)	2006 (3)
Net export sales revenue (in millions of <i>reais</i>)	R\$1,452.8	R\$1,856.3	R\$1,303.6
As % of total net sales revenue of Polyolefins Unit	19.3%	25.0%	26.2 %
Export volumes (thousands of tons)	538.9	662.3	480.6
As % of total production of Polyolefins Unit	24.1%	27.4%	28.1%

- (1) Includes Paulínia as from April 1, 2008.
- (2) Includes Ipiranga Petroquímica as from April 1, 2007.
- (3) Includes Politeno as from April 1, 2006.

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. Generally, 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. However, in 2008 our export volumes declined significantly in the first half of the year as domestic supplies contracted due to the planned maintenance shutdowns of two of our basic petrochemicals units and the basic petrochemicals unit of PQU during a period in which domestic demand for polyolefins resins was strong. During the second half of 2008, Chinese demand for polyolefins products declined following the conclusion of the Olympic Games and demand for polyolefins products in the United States declined as the effects of the global financial and credit crisis became more pronounced. As a result of this contraction of demand, polyolefins producers in the United States increased the volume of exports of their polyolefins products, leading to greater price competition in the export markets that we serve. Demand for polyolefins products did not fall as severely in Latin America as in other regions in the second half of 2008 and, despite strong competition from polyolefins producers in the United States, our sales volumes in this region increased by 24.0% in the second half of 2008 compared to the corresponding period in 2007. We believe that our continued presence in export markets is essential to help manage any overcapacity in the Brazilian market and to maintain our position as leader in the supply of polyolefins in South America.

Prices and Sales Terms

We determine the domestic prices for the polyethylene and polypropylene products of our Polyolefins Unit with reference to international market prices and the prevailing balance of supply and demand for these products in Brazil. Our customers in Brazil may pay in full on delivery or elect credit terms that require payment in full within seven to 56 days following delivery. We charge interest based on prevailing market rates to our Brazilian customers that elect to pay on credit.

Our Polyolefins Unit generally conducts 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 and distributors, most of which have operations in Europe, the United States or in Asia, principally 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 by our Polyolefins Unit are primarily based on regional prices and sales are generally made either with letters of credit or through direct bank collections.

Competition

We compete with regional polyolefins producers located in Brazil and Argentina and, to a lesser extent, with other 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 product line. LDPE is produced in Brazil by Quattor with an annual production capacity of 270,000 tons compared to our annual production capacity of 525,000 tons, which includes the annual production capacity of Triunfo.

In the HDPE and LLDPE markets, we compete with the following producers in Brazil:

- Quattor, with a maximum annual production capacity of 750,000 tons of LLDPE and HDPE at swing-line plants capable of producing LLDPE and HDPE; and
- Solvay, with an annual capacity of 82,000 tons of HDPE.

We have (1) a combined annual production capacity of 900,000 tons at swing-line plants capable of producing LLDPE and HDPE, and (2) combined annual HDPE and UHMWP production capacity of 560,000 tons.

In the Brazilian polypropylene market, we compete with Quattor. Quattor has annual production capacity of 875,000 tons, compared to our annual production capacity of 1,040,000 tons.

We do not have any domestic competitors in the Brazilian UHMWP market. Internationally, our primary competitor in this market is Ticona, which is a member of the Celanese Group, a German chemical company that has approximately 33.0% of the worldwide production capacity of UHMWP.

Price competition in the international markets in 2008 as a result of reduced global demand for polyolefins resulted in a 37.4% increase in Brazilian polyethylene imports, which represented 22.7% of Brazilian polyethylene consumption in 2008, and a 12.0% increase in Brazilian polypropylene imports, which represented 15.3% of Brazilian polypropylene consumption in 2008.

Vinyls Unit

We are the leading producer of PVC in Brazil, based on sales volumes in 2008. At December 31, 2008, our PVC production facilities had the largest average annual production capacity in Latin America. Our Vinyls Unit accounted for R\$2,052.8 million, or 8.4%, of our net sales revenue of all segments in 2008.

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; ethylene dichloride, or EDC; and chlorine, which we use to manufacture EDC. In 2008, 66.6% of our Vinyls Unit's net sales revenue was derived from the sale of PVC products, 28.4% was derived from the sale of caustic soda and 2.5% from the sale of EDC and the remainder from the sale of other products.

In 2008, we had an approximate 53.2% share of the Brazilian PVC market, based on sales volumes.

Products of Our Vinyls Unit

The following table sets forth a breakdown of the sales volume and net sales revenue of our Vinyls Unit by product line and by market for the years indicated.

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For the Year Ended December 31,

	2008			2007			2006		
	Quantities	Net Sales Revenue		Quantities	Net Sales Revenue		Quantities	Net Sales Revenue	
	Sold (thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)	Sold (thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)	Sold (thousands of tons)	(millions of reais)	(%)
Domestic sales:									
PVC suspension	477.0	R\$1,253.2	61.0%	445.5	R\$1,139.0	63.7%	380.6	R\$924.2	59.9%
PVC emulsion	19.2	75.7	3.7	19.4	77.4	4.3	19.7	81.1	5.3
Caustic soda	463.3	559.5	27.3	450.5	373.8	20.9	423.9	357.8	23.2
Others (1)	142.6	73.3	3.6	105.2	47.9	2.7	110.2	58.5	3.8
Total domestic sales	1,102.2	1,961.7	95.6	1,020.6	1,638.1	91.5	934.4	1,421.5	92.2
Total exports	98.2	91.2	4.4	148.0	151.3	8.5	142.7	120.2	7.8
Total vinyl net sales	1,200.4	R\$2,052.8	100%	1,168.7	R\$1,789.4	100%	1,077.1	R\$1,541.7	100%

(1) Includes chlorine, hydrogen, caustic soda flake and sodium hypochlorite.

PVC and EDC

PVC is a versatile polymer, and global production volume of PVC is the second highest among all commercial plastics. We produce suspension and paste PVC in various grades, which are sold in various sized bags or in bulk to third generation producers and transported by truck, rail or, in some cases, ship.

Suspension PVC represented 98.5% of our PVC production in 2008. The grades of PVC produced by the suspension production process are the most widely used, including for use in the manufacture of pipes and fittings, laminated products, shoes, sheeting, flooring, cable insulation, electrical conduit, packaging and medical applications. The grades of paste PVC 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 78.2% of our EDC production in 2008 for further processing into PVC and sold the remainder in the Brazilian and Asian markets.

Caustic Soda

Our Vinyls Unit also produces caustic soda. 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 used 2.2% of our caustic soda production in 2008 and sold the remainder to third parties.

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, 2008, and annual production for the years presented for each of our vinyls plants.

Location (Complex)	Primary Products	Annual Production Capacity (in tons)	Production For the Year Ended December 31,		
			2008	2007	2006
Camaçari (Northeastern)	PVC	250,000	229,710	209,312	193,089
Camaçari (Northeastern)	Caustic Soda	79,000	72,074	67,393	73,316
	Chlorine	64,000	64,211	65,505	59,820
Maceió (Alagoas)	Caustic Soda	460,000	424,833	391,164	395,572
	Chlorine	400,000	395,413	381,133	370,588
	EDC	520,000	521,677	478,941	477,472
Marechal Deodoro (Alagoas)	PVC	240,000	262,636	235,154	229,079
Vila Prudente (São Paulo)	PVC	26,000	21,451	20,955	21,888

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 48.0% of our variable cost of PVC sales in 2008 and 27.0% of our EDC sales in 2008. 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 to our PVC plant in the Northeastern Complex via a separate pipeline. Because the cost of storing and transporting ethylene is substantial and there is inadequate infrastructure in Brazil to permit the importation of large quantities of ethylene, our Vinyls Unit is highly dependent on ethylene that is supplied by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. Our São Paulo plant receives vinylchloride monomer (a raw material used in manufacturing PVC) by ship from our plant in the Northeastern Complex.

Electric Power

Electric power is a significant cost component in our production of chlorine and caustic soda. Electric power accounted for 63.2% of our Vinyls Unit's cost of caustic soda sales in 2008 and 14.8% of our Vinyls Unit's total cost of sales in 2008. 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 under a long-term contract that expires in 2010. Companhia Energética de Alagoas S.A., or CEAL, 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., or Eletropaulo. The power purchase agreements with CEAL and Eletropaulo are renewable contracts with automatic rolling three-year extensions. These agreements provide us with the option to purchase our total electric power requirements based on an annual estimate. The price terms of these contracts are based upon tariffs regulated by the Brazilian National Electrical Energy Agency (*Agência Nacional de Energia Elétrica*).

Salt

We used approximately 827,000 tons of salt during 2008 in our production of chlorine and caustic soda. Salt accounted for 1.3% of our variable costs of caustic soda sales in 2008 and 0.9% of our Vinyls Unit's total cost of sales in 2008. 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 at expected rates of production for approximately 35 to 45 years. We enjoy significant cost advantages when compared to certain of our competitors due to the low extraction costs of rock salt (particularly compared to sea salt), and low transportation costs due to the proximity of the salt mine to our production facility.

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 our subsidiary, Companhia Alagoas Industrial. Our chlorine and caustic soda plants in Alagoas and our PVC plant in São Paulo supply their own utilities requirements.

Technology of Our Vinyls Unit

We have entered into several non-exclusive agreements with a number of leading petrochemical companies to use technology for our Vinyls Unit. In addition, we own 44 patents and six trademarks in Brazil related to our PVC business. We do not pay any continuing royalties under any of these license agreements. If any of these arrangements were terminated or no longer available to us, we believe that we would be able to replace the relevant technology with comparable or better technology from other sources.

Our plant in the Northeastern Complex uses mercury cell technology to produce chlorine and caustic soda, which technology can no longer be used in new petrochemical production facilities under 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 that we may undertake.

Pilot Plant and Research Center

Our Vinyls Unit maintains a pilot plant for PVC research and development in the State of Bahia and a research center in the State of São Paulo. This center currently employs five engineers and four technicians specialized in plastics. At this center and in our pilot plant, we produce new PVC resins, develop and improve PVC production technology, render support services to our customers, train our customers' personnel and develop 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.

In 2008, we launched Norvic S80SA, a suspension PVC resin used in the production of footwear which is a more cost-effective, wear-resistant alternative to rubber. We have developed new PVC applications for construction systems for houses and industrial facilities that are based on PVC panels, as well as for highway structures. We launched new resins in 2006, 2007 and 2008, and sales of these resins represented 27.0% of the net sales revenue of our Vinyls Unit in 2008.

Sales and Marketing of Our Vinyls Unit

Net sales to our 10 largest Vinyls Unit customers accounted for 44.8% of our Vinyls Unit's total net sales revenue during 2008. One customer accounted for 15.0% of our Vinyls Unit's total sales revenue in 2008, 11.6% in 2007 and 11.3% in 2006. One customer accounted for 40.5% of our total external EDC sales in 2008, 22.8% in 2007 and 58.1% in 2006, and our largest caustic soda customer accounted for 7.0% of total caustic soda sales in 2008, 7.7% in 2007 and 8.6% in 2006.

There is a structural link between the PVC and caustic soda markets that exists because caustic soda is a byproduct 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 2008, our Vinyls Unit had domestic net sales revenue of R\$1,961.7 million, which accounted for 95.6% of our Vinyls Unit net sales revenue. In 2008, 67.8% of the Vinyls Unit's domestic net sales revenue was attributable to sales of PVC, 28.6% was attributable to sales of caustic soda and 3.6% 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 Paulínia and Barueri, 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 2008, our Vinyls Unit had export net sales revenue of R\$91.2 million, which accounted for 4.4% of our Vinyls Unit's total net sales revenue. Our export sales of PVC and EDC vary from year to year, influenced principally by domestic market demand and product availability.

The following table sets forth export sales and export volumes of our Vinyls Unit for the years indicated.

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
Net export sales revenue (in millions of <i>reais</i>)	R\$91.2	R\$151.3	R\$120.2
As % of total net sales revenue of Vinyls Unit	4.4%	8.5%	7.8%
Export volumes (thousands of tons)	97.7	148.0	142.7
As % of total production of Vinyls Unit	4.9%	8.0%	7.8%

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. Our export sales of PVC are focused primarily on the South American, Southeast Asian and United States markets and to a lesser extent on Europe. During the second half of 2008, Chinese demand for PVC declined following the conclusion of the Olympic Games and demand for PVC in the United States declined as the effects of the global financial and credit crisis became more pronounced. As a result of this contraction of demand, PVC in the United States increased the volume of exports of their PVC products, leading to greater price competition in the export markets that we serve.

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 for PVC is generally equal to the international market price but also takes transportation costs into account. Delivery time, 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 prices charged by our three domestic competitors, taking into account any import duties and freight costs. Approximately 54.1% of our caustic soda sales in 2008 were effected pursuant to agreements that are generally for one- to three-year terms and may include minimum and maximum prices. As with PVC, our export prices for 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 based on prevailing market rates to our customers in Brazil that elect longer payment options. 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 295,000 tons, compared to our annual production capacity of 516,000 tons. Solvay's 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 vertically integrated production capabilities, our modern PVC suspension plants, our strong relationship with our customers and our technical assistance programs enable us to compete effectively with Solvay.

We also compete with importers of PVC. Solvay, which has a plant in Argentina in addition to its plants in Brazil, is also our principal competitor in the PVC market both in Brazil and elsewhere in South America. Brazilian consumption of PVC, which increased by 27.1% in 2008, together with the shutdown of Solvay's Brazilian PVC production for almost three months in the third quarter of 2008 and price competition in the international markets in 2008 as a result of reduced global demand for PVC, resulted in a 106.9% increase in Brazilian PVC imports, which represented 35.1% of Brazilian PVC consumption in 2008. Domestically produced PVC is generally competitively priced with imported PVC after taking into account transportation costs and import duties.

In addition, we compete with other producers of thermoplastics that manufacture the same vinyls products or substitutes for products in 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 accounted for 91.2% of Brazilian production in 2008. 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. Imports accounted for 41.6% of Brazil's total caustic soda consumption in 2008. We do not believe that imports of caustic soda will increase 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.

IQ Soluções & Química

IQ Soluções & Química accounted for R\$601.8 million, or 2.5% of the net sales revenue of all segments in 2008. IQ Soluções & Química is the largest Brazilian distributor of chemical and petrochemical products with a market share of approximately 10%. As a result of our obtaining effective management control over IQ Soluções &

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Química in April 2007, we have fully consolidated IQ Soluções & Química's results in our consolidated financial statements and reported the results of IQ Soluções & Química's as a separate segment as from April 1, 2007.

IQ Soluções & Química distributes products manufactured by our Polyolefins Unit, as well as products from more than 70 domestic and international companies. IQ Soluções & Química distributes products in a broad range of market segments, including agrochemicals, rubber and general purpose chemicals; cosmetics and pharmaceuticals; household and other industrial segments; plastic transformation; and paints, resins, adhesives and civil construction.

Products Distributed by IQ Soluções & Química

IQ Soluções & Química distributes a large and diverse portfolio of products consisting of more than 1,000 products. We classify the products distributed by IQ Soluções & Química as:

- solvents, including aliphatic solvents, aromatic solvents, synthetic solvents and ecological solvents;
- polymers; and
- general purpose chemicals, including process oils, chemical intermediates, blends, specialty chemicals, pharmaceuticals and santoprene.

The following table sets forth a breakdown of the sales volume and net sales revenue of IQ Soluções & Química by product for the year ended December 31, 2008 and for the nine months ended December 31, 2007.

	Year Ended December 31, 2008			Nine Months Ended December 31, 2007(1)		
	Quantities Sold (thousands of tons)	Net Sales Revenue (millions of reais)	(%)	Quantities Sold (thousands of tons)	Net Sales Revenue (millions of reais)	(%)
Solvents:						
Aliphatic solvents	28.5	R\$63.2	10.5%	28.9	R\$57.5	14.6%
Aromatic solvents	27.0	64.7	10.7	20.2	42.6	10.8
Synthetic solvents	19.6	52.6	8.7	12.9	36.4	9.3
Ecological solvents	0.3	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2
Polymers	38.4	156.5	26.0	25.7	96.6	24.6
General purpose chemicals:						
Process oils	30.6	54.3	9.0	27.3	40.9	10.4
Chemical intermediates	11.2	43.1	7.2	10.1	32.4	8.3
Blends	30.2	79.9	13.3	15.5	30.9	7.9
Specialty chemicals	4.4	51.2	8.5	2.7	26.5	6.8
Santoprene	1.7	12.9	2.1	1.2	9.6	2.4
Pharmaceuticals	1.2	20.0	3.3	0.9	13.4	3.4
Services	0.1	2.4	0.4	0.1	5.2	1.3
Total net sales	193.1	R\$601.8	100%	145.6	R\$392.6	100%

Distribution Agreements

IQ Soluções & Química has commercial relationships with more than 50 domestic and international companies, under which IQ Soluções & Química distributes specified products, including:

- Conoco-Phillips for the distribution of hydrocarbon solvents;
- Sasol Solvents for the distribution of synthetic Solvents;

- Lubrizol for the distribution of additives for lubricants.
- Wacker Chemie GmbH for the distribution of silicone-derived products;
- RT Vanderbilt for the distribution of specialty chemicals for the rubber, cosmetics and lubricants industries;
- Sasol Wax for the distribution of waxes;
- DCC for the distribution of pigments;
- Emerald Kalama for the distribution of chemical intermediates and specialty chemicals;
- Sandoz for the distribution of active pharmaceutical ingredients;
- JRS Pharma for the distribution of pharmaceutical excipients; and
- Meggle for the distribution of pharmaceutical excipients.

IQ Soluções & Química also has entered into distribution agreements that provide it with exclusive rights to distribute specified products in Brazil, including distribution agreements with:

- Petrobras for the distribution of hydrocarbon solvents;
- Eastman Chemical for the distribution of solvents and chemical intermediates; and
- RT Vanderbilt for the distribution of specialty chemicals for the rubber, cosmetics and lubricants industries, under which IQ Soluções & Química may not distribute products for Vanderbilt's competitors.

Generally, IQ Soluções & Química initiates distribution activities for a producer with a letter of intent with a term of one-year and, following this period, extends these commercial relationships or distribution agreements for an indefinite period. Generally, IQ Soluções & Química's distribution agreements may be terminated by either party on 30 to 180 days notice.

IQ Soluções & Química's distribution agreements are generally local stock agreements, indent sales agreements or agreements that combine the features of both. Under IQ Soluções & Química's local stock agreements, IQ Soluções & Química purchases chemicals for resale to its customers. These agreements do not contain minimum volume or maximum margin requirements. Sales to IQ Soluções & Química under these agreements are at prices negotiated between IQ Soluções & Química and the producer. IQ Soluções & Química's distribution agreement with Petrobras provides that IQ Soluções & Química is eligible to receive a discount on purchases based on the volume of products purchased. Under IQ Soluções & Química's indent sales agreements, IQ Soluções & Química acts as a sales agent and receives a commission on the total sales revenue (FOB price) generated for the producer by these sales.

Sales and Marketing by IQ Soluções & Química

IQ Soluções & Química distributes products to chemical retailers, third generation petrochemical producers and other manufacturers. We determine the prices for the products distributed by IQ Soluções & Química by reference to several market factors, including the prices paid by third generation producers for imports of these products and prevailing market prices in Brazil. IQ Soluções & Química serves approximately 5,000 active clients in more than 50 market segments, through 11 business units supported by seven sales offices throughout Brazil. IQ Soluções & Química operates four distribution centers that include warehouses and tank farms. IQ Soluções & Química owns its distribution centers in Guarulhos in the State of São Paulo, Canoas in the State of Rio Grande do Sul and Duque de Caxias in the State of Rio de Janeiro, and leases a distribution facility in Simões Filho in the State of Bahia.

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IQ Soluções & Química distributes products in a broad range of market segments. No customer represented more than 10% of the net sales revenue of IQ Soluções & Química during 2006, 2007 or 2008. The following table sets forth a breakdown of the net sales revenue of IQ Soluções & Química by market segment served by its customer for the year ended December 31, 2008 and for the nine months ended December 31, 2007.

	Year Ended December 31, 2008		Nine Months Ended December 31, 2007	
	(millions of reais)	(%)	(millions of reais)	(%)
Plastics	R\$141.3	23.5%	R\$81.3	20.7%
Paints and Coats	89.7	14.9	61.6	15.7
Rubber	86.8	14.4	47.5	12.1
Pharmaceutical	40.0	6.7	34.2	8.7
Agribusiness	52.5	8.7	24.3	6.2
Adhesives	25.7	4.3	18.1	4.6
Chemicals	29.0	4.8	17.7	4.5
Household products	11.2	1.9	14.1	3.6
Lubricants	18.4	3.0	13.0	3.3
Automobile	15.3	2.6	12.2	3.1
Petrochemical	11.9	2.0	10.2	2.6
Cosmetics/ Personal Care	17.5	2.9	9.4	2.4
Chemical and petrochemical resale	12.6	2.0	8.6	2.2
Other	49.9	8.2	40.4	10.3
Total net sales	R\$601.8	100%	R\$392.6	100%

Competition

The chemical distribution industry in Brazil had revenues of US\$5.2 billion in 2008, according to preliminary data published by the Brazilian Chemical and Petrochemical Distributors Association. The chemical distribution industry in Brazil is highly fragmented, with a small number of large distributors, such as Bandeirantes Brazmo, M Cassab, Quattor, Coremal, Arinos, Makeni Química and Brenntag, and a large number of small distributors. The Brazilian Chemical and Petrochemical Distributors Association estimates that 6% of the companies in this industry have annual sales of more than US\$150 million while 72% have annual sales of less than US\$50 million. The customer base for chemical distributors is primarily composed of customers that consume small volumes of any distributed product.

Capital Expenditures

Our capital expenditures on property, plant and equipment and intangible assets were R\$1,682.3 million in 2008, R\$2,432.6 million in 2007 and R\$889.7 million in 2006. Additionally, our investments in interests in other companies were R\$653.8 million in 2008, R\$1,345.5 million in 2007 and R\$222.7 million in 2006. Our capital expenditures projects from 2006 through 2008 included the following:

- an automation project in our PVC plants in Alagoas and in the Northeastern Complex that modernized and improved the operational performance of this plant, and increased the safety of our production processes at this plant. We completed this project in the second half of 2006 at a total cost of R\$31.1 million.
- an efficiency enhancement project at one of our polyethylene plants in the Northeastern Complex that increased its annual production capacity by 30,000 tons. We completed this project in 2006 at a total cost of R\$9.9 million.

- an efficiency enhancement project at our Aromatics 2 unit in the Northeastern Complex that increased its annual isoprene production capacity by 8,800 to 26,800 tons. We completed this project in 2006 at a total cost of R\$81.9 million.
- the conversion of our MTBE plant in the Southern Complex to an ETBE plant. This project was completed in September 2007 at a total cost of R\$23.4 million.
- the conversion of our MTBE plant in the Northeastern Complex to an ETBE plant. This project commenced in 2007 and is expected to be completed in July 2009 at an estimated total cost of R\$95.5 million.
- an efficiency enhancement project at one of our polypropylene plants in the Southern Complex that increased its annual production capacity by 30,000 tons. We completed this project in April 2008 at a total cost of R\$8.3 million.
- an efficiency enhancement project at the Southern Complex's Olefins 1 unit that increased its annual ethylene production capacity by 52,000 tons and its annual propylene production capacity by 30,000 tons. This project was undertaken during the general maintenance shutdown of this unit in April 2008 at a total cost of R\$158.0 million.
- efficiency enhancement projects at two of our polyethylene plants in the Northeastern Complex that increased our annual polyethylene production capacity by 20,000 tons. We completed these projects in June 2008 at a total cost of R\$13.2 million.

Formula Braskem

In 2005, we commenced our Formula Braskem program to implement a new integrated management system intended to incorporate the best practices in the international petrochemical industry in our management systems and the most recent technological developments available in the marketplace. We made capital expenditures of R\$130.0 million between 2005 and 2007 related to the implementation of the first phase of Formula Braskem. We made capital expenditures of R\$39.9 million in 2007 related to the implementation of the second phase of Formula Braskem.

Formula Sul

In 2008, we implemented our Formula Sul project to integrate the management systems of Copesul, Ipiranga Petroquímica and Ipiranga Química into our management system. The total cost of this project was R\$29.6 million.

Petroquímica Paulínia

In September 2005, we and Petroquisa incorporated Paulínia as a joint venture company for the construction and operation of a polypropylene plant to be located in Paulínia, in the State of São Paulo, with an initial annual production capacity of 350,000 tons. We initially owned 60% of the total and voting share capital of Paulínia, and Petroquisa owned the remaining total and voting share capital. In December 2006, Paulínia entered into a credit agreement with Brazilian National Bank for Economic and Social Development (*Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social*), or BNDES, in the aggregate amount of R\$566.2 million to finance the construction of this plant. The remaining cost of this plant was financed through equity contributions by the shareholders of Paulínia. During the course of the construction of Paulínia's polypropylene plant, we invested R\$145.1 million in Paulínia. The total cost of Paulínia's polypropylene plant was R\$742.3 million. This plant commenced operations in April 2008. As a result of the completion of the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction in May 2008, we owned all of the share capital of Paulínia. On September 30, 2008, Paulínia merged with and into Braskem.

Politeno Acquisition

In April 2006, we purchased all of the common and preferred shares of Politeno that were owned by SPQ, Sumitomo and Itochu. We paid a portion of the purchase price for these shares in an aggregate amount of the *real*-equivalent of US\$111.3 million in April 2006. The remainder of the purchase price for these shares was calculated based on an earn-out formula taking into account Politeno's operating performance, measured by fluctuations in polyethylene and ethylene margins in the Brazilian petrochemical market during the 18 months following the execution date of the agreement under which we acquired these shares. Following the Politeno Acquisition, we owned 100% of the voting share capital and 96.2% of the total share capital of Politeno. Politeno merged with and into Braskem on April 2, 2007. In January 2008, we paid the remaining portion of the purchase price of R\$247.5 million.

Ipiranga Transaction

Under the Ipiranga Investment Agreement, we acquired 60% of the share capital of Ipiranga Química. In addition, under the Ipiranga Investment Agreement, Ultrapar was obligated to transfer 33.3% of the share capital of RPI to our company and 33.3% of the share capital of RPI to Petrobras. As a result of this transfer, which occurred on March 18, 2009, we jointly and equally control RPI with Petrobras and Ultrapar. The total purchase price to our company of the shares of Ipiranga Química and RPI that we have acquired was R\$1,489.1 million, which we paid in installments of R\$651.9 million in April 2007, R\$156.7 million in October 2007, R\$47.0 million in November 2007 and R\$633.5 million in February 2008. For additional information regarding the Ipiranga Transaction, see Item 4. Information on the Company History and Development of Our Company Ipiranga Transaction.

As part of the Ipiranga Transaction:

- in June 2007, a subsidiary of Ipiranga Química, acquired the 7.6% of the total share capital of Ipiranga Petroquímica not owned by Ipiranga Química for a purchase price of R\$117.9 million. In August 2007, EDSP67 merged with and into Ipiranga Petroquímica. As a result of these transactions, Ipiranga Petroquímica is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ipiranga Química; and
- in October 2007, our subsidiary EDSP58 acquired 22.7% of the total and voting share capital of Copesul through a public tender offer for the Copesul shares not then owned by our company, Ipiranga Petroquímica, Petroquisa or Triunfo. The purchase price for these shares was R\$1,294.2 million. We owned 60% of the total and voting share capital of EDSP58, and Petrobras owned the remaining share capital of EDSP58. In October 2007 and November 2007, EDSP58 purchased additional shares of Copesul at the price per share paid in the Copesul Tender Offer. In November 2007, Copesul redeemed all of its outstanding shares, other than shares held by our company, EDSP58, Ipiranga Petroquímica, Petroquisa and Triunfo at the price per share paid in the Copesul Tender Offer. The aggregate purchase price for the shares purchased and redeemed after the completion of the Copesul Tender Offer was R\$124.3 million. In December 2007, EDSP58 merged with and into Copesul.

Venezuelan Initiatives

Polypropylene Project

In December 2007, we, through our wholly owned Netherlands subsidiary, Braskem Europe B.V., entered into a shareholders agreement, which we refer to as the Propilsur Shareholders Agreement, with Petroquímica de Venezuela, S.A., or Pequiven, the government-owned petrochemical company of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

In November 2008, we formed Polipropileno del Sur, S.A., or Propilsur, a joint venture with Pequiven in which we and Pequiven each own 49% of the share capital, which will develop, construct and operate of a polypropylene plant with an integrated propane dehydrogenation unit to be located in the Jose Petrochemical Complex in the State of Anzoategui, Venezuela. This plant is expected to have an annual production capacity of approximately 450,000 tons.

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The Propilsur Shareholders Agreement sets forth the understanding of the parties regarding the implementation of this project and the relationship of Braskem and Pequiven as shareholders of Propilsur. Under the Propilsur Shareholders Agreement:

- Pequiven will be responsible for obtaining a supply of propane, the primary feed stock of the integrated propane dehydrogenation unit of this plant;
- a significant portion of the cost of the project will be borrowed by Propilsur under project finance arrangements, collateralized by the assets of this project, with multilateral credit agencies, export credit agencies, development banks and private banks and through securities issuances in the Venezuelan and international capital markets; and
- we and Pequiven each appointed two members to Propilsur's four-member board of directors; decisions by Propilsur's general shareholders meetings and board of directors require unanimous approval; Propilsur's general and financial managers were nominated by Pequiven, subject to board approval; and Propilsur's operations and commercial managers were nominated by our company, subject to board approval.

The Propilsur Shareholders Agreement includes provisions for mediation and arbitration in the event of disputes and a deadlock between our company and Pequiven in matters to be determined by Propilsur's board of directors and grants rights of first offer and first refusal to our company and Pequiven in the event that we or Pequiven determine to sell our equity interests in Propilsur.

The estimated total cost of this project to Propilsur (excluding financing costs) is approximately US\$880 million of which we anticipate that we and Pequiven will each contribute approximately 15% as equity. We expect that if the implementation of this project is approved, construction of this project will commence in the beginning of 2010 and that this project will begin production in 2012.

The Propilsur Shareholders Agreement provides that implementation of this project is contingent upon a final investment decision of each of the parties by January 2010. We are continuing to negotiate with Pequiven regarding details of the implementation of this project. We can provide no assurances that these negotiations will be successful or that if we reach a final agreement with respect to the implementation of this project, such agreement will be upon the terms currently anticipated by our management.

Jose Olefins Project

In December 2007, we, through our wholly owned Netherland subsidiary, Braskem Europe B.V., entered into a shareholders agreement with Pequiven, which we refer to as the Polimerica Shareholders Agreement.

In November 2008, we formed Polietilenos de America, S.A., or Polimerica, a joint venture with Pequiven in which we and Pequiven each own 49% of the share capital, which will develop, construct and operate the Jose Olefins Project, an olefins complex to be located in the Jose Petrochemical Complex. The proposed complex would include an ethylene cracker that would use ethane extracted from natural gas as its raw material, with an annual production capacity of 1.3 million tons, and three polyethylene plants with a combined annual production capacity of 1.1 million tons of HDPE, LDPE and LLDPE.

The Polimerica Shareholders Agreement sets forth the understanding of the parties regarding the implementation of this project and the relationship of Braskem and Pequiven as shareholders of Polimerica. Under the Polimerica Shareholders Agreement:

- a significant portion of the cost of the project will be borrowed by Polimerica under project finance arrangements, collateralized by the assets of this project, with multilateral credit agencies, export credit agencies, development banks and private banks and through securities issuances in the Venezuelan and international capital markets; and

- we and Pequiven each appointed two members to Polimerica's four-member board of directors; decisions by Polimerica's general shareholders meetings and board of directors require unanimous approval; Polimerica's general and financial managers were nominated by Pequiven, subject to board approval; and Polimerica's operations and commercial managers were nominated by our company, subject to board approval.

The Polimerica Shareholders Agreement includes provisions for mediation and arbitration in the event of disputes and a deadlock between our company and Pequiven in matters to be determined by Polimerica's board of directors and grants rights of first offer and first refusal to our company and Pequiven in the event that we or Pequiven determine to sell our equity interests in Polimerica.

The estimated total cost of this project to Polimerica (excluding financing costs) is approximately US\$3.3 billion of which we anticipate that we and Pequiven will each contribute approximately 15% as equity. We expect that if the implementation of this project is approved, construction of this project will commence in 2011 and this project will begin production in 2014.

The Polimerica Shareholders Agreement provides that implementation of this project is contingent upon a final investment decision of each of the parties by April 2011. We are continuing to negotiate with Pequiven regarding details of the implementation of this project. We can provide no assurances that these negotiations will be successful or that if we reach a final agreement with respect to the implementation of this project, such agreement will be upon the terms currently anticipated by our management.

Peru Initiative

In May 2008, Braskem, Petrobras and Petróleos Del Perú - Petroperú S.A. entered into an agreement to study the technical and economic feasibility of developing, constructing and operating a polyethylene plant with annual production capacity of 700,000 to 1,200,000 tons using natural gas from Peru as its raw material. This project would be located a new integrated petrochemical complex on the Pacific coast of Perú. The initial technical and economic feasibility studies are expected to be concluded in 2009.

Green Polyethylene Project

In December 2008, we commenced construction of a new ethylene plant in the Southern Complex that will produce ethylene using sugar cane ethanol received through the Santa Clara Terminal as its primary raw material for our use in the production of polyethylene. We believe that when this plant is completed we will be the world's first producer of polyethylene manufactured completely from renewable resources. We expect that this plant will have an annual production capacity of 200,000 tons of ethylene and will commence operations in 2011. We anticipate that the total cost of this project will be approximately R\$500 million.

Research and Development

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\$69.8 million, R\$76.5 million and R\$44.3 million in research and development in 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

2009 Capital Expenditure Budget

We currently are budgeting total capital expenditures of approximately R\$1.1 billion for 2009. Our principal capital expenditures for 2009 consist of, in addition to the projects referred to in the preceding paragraphs, approximately R\$118 million for productivity improvements, approximately R\$182 million for maintenance stoppages and other maintenance of our plants, approximately R\$124 million for the replacement of depreciated

equipment, approximately R\$34 million for plant modernization and information systems and approximately R\$88 million for health, environmental and quality improvement projects.

Other Projects

We are currently evaluating projects that could entail significant capital expenditures in the future, including:

- an efficiency enhancement project at our PVC plant in the Northeastern Complex that we expect will increase our annual PVC production capacity by 200,000 tons. This project is subject to approval by our board of directors. If approved, we expect to complete this project during 2011. The total cost of this project is under evaluation.
- construction of a new polypropylene plant in the Northeastern Complex. This project is subject to approval by our board of directors. If approved, we expect that this plant will have an annual production capacity of 300,000 tons and will commence operations in 2012. The total cost of this project is under evaluation.

Maintenance

Most of our maintenance is performed by third-party service providers. For example, we have contracts with Construtora Norberto Odebrecht S.A., or CNO, a company in the Odebrecht Group, Asea Brown Boveri Ltd., Cegelec Ltda., Rip Serviços Industriais S.A., CI Engenharia Ltda. and other service providers to perform maintenance for our Basic Petrochemicals 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.

Basic Petrochemicals Unit

Northeastern Complex

Because we have two independent Olefins units and two independent Aromatics units at the Northeastern Complex, we may continue production of basic petrochemicals without interruption, even while we perform certain maintenance services. We occasionally undertake other brief shutdowns of the basic petrochemical operations at the Northeastern Complex 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.

The last general maintenance shutdown of the Northeastern Complex's Olefins 1 unit was carried out in May and June 2008 and lasted for 37 days. The cost of servicing the unit was approximately R\$144 million (not including the value of lost production during this shutdown). In addition, we implemented various improvements to ensure the reliability, competitiveness and safety of this unit at a cost of approximately R\$155 million. The next general maintenance shutdown of the Northeastern Complex's Olefins 1 is scheduled to occur in 2014 or 2015.

The last general maintenance shutdown of the Northeastern Complex's Aromatics 1 unit was carried out in 2005 and lasted 30 days. The cost of servicing this unit was approximately R\$21 million (not including the value of lost production during this shutdown or investments in productivity enhancements). We no longer perform general maintenance shutdowns of the Northeastern Complex's Aromatics 1 unit and instead perform general maintenance shutdowns of specific plants or groups of plants in this unit. We performed maintenance of the parex plant of the Northeastern Complex's Aromatics 1 unit that lasted 52 days during a shutdown of this plant during 2007. The cost of servicing this plant was approximately R\$19 million (not including the value of lost production during this shutdown or investments in productivity enhancements). We performed maintenance of the butadiene plant that lasted 30 days during the shutdown of the Northeastern Complex's Olefins 1 unit in May and June of 2008. The cost of servicing this plant was approximately R\$7.6 million (not including the value of lost production during this shutdown). The next general maintenance shutdown of the Catalyst Reform plant and the plants comprising the C8 loop at the Northeastern Complex has been scheduled for September 2009 with an estimated duration of

approximately 30 days at an expected cost of R\$35 million (not including the value of lost production during this shutdown or investments in productivity enhancements).

The last general maintenance shutdown of the Northeastern Complex's Aromatics 2 and Olefins 2 units (which form part of the same basic petrochemicals facility) was carried out in 2004 and lasted 36 days. The cost of servicing these units was approximately R\$89 million (not including the value of lost production during this shutdown). The next general shutdown of the Northeastern Complex's Aromatics 2 and Olefins 2 units has been scheduled for 2010 with an estimated duration of approximately 25 days.

Southern Complex

Because we have two independent Olefins units at the Southern Complex, we may continue production of basic petrochemicals without interruption, even while we perform certain maintenance services. We occasionally undertake other brief shutdowns of the Southern Complex's basic petrochemical operations that do not materially affect our production output, primarily for maintenance purposes, catalyst regeneration and equipment cleaning. Regular maintenance of Southern Complex's basic petrochemical plants requires complete plant shutdowns from time to time, and these shutdowns usually take approximately 30 days to complete.

The last general maintenance shutdown of the Southern Complex's Olefins 1 unit and Aromatics unit was carried out beginning in April 2008 and lasted for 38 days. The cost of servicing the unit was approximately R\$94.0 million (not including the value of lost production during this shutdown). In addition, during this shutdown, we implemented an efficiency enhancement project that increased the annual ethylene production capacity of this unit by 52,000 tons and the annual propylene production capacity of this unit by 30,000 tons at a cost of approximately R\$158.0 million, and various improvements to ensure the reliability, competitiveness and safety of this unit at a cost of approximately R\$252.0 million. The next general shutdown of the Southern Complex's Olefins 1 unit and Aromatics unit has been scheduled for 2014 or 2015.

The last general maintenance shutdown of the Southern Complex's Olefins 2 unit was carried out in 2005 and lasted for 32 days. The cost of servicing the unit was approximately R\$44.1 million (not including the value of lost production during this shutdown). The next general shutdown of this unit has been scheduled for April 2011 with an estimated duration of approximately 30 days.

Polyolefins

We have a regular maintenance program for each of our polyolefins plants. Production at each of our Polyolefins Unit's polyolefins plants generally is shut down for seven to 20 days every two to three years to allow for regular inspection and maintenance. In addition, we undertake other brief shutdowns 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.

Vinyls Unit

We have a regular maintenance program for each of our vinyls plants. Our Camaçari and Alagoas PVC plants are generally shut down for 15 to 20 days every two years to allow for regular inspection and maintenance. The last general maintenance shutdown of our PVC plant in Camaçari was carried out in October 2008 and lasted for 12 days. The next general maintenance shutdown of this plant is scheduled for May 2010. The last general maintenance shutdown of our PVC plant in Alagoas was carried out in April 2009 and lasted for 21 days. The next general maintenance shutdown of this plant is scheduled for April 2010. Our São Paulo PVC plant does not require prolonged maintenance shutdowns, resulting in shutdowns of two or three days each year for regular maintenance. Prior to 2007, our caustic soda and chlorine plant in Alagoas was generally shut down for 15 days of maintenance every two years. Beginning in 2007, our maintenance schedule at this plant has been altered so that we will now shut down this plant once a year for three days of maintenance in different parts of the plant. The last general maintenance shutdown of this plant was carried out in October 2006 and lasted for five days. Our caustic soda and

chlorine plant in Camaçari does not require prolonged maintenance shutdowns and is shut down for two or three days each year.

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 were renewed in 2005 for a six-year term. 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, where our Southern Complex plants are located regulate our operations by prescribing specific environmental standards in our operating permits, which must be renewed every four years. Our operating permit for the basic petrochemical plants in the Southern Complex was renewed in 2008 and the operating permits for our polyethelene and polypropylene plants were renewed on various dates in 2006 and 2007. State authorities in the States of Alagoas and São Paulo have issued permits for our plants in those respective complexes, which also 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\$50.0 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 or by the Environmental Resources Center, the State's Environmental Protection Council's technical office, depending on the complexity of the facility. 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.

All projects for the installation, modification and operation of industrial facilities in the Southern Complex are subject to approval by the Rio Grande do Sul State Environmental Protection Foundation. The Rio Grande do Sul State Environmental Protection Foundation must approve installed projects prior to their commencement of operations and must renew such approval every four years thereafter.

CETREL S.A. Empresa de Proteção Ambiental, or 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 contaminated wastewater. Cetrel also stores and incinerates, treats and disposes of hazardous solid waste. For other kinds of solid waste, Cetrel maintains a landfill. Cetrel has installed two hazardous solid waste incinerators with a total annual incineration capacity of 16,600 tons. One of these incinerators has an annual incineration capacity of 4,400 tons and is used to dispose of chlorinated residue, and the other incinerator has an annual incineration capacity of 12,000 tons and is used to dispose of non-chlorinated residue. 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.

Companhia Riograndense de Saneamento, or Corsan, a state-owned sanitation company, operates an integrated system for liquid effluents treatment, or Sitel, in the Southern Complex. Sitel treats wastewater generated by our company and the other petrochemical producers at the Southern Complex at a liquid effluents treatment station located in the Southern Complex. This treatment station also includes a system for the collection of contaminated wastewater and disposal after treatment. Corsan also operates a centralized system for solid waste control, or

Siccor, in the Souther Complex. Siccor centralizes the collection, treatment and final disposal of solid waste that is generated in the Southern Complex. Siccor stores, treats and disposes of all solid waste generated at the Southern Complex that is not reused or recycled. Sital and Siccor received ISO 14001 certifications in 2001.

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\$50.0 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.

Our operations are in compliance in all material respects with applicable environmental laws and regulations currently in effect. Some environmental studies that we have commissioned have indicated instances of environmental contamination at certain of our plants. In addition, we and certain executive officers of our company and of our subsidiaries have received notices from time to time of minor 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 consolidated annual expenditures on environmental control were R\$98.9 million in 2008, R\$92.7 million in 2007 and R\$73.8 million in 2006. To dispose of our industrial wastewater and solid hazardous waste, we contract our jointly controlled company Cetrel at the Northeastern Complex, Corsan at the Southern Complex, our subsidiary Companhia Alagoas Industrial Cinal at Alagoas, and other third parties. These companies treat our industrial waste immediately after this waste is generated and dispose of our solid waste. Our consolidated environmental expenses relate to our continuous control and monitoring policies, and we do not have any material future environmental liabilities related to our ongoing operations.

We have established a provision for environmental contingencies in the amount of R\$51.2 million at December 31, 2008. However, our environmental compliance costs are likely to increase as a result of the projected increase in our production capacity and projected increases in unit costs for treatment and disposal of industrial waste, as well as the cost of compliance with future environmental regulations.

Our environmental compliance in 2008 included the following results:

- no significant environmental accidents in 2008; and
- no fines were levied on any of our plants by state environmental authorities during 2008.

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, as we recognize that sustainable development and ethical practices are essential to our continued growth and performance. As part of this policy, we are committed to:

- expanding our relationship with the communities in which we operate;
- continually improving the health, safety and environmental aspects of our processes, products and services by promoting innovation and complying with evolving health, safety and environmental standards;
- implementing preventive measures to promote (1) the health and quality of life of people in the communities in which we operate, and (2) the safety of our workers, third parties and others involved or affected by our processes; and
- the efficient use of natural resources.

Safety and Quality Control**Safety**

We have adopted a policy that makes all of our officers, directors and employees responsible for the safety and health of our workers and for preserving the environment.

We participate in the Responsible Care program, a global chemical industry initiative, 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 implementing health, safety and environmental standards based on OSHAS 18001 and standards issued by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Our basic petrochemicals units in the Northeastern Complex and the Southern Complex and one of our polyethylene plants in the Northeastern Complex have received OSHAS 18000 certifications related to our health and safety management system. In 2008, we commenced process safety management audits at 10 of our plants under OSHA standards and we intend to conduct process safety management audits of all of our plants by the end of 2010.

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:

	Year Ended December 31,			
	2008(1)	2007	2006	2007(2) <u>Brazilian Chemical Industry Average</u>
Safety Indicator				
Braskem:				
Index of Accident Frequency (accidents/200,000 man-hours)	0.29	0.2	0.3	2.49
Index of Severity (lost and deducted days/200,000 man-hours)	4.56	5	3	26.19
Copesul:				
Index of Accident Frequency (accidents/200,000 man-hours)		2.0	2.46	2.49
Index of Severity (lost and deducted days/200,000 man-hours)		23	41	26.19
Ipiranga Petroquímica:				
Index of Accident Frequency (accidents/200,000 man-hours)		0.6	1.4	2.49
Index of Severity (lost and deducted days/200,000 man-hours)		36	67	26.19

- (1) Includes Copesul and Ipiranga Petroquímica. In September 2008, Copesul merged with and into Ipiranga Petroquímica and Ipiranga Petroquímica merged with and into Braskem.
- (2) Brazilian petrochemical industry average of the members of Brazilian Association of Chemical Industry and Derivative Products for 2007, as reported by the Brazilian Association of Chemical Industry and Derivative Products.

Our safety record in 2008 included the following results:

- a 50% reduction in our rate of personal accidents of all types, compared to 2007;

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- seven of our 18 plants had no accidents causing injuries requiring a worker to be absent from work during 2008; and
- a 12% increase in our expenditures on our safety programs, including costs related to accidents.

Each of our industrial plants is equipped with a comprehensive firefighting safety system. At the Northeastern Complex, water is available from a 200,000 cubic meter artificial lake, connected to the industrial plants 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 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 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).

Each of our plants that operate in the Southern Complex relies on its own supply of water from nearby lakes and water tanks for firefighting capabilities. Our basic petrochemical facilities at the Southern Complex rely on a 7,400 cubic meter artificial pond, with an additional 12,600 cubic meter pond available in case of emergencies. Both water sources are connected to our basic petrochemical facilities by a pumping station and a distribution network, which currently employs seven water pumps, built according to international safety standards. We also maintains emergency equipment and trained safety crews. In addition, our safety plan provides for firefighting brigades consisting of six technicians and 14 operational and maintenance technicians per shift. We and the other companies located in the Southern Complex are supported by the Southern Complex's Mutual Plan of Emergency (*Plano de Auxílio Mútuo do Pólo*). Our commitment to safety includes the operation of a training center for our safety crews that simulates emergencies typical to the petrochemical industry. Similar systems are employed at the facilities of our Polyolefins Unit in the Southern Complex.

Quality Control

Our quality control management uses ISO 9001:2008, an internationally recognized quality control standard, and ISO 14001:2004, an internationally recognized environmental control standard, as its base. We have instituted systematic improvement processes in our operational areas, focusing on integrating production, maintenance, inventory management, customer satisfaction and profitability.

We have obtained ISO 9001 certifications for all of our products. We have also obtained ISO 14001 certifications for all of our industrial plants. These certifications take into account both the quality of our products and the quality of our operating procedures.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Our properties consist primarily of petrochemical production facilities in Camaçari in the State of Bahia, in Triunfo in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, in Maceió in the State of Alagoas 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.

The following table sets forth our properties at December 31, 2008 by location of facilities, products produced and size of plant.

Type of Product or Service	Location of Facilities	Size of Plant (in hectares (1))
Basic petrochemicals	Camaçari	65.5
Basic petrochemicals	Triunfo	152.8
Waste disposal	Marechal Deodoro	34.3
Polyethylene	Camaçari	24.5
Caustic soda/EDC/chlorine	Maceió	15.0
PVC/caustic soda/chlorine	Camaçari	12.6
Polyethylene	Triunfo	30.5
Polypropylene	Triunfo	10.0
Caprolactam(2)	Camaçari	8.1
PVC	Marechal Deodoro	7.0
PVC	Vila Prudente/Capuava	3.2

(1) One hectare equals 10,000 square meters.

(2) In May 2009, we temporarily closed our caprolactam plant.

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, 2008, the consolidated net book value of our property, plant and equipment was R\$10,278.4 million.

Certain of our properties located in the Northeastern Complex (including our DMT plant and all of the equipment located in this plant) and two of our polyolefins plants in the Southern Complex are mortgaged or pledged to secure certain of our financial transactions.

Insurance

Braskem carries insurance for its plants against material damage and consequent business interruption through all risks policies with a total replacement value of US\$16.7 billion. Our insurance coverage is underwritten in the Brazilian insurance market by large Brazilian insurance companies. Approximately 90% of our insurance coverage is reinsured in the international insurance market. Our existing all risks policies are in force until April 8, 2010.

The material damage insurance provides insurance coverage for losses due to accidents resulting from fire, explosion and machinery breakdown, among others. This coverage has a maximum indemnification limit of US\$2 billion per event (combined material damage and business interruption coverage) and has deductibles of up to US\$10 million depending on the plant. The business interruption coverage provides insurance for losses resulting from interruptions due to any material damage covered by the policy. This coverage is calculated to insure against losses up to US\$1.24 billion due to shutdowns extending beyond 60 days. The losses are covered until the plant and production are fully 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 million per loss or occurrence in the case of Braskem.

In addition to these policies, we maintain other insurance policies for specific risks, including directors and officers liability coverage, marine and transportation insurance, automotive insurance and other kinds of coverages that are not covered by our all risks policies.

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.

ITEM 4A. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS.

Not applicable.

ITEM 5. OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS

The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our audited consolidated financial statements at December 31, 2008 and 2007 and for the three years ended December 31, 2008 included in this annual report, as well as with the information presented under Presentation of Financial and Other Information and Item 3. Key Information Selected Financial 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 Cautionary Statement with Respect to Forward-Looking Statements and Item 3. Key Information 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 financial condition and results of operations;
- a discussion of developments since the end of 2008 that may materially affect our financial condition and results of operations;
- a discussion of our results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006;
- a discussion of our liquidity and capital resources, including our working capital at December 31, 2008, our cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, and our material short-term and long-term indebtedness at December 31, 2008;
- a discussion of our contractual commitments; 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, based on average annual production capacity in 2008. We are also the third largest Brazilian-owned private sector industrial company, based on net sales revenue in 2008. We recorded net sales revenue of R\$17,959.5 million and net loss of R\$2,492.1 million in 2008. We produce a diversified portfolio of petrochemical products in our 18 plants in Brazil and have a strategic focus on polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC. We were the first Brazilian company with integrated first and second generation petrochemical production facilities.

Our results of operations have been significantly influenced by (1) beginning in the second quarter of 2007, the effects of the Ipiranga Transaction and our consolidation of the assets, liabilities and results of operations of Ipiranga Química, Ipiranga Petroquímica and Copesul as from April 1, 2007, and (2) to a lesser extent, beginning in the second quarter of 2006, the effect of the Politeno Acquisition on April 6, 2006 and our full consolidation of the assets, liabilities and results of operations of Politeno and the inclusion of Politeno's results in our Polyolefins segment as from April 1, 2006. In addition, our results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007

and 2006 have been influenced, and our results of operations will continue to be influenced, by a variety of factors, including:

- the growth of Brazilian GDP, which grew by an estimated 5.1% in 2008, and by 5.4% in 2007 and 3.8% in 2006, which affects the demand for our products and, consequently, our domestic sales volume;
- the rate of expansion of global production capacity for the products that we sell and the growth rate of the global economy;
- the international market price of naphtha, our principal raw material, expressed in dollars, which has been volatile during the last three years, increasing from US\$545.11 per ton in December 2006 to a peak of US\$1,091.85 per ton in June 2008 before declining to US\$258.16 in December 2008, and which has a significant effect on the cost of producing our products;
- the average domestic prices of our principal thermoplastic products expressed in dollars, which fluctuates to a significant extent based on fluctuations of international prices for these products which, in turn, have a high correlation to our raw material costs;
- our capacity utilization rates, which declined for many of our products during 2008 as a result of planned maintenance stoppages of ethylene and propylene units of our Basic Petrochemicals segment during the second quarter of 2008 and lower demand for our thermoplastic products during the second half of 2008, particularly during the fourth quarter of 2008;
- the depreciation of the Brazilian *real* against the U.S. dollar by 31.9% in 2008 and the appreciation of the Brazilian *real* against the U.S. dollar by 17.2% in 2007 and 8.7% in 2006, which has affected the amounts as expressed in *reais* of our net sales revenues, our cost of sales and services rendered and some of our operating and other expenses that are denominated in or linked to U.S. dollars, and has affected our financial expenses as a result of our significant U.S. dollar-denominated liabilities that require us to make principal and interest payments in U.S. dollars;
- the level of our outstanding indebtedness, fluctuations in benchmark interest rates in Brazil, which affect our interest expenses on our *real*-denominated floating rate debt, and fluctuations in the LIBOR rate, which affects our interest expenses on our dollar-denominated floating rate debt;
- inflation rates in Brazil, which were 2.1% in 2008, 7.9% in 2007 and 3.8% in 2006 as measured by the General Price Index Internal Availability, and the effects of inflation on our operating expenses denominated in *reais* and our *real*-denominated debt that is indexed to take into account the effects of inflation or bears interest at rates that are partially adjusted for inflation;
- the results of operations of those companies in which we had minority equity interests, such as Copesul, Politeno and Petroflex, a portion of which were 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 and our liquidity;
- prevailing Brazilian 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 capital expenditure requirements, which consist primarily of maintenance of our operating facilities, expansion of our production capacity and research and development activities; and
- the requirement under Brazilian law and our bylaws that we pay dividends on an annual basis in an amount equal to at least 25% of our adjusted net income, unless our board of directors deems it inconsistent with our financial position.

Financial Presentation and Accounting Policies

Presentation of Financial Statements

We have prepared our consolidated financial statements at December 31, 2008 and 2007 and for the three years ended December 31, 2008 in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, which differs in certain respects from U.S. GAAP.

On December 28, 2007, the Brazilian government enacted Law No. 11,638/07, which became effective on January 1, 2008, amended the Brazilian Corporation Law and changed certain accounting policies under Brazilian GAAP. In December 2008, the CVM issued Deliberation 565/08, implementing these changes in accounting policies. In December 2008, the Brazilian government issued Provisional Measure No. 449, which instituted the transitory tax-payer regime (*Regime Tributário de Transição RTT*) for the determination of taxable net income of companies subject to the real profit tax regime as a result of the implementation of these changes in accounting policies and the Brazilian Corporation Law. In May 2009, Provisional Measure No. 449 was codified in Law No. 11,941/09.

The principal changes introduced by Law No. 11,638/07, Deliberation 565/08, Provisional Measure No. 449 and Law No. 11,941/09 as they relate to our financial statements are, among others:

- We are no longer required to include a statement of changes in financial position in our financial statements, but are instead required to include a statement of cash flows in our financial statements.
- We are required to record investments in financial instruments, including derivatives, at (1) fair value or the equivalent value for securities held for trading or securities available-for-sale, or (2) the lower of historical cost, adjusted for contractual interest and other contractual provisions, and realizable value for other investments.
- We are no longer permitted to record tax incentives directly as capital reserves in shareholders' equity. Such items are now required to be recorded as part of earnings in our statement of operations. Tax incentives are required to be allocated, after being recorded in earnings, to the tax incentive reserve in equity.
- We are not permitted to record under the caption "deferred charges" in our balance sheet pre-operational expenses and certain restructuring costs that represent future cost reductions or increases in future operational efficiencies.
- We are required to record certain long-term assets and liabilities at present value and certain short-term assets and liabilities.

In order to make our financial statements as of December 31, 2007 and for the two years ended December 31, 2007 comparable to our financial statements as of December 31, 2008 and for the year ended December 31, 2008, we have retrospectively revised our previously issued financial statements as of December 31, 2007 and for the two years ended December 31, 2007 to conform to the changes in accounting policy introduced by Law No. 11,638/07, Deliberation 565/08, Provisional Measure No. 449 and Law No. 11,941/09. For additional information with respect

to these changes and their effects on our financial statements, see notes 2 and 3 to our audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report.

Our consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Instruction 247. Instruction 247 requires our company to proportionally consolidate jointly controlled companies that are not our subsidiaries but which we jointly control with one or more other shareholders.

Prior to April 1, 2006, we proportionally consolidated the results of Politeno in our consolidated financial statements. As a result of the Politeno Acquisition described under Item 4. Information on the Company History and Development of Our Company Consolidation of Minority Interests, we have fully consolidated Politeno's results in our consolidated financial statements and included Politeno's results in our Polyolefins segment as from April 1, 2006.

Prior to April 1, 2007, we proportionally consolidated the results of Copesul in our consolidated financial statements. As a result of the Ipiranga Transaction described under Item 4. Information on the Company History and Development of Our Company Ipiranga Transaction, we have fully consolidated Copesul's results in our consolidated financial statements as from April 1, 2007.

Prior to December 1, 2007, we proportionally consolidated the results of Petroflex in our consolidated financial statements. As a result of our entering into an agreement in December 2007 to sell our interest in Petroflex, we accounted for our interest in Petroflex in our Brazilian GAAP financial statements using the equity method as from December 1, 2007. In April 2008, we sold all of our share capital in Petroflex.

Prior to April 1, 2008, we proportionally consolidated the results of Paulínia in our consolidated financial statements. As a result of the completion of the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction described under Item 4. Information on the Company History and Development of Our Company Petrobras Transaction, we have fully consolidated the results of Paulínia and its subsidiaries in our consolidated financial statements as from April 1, 2008. On September 30, 2008, Ipiranga Petroquímica and Paulínia merged with and into Braskem.

Business Segments and Presentation of Segment Financial Data

We have implemented an organizational structure that we believe reflects our business activities and corresponds to our principal products and production processes. We now have four business units and report our results by four corresponding segments to reflect this organizational structure:

- *Basic Petrochemicals* This segment includes our production and sale of basic petrochemicals at the Northeastern Complex and the Southern Complex, our supply of utilities to second generation producers, including some producers owned or controlled by our company, and our production and sale of certain second generation petrochemical products, such as caprolactam.
- *Polyolefins* This segment includes the production and sale of polyethylene and polypropylene by our company and our PET operations which were permanently closed in 2008.
- *Vinyls* This segment includes our production and sale of PVC, caustic soda and EDC.
- *IQ Soluções & Química* This segment includes the operations of Ipiranga Química, which consist of the distribution of petrochemical products manufactured by our company and other domestic and international companies. This segment began reporting as from April 1, 2007 as a result of the Ipiranga Transaction.

Our IQ Soluções & Química business unit was created in April 2007 following our acquisition of control of Ipiranga Química. The operations of Copesul that we acquired in the Ipiranga Transaction and were reported as a separate segment in prior periods are now part of our Basic Petrochemicals business unit, and the operations of Ipiranga Petroquímica that we acquired in the Ipiranga Transaction were reported as a separate segment in prior periods are now part of our Polyolefins business unit. In addition, the operations of our former Business Development business unit were split; our caprolactam production operations are now included in our Basic

Petrochemicals business unit and the remaining operations of our former Business Development unit are now included in our Polyolefins business unit. We have represented our segment data in this annual report and in our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 to reflect our current segments.

We evaluate and manage business segment performance based on information generated from our statutory accounting records, which are maintained in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, and, accordingly, the segment data included in this annual report is presented under Brazilian GAAP. We have included a reconciliation of the operating results of our segments to our consolidated results under Results of Operations below.

In March 2009, we began the implementation of a new organizational structure under which we will have two business units and report our results by two corresponding segments to reflect this organizational structure:

- *Basic petrochemicals* This segment will include our production and sale of basic petrochemicals at the Northeastern Complex and the Southern Complex, and our supply of utilities to second generation producers, including some producers owned or controlled by our company.
- *Polymers* This segment includes the production and sale of second generation products, including polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC, by our company. This segment will include the operations of our former polyolefins segment, our former vinyls segment, our former vinyls segment and our former IQ Soluções & Química segment.

Critical Accounting Policies

The presentation of our financial condition and results of operations 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 these 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:

- *Provision for doubtful accounts.* We record a provision for doubtful accounts in an amount considered sufficient to cover estimated losses on the realization of our receivables, taking into account our loss experience and the aging of our accounts receivable. Additionally, we analyze, on a monthly basis, the amounts and characteristics of trade accounts receivable compared to our pre-defined credit limits for our customers in order to determine if additional provisions are required. At December 31, 2008 our total trade accounts receivable was R\$2,381.7 million and the provision for doubtful account was R\$198.7. At June 30, 2009 the past due receivables which remained outstanding relating to December 31, 2008 amounted to R\$190.3 million. The outstanding amount excludes renegotiated loans during the six-month period ended June 30, 2009. Significant changes in our historical loss experience on accounts receivable which are not apparent through our aging analysis could require significant changes to our provisions for doubtful accounts.
- *Impairment and depreciation and amortization of permanent assets.* Our goodwill and property, plant and equipment at December 31, 2008 was R\$2,013.3 million and R\$10,278.4 million, respectively. The recoverable value of property, plant and equipment and other noncurrent assets including goodwill and intangible assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognized for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest level for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

Our impairment tests consider the lowest level of cash generating units based on our operating and segment structure at year end. We generate cash flow projections for each cash generating unit over the useful life of the related assets. Definition of different segments or changes in our operations could impact the definition of our cash generating units.

The discount rate applied is based on the weighted average cost of capital for the respective operations at the relevant dates. Our projections include assumptions regarding volumes that consider actual production, and assumptions regarding prices based on a sales prices cycle of approximately six years for our products. The current sales price cycle reached its low point in 2008. Market indicators for sales prices in 2009 are more optimistic than those used in our projections. Our projections assume that costs will remain relatively stable based on volume, and that exchange rates will remain stable. Our experience with costs in 2009 have been generally consistent with our projections but variations in the exchange rate for *reais* into U.S. dollars during 2009 have generated a much more optimistic scenario than was considered at December 31, 2008. Changes to our projected prices resulting from changes in the petrochemical cycle or strategic decisions to suspend or terminate production of certain plants could significantly impact our impairment charges. The impairment test performed in December 31, 2008 support a 10% negative fluctuation in contribution margin without changing the impairment result. During the year ended December 31, 2008 we recorded impairment charges of R\$102.8 million and R\$29.6 million related to our PET plant and our caprolactam plant; no impairment had been recorded in the prior year.

Valuation of 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, non-deliverable forwards, non-deliverable 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 based on standard mark-to-market practices, which take into account reliable market curves for interest rates, foreign exchange rates and volatility.

At December 31, 2008, we had entered into derivative transactions to mitigate our exposure to exchange rate fluctuations related to a long-term loan denominated in Japanese Yen and fluctuations in LIBOR related to an export pre-payment facility that bears interest at a rate based on LIBOR. Both types of derivative transactions matched with the contractual cash-flows of the hedged indebtedness. Assuming a 50% variance in the exchange rate for *reais* into Japanese Yen and in the LIBOR rate at December 31, 2008, the present value of the currency derivative would be R\$94 million and of the LIBOR swap would be R\$36 million.

Pension plans. For defined benefit plans that we sponsor, 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. Collectively, these assumptions directly impact our liability for accrued pension costs and the amounts we record as pension costs, although individual assumptions are not expected to be material. In June 2005, Braskem announced that it intends to withdraw as a sponsor of one of its defined benefit plans. Unrecognized actuarial gains and losses are amortized either over the estimated future service period of employees or over the estimated period of the plan final settlement, whichever is less.

Current taxes. We do not record CSLL taxes, nor any related deferred taxes, based on a favorable decision issued by the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court exempting our company from paying CSLL taxes in a lawsuit that we brought challenging the constitutionality of the CSLL. This decision was overruled in a subsequent rescission action filed by the Brazilian tax authorities, and our appeal of that decision is pending. We believe that it is reasonably possible that we will lose our appeal. If we lose our appeal, we may be required to pay the amount of R\$835.4 million plus penalties of approximately R\$242.0 million. We believe we would be required to pay CSLL only from the date that a final decision is published, and would not be required to pay these taxes retroactively because we relied upon a judicial decision in not paying the CSLL. For more information regarding this litigation, see Item 8. Financial Information Legal Proceedings Tax Proceedings.

- *Contingencies.* We are currently involved in numerous judicial and administrative proceedings, as described under Item 8. Financial Information Legal Proceedings and in notes 9, 16, 17 and 22 to our consolidated financial statements. We record accrued liabilities for contingencies that we deem probable of creating an adverse effect on our results 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 is rendered. 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.
- *Deferred Tax.* Deferred tax assets in the amounts of R\$714.1 million (net of valuation allowances of R\$502.0 million) and R\$1,205.8 million were recorded at December 31, 2008 under Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP, respectively. Under U.S. GAAP, a number of factors entering into the assessment of the valuation allowance required by Statement of Financial Account Standards Board No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes, or FAS 109, are highly subjective: for example, assessing whether the weight of available evidence supports the recognition of some or all of an enterprise's deferred tax assets, or DTAs; determining how objectively verifiable an individual piece of evidence is, and thus how much weight should be given to the evidence; and establishing the reversal patterns for existing temporary differences. The valuation allowance recorded is based on management's judgment of what is more likely than not considering all available information, both quantitative and qualitative.

The estimates used in the FAS 109 valuation allowance assessment are based on management's best estimates of future results, which are similarly based on the weight of objective evidence and are consistent with other estimates involving assumptions about the future used in the preparation of the financial statements. FAS 109, paragraph 20, states that all available evidence should be considered in determining whether a valuation allowance is needed. This includes historical information through the date of issuance of the financial statements supplemented by all currently available information about future years. Events occurring subsequent to a company's year-end but before the financial statements are released that provide additional evidence (negative or positive) regarding the likelihood of realization of existing DTAs should be considered when determining whether a valuation allowance is needed.

We reduce deferred tax assets by a valuation allowance if, based on the weight of available evidence, it is more likely than not (a likelihood of more than 50 percent) that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The valuation allowance is considered sufficient to reduce the deferred tax asset to the amount that is more likely than not to be realized. Based on historical financial information through the date of release of these financial statements, it was considered that the sufficient positive evidence existed to consider that the Braskem's deferred tax assets at December 31, 2008 were more likely than not to be realized. Such positive evidence included i) cumulative historical profits in the three year period through to the issuance of the financial statements, ii) no time prescription limit to the use of income tax losses under the related legislation, iii) the income tax losses at December 31, 2008 relate principally to an exchange loss on the company's net exposure to foreign currency liabilities during 2008, which is considered a nonrecurring item, iv) the scheduling of future taxable income at December 31, 2008 and v) subsequent realization operating and other taxable profits through the date of issuance of the financial statements. Similar estimates are made under Brazilian GAAP, where the recognition of deferred tax assets requires historical evidence of taxable profit, limits recognition of DTAs to future projections of taxable profits over a 10 year period and future limits recognition of DTAs based on a calculation of discounted future profits. Within these limitations, Braskem, based on its profitability study, recognized the maximum potential DTA under Brazilian GAAP.

Based on historical financial information through the date of release of our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report we considered that sufficient positive evidence existed to determine that our deferred tax assets at December 31, 2008 were more likely than not to be realized. Such positive evidence included (1) cumulative historical profits in the three year period ended December 31, 2008 through the date of issuance of the financial statements; (2) the absence of a time prescription limit on the use of income tax losses under the related legislation; (3) the income tax losses at December 31, 2008 relate principally to an exchange loss on our net exposure to foreign currency liabilities during 2008, which we consider a nonrecurring item; (4) the scheduling of future taxable income at December 31, 2008; and (5) subsequent realization of operating and other taxable profits through the date of issuance of these financial statements.

Similar estimates are made under Brazilian GAAP, under which the recognition of DTAs requires historical evidence of taxable profit, recognition of DTAs is limited to future projections of taxable profits over a 10 year period, and recognition of DTAs is further limited based on a calculation of discounted future profits. Within these limitations, we, based on our profitability study, recognized the maximum potential DTA under Brazilian GAAP.

Principal Factors Affecting Our Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Effects of the Ipiranga Transaction and the Petrobras Transaction

On March 18, 2007, we entered into the Ipiranga Investment Agreement with Ultrapar and Petrobras. On the same date, Ultrapar and the controlling shareholders of RPI, CBPI and DPPI entered into the Purchase Agreement, with our company and Petrobras as intervening parties. As a result of the Ipiranga Transaction:

- we acquired, directly and indirectly, shares of Copesul representing 62.7% of the total and voting share capital of Copesul;
- we acquired shares of Ipiranga Química representing 60% of its total share capital and voting share capital, which in turn owns all of the total share capital and voting share capital of Ipiranga Petroquímica; and
- we acquired shares of RPI representing 33.3% of total share capital and voting share capital of RPI.

As a result of the Ipiranga Transaction, we fully consolidated the results of Copesul and its subsidiaries and consolidated the results of Ipiranga Química and its subsidiaries, including Ipiranga Petroquímica, into our financial statements as from April 1, 2007. In addition, we have accounted for our interest in the results of RPI under the equity method in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007.

The total purchase price to our company of the shares of Ipiranga Química and RPI that we acquired from Ultrapar in the Ipiranga Transaction was R\$1,489.1 million. In addition, we paid R\$1,418.5 million for the Copesul shares not owned by our company, Ipiranga Petroquímica, Petroquisa or Triunfo and R\$117.9 million for the shares of Ipiranga Petroquímica not owned by Ipiranga Química.

In May 2008, we completed the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction. As a result, we acquired, directly and indirectly:

- 36.4% of the voting and outstanding share capital of Copesul;
- 40.0% of the voting and outstanding share capital of Ipiranga Química; and
- 40.0% of the voting and outstanding share capital of Paulínia.

As consideration for these assets, we issued 46,903,320 of our common shares and 43,144,662 of our class A preferred shares to Petroquisa, as a result of which Petroquisa owned 23.1% of our total share capital, including 30.0% of our voting share capital.

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In September 2008, Copesul merged with and into Ipiranga Petroquímica, and Ipiranga Petroquímica and Paulínia merged with and into Braskem.

On May 5, 2009, the second phase of the Petrobras Transaction was completed with the merger of Triunfo with and into Braskem. We issued an aggregate of 13,387,157 of our class A preferred shares to the shareholders of Triunfo as consideration for their equity interests in Triunfo. Prior to this merger, Triunfo owned and operated a polyethylene plant located in the Southern Complex with an annual production capacity of 160,000 tons. As a result of the merger, we will consolidate the results of Triunfo into our financial statements as from May 1, 2009.

As a result of these transactions, the production capacity of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit, which includes the facilities formerly owned by Copesul, and the production capacity of our Polyolefins Unit, which includes the facilities formerly owned by Ipiranga Petroquímica and Paulínia, have significantly increased. In addition, we acquired a new operating Unit, IQ Soluções & Química (formerly known as Ipiranga Química).

The acquisition of these operating facilities has substantially increased our net sales volumes, net sales revenues, gross profit and operating income. Debt service requirements relating to the indebtedness that we incurred to finance the purchase price of the assets acquired in the Ipiranga Transaction have also increased our net financial expenses and our total indebtedness.

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

Our sales in Brazil represented 77.8% of our net sales revenue in 2008. 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 an estimated compound average annual rate of 3.7% from 1999 through 2008. From 1999 through 2008, the consumption volumes in Brazil of polyethylene (including EVA), polypropylene and PVC increased at compound average annual rates of 3.2%, 6.9% and 4.2%, respectively.

The following table sets forth the growth rates of Brazilian GDP and domestic demand for polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
Brazilian GDP	5.1(1)%	5.4%	3.7%
Brazilian consumption of Polyethylene	0.4	7.1	11.4
Brazilian consumption of Polypropylene	0.2	10.3	4.6
Brazilian consumption of PVC	14.4	14.5	10.5

(1) Estimated.

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 should 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 a negative effect on our results of operations.

Effects of the Global Economic Downturn

The acceleration of the global financial and credit crisis since September 2008 precipitated a dramatic change in the pace of economic activity around the world and has had, and may continue to have, a negative effect on economic growth in Brazil and in the countries to which we export our products. Domestic demand for our

thermoplastic resins was adversely effected in the second half of 2008, particularly in the fourth quarter, reflecting a general decline in economic growth in Brazil related to the global financial and credit crisis, which led to the depreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar and the reduced availability of liquidity and credit. In addition, Chinese demand for thermoplastic resins declined following the conclusion of the Olympic Games, and demand for thermoplastic resins in the United States and Europe declined as the effects of the global financial and credit crisis became more pronounced during the second half of 2008.

In addition to these factors which led to a contraction in global and domestic demand for our thermoplastic products, the decline in global petroleum prices and the significant depreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar in the second half of 2008 resulted in price instability and a significant reduction in purchases of our products as our customers delayed purchases and consumed their inventories in anticipation of reductions in the prices of thermoplastic resins.

The contraction of demand in the United States led thermoplastic resin producers in the United States to increase the volume of exports of their thermoplastic products, leading to greater price competition in the export markets that we serve. Because this increased supply of thermoplastic resins in the global market has coincided with a contraction of global demand for these resins, there has been a decline in margins available to us in our export sales of these resins.

As a result of the weakness in domestic demand for thermoplastic resins and the reduced demand for and margins on our exports of these products, we reduced the capacity utilization rates of our polyolefins plants in the fourth quarter of 2008 and temporarily shut down one of our ethylene crackers in the Northeastern Complex and one of our ethylene crackers in the Southern Complex in December 2008. We resumed production at these crackers in February 2009 and beginning in March 2009 our capacity utilization rates reached historical levels. Purchases by our domestic customers have recovered significantly from the depressed levels of the fourth quarter of 2008, although our domestic sales volumes have not returned to the levels of the first half of 2008. Despite the recent weakness of domestic demand for our products, we have been able to return to historical sales volume levels through an increase in export sales of our products, principally to commodity traders operating in the global markets for petrochemicals.

Although we believe that in the short-term domestic demand for thermoplastic resins from the consumer goods sector may offset the decline in demand for thermoplastic resins from economic sectors that are dependent on exports and credit (such as the agribusiness, automotive and home appliance sectors), we can offer no assurances that domestic demand for thermoplastic will not continue to be affected by global macroeconomic factors. In addition, although the volume of our basic petrochemical and thermoplastic resin sales has recovered significantly from the levels experienced in the fourth quarter of 2008, exports, with respect to which we generate lower margins than on our domestic sales, have constituted a larger percentage of our sales than has historically been the case. In addition, our margins on domestic sales have been under pressure as the global imbalance of supply and demand has led to increased levels of imports into the Brazilian market.

The decline in the margins that we realize on sales of our products has negatively impacted our generation of cash flows from operations. We have not experienced, and do not expect to experience, a material increase in delinquent accounts or issues with collections from our customers. We believe that our exposure to credit risks related to our customers is limited due to our credit policies, our diverse customer base and the lack of concentration of sales within our customer base.

We believe that our exposure to liquidity risks as a result of the global financial and credit crisis and the resulting impact on domestic and international demand for petrochemical products is limited in the short- and medium- term as a result of our cash position. As of December 31, 2008, we had consolidated cash and cash equivalents and other investments of R\$2,960.2 million, which amount is sufficient to service our interest and principal payments on our outstanding debt through the third quarter of 2010.

However, we may face significant liquidity challenges if conditions in the financial markets do not improve in the medium- to long-term. Our ability to access the capital markets or the commercial bank lending markets may be severely restricted at a time when we would like, or need, to access such markets, which could have an impact on our flexibility to react to changing economic and business conditions. The financial and credit crisis could have an impact on the lenders under our existing credit facilities, on our customers, or on the ability of our suppliers to meet

scheduled deliveries, causing them to fail to meet their obligations to us. If the global financial and credit crisis deepens further, it could have an adverse affect on the demand for our products and our ability to fund our planned growth.

Cyclical Affecting the Petrochemical Industry

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 domestic prices and 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 domestic prices and 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 with high capacity may result in significant increases in capacity that can outstrip demand growth.

Since January 1, 2006, the following petrochemical capacity has been added to the Brazilian market:

in 2009:

- Quattor expanded its annual polyethylene production capacity by 230,000 tons in March;
- Quattor expanded its annual polypropylene production capacity by 90,000 tons in March;

in 2008:

- Quattor expanded the annual ethylene production capacity of the São Paulo Complex by 200,000 tons;
- Quattor expanded its annual polypropylene production capacity by 100,000 tons in July;
- Solvay Indupa Brazil expanded its annual PVC production capacity in Brazil by 55,000 tons in October and its annual caustic soda production capacity by 50,000 tons;
- Paulínia commenced operations in April of a polypropylene plant that has an initial annual production capacity of 350,000 tons of polypropylene; and
- We (1) expanded the annual ethylene production capacity of our cracker in the Southern Complex by 52,000 tons and its annual propylene production capacity by 30,000 tons in April, (2) expanded the annual polypropylene production capacity of our plants in the Southern Complex by 30,000 tons in

April, and (3) expanded the annual polyethylene production capacity of our plants in the Northeastern Complex by 20,000 tons in June.

in 2006:

- Copesul expanded its annual ethylene production capacity by 65,000 tons and its annual propylene production capacity by 49,000 tons in January;
- Ipiranga Petroquímica expanded its annual polypropylene production capacity by 30,000 tons in January;
- Suzano expanded its polypropylene annual production capacity by 60,000 tons in July; and
- we increased our annual HDPE production capacity by 30,000 tons in September and our annual isoprene production capacity by 8,800 tons in November.

Based on historical growth of Brazilian domestic demand for polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC, we believe that the additional capacity introduced in the Brazilian market in 2008 will be absorbed by the domestic market over the next several years. We cannot assure you, however, that the additional capacity will be absorbed by the domestic market or that satisfactory export opportunities will be available for products not sold domestically. In the event that this additional production is not absorbed domestically or sold in export markets, there may be resulting pressure on prices for the affected products, which could adversely affect our net sales revenues, gross margins and overall results of operations.

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 and, indirectly, in our other business units. In 2008, naphtha and condensate accounted for 80.4% of the total cost of sales of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit and 64.8% of our direct and indirect 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 from Petrobras for our basic petrochemicals plants located in the Northeastern Complex under the terms that have been negotiated in a new naphtha supply contract with Petrobras to replace the naphtha supply contract that terminated in June 2008. We expect to execute this new naphtha supply agreement in the third quarter of 2009. We purchase naphtha from Petrobras for our basic petrochemicals plants located in the Southern Complex under a long-term supply contract with Petrobras, which we expect will be superseded by the new naphtha supply contract with Petrobras. We import naphtha from other suppliers through our terminal at Aratú in the State of Bahia and Petrobras terminal at Osório in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. The prices that we pay for naphtha under these arrangements, other than our supply arrangements with Petrobras, are based on the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price for naphtha. As a result, fluctuations in the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price for naphtha have had a direct impact on the cost of our first generation products.

Since March 2009, the price that we have paid for naphtha that we purchase from Petrobras has been based on a variety of factors, including the market prices of a naphtha and a variety of other petroleum derivatives, the volatility of the prices of these products in the international markets, the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate, and the level of paraffinicity of the naphtha that is delivered. As a result, we believe that the cost of our first generation products will be less exposed to fluctuations in the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price for naphtha in the future.

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, 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. In periods of high volatility in the U.S. dollar price of naphtha, there is usually a lag between the time that the U.S. dollar price increases or decreases and the time that we are able to pass on increased, or required to pass on reduced, costs to our customers in Brazil. These pricing discrepancies decrease when the U.S. dollar price of naphtha is less volatile.

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 and propylene are determined by reference to the European contract prices for ethylene and propylene. The prices that we charge for butadiene, benzene and para-xylene are based on the United States contract price for these products. The prices that we charge for ortho-xylene are based on the contract prices for these products in the United States and Europe.

Because European producers of basic petrochemical products primarily use naphtha as a raw material, changes in the European contract prices are strongly influenced by fluctuations in international market prices for naphtha. To the extent that our prices are based on the European contract prices for our products, the prices that we charge for these products are 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 fully reflect these changes 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 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.

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, 2008, 2007 and 2006.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
Ethylene	84%	94%(1)	87%
Polyethylene	80	91(2)	89(3)
Polypropylene	87	97(2)	97
PVC	99	91	86

- (1) Giving effect to our consolidation of the results of Copesul as from April 1, 2007.
- (2) Giving effect to our consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Petroquímica as from April 1, 2007
- (3) Without giving effect to a 30,000 ton increase of our annual production capacity in September 2006.

On December 10, 2008, we temporarily shut down one of our ethylene crackers in the Northeastern Complex and one of our ethylene crackers in the Southern Complex a result of the weakness in domestic demand for thermoplastic resins and the reduced demand for and margins on our exports of these products in the fourth quarter of 2008. In February 2009, we resumed production at these facilities. As a result, our effective annual ethylene production capacity was reduced to 2.3 million tons of ethylene during the period in which these crackers were shut down.

The utilization rate of our ethylene production capacity was also adversely affected during 2008 as a result of programmed maintenance shutdowns of the Northeastern Complex's Olefins 1 unit for 37 days in May and June 2008 and the Southern Complex's Olefins 1 unit and Aromatics unit for 38 days in April and May 2008.

The utilization rate of our ethylene production capacity was adversely affected during 2006 as a result of operating difficulties that led to a non-programmed maintenance shutdown of the Olefins 1 unit of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit for 13 days.

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 of increased domestic demand for our products, our export sales volumes may decline as we increase domestic sales of our products. During periods in which the domestic demand for our products is reduced, we actively pursue export opportunities for our products in order to maintain capacity utilization rates.

In 2008, 22.2% of our net sales revenue was derived from export sales of our products as compared with 23.8% of our net sales revenue in 2007. Net sales revenues derived from export sales declined by 5.2% in 2008 as a result of the decline international demand and prices for our products.

In 2008, exports to other countries in the Americas accounted for 66.7% of our export sales, with the remainder of our exports sold in Europe, which accounted for 29.3% of our export sales, and the Far East, which accounted for 3.9% of our export sales.

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 continued slow or

negative growth in the global economy will likely lead to reduced global demand and international market prices for our products, and consequently reduced domestic prices for our products. In addition, reduced global demand for our products impairs our ability to export our products in response to a decline in domestic demand for these products.

Effects of Fluctuations in Exchange Rates between the Real and the 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 for which there are international market 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 *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate. As a result, although a significant portion of our net sales revenue is denominated in *reais*, substantially all of our products are sold at prices that are based on international market prices that are quoted in U.S. dollars.

Fluctuations in the *real* affect the cost of naphtha and other U.S. dollar-linked or imported raw materials. The price of naphtha, our principal raw material, is linked to the U.S. dollar. The pricing formula under which we have purchased naphtha from Petrobras since March 2009 and which we expect to be included in our new naphtha supply contract with Petrobras includes a factor that adjusts the price to reflect the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate.

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 margin 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 *real*/U.S. dollar 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 required to pass on reduced, costs in *reais* to our customers in Brazil. These pricing discrepancies decrease when the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate is less volatile.

Our consolidated U.S. dollar-denominated indebtedness represented 74.3% of our outstanding indebtedness at December 31, 2008, excluding related party debt. As a result, when the *real* depreciates against the U.S. dollar:

- the interest costs on our U.S. dollar-denominated indebtedness increase in *reais*, which adversely affects our results of operations in *reais*;
- 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 tend to increase as a result of foreign exchange losses that we must record.

An appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar has the converse effects.

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 in our U.S. dollar-denominated indebtedness. 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 that we generate from exports may not be in an amount sufficient to cover all of our U.S. dollar trade finance liabilities.

Effect of Level of Indebtedness and Interest Rates

At December 31, 2008, our total outstanding consolidated indebtedness on a consolidated basis was R\$11,986.1 million. The level of our indebtedness results in 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 24 to our consolidated financial statements. In 2008, we recorded total financial expenses of R\$4,403.1 million, of which R\$560.1 million consisted of interest expense, R\$214.9 million consisted of monetary variation on financing and R\$3,212.6 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.

Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch maintain ratings of our company and our debt securities. Standard & Poor's maintains a rating of our company on a local basis of *br AA+/Stable Outlook*, Moody's maintains a rating of our company on a local basis of *Aa2.br/Stable Outlook* and Fitch maintains a local rating for our company of *AA (bra)/Stable Outlook*. On a global basis, Standard & Poor's maintains a local currency rating for our company of *BB+ (stable)* and a foreign currency rating for our company of *BB+ (stable)*, Moody's maintains a local currency rating for our company of *Ba1* and a foreign currency rating for our company of *Ba1* and Fitch maintains a local currency rating for our company of *BB+/Stable Outlook* and a foreign currency rating for our company of *BB+/Stable Outlook*. Any ratings downgrades 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.

Effects of Brazilian Inflation

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. 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, or the 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 TJLP or the CDI rate, which are partially adjusted for inflation.

Results of Operations of Jointly Controlled Companies

As a result of the application of Instruction 247 to our consolidated financial statements, we have been required to proportionally consolidate the results of jointly controlled companies that are not our subsidiaries. Consequently, our results of operations have been subject to fluctuations that depend on the results of these jointly controlled companies.

Prior to the Politeno Acquisition on April 6, 2006, we owned 35.0% of Politeno's voting share capital and 34.0% of its total share capital. As a result, at dates and for periods prior to April 1, 2006, we proportionally consolidated Politeno's results in our consolidated financial statements and did not include Politeno's results in our Polyolefins segment. Following the Politeno Acquisition on April 6, 2006, we owned 100% of the voting share capital and 96.2% of the total share capital of Politeno, and we have fully consolidated Politeno's results in our consolidated financial statements and included Politeno's results in our Polyolefins segment as from April 1, 2006. Politeno merged with and into Braskem on April 2, 2007.

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Prior to April 1, 2007, we directly owned 29.5% of the voting share capital and total share capital of Copesul, and we proportionally consolidated the results of Copesul in our consolidated financial statements. As a result of the Ipiranga Transaction and our obtaining effective management control over Copesul, we have fully consolidated the results of Copesul and its subsidiaries in our consolidated financial statements as from April 1, 2007. In September 2008, Copesul merged with and into Ipiranga Petroquímica and Ipiranga Petroquímica merged with and into Braskem.

At December 31, 2007, we owned 33.5% of the total share capital of Petroflex, including 33.6% of its voting share capital. In April 2008, we sold all of our share capital in Petroflex to Lanxess Participações Ltda. for an aggregate price of R\$252.1 million. See Item 4. Information on the Company History and Development of Our Company Other Developments Since January 1, 2008 Sale of Interest in Petroflex. Prior to December 1, 2007, we proportionally consolidated the results of Petroflex in our consolidated financial statements. As a result of our entering into an agreement in December 2007 to sell our interests in Petroflex, we accounted for our interest in Petroflex in our Brazilian GAAP financial statements using the equity method as from December 1, 2007.

Prior to April 1, 2008, we directly owned 60% of the voting share capital and total share capital of Paulínia, and we proportionally consolidated the results of Paulínia in our consolidated financial statements. As a result of the completion of the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction on May 30, 2008, 2008, we have fully consolidated the results of Paulínia and its subsidiaries in our consolidated financial statements as from April 1, 2008. In September 2008, Paulínia merged with and into Braskem.

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 Brazilian states of Bahia and Alagoas. These exemptions have been granted for varying lengths of time to each of our manufacturing plants located in these states.

We were exempt from corporate income tax on the profits arising from the sale of PVC manufactured at our Alagoas plant and PET manufactured at our plant in the Northeastern Complex until December 31, 2008. We expect that the exemption relating to PVC manufactured at our Alagoas plant will be renewed in 2009 for an additional 10-year period. In addition, we are entitled to pay only 25% of the statutory income tax rate on the profits arising from the sale of:

- polyethylene manufactured at one of our polyethylene plants in the Northeastern Complex and basic petrochemical products manufactured in the Northeastern Complex, until December 31, 2011;
- polyethylene manufactured at one of our polyethylene plants in the Northeastern Complex, caustic soda, chlorine and EDC produced at our plants in the Northeastern Complex and Alagoas, and caprolactam manufactured in the Northeastern Complex until December 31, 2012;
- PVC manufactured at our plant in the Northeastern Complex until December 31, 2013; and
- polyethylene manufactured at one of our polyethylene plants in the Northeastern Complex until December 31, 2016.

Each of our exemptions entitles us to pay only 87.5% of the statutory income tax rate on the profits arising from products manufactured at these plants for a period of one or more years after the dates set forth above.

Law No. 11,638/07 changed the accounting rules applicable to tax exemptions. As from January 1, 2008, if we or any of our affected subsidiaries has taxable profit resulting from the operations at our Alagoas plant or at our plants in the Northeastern Complex, income tax expense is calculated without giving effect to the tax exemption or reduction (*i.e.*, the income tax benefit of the exemption or reduction will be deducted from income tax expense). The net income arising from the recording of such tax credit will be allocated to a tax incentive reserve established under Brazilian law. This reserve may be used only to increase capital or absorb losses which exceed retained earnings and profits reserves as defined in the Brazilian law. As a result, the eventual expiration of the income tax exemptions will adversely affect our net income in periods after the expiration. Our results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 have been retrospectively revised to the change in accounting rules applicable to tax exemptions adopted in Law No. 11,638/07.

Due to operating losses sustained by us in the past, we had R\$404.9 million of deferred tax assets arising from R\$1,619.6 million of tax loss carryforwards available at December 31, 2008. 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 CSLL.

Our export sales are currently exempt from PIS (a federal value-added tax), COFINS (a federal value-added tax), IPI (a federal value-added tax on industrial products) and the Tax on the Circulation of Merchandise and Services (*Imposto Sobre a Circulação de Mercadorias e Serviços*), or ICMS (a state value-added tax on sales and services), under generally available exemptions.

Tax Disputes

We are currently involved in numerous tax proceedings. We have established provisions 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 CSLL, PIS, COFINS and IPI. If any of these legal proceedings is decided adversely to us, our results of operations or financial condition could be materially adversely affected. For more information on our tax proceedings, the amounts claimed by governmental authorities and the amounts we have reserved against some of these claims, see Item 8. Financial Information Legal Proceedings Tax Proceedings.

Recent Developments

On March 6, 2009, we entered into a working capital loan with Caixa Econômica Federal, under which we received a loan in the aggregate principal amount of R\$600 million, the proceeds of which are to be used for working capital. This loan is secured by pledges of certain accounts receivable. This loan bears interest at 117.5% of the average daily CDI rate and matures in March 2013. Interest is payable quarterly in arrears from June 2009 through March 2010 and monthly in arrears thereafter through maturity. The outstanding principal amount is payable in 36 monthly installments commencing in April 2010.

On May 5, 2009, the second phase of the Petrobras Transaction was completed with the merger of Triunfo with and into Braskem. Braskem issued an aggregate of 13,387,157 of our class A preferred shares to the shareholders of Triunfo as consideration for their equity interests in Triunfo. Prior to this merger, Triunfo owned and operated a polyethylene plant located in the Southern Complex with an annual production capacity of 160,000 tons. As a result of the merger, we will consolidate the results of Triunfo into our financial statements as from May 1, 2009.

Results of Operations

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

Our results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2007 are not comparable to our results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2006 as a result of the Ipiranga Transaction. As a result of the Ipiranga Transaction, we have fully consolidated the results of Ipiranga Química, Ipiranga Petroquímica and Copesul as from April 1, 2007 and included the results of Ipiranga Química in our IQ Soluções & Química segment, the results of

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Ipiranga Petroquímica in our Polyolefins segment and the results of Copesul in our Basic Petrochemicals segment as from April 1, 2007. Prior to April 1, 2007, we did not include the results of our IQ Soluções & Química segment in our consolidated financial statements, we proportionally consolidated the results of Copesul in our consolidated financial statements to reflect our 29.5% interest in Copesul's voting and total share capital and we did not reflect any of the results of Copesul in any of our then-existing segments.

The discussion of the results of our business segments is based upon financial information reported for each of the segments of our business, as presented in the table below. 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 are included under the columns titled "CVM 247" in the tables below; and
- 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.

The following tables set forth the operating results of each of our segments and the reconciliation of these results of our segments to our consolidated results of operations. This segment information was prepared on the same basis as the information that our senior management uses to allocate resources among segments and evaluate their performance. We evaluate and manage the performance of our segments based on information generated from our statutory accounting records maintained in accordance with Brazilian GAAP and reflected in our consolidated financial statements. However, the operating income presented in the following tables does not include financial expenses, financial income and results from equity accounting.

Year Ended December 31, 2008

	Net sales revenue	Cost of sales and services rendered	Gross profit	Selling, general and administrative expenses	Depreciation and amortization	Other income (expense), net	Operating income
(in millions of reais)							
Basic Petrochemicals	R\$14,257.5	R\$13,026.9	R\$1,230.6	R\$415.0	R\$16.2	R\$63.7	R\$863.1
Polyolefins	7,534.0	6,256.3	1,277.7	525.8	27.5	38.5	762.9
Vinyls	2,052.8	1,573.6	479.2	174.1	3.2	8.5	310.4
IQ Soluções &							
Química	601.8	510.4	91.4	52.7	5.8	2.5	35.4
Total segments	24,446.1	21,367.2	3,078.9	1,167.6	52.7	113.2	1,971.8
Eliminations	(6,532.9)	(6,252.5)	(280.4)	(7.7)	490.3	(26.1)	(789.1)
CVM 247	46.3	26.1	20.2	7.2	0.6	(1.1)	11.3
Consolidated	R\$17,959.5	R\$15,140.8	R\$2,818.7	R\$1,167.1	R\$543.6	R\$86.0	R\$1,194.0

Year Ended December 31, 2007

	Net sales revenue	Cost of sales and services rendered	Gross profit	Selling, general and administrative expenses	Depreciation and amortization	Other income (expense), net	Operating income
(in millions of reais)							
Basic Petrochemicals	R\$13,036.1	R\$11,574.5	R\$1,461.6	R\$410.6	R\$19.0	R\$22.1	R\$1,054.1
Polyolefins	7,411.0	6,070.3	1,340.7	517.2	19.6	(59.5)	744.4
Vinyls	1,789.4	1,438.1	351.3	201.7	2.1	25.9	173.4
IQ Soluções &							
Química	392.6	338.9	53.7	39.1	4.3	(0.7)	9.6
Total segments	22,629.1	19,421.8	3,207.3	1,168.6	45.0	(12.2)	1,981.5

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	Year Ended December 31, 2007						
	Net sales revenue	Cost of sales and services rendered	Gross profit	Selling, general and administrative expenses (in millions of reais)	Depreciation and amortization	Other income (expense), net	Operating income
Eliminations	(5,654.4)	(5,598.0)	(56.4)	61.5	439.5	142.8	(414.6)
CVM 247	667.8	507.6	160.2	8.6	2.1	0.9	150.4
Consolidated	R\$17,642.5	R\$14,331.4	R\$3,311.1	R\$1,238.7	R\$486.6	R\$131.5	R\$1,717.3

	Year Ended December 31, 2006						
	Net sales revenue	Cost of sales and services rendered	Gross profit	Selling, general and administrative expenses (in millions of reais)	Depreciation and amortization	Other income (expense), net	Operating income
Basic Petrochemicals	R\$7,157.6	R\$6,291.4	R\$866.2	R\$348.6	R\$0.5	R\$(4.4)	R\$512.7
Polyolefins	4,984.9	4,234.5	750.4	360.9	10.4	18.3	397.4
Vinyls	1,541.7	1,245.3	296.4	123.0	0.4	35.1	208.1
Total segments	13,684.2	11,771.2	1,913.0	832.5	11.3	49.0	1,118.2
Eliminations	(1,965.2)	(1,922.5)	(42.7)	41.8	346.6	107.9	(323.2)
CVM 247	1,273.7	910.5	363.2	77.1	5.4	29.2	309.9
Consolidated	R\$12,992.7	R\$10,759.2	R\$2,233.5	R\$951.4	R\$363.3	R\$186.1	R\$1,104.9

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

Year Ended December 31, 2008 Compared with Year Ended December 31, 2007

The following table sets forth consolidated financial information for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007.

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2008	2007(1)
	(in millions of reais)	
Net sales revenue	R\$17,959.5	R\$17,642.5
Cost of sales and services rendered	(15,140.8)	(14,331.4)
Gross profit	2,818.7	3,311.1
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(1,167.1)	(1,238.7)
Depreciation and amortization	(543.6)	(486.6)
Other operating income, net	86.0	131.5
Results from equity accounting(2)	(63.7)	(64.6)
Financial expenses, net	(3,684.5)	(376.7)
Operating income (loss)	(2,554.2)	1,276.0
Other income and expenses, net	(158.7)	(67.2)
Income (loss) before income tax and social contribution and minority interest	(2,712.9)	1,208.8
Income tax and social contribution	278.2	(327.4)
Income (loss) before profit sharing and minority interest	(2,434.7)	881.4
Profit sharing	(18.9)	(18.7)
Minority interest	(38.5)	(240.9)
Net income (loss)	R\$(2,492.1)	R\$621.8

-
- As a result of the Ipiranga Transaction, includes fully consolidated results of Copesul and consolidated results of Ipiranga Química and
- (1) Ipiranga Petroquímica as from April 1, 2007.
 - (2) Results from equity accounting comprises the following line items in our consolidated statement of operations: equity in the results, amortization of goodwill (negative goodwill), net, foreign exchange variation, and tax incentives and other.

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As a result of the Ipiranga Transaction, includes fully consolidated results of Copesul and consolidated results of Ipiranga Química and (1)Ipiranga Petroquímica as from April 1, 2007.

Results from equity accounting comprises the following line items in our consolidated statement of operations: equity in the results, (2)amortization of goodwill (negative goodwill), net, foreign exchange variation, and tax incentives and other.

Net Sales Revenue

Net sales revenue increased by 1.8% in 2008 primarily as a result of:

- a 9.4% increase in net sales revenue of our Basic Petrochemicals segment;
- a 14.7% increase in net sales revenue of our Vinyls segment;
- a 53.3% increase in net sales revenue of our IQ Soluções & Química segment; and
- a 1.7% increase in net sales revenue of our Polyolefins segment.

The effects of these increases was partially offset by a 93.1% decline in net sales revenue attributable to our jointly consolidated companies, principally as a result of our the full consolidation of the results of Copesul in our financial statements for 12 months in 2008 as compared to nine months in 2007. Prior to April 1, 2007, our proportionate interest in the results of Copesul was recorded in our financial statements under Instruction 247.

Eliminations of net sales revenues of our segments in consolidation, primarily reflecting intercompany sales of basic petrochemicals by our Basic Petrochemicals segment to our other segments, increased by 23.7% in 2008.

Net Sales Revenue of Our Basic Petrochemicals Segment

Net sales revenue of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 9.4% in 2008, primarily as a result of the effects of the full consolidation of the results of Copesul in our financial statements for 12 months in 2008 as compared to nine months in 2007. Net sales revenue generated by sales of basic petrochemicals by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit to our other business units increased by 45.9% to R\$6,545.6 million in 2008 from R\$4,486.8 million in 2007, primarily as a result of (1) the full consolidation of the net sales revenues generated by sales of basic petrochemicals by Copesul to our other business units in our financial statements for 12 months in 2008 as compared to nine months in 2007, and (2) increased prices paid by our other business units for ethylene and propylene. Net sales revenue generated by sales of basic petrochemicals to third parties increased by 29.1% to R\$7,711.9 million in 2008 from R\$5,969.8 million in 2007.

Net sales revenue generated by sales of:

- utilities to our other segments increased by 106.5% to R\$215.0 million in 2008 from R\$104.1 million in 2007;
- utilities to third parties declined by 16.4% to R\$382.3 million in 2008 from R\$457.4 million in 2007;
- fuels increased by 2.2% to R\$571.4 million in 2008 from R\$558.7 million in 2007;
- naphtha and condensate, a significant portion of which was sold to RPI, which refined condensate into naphtha for resale to our Basic Petrochemicals segment, declined by 33.0% to R\$332.0 million in 2008 from R\$495.2 million in 2007; and
- caprolactam and related products declined by 19.2% to R\$241.9 million in 2008 from R\$299.3 million in 2007.

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Net sales revenue generated by export sales of the Basic Petrochemicals segment declined by 21.9% to R\$1,708.2 million in 2008 from R\$2,186.6 million in 2007.

The most significant factors contributing to the increase of net sales revenue generated by sales of basic petrochemicals to third parties were a R\$210.8 million, or 41.0%, increase in net sales revenue generated by sales of butadiene to third parties. The effect of this increase were partially offset by a R\$731.6 million, or 40.7%, decline in net sales revenue generated by sales of ethylene to third parties, a R\$330.1 million, or 24.6%, decline in net sales revenue generated by sales of benzene to third parties, and a R\$102.2 million, or 10.5%, decline in net sales revenue generated by sales of propylene to third parties.

Sales volume of butadiene to third parties increased by 1.7% to approximately 230,700 tons in 2008 from approximately 226,800 tons in 2007. Domestic sales volume of butadiene to third parties increased by 8.5% in 2008, principally due to our increased production of butadiene in 2008, while export sales volume of butadiene declined by 40.7%, principally due to the lower availability of butadiene for export as a result of an increase in domestic demand. The average domestic price for butadiene increased by 34.9% to R\$3,089 per ton in 2008 from R\$2,290 per ton in 2007, while the average export price for butadiene increased by 77.1% to R\$3,754 per ton in 2008 from R\$2,120 per ton in 2007.

Sales volume of ethylene to third parties declined by 43.4% to approximately 386,800 tons in 2008 from approximately 671,100 tons in 2007. Domestic sales volume of ethylene to third parties declined by 42.4% in 2008, principally due to reduced production during (1) the programmed maintenance shutdowns of the Northeastern Complex's Olefins 1 unit for 37 days in May and June 2008 and the Southern Complex's Olefins 1 unit and Aromatics unit for 38 days in April and May 2008, and (2) temporary shutdowns of one of our ethylene crackers in the Northeastern Complex and one of our ethylene crackers in the Southern Complex in the fourth quarter of 2008. We did not export ethylene in 2008 while we exported approximately 11,900 tons in 2007. The average domestic price for ethylene increased by 2.9% to R\$2,754 per ton in 2008 from R\$2,677 per ton in 2007.

Sales volume of benzene to third parties increased by 14.7% to approximately 664,000 tons in 2008 from approximately 649,700 tons in 2007. Domestic sales volume of benzene to third parties declined by 29.8% in 2008, principally due to reduced production during the programmed maintenance shutdowns of the Northeastern Complex's Olefins 1 unit for 37 days in May and June 2008 and the Southern Complex's Olefins 1 unit and Aromatics unit for 38 days in April and May 2008. Export sales volume of benzene increased by 2.0% in 2008. The average domestic price for benzene declined by 4.8% to R\$2,017 per ton in 2008 from R\$2,118 per ton in 2007, while the average export price for benzene declined by 16.3% to R\$1,676 per ton in 2008 from R\$2,001 per ton in 2007.

Sales volume of propylene to third parties declined by 19.5% to approximately 379,700 tons in 2008 from approximately 471,400 tons in 2007. Domestic sales volume of propylene to third parties declined by 5.4% in 2008, principally due to reduced production during the programmed maintenance shutdowns of the Northeastern Complex's Olefins 1 unit for 37 days in May and June 2008 and the Southern Complex's Olefins 1 unit and Aromatics unit for 38 days in April and May 2008. Export sales volume of propylene declined by 76.7% in 2008, as a result of our increased use of propylene in our production of polyolefins as a result of delays in the commencement of deliveries from REPLAN to our Paulinia plant and problems experienced in the supply of propylene by REFAP to our polypropylene plants in the Southern Complex. The average domestic price for propylene increased by 12.8% to R\$2,367 per ton in 2008 from R\$2,098 per ton in 2007, while the average export price for propylene declined by 49.9% to R\$949 per ton in 2008 from R\$1,895 per ton in 2007.

Sales volume of caprolactam declined by 18.5% to approximately 36,700 tons in 2008 from approximately 45,000 tons in 2007. Domestic sales volume of caprolactam declined by 10.2% in 2008 and export sales volume of caprolactam declined by 24.1%, principally due to our reduction of caprolactam production due to our decision to divert our production of benzene, a principal raw material in the production of caprolactam, to the export market. The average domestic price for caprolactam declined by 15.1% to R\$4,471 per ton in 2008 from R\$5,266 per ton in 2007, while the average export price for caprolactam declined by 9.1% to R\$4,071 per ton in 2008 from R\$4,478 per ton in 2007.

Net Sales Revenue of Our Polyolefins Segment

Net sales revenue of the Polyolefins segment increased by 1.7% in 2008. This increase was primarily attributable to a 7.3% increase in net sales revenue generated by sales of polypropylene and a 0.9% increase in net sales revenue generated by sales of polyethylene, the effects of which were partially offset by a 19.1% decline in net sales revenue generated by sales of PET. Net sales revenue generated by export sales of the Polyolefins segment declined by 21.7% to R\$1,452.8 million in 2008 from R\$1,856.3 million in 2007.

Sales volume of polypropylene increased by 3.0% to approximately 702,500 tons in 2008 from approximately 682,300 tons in 2007. Domestic sales volume of polypropylene increased by 5.8% in 2008, primarily due to (1) our consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Petroquímica for 12 months in 2008 as compared to nine months in 2007, and (2) our consolidation of the results of Paulínia for nine months in 2008, the effects of which were partially offset by the reduction in purchases of polypropylene in the fourth quarter of 2008 as our customers delayed purchases and consumed their inventories in anticipation of reductions in the price of polypropylene. Export sales volume of polypropylene declined by 11.8%, principally due to the decline in global demand for polypropylene, particularly in the fourth quarter of 2008. The average domestic price for polypropylene increased by 3.2% to R\$3,569 per ton in 2008 from R\$3,458 per ton in 2007, while the average export price for polypropylene increased by 7.7% to R\$2,854 per ton in 2008 from R\$2,651 per ton in 2007.

Sales volume of polyethylene declined by 4.6% to approximately 1,426,200 tons in 2008 from approximately 1,495,700 tons in 2007. Domestic sales volume of polyethylene increased by 4.4% in 2008, principally as a result of our consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Petroquímica for 12 months in 2008 as compared to nine months in 2007, the effects of which were partially offset by the reduction in purchases of polyethylene in the fourth quarter of 2008 as our customers delayed purchases and consumed their inventories in anticipation of reductions in the price of polyethylene. Export sales volume of polyethylene declined by 20.1% in 2008, principally due to the decline in global demand for polyethylene, particularly in the fourth quarter of 2008. The average domestic price for polyethylene increased by 7.5% to R\$3,839 per ton in 2008 from R\$3,572 per ton in 2007, while the average export price for polyethylene declined by 4.8% to R\$2,635 per ton in 2008 from R\$2,767 per ton in 2007.

Sales volume of PET declined by 27.5% to approximately 44,700 tons in 2008 from approximately 61,600 tons in 2007, primarily as a result of the migration of our PET customers to other producers following the temporary closure of our PET plant in May 2007. Domestic sales volume of PET declined by 28.9% in 2008, the effects of which were partially offset by a 7.6% increase in the average domestic price for PET to R\$3,135 per ton in 2008 from R\$2,915 per ton in 2007.

Net Sales Revenue of Our Vinyls Segment

Net sales revenue of the Vinyls segment increased by 14.7% in 2008. This increase was primarily attributable to a 54.9% increase in net sales revenue generated by sales of caustic soda, and a 5.6% increase in net sales revenue generated by sales of PVC, the effects of which were partially offset by a 26.3% decline in net sales revenue generated by sales of EDC. Net sales revenue generated by export sales of this segment declined by 39.7% to R\$91.2 million in 2008 from R\$151.3 million in 2007.

Sales volume of caustic soda increased by 6.2% to approximately 482,700 tons in 2008 from approximately 454,600 tons in 2007. Domestic sales volume of caustic soda increased by 2.8% in 2008, principally due to an increase in demand by aluminum and cellulose producers, while export sales volume of caustic soda increased to approximately 19,400 tons in 2008 from approximately 4,100 tons in 2007. The average domestic price for caustic soda increased by 45.5% to R\$1,208 per ton in 2008 from R\$830 per ton in 2007, while the average export price for caustic soda increased by 75.4% to R\$1,229 per ton in 2008 from R\$700 per ton in 2007.

Sales volume of PVC increased by 2.1% to approximately 514,700 tons in 2008 from approximately 504,000 tons in 2007. Domestic sales volume of PVC increased by 6.7% in 2008, principally due to increased demand in the civil construction sector, while export sales volume of PVC declined by 52.7%, principally due to the decline in Chinese demand following the conclusion of the Olympic Games and the decline in demand for PVC in the United States in the second half of 2008 as the effects of the global financial and credit crisis became more pronounced. The average domestic price for PVC increased by 2.3% to R\$2,678 per ton in 2008 from R\$2,616 per ton in 2007, while the average export price for PVC increased by 3.9% to R\$2,079 per ton in 2008 from R\$2,000 per ton in 2007.

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During the second half of 2008, Chinese demand for PVC declined following the conclusion of the Olympic Games. As a result of this contraction of demand, PVC in the United States increased the volume of exports of their PVC products, leading to greater price competition in the export markets that we serve.

Sales volume of EDC declined by 10.4% to approximately 94,000 tons in 2008 from approximately 104,900 tons in 2007. Export sales volume of EDC declined by 43.0%, principally due to the global decline in demand for PVC, the production of which involves the use of EDC as a principal raw material. The average export price for EDC declined by 27.9% to R\$483 per ton in 2008 from R\$670 per ton in 2007. As a result of the decline in demand for EDC exports, we sold approximately 34,200 tons of EDC in the domestic market in 2008 at an average price of R\$671 per ton.

Net Sales Revenue of Our IQ Soluções & Química Segment

Net sales revenue of the IQ Soluções & Química segment increased by 53.3% in 2008, primarily as a result of (1) our consolidation of the results of this segment for 12 months in 2008 as compared to nine months in 2007, and (2) increased demand for our products which allowed us to increase our prices for most of our products. Net sales revenue from sales of general purpose chemicals increased by 66.0% in 2008, primarily as a result of a 37.4% increase in the sales volume of general purpose chemicals to approximately 79,400 tons in 2008 from approximately 57,800 tons in 2007, and increased demand for our products which allowed us to increase our prices for most of our products. Net sales revenue from sales of solvents increased by 32.5% in 2008, primarily as a result of a 21.2% increase in the sales volume of solvents to approximately 75,400 tons in 2008 from approximately 62,200 tons in 2007, and increased demand for aromatic and synthetic solvents. Net sales revenue from sales of polymers increased by 62.0% in 2008, primarily as a result of a 49.4% increase in the sales volume of polymers to approximately 38,400 tons in 2008 from approximately 25,700 tons in 2007.

Cost of Sales and Services Rendered and Gross Profit

Cost of sales and services rendered increased by 5.6% in 2008, primarily as a result of:

- a 12.5% increase in the cost of sales and services rendered of the Basic Petrochemicals segment;
- a 3.1% increase in the cost of sales of the Polyolefins segment;
- a 50.6% increase in the cost of sales of the IQ Soluções & Química segment; and
- a 9.4% increase in the cost of sales of the Vinyls segment.

The effects of these increases was partially offset by a 94.9% decline in cost of sales and services rendered attributable to our jointly consolidated companies, principally as a result of our the full consolidation of the results of Copesul in our financial statements for 12 months in 2008 as compared to nine months in 2007.

Eliminations of cost of sales and services rendered of our segments in consolidation, primarily reflecting the costs of basic petrochemicals purchases by our Polyolefins and Vinyls segments from our Basic Petrochemicals segment, increased by 17.5% in 2008.

Consolidated gross profit declined by 14.9% in 2008. Gross profit as a percentage of net sales revenue, or gross margin, was 15.7% in 2008 as compared to 18.8% in 2007.

Cost of Sales and Services Rendered of Our Basic Petrochemicals Segment

Cost of sales and services rendered of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 12.5% in 2008, primarily as a result of our consolidation of the results of Copesul for 12 months in 2008 as compared to nine months in 2007 and an increase in the average cost of naphtha to R\$1,435 per ton in 2008 from R\$1,291 per ton in 2007, the effects of which were partially offset by a decline in sales volume in 2008. Naphtha and condensate accounted for 77.6% of the Basic Petrochemicals segment's cost of sales and services rendered in 2008 and 78.1% in 2007.

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Gross profit of the Basic Petrochemicals segment declined by 15.8% in 2008 and gross margin declined to 8.6% in 2008 compared to 11.2% in 2007.

Cost of Sales of Our Polyolefins Segment

Cost of sales of the Polyolefins segment increased by 3.1% in 2008, primarily as a result of our consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Petroquímica for 12 months in 2008 as compared to nine months in 2007, the effects of which were partially offset by a 3.0% decline in the total sales volume of our Polyolefins segment. Our Polyolefins Unit's average cost for ethylene increased by 23.5% in 2008, and our Polyolefins Unit's average cost for propylene increased by 3.6% in 2008.

Gross profit of the Polyolefins segment declined by 4.7% in 2008, and gross margin declined to 17.0% in 2008 compared to 18.1% in 2007.

Cost of Sales of Our Vinyls Segment

Cost of sales of the Vinyls segment increased by 9.4% in 2008, primarily as a result of a 23.5% increase in the average price of ethylene and the 2.7% increase in sales volume of this segment.

Gross profit of the Vinyls segment increased by 36.4% in 2008, while gross margin increased to 23.3% in 2008 from 19.6% in 2007.

Cost of Sales of Our IQ Soluções & Química Segment

Cost of sales of the IQ Soluções & Química segment increased by 50.6% in 2008, primarily as a result of (1) our consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Química for 12 months in 2008 as compared to nine months in 2007, and (2) the increase in the volume of sales and the increase in the cost of the products that we distribute. Gross profit of the IQ Soluções & Química segment increased by 70.2% in 2008, while gross margin increased to 15.2% in 2008 from 13.7% in 2007.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses declined by 5.8% in 2008, primarily as a result of:

- a 13.7% decline in selling, general and administrative expenses of the Vinyls segment, principally due to a reclassification of the expense related to the loss of certain goods we produced during their transport process that were recorded as selling, general and administrative expenses in 2007 as costs of goods sold in 2008; and
- a 16.3% decline in selling, general and administrative expenses of our jointly controlled companies, primarily as a result of our consolidation of the results of Copesul for 12 months in 2008 as compared to nine months in 2007.

The effects of these declines were partially offset by:

- a 34.8% increase in selling, general and administrative expenses of the IQ Soluções & Química segment, primarily as a result of our consolidation of the results of IQ Soluções & Química for 12 months in 2008 as compared to nine months in 2007, and
- a 1.7% increase in selling, general and administrative expenses of the Polyolefins segment, primarily as a result of our consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Petroquímica for 12 months in 2008 as compared to nine months in 2007, the effects of which were partially offset by the results of our implementation of cost control measures, including reductions in the number of personnel, designed to enable us to achieve synergies relating to the acquisition of Ipiranga Petroquímica.

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Selling, general and administrative expenses represented 6.5% of net sales revenue in 2008 compared to 7.0% of net sales revenue in 2007.

Depreciation and Amortization

Depreciation and amortization increased by 11.7% in 2008, primarily as a result of our the full consolidation of the results of Copesul and Ipiranga Petroquímica in our financial statements for 12 months in 2008 as compared to nine months in 2007.

Other Operating Income, Net

Other operating income, net declined by 34.6% in 2008, primarily as a result of a 67.2% decline in other operating income of the Vinyls segment, primarily as a result of a decrease in tax incentives recorded in 2008 relating to our operations in the the Brazilian states of Bahia and Alagoas. The effects of this decline were partially offset by:

- the R\$38.5 million of other operating income recorded by our Polyolefins segment in 2008, primarily as a result of sales incentive received by our company relating to the quantity of our purchases of PET, as compared to the R\$59.5 million of other operating expense recorded by our Polyolefins segment in 2007, primarily as a result of the reclassification of some of our selling expenses; and
- a 188.2% increase in other operating income recorded by our Basic Petrochemicals segment in 2008, primarily as a result of an increase in recoverable taxes recorded in 2008 as a result of a change in Copesul's accounting policies to align these policies with those of Braskem.

Operating Income of Segments

As a result of the foregoing:

- operating income of the Basic Petrochemical segment (which excludes financial income, financial expense and results from equity accounting) declined by 18.1% in 2008, and the operating margin of the Basic Petrochemical segment declined to 6.1% in 2008 from 8.1% in 2007;
- operating income of the Polyolefins segment (which excludes financial income, financial expense and results from equity accounting) increased by 2.5% in 2008, and the operating margin of the Polyolefins segment increased to 10.1% in 2008 from 10.0% in 2007;
- operating income of the Vinyls segment (which excludes financial income, financial expense and results from equity accounting) increased by 79.0% in 2008, and the operating margin of the Vinyls segment increased to 15.1% in 2008 from 9.7% in 2007; and
- operating income of the IQ Soluções & Química segment (which excludes financial income, financial expense and results from equity accounting) increased by 268.8% in 2008, and the operating margin of the IQ Soluções & Química segment increased to 5.9% in 2008 from 2.4% in 2007.

Results from Equity Accounting

Results from equity accounting declined by 1.4% in 2008, primarily due to losses incurred by Petroflex prior to our sale of Petroflex in April 2008, offset by the reduced amortization of goodwill related to the assets we acquired in the Ipiranga Transaction.

Financial Expenses, Net

Financial expenses, net, increased to R\$3,684.5 million in 2008 from R\$376.7 million in 2007, 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

liabilities, which were partially offset by the effects of the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed assets.

As a result of the 31.9% depreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar in 2008, we recorded:

- financial expense of R\$3,212.6 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated liabilities; and
- financial income of R\$466.3 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed assets.

As a result of the 17.2% appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar in 2007, we recorded:

- financial income of R\$1,546.7 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed liabilities; and
- financial expense of R\$825.6 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated assets.

Operating Income (Loss)

Operating loss was R\$2,554.2 million in 2008 compared to operating income of R\$1,276.0 million in 2007, primarily as a result of the 878.1% increase in financial expenses, net as a result of the significant depreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar, and the 14.9% decline in gross profit. Operating loss represented 14.2% of net sales revenue in 2008 while operating income represented 7.2% of net sales revenue in 2007.

Other Income and Expense, Net

Other income and expenses, net was an expense of R\$158.7 million in 2008 compared to an expense of R\$67.2 million in 2007. The most significant items of other income and expense in 2008 were:

- a R\$144.1 million reduction to the recoverable amount of fixed assets, primarily relating to the permanent closure of our PET plant and the impairment of our caprolactam plant;
- R\$54.5 million of depreciation of paralyzed plants and other, primarily relating to the permanent closure of our PET plant;
- a R\$42.8 million reversion gains from merger, primarily related to the reversal of gains that we recorded on sales of technology and land to Paulinia during 2005 through 2007 as a result of our merger with Paulinia in September 2008; and
- R\$130.5 million gain from the disposal of our equity interest in Petroflex.

The most significant items of other income and expense in 2007 were:

- a R\$35.5 million loss on interest in investment as a result of the merger of EDSP58 with and into Copesul;
- R\$15.9 million of depreciation of paralyzed plants and other, primarily relating to the permanent closure of the DMT unit in our PET plant; and
- a R\$13.8 million reduction to the recoverable amount of fixed assets, primarily relating to the permanent closure of the DMT unit in our PET plant.

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Income Tax and Social Contribution

The composite corporate statutory income tax and social contribution rate was 34% in each of 2008 and 2007. Income tax and social contribution was a benefit of R\$278.2 million in 2008 compared to an expense of R\$327.4 million in 2007. The effective tax rate applicable to our loss before income tax and social contribution was 10.3% in 2008, resulting in a benefit of R\$278.2 million, while our effective tax rate was 27.1% in 2007. The lower effective tax rate in 2008 was principally the result of (1) the effects of a net change in valuation allowance of R\$(502.0) million in 2008 under which we record the excess of our net loss for the year over the amount of the related tax assets that we expect to realize during the following ten years, as required under the rules of the CVM, compared to the effects of a net change in valuation allowance of R\$11.9 million in 2007, and (2) tax effects of social contribution tax exemption, leading to a reduction in the benefit of R\$(246.4) million in 2008 compared to tax effects of social contribution tax exemption of R\$52.3 million recorded in 2007. These effects were partially offset by the decline in the effects of law. No. 11,638 and the transitory tax-payer regime to R\$14.1 million in 2008 from R\$55.6 million in 2007, primarily as a result of present value adjustments.

Profit Sharing and Minority Interest

Minority interest declined by 84.0% in 2008, primarily as a result of the full consolidation of the results of Copesul and the consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Química and Paulinia in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007 and the significant minority interests in each of these companies. Profit sharing expense, primarily related to Copesul's profit sharing expense, increased by 1.1% in 2008.

Net Income (Loss)

We recorded net loss of R\$2,492.1 million in 2008, or 13.9% of net sales revenue, in 2008 compared to net income of R\$621.8 million, or 3.5% of net sales revenue, in 2007.

Year Ended December 31, 2007 Compared with Year Ended December 31, 2006

The following table sets forth consolidated financial information for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006.

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2007(1)	2006(2)
	(in millions of reais)	
Net sales revenue	R\$17,642.5	R\$12,992.7
Cost of sales and services rendered	(14,331.4)	(10,759.2)
Gross profit	3,311.1	2,233.5
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(1,238.7)	(951.4)
Depreciation and amortization	(486.6)	(363.3)
Other operating income, net	131.5	186.1
Results from equity accounting(3)	(64.6)	3.4
Financial expenses, net	(376.7)	(938.4)
Operating income	1,276.0	169.9
Other income and expenses, net	(67.2)	7.1
Income before income tax and social contribution and minority interest	1,208.8	177.0
Income tax and social contribution	(327.4)	47.5
Income before profit sharing and minority interest	881.4	224.5
Profit sharing	(18.7)	-
Minority interest	(240.9)	(1.6)
Net income	R\$621.8	R\$222.8

- (1) As a result of the Ipiranga Transaction, includes fully consolidated results of Copesul and consolidated results of Ipiranga Química and Ipiranga Petroquímica as from April 1, 2007.
- (2) As a result of the Politeno Acquisition described under Item 4. Information on the Company History and Development of Our Company Consolidation of Minority Interests, includes fully consolidated results of Politeno for periods as from April 1, 2006. Politeno merged with and into Braskem on April 2, 2007.
- (3) Results from equity accounting comprises the following line items in our consolidated statement of operations: equity in the results, amortization of goodwill (negative goodwill), net, foreign exchange variation, and tax incentives and other.

Net Sales Revenue

Net sales revenue increased by 35.8% in 2007 primarily as a result of:

- a 82.1% increase in net sales revenue of our Basic Petrochemicals segment, primarily reflecting the effects of the full consolidation of the results of Copesul in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007 compared to the effects of proportional consolidation of our 29.5% equity interest in Copesul in our financial statements for periods ended prior to April 1, 2007;
- a 48.7% increase in net sales revenue of our Polyolefins segment, primarily reflecting the consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Petroquímica in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007;
- the R\$392.6 million contribution of our IQ Soluções & Química segment, which has been included as a business segment since April 1, 2007 as a result of our acquisition of Ipiranga Química as part of the Ipiranga Transaction; and
- a 16.1% increase in net sales revenue of our Vinyls segment.

The effects of these increases was partially offset by a 47.6% decline in net sales revenue attributable to our jointly consolidated companies, principally as a result of the full consolidation of the results of Copesul in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007 compared to the effects of proportional consolidation of our 29.5% equity interest in Copesul in our financial statements for periods ended prior to April 1, 2007.

Eliminations of net sales revenues of our segments in consolidation, primarily reflecting intercompany sales of basic petrochemicals by our Basic Petrochemicals segment to our other segments, increased by 181.6% in 2008, principally as a result of the full consolidation of the results of Copesul, the principal supplier of raw materials to our second generation plants in the Southern Complex, in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007.

Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled entities and the effects of intercompany eliminations, the aggregate increase of net sales revenues of our consolidated subsidiaries in 2007 compared to 2006 that was related to the consolidation Ipiranga Química, Ipiranga Petroquímica and Copesul as from April 1, 2007 was R\$7,460.1 million.

Net Sales Revenue of Our Basic Petrochemicals Segment

Net sales revenue of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 82.1% in 2007, primarily as a result of the effects of the consolidation of the results of Copesul in our financial statements for the for the nine months ended December 31, 2007 (the period in 2007 in which we have consolidated the results of Copesul in our financial statements). Net sales revenue generated by sales of basic petrochemicals by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit to our other business units increased by 100.5% to R\$4,486.8 million in 2007 from R\$2,237.9 million in 2006, primarily as a result of the consolidation of the results of Copesul and Ipiranga Petroquímica in our financial statements for the for the nine months ended December 31, 2007 and, to a lesser extent, our increased production of polyethylene, polypropylene and PVC due to the increased demand for these products. Net sales revenue generated by sales of basic petrochemicals to third parties increased by 59.9% to R\$6,145.1 million in 2007 from R\$3,842.5 million in 2006.

Net sales revenue generated by sales of:

- utilities to our other segments declined by 32.6% to R\$104.1 million in 2007 from R\$154.5 million in 2006;
- utilities to third parties increased by 20.3% to R\$457.4 million in 2007 from R\$380.3 million in 2006;
- fuels increased by 33.9% to R\$558.7 million in 2007 from R\$417.3 million in 2006;
- naphtha and condensate accounted for R\$495.2 million in 2007, a significant portion of which was sold to RPI, which refined condensate into naphtha for resale to our Basic Petrochemicals segment; and
- caprolactam and related products increased by 9.4% to R\$299.3 million in 2007 from R\$273.6 million in 2006.

Net sales revenue generated by export sales of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 129.3% to R\$2,186.6 million in 2007 from R\$953.4 million in 2006, primarily as a result of the consolidation of the results of Copesul in our financial statements for the for the nine months ended December 31, 2007 (the period in 2007 in which we have consolidated the results of Copesul in our financial statements) and, to a lesser extent, our increased exports of para-xylene due to the availability of this product for export as a result of our closure of our PET plant in May 2007.

The most significant factors contributing to the increase of net sales revenue generated by sales of basic petrochemicals to third parties were:

- a R\$665.2 million, or 98.6%, increase in net sales revenue generated by sales of benzene to third parties;
- a R\$921.0 million, or 105.2%, increase in net sales revenue generated by sales of ethylene to third parties; and
- a R\$358.4 million, or 43.4%, increase in net sales revenue generated by sales of butadiene to third parties.

Sales volume of benzene to third parties increased by 91.6% to approximately 649,700 tons in 2007 from approximately 339,100 tons in 2006. Domestic sales volume of benzene to third parties increased by 129.7% in 2007, while export sales volume of benzene increased by 61.9%, principally due to our consolidation of the results of Copesul for the nine months ended December 31, 2007. The average domestic price for benzene increased by 7.8% to R\$2,118 per ton in 2007 from R\$1,964 per ton in 2006, while the average export price for benzene remained stable at R\$2,001 per ton in 2007 compared to R\$2,010 per ton in 2006.

Sales volume of ethylene to third parties increased by 77.3% to approximately 683,000 tons in 2007 from approximately 385,100 tons in 2006. Domestic sales volume of ethylene to third parties increased by 74.3% in 2007, principally due to our consolidation of the results of Copesul for the nine months ended December 31, 2007, the effects of which were partially offset by our consolidation of the results of Politeno for 12 months in 2007 as compared to nine months in 2006 as a result of the Politeno Acquisition on April 6, 2006. Sales of approximately 82,000 tons of ethylene to Politeno in the first quarter of 2006 were accounted for as sales to third parties. The average domestic price for ethylene increased by 17.7% to R\$2,677 per ton in 2007 compared to R\$2,274 per ton in 2006.

Sales volume of butadiene to third parties increased by 50.7% to approximately 226,800 tons in 2007 from approximately 150,500 tons in 2006. Domestic sales volume of butadiene to third parties increased by 38.8% in 2007, while export sales volume of butadiene increased by 226.1%, principally due to our consolidation of the results of Copesul for the nine months ended December 31, 2007. The average domestic price for butadiene declined by 5.6% to R\$2,290 per ton in 2007 from R\$2,426 per ton in 2006, while the average export price for butadiene increased by 22.5% to R\$2,120 per ton in 2007 from R\$1,731 per ton in 2006.

Net Sales Revenue of Our Polyolefins Segment

Net sales revenue of the Polyolefins segment increased by 48.7% in 2007. This increase was primarily attributable to a 61.4% increase in net sales revenue generated by sales of polyethylene and a 32.4% increase in net sales revenue generated by sales of polypropylene, both of which were principally due to our consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Petroquímica for the nine months ended December 31, 2007 (the period in 2007 in which we have consolidated the results of Ipiranga Petroquímica in our financial statements). Net sales revenue generated by export sales of the Polyolefins segment increased by 42.4% to R\$1,856.3 million in 2007 from R\$1,303.6 million in 2006.

Sales volume of polyethylene increased by 50.3% to approximately 1,495,700 tons in 2007 from approximately 995,200 tons in 2006, primarily due to our consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Petroquímica for the nine months ended December 31, 2007 and, to a lesser extent, our consolidation of the results of Politeno for 12 months in 2007 as compared to nine months in 2006 as a result of the Politeno Acquisition on April 6, 2006. Domestic sales volume of polyethylene increased by 56.1% in 2007, and export sales volume of polyethylene increased by 41.3%. The average domestic price for polyethylene increased by 9.8% to R\$3,572 per ton in 2007 from R\$3,253 per ton in 2006, while the average export price for polyethylene increased by 1.2% to R\$2,767 per ton in 2007 from R\$2,734 per ton in 2006.

Sales volume of polypropylene increased by 28.7% to approximately 682,300 tons in 2007 from approximately 529,900 tons in 2006, primarily due to our consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Petroquímica for the nine months ended December 31, 2007 and the increased capacity utilization rates at our propylene plants. Domestic sales volume of polypropylene increased by 26.5% in 2007, while export sales volume of polypropylene increased by 42.3%. The average domestic price for polypropylene increased by 3.4% to R\$3,458 per ton in 2007 from R\$3,344 per ton in 2006, while the average export price for polypropylene increased by 1.4% to R\$2,651 per ton in 2007 from R\$2,614 per ton in 2006.

Net Sales Revenue of Our Vinyls Segment

Net sales revenue of the Vinyls segment increased by 16.1% in 2007. This increase was primarily attributable to a 21.0% increase in net sales revenue generated by domestic sales of PVC. Net sales revenue generated by export sales of this segment increased by 25.9% to R\$151.3 million in 2007 from R\$120.2 million in 2006.

Sales volume of PVC increased by 16.5% to approximately 504,000 tons in 2007 from approximately 432,800 tons in 2006. Domestic sales volume of PVC increased by 16.1% in 2007, principally due to an increase in domestic demand, while export sales volume of PVC increased by 20.5%, principally due to increased global demand for PVC that outpaced increased production. The average domestic price for PVC increased by 4.2% to R\$2,616 per ton in 2007 from R\$2,511 per ton in 2006, while the average export price for PVC increased by 0.9% to R\$2,000 per ton in 2007 from R\$1,982 per ton in 2006.

Net Sales Revenue of Our IQ Soluções & Química Segment

Net sales revenue of the IQ Soluções & Química segment was R\$392.6 million in the nine months ended December 31, 2007 (the period in 2007 in which we have consolidated the results of IQ Soluções & Química in our financial statements). Net sales revenue from sales of general purpose chemicals was R\$158.9 million, representing 40.5% of the net sales revenue of this segment, net sales revenue from sales of solvents was R\$137.1 million, representing 34.9% of the net sales revenue of this segment in the nine months ended December 31, 2007, and net sales revenue from sales of polymers was R\$96.6 million, representing 24.6% of the net sales revenue of this segment. Sales volume of general purpose chemicals was approximately 57,800 tons, sales volume of solvents was approximately 622,000 tons in the nine months ended December 31, 2007, and sales volume of polymers was approximately 25,700 tons.

Cost of Sales and Services Rendered and Gross Profit

Cost of sales and services rendered increased by 33.2% in 2007, primarily as a result of:

- an 84.0% increase in the cost of sales and services rendered of the Basic Petrochemicals segment;

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- a 43.4% increase in the cost of sales of the Polyolefins segment;
- the R\$338.9 million cost of sales of the IQ Soluções & Química segment, which has been included as a business segment since April 1, 2007 as a result of our acquisition of Ipiranga Química as part of the Ipiranga Transaction; and
- a 15.5% increase in the cost of sales of the Vinyls segment.

The effects of these increases was partially offset by a 44.3% decline in cost of sales and services rendered attributable to our jointly consolidated companies, principally as a result of the full consolidation of the results of Copesul in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007 compared to the effects of proportional consolidation of our 29.5% equity interest in Copesul in our financial statements for periods ended prior to April 1, 2007.

Eliminations of cost of sales and services rendered of our segments in consolidation, primarily reflecting the costs of basic petrochemicals purchases by our Polyolefins and Vinyls segments from our Basic Petrochemicals segment, increased by 191.2% in 2007, principally as a result of the full consolidation of the results of Copesul, the principal supplier of raw materials to our second generation plants in the Southern Complex, in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007.

Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled entities and the effects of intercompany eliminations, the aggregate increase of cost of sales and services rendered of our consolidated subsidiaries in 2007 compared to 2006 that was related to the consolidation Ipiranga Química, Ipiranga Petroquímica and Copesul as from April 1, 2007 was R\$6,496.1 million.

Consolidated gross profit increased by 48.3% in 2007. Gross profit as a percentage of net sales revenue, or gross margin, was 18.8% in 2007 as compared to 17.2% in 2006.

Cost of Sales and Services Rendered of Our Basic Petrochemicals Segment

Cost of sales and services rendered of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 84.0% in 2007, primarily as a result of (1) the full consolidation of the results of Copesul in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007 compared to the effects of proportional consolidation of our 29.5% equity interest in Copesul in our financial statements for periods ended prior to April 1, 2007, and, (2) to a lesser extent, an increase in sales volume in 2007. The effects of these factors were partially offset by a decline in the average cost of naphtha to R\$1,291 per ton in 2007 from R\$1,252 per ton in 2006, which resulted principally from the appreciation of the *real* against the dollar. Naphtha and condensate accounted for 78.1% of the Basic Petrochemicals segment's cost of sales and services rendered in 2007 and 86.0% in 2006.

Gross profit of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 68.7% in 2007, while gross margin declined to 11.2% in 2007 compared to 12.1% in 2006.

Cost of Sales of Our Polyolefins Segment

Cost of sales of the Polyolefins segment increased by 43.4% in 2007, primarily due to the consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Petroquímica in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007 and, to a lesser extent, our consolidation of the results of Politeno for 12 months in 2007 as compared to nine months in 2006. Our Polyolefins Unit's average cost for ethylene decreased by 5.2% in 2007, and our Polyolefins Unit's average cost for propylene increased by 3.8% in 2007.

Gross profit of the Polyolefins segment increased by 78.7% in 2007, and gross margin increased to 18.1% in 2007 compared to 15.1% in 2006.

Cost of Sales of Our Vinyls Segment

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Cost of sales of the Vinyls segment increased by 15.5% in 2007, primarily as a result of an 9.2% increase in sales volume of this segment and a 4.4% increase in the average price of ethylene.

Gross profit of the Vinyls segment increased by 18.5% in 2007, while gross margin increased to 19.6% in 2007 from 19.2% in 2006.

Cost of Sales of Our IQ Soluções & Química Segment

Cost of sales of the IQ Soluções & Química segment was R\$338.9 million in the nine months ended December 31, 2007. Gross profit of the IQ Soluções & Química segment was R\$53.7 million in the nine months ended December 31, 2007, and gross margin was 13.7% in the nine months ended December 31, 2007.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased by 30.2% in 2007, primarily as a result of:

- a 43.3% increase in selling, general and administrative expenses of the Polyolefins segment, primarily as a result of (1) the consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Petroquímica in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007, (2) our consolidation of the results of Politeno for 12 months in 2007 as compared to nine months in 2006 as a result of the Politeno Acquisition on April 6, 2006, and (3) an increase in logistics expenses principally due to the increase in export sales of this segment;
- a 64.0% increase in selling, general and administrative expenses of the Vinyls segment, principally as a result of increased accruals for profit sharing and increased storage and distribution expenses as a result of the high export volumes of this segment;
- a 17.8% increase in selling, general and administrative expenses of our Basic Petrochemicals segment, primarily as a result of the full consolidation of the results of Copesul in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007, and the non-recurrence of losses incurred under certain commodities hedging contracts that we entered into in 2006; and
- the R\$39.1 million in selling, general and administrative expenses of the IQ Soluções & Química segment that we recorded as a result of the inclusion of this business segment since April 1, 2007 due to our acquisition of Ipiranga Química as part of the Ipiranga Transaction.

The effects of these increases was partially offset by an 88.9% decline in selling, general and administrative expenses of our jointly controlled companies, primarily as a result of the full consolidation of the results of Copesul in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007 compared to the effects of proportional consolidation of our 29.5% equity interest in Copesul in our financial statements for periods ended prior to April 1, 2007.

Selling, general and administrative expenses represented 7.0% of net sales revenue in 2007 compared to 7.3% of net sales revenue in 2006.

Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled entities and the effects of intercompany eliminations, the aggregate increase of selling, general and administrative expense of our consolidated subsidiaries in 2007 compared to 2006 that was related to the consolidation of Ipiranga Química, Ipiranga Petroquímica and Copesul as from April 1, 2007 was R\$198.8 million.

Depreciation and Amortization

Depreciation and amortization increased by 33.9% in 2007, primarily as a result of primarily as a result of the full consolidation of the results of Copesul and Ipiranga Petroquímica in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007.

Other Operating Income, Net

Other operating income, net declined by 29.3% in 2007, primarily as a result of

- the R\$59.5 million of other operating expenses recorded by the Polyolefins segment in 2007, principally composed of selling expenses that were reclassified as other operating expenses, primarily in December 2007, compared to the R\$18.3 million in other operating income recorded in 2006, principally composed of non-recurring revenue recovery of R\$13.1 million in connection with the reversal of a PIS tax provision in 2006; and
- a 96.9% decline in other operating income of our jointly controlled companies, primarily as a result of the full consolidation of the results of Copesul in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007 compared to the effects of proportional consolidation of our 29.5% equity interest in Copesul in our financial statements for periods ended prior to April 1, 2007.

These effects were partially offset by the R\$22.1 million in other operating income recorded by the Basic Petrochemicals segment in 2007, principally as a result of the reclassification of certain revenue, primarily sales of scrap and non-operational products in December 2007, in addition to revenue related to maintenance services offered to clients, compared to R\$4.4 million in other operating expense, net in 2006.

Operating Income of Segments

As a result of the foregoing:

- operating income of the Basic Petrochemical segment (which excludes financial income, financial expense and results from equity accounting) increased by 105.6% in 2007, and the operating margin of the Basic Petrochemical segment increased to 8.1% in 2007 from 7.2% in 2006;
- operating income of the Polyolefins segment (which excludes financial income, financial expense and results from equity accounting) increased by 87.3% in 2007, and the operating margin of the Polyolefins segment increased to 10.0% in 2007 from 8.0% in 2006;
- operating income of the Vinyls segment (which excludes financial income, financial expense and results from equity accounting) declined by 16.7% in 2007, and the operating margin of the Vinyls segment declined to 9.7% in 2007 from 13.5% in 2006; and
- operating margin of the IQ Soluções & Química segment was 2.5% in 2007.

Results from Equity Accounting

Results from equity accounting were an expense of R\$64.6 million in 2007 compared to revenue of R\$3.4 million in 2006, primarily as a result of the following factors:

- a R\$48.5 million increase in amortization of goodwill, principally as a result of the consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Química and its subsidiaries in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007; and
- a R\$20.7 million decline in tax incentives, primarily as a result of the expiration of certain ICMS tax benefits that were previously available to Copesul.

Financial Expenses, Net

Financial expenses, net, declined by 59.9% in 2007, primarily as a result of (1) the effects of the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed assets and liabilities, and (2) to a lesser extent, our recording of a R\$2.5 million net gain on derivative transactions in 2007 compared to a R\$47.8 million net loss on derivative transactions in 2006.

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As a result of the 17.2% appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar in 2007, we recorded:

- financial income of R\$1,546.7 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed liabilities; and
- financial expense of R\$825.6 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated assets.

As a result of the 8.7% appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar in 2006, we recorded:

- financial income of R\$333.4 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed liabilities; and
- financial expense of R\$204.2 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated assets.

Operating Income

Operating income was R\$1,276.0 million in 2007 compared to R\$169.9 million in 2006, primarily as a result of the 48.3% increase in gross profit and a 59.9% decrease in financial expenses, net as a result of the significant appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar. Operating income represented 7.2% of net sales revenue in 2007 compared to 1.3% of net sales revenue in 2006.

Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled entities and the effects of intercompany eliminations, the aggregate increase of operating income of our consolidated subsidiaries in 2007 compared to 2006 that was related to the consolidation of Ipiranga Química, Ipiranga Petroquímica and Copesul as from April 1, 2007 was R\$1,007.7 million.

Other Income and Expense, Net

Other income and expenses, net was an expense of R\$67.2 million in 2007 compared to income of R\$7.1 million in 2006. The most significant items of other income and expense in 2007 were:

- a R\$35.5 million loss on interest in investment as a result of the merger of EDSP58 with and into Copesul;
- R\$18.0 million of depreciation of paralyzed plants and other, primarily relating to the permanent closure of the DMT unit in our PET plant.
- a R\$13.8 million reduction to the recoverable amount of fixed assets.

Income Tax and Social Contribution

The composite corporate statutory income tax and social contribution rate was 34% in each of 2007 and 2006. Income tax and social contribution was an expense of R\$327.4 million in 2007 compared to a benefit of R\$47.5 million in 2006. Our effective tax rate was 27.1% in 2007 as compared to (26.8)% in 2006. The higher effective tax rate in 2007 was principally the result of the relative decline in the magnitude of the positive effects of (1) tax on goodwill of Polialden, which increased to R\$85.8 million in 2007 from R\$75.9 million in 2006, and (2) Law No. 11,638 and the transitory tax-payer regime, which increased to R\$55.6 million in 2007 from R\$34.7 million in 2006, as a result of our substantially increased income before income tax and minority interest in 2007. The effects of these factors was partially offset by the relative decline in the magnitude of the negative effects of non-deductible amortization of goodwill, which declined to R\$29.8 million in 2007 from R\$30.3 million in 2006, as a result of our substantially increased income before income tax and minority interest in 2007.

Profit Sharing and Minority Interest

Minority interest increased to R\$240.9 million in 2007 compared to R\$1.6 million in 2006, primarily as a result of the full consolidation of the results of Copesul and the consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Química in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007 and the significant minority interests in each of these companies. In addition, we recorded Copesul's profit sharing expense of R\$18.7 million in 2007 as a result of the full consolidation of the results of Copesul in our financial statements.

Net Income

We recorded net income of R\$621.8 million, or 3.5% of net sales revenue, in 2007 compared to net income of R\$222.8 million, or 1.7% of net sales revenue, in 2006.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our principal cash requirements consist of the following:

- working capital requirements;
- servicing our indebtedness;
- capital expenditures related to investments in operations, construction of new plant facilities, and maintenance and expansion of plant facilities;
- funds required for potential acquisitions of equity interests in other petrochemical producers; and
- 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.

During 2008, 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, 2008, our consolidated cash and cash equivalents and other investments amounted to R\$2,960.2 million. At December 31, 2008, we had working capital of R\$146.9 million.

Projected Sources and Uses of Cash

We anticipate that we will be required to spend approximately R\$2,181.7 million to meet our short-term contractual obligations and commitments and budgeted capital expenditures in 2009. We expect that we will meet these cash requirements through a combination of cash generated from operating activities and cash generated by financing activities, including new debt financings and the refinancing of our existing short-term indebtedness as it becomes due.

We anticipate that we will be required to spend approximately R\$3,128.0 million to meet our long-term contractual obligations and commitments and budgeted capital expenditures through 2011. We anticipate that we will meet these cash requirements through a combination of: (1) cash generated from operating activities; and (2) cash generated by financing activities, including new debt financings and the refinancing of our indebtedness as it becomes due.

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We have commitments from several financial institutions to provide us with financing in the future, including a commitment from BNDES to lend us an aggregate principal amount of R\$63.4 million for use in connection with our capital expenditure program.

These commitments are subject to conditions precedent which we believe that we will be able to satisfy in connection with any amounts drawn under these facilities. We pay commitment fees to these financial institutions in connection with their commitments.

Cash Flows

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities was R\$2,879.3 million in 2008 and R\$2,474.5 million in 2007, and net cash used by operating activities was R\$317.6 million in 2006.

Cash Flows Used in Investing Activities

Investing activities used net cash of R\$2,154.7 million in 2008, R\$3,649.5 million in 2007 and R\$1,206.3 million in 2006.

During 2008, investing activities for which we used cash on a consolidated basis primarily consisted of (1) a final payment to Ultrapar under the Ipiranga Investment Agreement in the amount of R\$633.5 million, and (2) the payment of the remaining portion of the purchase price of R\$247.5 million due in connection with the Politeno Acquisition. In addition, we used R\$239.5 million to perform maintenance on our plants during scheduled shutdowns during 2008 and R\$161.3 million in our safety, health and environmental programs.

During 2007, investing activities for which we used cash on a consolidated basis primarily consisted of (1) additions to property, plant and equipment, including our proportional share of the cost of the property, plant and equipment of Paulínia, investments in equipment replacement and additions to equipment related to the implementation of our Formula Braskem program, (2) payments to Ultrapar under the Ipiranga Investment Agreement and payments made for the 7.6% of the total share capital of Ipiranga Petroquímica not owned by Ipiranga Química, and (3) payments in connection with the merger of EDSP58 into Copesul and the merger of EDSP67 into Ipiranga Petroquímica. In addition, we used R\$263.0 million to perform maintenance on our plants during scheduled shutdowns during 2007 and R\$129.4 million in our safety, health and environmental programs.

During 2006, investing activities for which we used cash on a consolidated basis primarily consisted of (1) the payment of R\$237.5 million, representing the portion of the purchase price that was due upon the closing of the Politeno Acquisition, (2) additions to equipment related to the increase of our annual polyethylene production capacity in the Northeastern Complex by 30,000 tons and the increase of our annual isoprene production capacity by 8,800 tons, and (3) additions to equipment related to the implementation of our Braskem+ and Formula Braskem programs. In addition, we used R\$150.0 million to perform maintenance on our plants during scheduled shutdowns during 2006 and R\$152.0 million in our safety, health and environmental programs.

Cash Flows from Financing Activities

Financing activities used net cash of R\$3.1 million in 2008 and provided net cash of R\$1,518.0 million in 2007 and R\$935.3 million in 2006.

During 2008, our principal sources of long-term borrowed funds consisted of (1) the proceeds of the issuance of US\$500 million aggregate principal amount of our 7.25% Notes due 2018; and (2) US\$725 million aggregate principal amount borrowed under an export prepayment agreement.

During 2008, we used cash to repay US\$1,200.0 million aggregate principal amount under an unsecured credit agreement, which we refer to as the Acquisition Credit Agreement, which we entered into to finance the Ipiranga Transaction.

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During 2007, our principal sources of long-term borrowed funds consisted of (1) US\$953.2 million aggregate principal amount borrowed under the Acquisition Credit Agreement, (2) US\$150.0 million aggregate principal amount borrowed under our prepayment credit export facility, and (3) US\$125.0 million aggregate principal amount borrowed under two credit export note facilities.

During 2007, we used cash to prepay (1) US\$125.0 million under our syndicated secured export prepayment facility due 2009, and (2) R\$155.1 million under our 12th issue of debentures.

During 2006, our principal sources of long-term borrowed funds consisted of issuances of our 9.00% Perpetual Bonds in an aggregate principal amount of US\$200.0 million, our 8.00% Notes due 2017 in an aggregate principal amount of US\$275.0 million, our 14th issue of debentures in an aggregate principal amount of R\$500.0 million, and borrowings under a credit export note facility in an aggregate amount of US\$78.0 million.

During 2006, we used cash:

- to repay R\$3,613.8 million of our short-term debt, principally debt denominated in foreign currencies, including US\$772.0 million under advances on export contracts (*Adiantamentos sobre Contratos de Exportação*), US\$114.1 million under our export prepayment agreements, US\$19.5 million under our raw materials financing arrangements, and US\$178.4 million under our working capital facilities;
- to repurchase R\$150.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 12th issue of debentures; and
- to repurchase US\$184.6 million aggregate principal amount of our 12.50% Senior Notes due 2008.

On April 18, 2006, we paid a distribution of R\$325.7 million, including R\$270.0 million that was paid in the form of interest attributable to shareholders' equity and R\$55.7 million that was paid in the form of dividends. On April 9, 2007, we paid dividends in the aggregate amount of R\$36.9 million. On April 7, 2008, we paid dividends in the aggregate amount of R\$278.5 million.

Unless our board of directors deems it inconsistent with our financial position, 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 requirements in future periods.

On May 3, 2006, we announced that our board of directors had authorized a share repurchase program under which we were authorized to repurchase up to 13,896,133 class A preferred shares and up to 1,400,495 common shares at market prices over the BOVESPA at any time and from time to time prior to October 31, 2006. We repurchased 13,131,054 of our class A preferred shares under this share repurchase program for a total purchase price of R\$182.0 million. On March 6, 2008, we announced that our shareholders had authorized the cancellation of 16,595,000 of our class A preferred shares that were held in treasury with a book value of R\$244.5 million.

On February 19, 2008, we announced that our board of directors had authorized a share repurchase program under which we are authorized to repurchase up to 19,862,411 class A preferred shares at market prices over the BOVESPA at any time and from time to time between March 7, 2008 and March 6, 2009 for a total purchase price of up to R\$252.3 million. We repurchased 10,099,500 of our class A preferred shares under this share repurchase program for a total purchase price of R\$107.4 million.

Indebtedness and Financing Strategy

At December 31, 2008, our total outstanding indebtedness on a consolidated basis was R\$11,986.1 million, consisting of R\$2,146.3 million of short-term indebtedness, including current portion of long-term indebtedness (or 17.9% of our total indebtedness), and R\$9,839.8 million of long-term indebtedness (or 82.1% of our total indebtedness). At December 31, 2008, we had no outstanding indebtedness to related parties on a consolidated basis.

On a consolidated basis, our *real*-denominated indebtedness at December 31, 2008 was R\$2,881.2 million (24.0%), and our foreign currency-denominated indebtedness was R\$9,104.9 million (76.0%).

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Our financing strategy has been to continue 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 order to increase our liquidity levels and improve our strategic, financial and operational flexibility. Our financing strategy over the next several years involves maintaining adequate liquidity and a debt maturity profile that is compatible with our anticipated cash flow generation and anticipated capital expenditures. In addition, we do not expect our capital expenditures to affect adversely the quality of our debt leverage ratios or our disciplined approach to capital allocation.

Short-Term Indebtedness

Our consolidated short-term debt, including debentures and current portion of long-term debt, was R\$2,146.3 million at December 31, 2008.

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 our relationships with these financial institutions and current market conditions. At December 31, 2008, the consolidated outstanding balance under our working capital lines denominated in *reais* was R\$363.6 million.

In addition, we have incurred import financing for raw materials from various domestic and international institutions. These advances have a maturity of less than one year and bore interest in 2008 at an average rate of 4.08%. These financings are generally evidenced by promissory notes. At December 31, 2008, our consolidated outstanding advances under our import financing arrangements totaled R\$21.5 million.

In September 2007, EDSP58 entered into an export prepayment credit facility with Petrobras International Finance Company, or PIFCo, under which EDSP58 is permitted to borrow an aggregate principal amount of up to US\$323.0 million. As a result of the merger of EDSP58 with and into Copesul in December 2007, the PIFCo export prepayment credit facility became a direct obligation of Copesul. As a result of the merger of Copesul with and into Ipiranga Petroquímica on September 11, 2008 and Ipiranga Petroquímica's merger with and into Braskem on September 30, 2008, the PIFCo export prepayment credit facility became a direct obligation of Braskem. The loans under this facility may be disbursed in up to 10 disbursements. Each disbursement under this facility bears interest, payable in arrears, at the rate of LIBOR plus 0.35% per annum until the first anniversary of such disbursement and thereafter at the rate of LIBOR plus 0.55% per annum. The principal amount of each disbursement under the PIFCo export prepayment facility is payable on or prior to the second anniversary of such disbursement. In October 2007, EDSP58 borrowed an aggregate of US\$312.5 million under this facility to fund a portion of the purchase price of the shares tendered in the Copesul Tender Offer that was part of the Ipiranga Transaction.

Long-Term Indebtedness

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to our principal outstanding long-term debt instruments at December 31, 2008.

Instrument	Outstanding Principal Amount at December 31, 2008	Final Maturity	Principal Covenants
Debentures:			
14 th Issue of Debentures	R\$522.0 million	September 2011	Financial ratios
13 th Issue of Debentures	R\$303.2 million	June 2010	Financial ratios
Fixed-Rate Notes:			
9.375% Notes due 2015	US\$150.0 million	June 2015	Limitations on liens, related party transactions and mergers
11.75% Notes due 2014	US\$250.0 million	January 2014	Financial ratios, limitations on liens, dividends, indebtedness, related party transactions, investments and mergers
9.75% Perpetual Bonds	US\$150.0 million		Limitations on liens, related party transactions and mergers

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Instrument	Outstanding Principal Amount at December 31, 2008	Final Maturity	Principal Covenants
9.00% Perpetual Bonds	US\$200.0 million		Limitations on liens, related party transactions and mergers
8.00% Notes due 2017	US\$275.0 million	January 2017	Limitations on liens, related party transactions and mergers
7.250% Notes due 2018	US\$500.0 million	June 2018	Limitations on liens, related party transactions and mergers
Bank Credit Facilities:			
Secured Credit Agreement			
(construction financing)	R\$143.1 million	June 2016	Limitations on liens and asset sales
Secured Credit Agreement			
(construction financing)	R\$105.1 million	May 2016	Limitations on liens and asset sales
Syndicated Credit Agreement	US\$37.0 million	March 2012	Financial ratios, limitations on liens, related party transactions, mergers and asset sales
Syndicated Credit Agreement	US\$46.6 million	June 2012	Financial ratios, limitations on liens, related party transactions, mergers and asset sales
Export Finance Facilities:			
Export Prepayment Agreement	US\$47.5 million	June 2013	Limitations on liens, related party transactions and mergers
Syndicated Export Prepayment Agreement	US\$733.2 million	October 2013	
Export Prepayment Agreement	US\$150.0 million	November 2013	Limitations on liens
Export Prepayment Agreement	US\$150.0 million	April 2014	Limitations on liens
Export Prepayment Agreement	US\$75.0 million	July 2014	Limitations on liens
Credit Export Note Facility	US\$50.0 million	March 2018	Limitations on liens
Credit Export Note Facility	US\$78.0 million	May 2018	Financial ratios
Credit Export Note Facility	US\$75.0 million	May 2019	Limitations on liens
Credit Export Note Facility	US\$150.0 million	February 2020	

Some of our debt instruments require that we comply with financial covenants, the most restrictive of which are as follows:

- net debt to EBITDA less than or equal to 4.50 to 1.0 at the end of and for each fiscal quarter until maturity; and
- EBITDA to net financial expenses greater than or equal to 2.0 to 1.0 at the end of and for each fiscal quarter until maturity.

EBITDA is calculated differently under the various debt instruments that require us to comply with financial ratios. EBITDA is defined in these debt instruments as operating income less financial expenses, taxes, depreciation and amortization, plus dividends and interest attributable to shareholders' equity paid to us by our unconsolidated associated companies. Under some of these debt instruments, the calculation of EBITDA eliminates the effect of proportional consolidation under Instruction 247. Under some of these debt instruments, the financial ratios are calculated in *reais*, while under other debt instruments the financial ratios are calculated in dollars using (1) the average *real*/dollar exchange rate during each quarter to calculate EBITDA and financial expenses, and (2) the *real*/dollar exchange rate at the end of the period to calculate net debt.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008:

- the highest ratio of net debt to EBITDA that we reported under these covenants was 3.76 to 1.0; and
- the lowest ratio of EBITDA to net financial expenses that we reported under these covenants was 4.64 to 1.0.

Accordingly, we were in compliance with these financial covenants at December 31, 2008, and we believe that we will be able to comply with these financial covenants for the foreseeable future. In addition, we believe that our compliance with these financial covenants will not

adversely affect our ability to implement our financing plans.

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Many of these instruments also contain other covenants that restrict, among other things, the ability of our company and most of our subsidiaries to:

- incur additional indebtedness;
- incur liens;
- issue guarantees;
- issue or sell share capital of subsidiaries;
- pay dividends or make certain other restricted payments;
- consummate certain asset sales;
- enter into certain transactions with affiliates; or
- merge or consolidate with any other person or sell or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets.

In addition, the instruments governing a substantial portion of our indebtedness contain cross-default or cross-acceleration clauses, such that the occurrence of an event of default under one of these instruments could trigger an event of default under other indebtedness or enable the creditors under other indebtedness to accelerate that indebtedness.

At December 31, 2008, R\$1,512.1 million of our *real*-denominated debt and R\$318.5 million of our foreign currency-denominated debt was secured. In order to secure this debt, we have pledged certain of our property and equipment and certain of our accounts receivable. The security arrangements for our secured debt vary depending on the transaction.

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), Trikem, Copesul, Ipiranga Química, Ipiranga Petroquímica and Petroquímica Paulínia, under these financing transactions as a result of the mergers of these companies with and into our company.

14th Issue of Debentures. On September 1, 2006, we issued our 14th issue of unsecured non-convertible debentures in a single series of 50,000 debentures, each with a par value of R\$10,000. The principal amount of these debentures is payable in full on September 1, 2011, and these debentures bear interest at a rate of 103.5% of the CDI rate per annum payable semi-annually in arrears in March and September of each year.

13th Issue of Debentures. On June 1, 2005, we issued our 13th issue of unsecured non-convertible debentures in a single series of 30,000 debentures, each with a par value of R\$10,000. The principal amount of these debentures is payable in full on June 1, 2010, and these debentures bear interest at a rate of 104.1% of the CDI rate per annum payable semi-annually in arrears in June and December of each year.

Fixed Rate Notes. On July 24, 1997, Trikem issued and sold US\$250.0 million aggregate principal amount of its 10.625% Notes due 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. On July 24, 2005, we repurchased these notes and amended and restated their terms. As amended and restated, these notes bear interest at the rate of 9.375% per annum, payable semi-annually in arrears in June and December of each year and mature on June 1, 2015. On August 24, 2005, we exchanged US\$150.0 million aggregate principal amount of these notes for US\$150.0 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding notes issued by one of subsidiaries on June 1, 2005 and guaranteed by our company.

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On January 22, 2004, we issued and sold US\$250.0 million in aggregate principal amount of our 11.75% Notes due 2014 under our medium-term note program. Interest on these notes is payable semi-annually in arrears in January and July of each year and these notes mature on January 22, 2014.

On June 17, 2005, we issued and sold US\$150.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 9.75% Perpetual Bonds. Interest on these bonds is payable quarterly in arrears in March, June, September and December of each year. We may, at our option, redeem these bonds, in whole but not in part, at 100% of their principal amount plus accrued interest and additional amounts, if any, on any interest payment date on or after June 17, 2010.

On April 28, 2006, we issued and sold US\$200.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 9.00% Perpetual Bonds. Interest on these bonds is payable quarterly in arrears in January, April, July and October of each year. We may, at our option, redeem these bonds, in whole or in part, at 100% of their principal amount plus accrued interest and additional amounts, if any, on any interest payment date on or after April 28, 2011, provided that, if we redeem these bonds in part, at least US\$100 million aggregate principal amount of these bonds must remain outstanding following any partial redemption.

On September 26, 2006, we issued and sold US\$275.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 8.00% Notes due 2017. Interest on these notes is payable semi-annually in arrears in January and July of each year and these notes mature on January 26, 2017.

On June 5, 2008, we issued and sold US\$500.0 million aggregate principal amount of our 7.250% Notes due 2018. Interest on these notes is payable semi-annually in arrears in June and December of each year and these notes mature on June 5, 2018. We used the proceeds of this offering to repay a portion of the indebtedness outstanding under the Acquisition Credit Agreement.

Bank Credit Facilities. On June 30, 2004, we entered into a secured credit agreement in the aggregate amount of R\$152.7 million to finance capital expenditures in certain of our plants located in the Northeastern Complex and in Alagoas that we made in 2004 and 2005. The loans under this credit agreement are secured by a first mortgage on our PVC plant located in São Paulo and our chloro-soda plant located in the Northeastern Complex, as well as by a purchase-money security interest in machinery and equipment that we have and will purchase with the proceeds of this loan. Under this credit agreement, we were required to invest up to R\$65.4 million of our own funds in accordance with an investment schedule as a condition precedent to disbursements of the loans. The loans under this credit agreement bear interest at the rate of 8.50% per annum, payable quarterly in arrears through June 30, 2008 and thereafter monthly in arrears through June 30, 2016. The principal amount of these loans is payable in 96 equal monthly installments, commencing on July 30, 2008. At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under this credit agreement was R\$143.1 million.

On May 28, 2007, we entered into a secured credit agreement in the aggregate principal amount of R\$113.3 million to finance capital expenditures of 53 different projects in certain of our plants located in the Northeastern Complex and in Alagoas that we made in 2006 and 2007. The loans under this credit agreement are secured by a letter of guarantee. The loans under this credit agreement bear interest at the rate of 8.50% per annum, payable quarterly in arrears through June 2008 and thereafter monthly in arrears through May 2016. The principal amount of these loans is payable in 96 equal monthly installments, commencing in July 2008. At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under this credit agreement was R\$105.1 million.

On March 24, 2005, we borrowed the Japanese yen equivalent of US\$50.0 million under a syndicated credit agreement dated March 8, 2005. The proceeds of this loan were required to be used for capital expenditures related to our Braskem+ program. This loan bears interest at the rate of six-month Tokyo Inter-Bank Offered Rate plus 0.95% per annum, payable semi-annually in arrears. Principal on this loan is payable in 11 equal installments beginning in March 2007 with a final maturity date in March 2012. Ninety-five percent of the commercial risk of this loan and 97.5% of the political risk of this loan are supported by insurance from Nippon Export and Investment Insurance, for which we paid a lump-sum premium in yen. At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under this credit agreement was US\$37.0 million.

On September 20, 2005, we borrowed the Japanese yen equivalent of US\$60.0 million under a syndicated credit agreement dated June 30, 2005. The proceeds of this loan were required to be used for capital expenditures related to

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the Braskem+ program. This loan bears interest at the rate of six-month Tokyo Inter-Bank Offered Rate plus 0.95% per annum, payable semi-annually in arrears. Principal on this loan is payable in 11 equal installments beginning in June 2007 with a final maturity date in June 2012. Ninety-five percent of the commercial risk of this loan and 97.5% of the political risk of this loan are supported by insurance from Nippon Export and Investment Insurance, for which we paid a lump-sum premium in yen. At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under this credit agreement was US\$46.6 million.

Export Prepayment Facilities. In July 2006, Ipiranga Petroquímica entered into an export prepayment agreement in the amount of US\$95.0 million with a financial institution. As a result of the consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Petroquímica in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007, this indebtedness is included in our consolidated indebtedness. This facility is secured by certain of our export receivables and bears interest at a rate of LIBOR plus 1.50% per annum, payable in arrears. The principal amount of this facility is payable in monthly payments commencing in August 2009 through maturity in June 2013. At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under this export prepayment agreement was US\$47.5 million.

In October 2008, we entered into a syndicated export prepayment agreement in the amount of US\$725.0 million. This facility bears interest at a rate of LIBOR plus 1.75% per annum, payable in arrears. The principal amount of this facility is payable in semi-annually payments commencing in October 2011 through maturity in October 2013. At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under this export prepayment agreement was US\$733.2 million.

In November 2007, Ipiranga Petroquímica entered into an export prepayment agreement in the amount of US\$150.0 million with a Brazilian financial institution. This facility bears interest at a rate of LIBOR plus 1.40% per annum, payable in arrears. The principal amount of this facility is payable in monthly payments commencing in December 2011 through maturity in November 2013. At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under this export prepayment agreement was US\$150.0 million.

In April 2007, we entered into an export prepayment agreement in the amount of US\$150.0 million with a Brazilian financial institution. The loan under this agreement bears interest at a rate of LIBOR plus 0.77% per annum, payable semiannually in arrears commencing in October 2007. The principal amount of this loan is payable in three semiannual payments commencing in April 2014. At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under this export prepayment agreement was US\$150.0 million.

In July 2006, Ipiranga Petroquímica entered into an export prepayment agreement in the amount of US\$75.0 million with a Brazilian financial institution. As a result of the consolidation of the results of Ipiranga Petroquímica in our financial statements as from April 1, 2007, this indebtedness is included in our consolidated indebtedness. This facility bears interest at a rate of LIBOR plus 0.78% per annum, payable in arrears. The principal amount of this facility is payable in monthly payments commencing in August 2009 through maturity in July 2014. At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under this export prepayment agreement was US\$75.0 million.

Export Credit Note Facilities. In April 2007, we entered into a credit export note facility in the amount of US\$50.0 million with a Brazilian financial institution. This facility bears interest at a rate of 7.87% per annum, payable semiannually in arrears commencing in October 2007. The principal amount of this facility matures in March 2018. At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under this credit export note facility was US\$50.0 million.

In November 2006, we entered into an export credit note facility in the amount of US\$78.0 million with a Brazilian financial institution. This facility is secured by certain of our export receivables and bears interest at a rate of 8.1% per annum, payable semiannually in arrears commencing on May 10, 2007. The principal amount of this facility matures on May 10, 2018. At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under this facility was US\$78.0 million.

In May 2007, we entered into a credit export note facility in the amount of US\$75.0 million with a Brazilian financial institution. This facility bears interest at a rate of 7.85% per annum, payable semiannually in arrears

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commencing in November 2007. The principal amount of this facility matures in May 2019. At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under this credit export note facility was US\$75.0 million.

In January 2008, we entered into a credit export note facility in the amount of US\$150 million with a Brazilian financial institution. This facility bears interest at a rate of 7.3% per annum, payable semiannually in arrears commencing in August 2008. The principal amount of this facility matures in February 2020. At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under this credit export note facility was US\$150.0 million.

BNDES Development Loans. On June 24, 2005, we entered into two credit facilities with BNDES under which BNDES disbursed loans in an aggregate principal amount of approximately R\$336.2 million. The proceeds of the first credit facility were R\$84.2 million, which we used to finance capital expenditures related to (1) the 50,000 ton increase in the annual production capacity of our Alagoas PVC plant, and (2) a project to use polypropylene in the disposable plastics market. The proceeds of the second credit facility were R\$252.0 million, which we used to finance capital expenditures related to (1) the 100,000 ton increase in the annual production capacity of one of our polypropylene plants located in the Southern Complex, and (2) quality, productivity, environmental, health and safety projects at our plants.

On December 13, 2006, we entered into a third credit facility with BNDES under which BNDES disbursed loans in an aggregate principal amount of R\$48.4 million. The proceeds of the third credit facility were used to finance capital expenditures related to (1) the construction of a new salt well in Maceió, Alagoas to supply our Vinyls unit, and (2) the replacement of some equipment at our PVC plant in the Northeastern Complex.

These credit facilities are secured by a mortgage on one of our plants located in the Southern Complex (including the land on which this plant is located, as well as certain of the equipment, machinery and improvements in this plant). Amounts under the first credit facility were disbursed in two tranches, and amounts under the second and third credit facility were disbursed in three tranches. The first tranches of the first and second credit facilities in an aggregate principal amount of R\$12.6 million and R\$37.8 million, respectively, bear interest at the UMBNDES rate, which is set by BNDES for its loans in foreign currency, plus a margin of 4% per annum. The other tranches of these credit facilities bear interest at the TJLP rate plus a margin of 4% per annum. Interest is payable on the first credit facility quarterly from July 15, 2005 through July 15, 2007 and monthly thereafter through maturity. The outstanding principal amount of the first credit facility is payable in 48 equal, successive monthly installments beginning on August 15, 2007. Interest is payable on the first and second tranches of the second credit facility quarterly from July 15, 2005 through January 15, 2007 and monthly thereafter through maturity. The outstanding principal amount of the first and second tranches of the second credit facility is payable in 48 equal, successive monthly installments beginning on February 15, 2007. Interest is payable on the third tranche of the second credit facility quarterly from July 15, 2005 through July 15, 2008 and monthly thereafter through maturity. The outstanding principal amount of the third tranche of the second credit facility is payable in 42 equal, successive monthly installments beginning on August 15, 2008.

At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under the first of these credit facilities was R\$46.2 million, the outstanding principal amount under the second of these credit facilities was R\$191.1 million, and the outstanding principal amount under the third of these credit facilities was R\$44.5 million.

FINEP Credit Facility. On March 8, 2005, we entered into a credit facility with Financiadora de Estudos e Projetos, or FINEP, a technology funding institution of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Brazil, in an aggregate principal amount of R\$84.9 million, that was disbursed in installments, beginning on March 15, 2005, with the final disbursement expected in the end of April 2008. We were required to use the proceeds disbursed under this credit facility for capital expenditures at the Braskem Center for Innovation and Technology operated by our Polyolefins Unit, the research and development pilot plant of our Vinyls Unit, and the research center of our Vinyls Unit. Under this credit facility, we are required to invest at least R\$9.4 million of our own funds in these projects. The loans bear interest at the TJLP rate plus 5% per annum, payable quarterly in arrears commencing on June 15, 2005. However, we may be required to pay interest at only the TJLP, depending on the financial condition and liquidity of the National Scientific and Technological Development Fund (*Fundo Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico*) at any given time. The principal amount under this credit facility is payable in 61 equal monthly installments beginning on March 15, 2007, with a final maturity date of March 15, 2012. At December 31,

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2008, the outstanding principal amount under this credit facility was R\$57.2 million. Our obligation to make payments under this credit facility is guaranteed by a surety bond.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not currently have any transactions involving off-balance sheet arrangements.

Contractual Commitments

The following table summarizes significant contractual obligations and commitments at December 31, 2008 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\$1,978.2(1)	R\$2,793.7	R\$2,754.8	R\$3,528.0	R\$11,054.7
Debentures	26.3(1)	800.0			826.3
Interest on loans, financings and debentures (2)	152.0				152.0
Purchase obligations (3)	2,405.9	11,552.7	15,010.8	15,010.8	43,980.3
Pension plan contributions (4)			20.4		20.4
Other long-term liabilities			304.9		304.9
Total contractual obligations	R\$4,561.3	R\$15,471.4	R\$17,765.5	R\$18,538.8	R\$56,337.2

- (1) Includes interest accrued at December 31, 2008.
- (2) Consists of estimated future payments of interest on our loans, financings and debentures, calculated based on interest rates and foreign exchange rates applicable at December 31, 2008 and assuming (i) that all amortization payments and payments at maturity on our loans, financings and debentures will be made on their scheduled payment dates, and (ii) that our perpetual bonds are redeemed on the first permitted redemption date.
- (3) 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, 2008.
- (4) Consists of a final disbursement by our company to two defined benefit pension plans in an amount that we estimate will be assessed by the Secretariat for Complementary Pensions (*Secretaria da Previdencia Complementar*) based on projections which we have obtained from independent actuaries. In June 2005, we announced that we intend to withdraw as a sponsor of these two defined benefit pension plans.

We are also subject to contingencies with respect to tax, labor, distributors and other claims and have made provisions for accrued liability for legal proceedings related to certain tax claims of R\$1,202.6 million at December 31, 2008. The tax contingencies relate primarily to COFINS, PIS, IPI, federal income tax and the CSLL. See Item 8. Financial Information Legal Proceedings and notes 9, 17, 18 and 22 to our consolidated financial statements.

U.S. GAAP Reconciliation

In accordance with Brazilian GAAP, our net loss was R\$2,492.1 million in 2008, and our net income was R\$621.8 million in 2007 and R\$222.8 million in 2006. Under U.S. GAAP, we would have reported a net loss of R\$1,826.7 million in 2008 and net income of R\$1,089.1 million in 2007 and R\$161.6 million in 2006.

Our shareholders' equity in accordance with Brazilian GAAP was R\$3,679.8 million at December 31, 2008 and R\$5,678.5 million at December 31, 2007. Under U.S. GAAP, we would have reported shareholders' equity of R\$4,025.7 million at December 31, 2008 and R\$5,031.9 million at December 31, 2007.

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The principal differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP that affected our net income in 2008, 2007 and 2006, as well as shareholders' equity at December 31, 2008 and 2007, are described in note 32 to our audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report. 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;
- impairment;
- business combinations and goodwill;
- transactions giving rise to distributions to shareholders;
- pension plan;
- earnings per share;
- comprehensive income;
- deferred taxes;
- tax incentives;
- dividends;
- proportional consolidation of jointly controlled entities;
- classification of statement of operations and balance sheet items; and
- segment reporting.

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 32 to our audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report.

ITEM 6. DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES

Directors and Senior Management

Our board of directors (*conselho de administração*) and our board of executive officers (*diretoria*) are responsible for operating our business.

Board of Directors of Braskem

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

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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 independent accountants.

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 2010. 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 Petrobras and Petroquisa over resolutions of our board of directors relating to certain matters under the Petrobras Shareholders' Agreement. See Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions Major Shareholders' Shareholders' Agreements Petrobras Shareholders' Agreement.

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
Marcelo Bahia Odebrecht	July 25, 2008	President of the Board	40
Marcos Wilson Spyer Rezende	July 25, 2008	Alternate	61
Djalma Rodrigues de Souza	July 25, 2008	Vice President of the Board	58
Arão Dias Tisser	July 25, 2008	Alternate	33
Alvaro Fernandes da Cunha Filho	November 6, 1997	Board Member	60
Marcos Luiz Abreu de Lima	March 31, 2005	Alternate	66
Alfredo Lisboa Ribeiro Tellechea	April 15, 2009	Board Member	52
Francisco Teixeira de Sá	April 15, 2009	Alternate	60
Paulo Henyan Yue Cesena	April 15, 2009	Board Member	36
Alvaro Pereira Novis	April 15, 2009	Alternate	65
José de Freitas Mascarenhas	August 15, 2001	Board Member	67
André Amaro da Silveira	April 15, 2009	Alternate	45
Francisco Pais	May 30, 2008	Board Member	53
Alexandre Countinho Barboza	July 25, 2008	Alternate	44
Newton Sergio de Souza	August 15, 2001	Board Member	56
Cláudio Melo Filho	October 3, 2005	Alternate	41
Antonio Britto Filho	July 20, 2006	Board Member	56
Carla Gouveia Barreto	April 15, 2009	Alternate	41
José Mauro Mettrau Carneiro da Cunha	July 31, 2007	Board Member	59
Tomoyoshi Egami	April 15, 2009	Alternate	58
Edmundo José Correia Aires	April 29, 2003	Board Member	51
Márcio Domingues de Andrade	May 30, 2008	Alternate	42

The following is a summary of the business experience, areas of expertise and principal outside business interests of our current directors and their alternates. Except as otherwise set forth below, the business address of (1) each of our current directors is Avenida das Nações Unidas, 8501, São Paulo, SP CEP 05425-070, Brazil and (2) each of our alternate directors is the same as the business address of the director for which he or she is an alternate.

Directors

Marcelo Bahia Odebrecht. Mr. Odebrecht was elected to our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. He has been the President of CNO since 2002. Mr. Odebrecht has also served as the vice president of the Brazilian Association of Infra-Structure and Primary Industry ABDIB since 2005, a member of the board of directors of the Exterior Commerce Chamber CONEX since 2005, the vice president of COINFRA FIESP since 2004, a member of the Strategic Superior Board FIESP since 2008 and a member of the board of directors of the Industry Development Study Institute IEDI since 2003. He also represents CNO on the Brazil-China Manager Council. Mr. Odebrecht holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Universidade Federal da Bahia UFBA and an MBA from IMD Business School, in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Djalma Rodrigues de Souza. Mr. Souza was elected to our board of directors as a nominee of Petroquisa. He has been the Director of New Business at Petroquisa since 2005. He has also served as the general manager of the supply area at Petrobras since 2008 and a member of the board of directors and executive committee of DETEN Química S.A since 2005. Mr. Souza's prior experience includes serving as president of Gaspetro from 1999 to 2000 and from 2003 to 2004, executive manager of natural gas for Petrobras from 2003 to 2004. He has also served as the president of the board of directors of Petroquímica Suape, a member of the board of directors of Bahia Gás from 2002 to 2004 and president of the board of directors of TBG Gasoduto Brasil Bolívia from 1999 to 2000. He holds a bachelor's degree in mining engineering from Universidade Federal de Pernambuco.

Alvaro Fernandes da Cunha Filho. Mr. Cunha Filho was elected to our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. 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.

Alfredo Lisboa Ribeiro Tellechea. Mr. Tellechea was elected to our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. He served as one of the vice president executive officers of Braskem from 2007 to 2009 and headed Braskem's Polyolefins Units from 2008 to 2009. Mr. Tellechea has previously held a variety of positions in the Ipiranga Group including serving as the chief superintendent of Distribuidora de Produtos de Petróleo Ipiranga from 2002 to 2006, chief superintendent of Ipiranga Petroquímica from 2006 to 2007, and chief executive officer of Copesul from 2007 until 2008. Mr. Tellechea holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul PUC/RS, and a post-graduate degree in Marketing from the Escola Superior de Propaganda e Marketing ESPM.

Paulo Henyan Yue Cesena. Mr. Cesena was elected to our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. He served as an alternate member of the board of directors in 2008. He has held various positions for the Odebrecht Group since 1998, including Chief Financial Officer of Odebrecht in 2009 and Chief Financial Officer of CNO from 2007 to 2008. Mr. Cesena holds a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from São Paulo University (USP), and an MBA from INSEAD (France and Singapore).

José de Freitas Mascarenhas. Mr. Mascarenhas was elected to our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. 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, as vice president of the Brazilian Association of Chemical Industry and Derivative Products since May 1993, and as president of Federação das Indústrias do Estado da Bahia FIEB from 1992 until 2002. He is also a member of the Board of the Brazilian Competitiveness Council (*MBC Movimento Brasil Competitivo*). Mr. Mascarenhas holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Universidade Federal da Bahia.

Francisco Pais. Mr. Pais was elected to our board of directors as a nominee of Petroquisa. From 1981 to 1986 he managed a hydroelectric structure recovery project in the Geotechnical area at Light S.A., and since 1987, he has served in a variety of capacities, including as assistant to the executive services officer, at Petrobras. From 1998 to 2002, he served as a member of the fiscal council of the Ricardo Franco Foundation at the Military Engineering Institute, or IME. Currently, he is a member of the board of directors of Procurement Negócios Eletrônicos, and

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since 2006, he has served as chairman of the board of directors of Copenor S.A., both of which are affiliates of Petrobras. Mr. Pais holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the IME and an MBA from the Fundação Getúlio Vargas.

Newton Sergio de Souza. Mr. Souza was elected to our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. He has been the general counsel and an executive officer of Odebrecht since May 1997 and an executive officer of Norquisa since April 2003. He also serves in several executive and board 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 the Latin America and 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.

Antonio Britto Filho. Mr. Britto Filho was elected to our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. He has served as the executive president of Interfarma Associação da Indústria Farmacêutica de Pesquisa since March 2009. His prior experience includes serving as the chief executive officer of Calçados Azaléia S.A. from 2003 to 2006, the governor of the State of Rio Grande do Sul from 1995 to 1998, the Minister of Social Security from 1992 to 1993 and congressman of the State of Rio Grande do Sul from 1987 to 1995. Mr. Britto Filho holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul and a bachelor's degree in Law from the Universidade Luterana do Brasil.

José Mauro Mettrau Carneiro da Cunha. Mr. Cunha was elected to our board of directors as a nominee of BNDES Participações S.A. BNDESPAR, or BNDESPAR. Mr. Cunha is currently the president of the board of directors of Tele Norte Leste (Telemar) and a member of the boards of directors of Lupatech and Log-In. Mr. Cunha served as vice president executive officer of strategic planning of Braskem from 2003 to 2005. Mr. Cunha has held a variety of positions at BNDES, having served as a vice president, responsible for industrial operations, and legal and fiscal matters, from 1998 to 2002. Mr. Cunha holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade Católica de Petrópolis and a master's degree in Industrial Projects and Transportation from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro COPPE/UFRJ.

Edmundo Jose Correia Aires. Mr. Aires was elected to our board of directors as a nominee of Petroquisa and served as an alternate member of our board of directors from 2001 to 2008. He has also served as president of the board of directors of Triunfo from 2005 to 2008, a member of the board of directors of the FCC Fábrica Carioca de Catisadores S.A. from 2005 to 2008, and a member of the board of directors of Ipiranga Petroquímica from 2007 to 2008. Mr. Aires has held various executive positions with Petroquisa and Petrobras since 1980 and has served as the partnership manager of Petroquisa since 2001. Mr. Aires holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro.

Alternate Directors

Marcos Wilson Spyer Rezende. Mr. Rezende was elected as an alternate member of our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. He has been the vice president of institutional relations of the Odebrecht Group since 2002. Mr. Rezende served as a journalist in various capacities for newspapers and television stations from 1972 through 2002. Mr. Rezende holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and politics from the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais and in social communication from the Faculdade Casper Líbero/PUC São Paulo.

Arão Dias Tisser. Mr. Tisser was elected as an alternate member of our board of directors as a nominee of Petroquisa. He previously served as a member of our board of directors from May 30, 2008 to July 25, 2008, and as was first elected as an alternate member of our board of directors on March 26, 2008. He has been the management coordinator of holdings in petrochemical centers for Petrobras since 2004, and has worked in commercial management of naphtha and industrial raw materials for Petrobras from February 2001 to October 2004. He is an alternate member of the board of directors of Triunfo. Mr. Tisser holds a bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro UFRJ and has a master degree in engineering from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro COPPE/UFRJ.

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Marcos Luiz Abreu de Lima. Mr. Lima was elected as an alternate member of our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. Mr. Lima has been an executive officer of CNO since 1999, chief executive officer of Odebrecht Administradora e Corretora de Seguros Ltda. since 1980 and is a member of the fiscal council of Fundação Odebrecht. Mr. Lima holds bachelor's degrees in accounting, management and economics from the Universidade Católica de Belo Horizonte and a post-graduate degree in auditing and organization development, in addition to insurance and surety bonds.

Francisco Teixeira de Sá. Mr. de Sá was elected as an alternate member of our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. He previously served as a member of our board of directors since 2001. He served as a member of the board of directors of Norquisa from April 2001 through April 2005 and served as president of the board of directors of Norquisa from April 2001 through April 2003. He is also president of Pronor Petroquímica S.A., or Pronor. Mr. de 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.

Alvaro Pereira Novis. Mr. Novis was elected as alternate member of our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. He previously served as a member of our board of directors since 2001. He has been the chief financial officer and an executive officer of Odebrecht since July 1998 and a board member of AMCHAM Brasil since 2003. He also 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.

André Amaro da Silveira. Mr. Amaro was elected as an alternate member of our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. He is also the president of the board of directors of Bento Pedroso Construções S.A., in Portugal. Mr. Amaro served as one of the vice president executive officers of Braskem from 2008 to 2009 and as Braskem's head of Planning, Supply and Business Development from 2008 to 2009. He has held a variety of positions in the Odebrecht Group since 1988, including business planning officer of Construtora Norberto Odebrecht SA from 2003 to 2006 and vice president of strategic planning of Odebrecht Bau Ag, in Germany from 1994 to 1997. Mr. Amaro holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais - UFMG and an MBA from the IMD-International, in Switzerland.

Alexandre Countinho Barboza. Mr. Barboza was elected as an alternate member of our board of directors as a nominee of Petroquisa. He has served as manager of financial-economic valuation of Petroquisa since 2008. Mr. Barboza has also served as director of Planning and Business Development of Nova Petroquímica from 2007 to 2008, and coordinator of Special Projects of Petroquisa from 2006 to 2007. In addition, he served as manager of Stakes in Petrochemical Plants of Petrobras from 2002 to 2006. Mr. Alexandre holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro - UFRJ, and holds an MBA from COPPEAD/UFRJ.

Cláudio Melo Filho. Mr. Melo was elected as an alternate member of our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. He has been the new business, development and representation director of Odebrecht since 2004. Mr. Melo served as financial manager and contract manager in several projects in Brazil and Angola for CNO from 1990 to 2004. Mr. Melo holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the Universidade de Brasília and a post-graduate degree in financial administration from Fundação Getúlio Vargas.

Carla Gouveia Barreto. Ms. Barreto was elected as an alternate member of our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. Ms. Barreto has served as the head of strategic planning of Odebrecht since 2008. She has held a variety of positions in the Odebrecht Group in the past, including serving as controller of CNO from 2005 to 2007 and controller of Braskem from 2002 to 2005. Ms. Barreto holds a bachelor's degree in business and administration from Universidade Salvador (UNIFACS), and an MBA from Fundação Don Cabral.

Tomoyoshi Egami. Mr. Egami was elected as an alternate member of our board of directors as a nominee of Odebrecht. Prior to becoming the president of Sojitz of Brasil S.A., or Sojitz, Mr. Egami served as vice president of Sojitz from 2008 to January 2009. His past experience includes serving as manager of the Plastics Division of Sojitz Planet Corporation in Tokyo and Kyushu, Japan, from 2003 to 2008. Mr. Tomoyoshi holds a bachelor's degree in Law from the Doshisha University in Kyoto.

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Márcio Domingues de Andrade. Mr. Andrade was elected as an alternate member of our board of directors on May 30, 2008 as a nominee of Petroquisa. Since 2006, he has served on Petrobras' management team and from 2001 to 2006 was manager of the planning area and forest fund of Brascan's Group. From 2000 to 2001, he was an associate at Santander Private Equity F.I.A, and from 1998 to 1999, he served as assistant to the vice-president of controllership at Banco Bozano. He was an associate at Fundo Bozano, Simonsen-Advent from 1996 through 1998 and served as a production manager at Banco Real from 1990 through 1994. Since 2003, he has served as member of the board of directors of Tafisa Brasil S.A., and from 1996 to 1998, he sat on the board of directors of several companies of Fundo Bozano, Simonsen-Advent's portfolio. Mr. Andrade holds a bachelor's degree in economics and an MBA from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro - UFRJ.

Board of Executive Officers of Braskem

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 2010. 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:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year of Appointment</u>	<u>Position Held</u>	<u>Age</u>
Bernardo Gradin	2008	Chief Executive Officer	44
Carlos José Fadigas de Souza Filho	2007	Vice President Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Investor Relations	39
Luiz de Mendonça	2002	Vice President Executive Officer	46
Mauricio Roberto de Carvalho Ferro	2002	Vice President Executive Officer and General Counsel	43
Roberto Prisco Paraíso Ramos	2002	Vice President Executive Officer	62
Manuel Carnaúba	2008	Vice President Executive Officer	49
Victor Manoel Pais	2008	Vice President Executive Officer	60

Summarized below is information regarding the business experience, areas of expertise and principal outside business interests of our current executive officers.

Bernardo Gradin. Mr. Gradin was elected as chief executive officer of Braskem in August 2008. He has served in a variety of executive positions at Braskem, such as vice president of our Vinyls Unit from 2002 to 2004 and vice president of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit from 2004 to 2007. Mr. Gradin joined the Odebrecht Group in 1987. Recently, he served as investments leader of Odebrecht Infrastructure and Investments (OII) from 2006 to 2008. Mr. Gradin has also served as a member of the board of directors of Copesul from 2001 to 2003 and 2006 to 2007, Cetrel from 2003 to 2007, OPP Química from 2001 to 2002 and Trikem in 2002. 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 from The Wharton School of Business.

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Carlos José Fadigas de Souza Filho. Mr. Fadigas is currently one of our vice president executive officers, our chief financial officer and director of investor relations. He is also an alternate member of the board of directors of Cetrel and an executive officer of Braskem Participações S.A. He was a member of the board of directors of (i) Copesul, prior to its merger into Ipiranga Petroquímica; (ii) Ipiranga Petroquímica, prior to its merger into Braskem; (iii) Ipiranga Química; (iv) Politeno, prior to its merger into Braskem and (v) Companhia Petroquímica Paulista CPP, prior to its merger into Paulínia. Prior to joining our company, Mr. Fadigas was the chief financial officer of CNO from 2002 to 2006. Mr. Fadigas held a variety of positions at OPP Química and Trikem from 1993 to 2002, and held a variety of positions at Citibank from 1990 to 1992. Mr. Fadigas holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Universidade de Salvador UNIFACS and an MBA from the Institute for Management Development in Switzerland.

Luiz de Mendonça. Mr. Mendonça is currently one of our vice president executive officers and head of our Polyolefins Unit. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Cetrel and the chief executive officer of Braskem Participações S.A. He was a member of the board of directors of (i) Copesul, prior to its merger into Ipiranga Petroquímica; (ii) Paulínia, prior to its merger into Braskem; (iii) Ipiranga Química; (iv) Politeno, prior to its merger into Braskem and (v) Companhia Petroquímica Paulista CPP, prior to its merger into Paulínia. Mr. Mendonça was an executive officer (Superintendent) of Polialden, and a member of the board of directors of Polialden until our merger with Polialden on May 31, 2006. Mr. Mendonça also worked for 15 years at Rhodia S.A., where he served as general manager of production, supply, 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 one of our vice president executive officers and our general counsel. He is also an alternate member of the board of directors of Cetrel and an executive officer of Braskem Participações S.A. He served as a member of the board of directors of (i) Ipiranga Petroquímica, prior to its merger into Braskem and (ii) Copesul, prior to its merger into Ipiranga Petroquímica. He was also the vice president of the board of directors of Politeno prior to our merger with Politeno, an alternate member of the board of directors of Petroflex until the sale of our interest in Petroflex in April 2008, and a member of the board of directors of Polialden until our merger with Polialden. 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. 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 business competitiveness. He was also (i) a member of the board of directors of Paulínia and Politeno, until their respective mergers into Braskem and (ii) a member of the board of directors of Petroflex until the sale of our interest in Petroflex in April 2008. Mr. Ramos was a member of the board of directors of Trikem from 2002 to 2005 and served on the board of directors of several companies in the Odebrecht Group. Mr. Ramos holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, a post-graduate degree from the Program for Management Development from Harvard Business School and a master's degree in finance from the University of Leicester, England.

Manoel Carnaúba Cortez. Mr. Cortez is currently one of the vice president executive officers of Braskem and is the head of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. He is also the president of the board of directors of Cetrel. Mr. Cortez served as executive vice president of our Vinyls Unit during 2008, vice president of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit from 2007 to 2008, industrial director of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit from 2004 to 2007 and industrial director of the Vinyls Unit from 2003 to 2004. He is also president of SINPEQ Syndicate of the Chemical and Petrochemical Products Companies and vice president of COFIC Committee of Industrial Development. Mr. Cortez holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Universidade Federal da Bahia, and an MBA from Faculdade Getúlio Vargas FGV.

Victor Manuel Martins Pais. Mr. Pais is currently one of the vice president executive officers of Braskem and head of Technology, Innovation, Supply and Quality for our company. He is also a member of the board of directors of Cetrel. Prior to joining our company, Mr. Pais held a variety of positions at Petrobras, including serving as general manager of Supply Chain of the Supply Department from 1999 to 2002, manager of Petrochemical Projects

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from 2002 to 2004 and general manager of COMPERJ Deployment from 2006 to 2008. Mr. Pais holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Escola Nacional de Química - ENQ from Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro - UFRJ.

Fiscal Council

The Brazilian Corporation Law requires us to establish 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 fiscal council is a separate corporate body independent of our management and our independent accountants. The primary responsibility of the fiscal council is to review our management's activities and our financial statements and to report their findings to our 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 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 share capital 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
Ismael Campos de Abreu	2003
José Renato Andrade Mendonça (alternate)	2008
Manoel Mota Fonseca	2002
Maria Cláudia Freitas Sampaio (alternate)	2002
Antônio Luiz Vianna de Souza	2009
Marcelio José Ribeiro Júnior (alternate)	2008
Jayme Gomes da Fonseca Junior	2008
Sérgio Garrido de Barros (alternate)	2007
Marcos Antonio Silva Menezes	2005
Sergio José de Barros (alternate)	2005

The following is a summary of the business experience, areas of expertise and principal outside business interests of the current members of our fiscal council and their alternates.

Members of Fiscal Council

Ismael Campos de Abreu. Mr. Abreu was elected as a member of our fiscal council as a nominee of Norquisa and Odebrecht. He has served as president of our fiscal council since 2006. Mr. Abreu has been the controller of Odebrecht since 1995, and previously served as manager of the tax consulting division of PricewaterhouseCoopers Auditores Independentes from 1978 to 1985, controller of Corrêa Ribeiro S.A. Comércio e Indústria from 1986 to 1988, manager of the consulting area of Arthur Andersen from 1989 to 1991, and a partner of Performance Auditoria e Consultoria from 1992 to 1995. He was a member of the fiscal council of Petroflex until the sale of our interest in Petroflex in April 2008 and was a member of the fiscal council of Polialden until our merger with Polialden. Mr. Abreu holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Fundação Visconde de Cairú, and a post-graduate degree in economic engineering from Centro Interamericano de Desenvolvimento.

Manoel Mota Fonseca. Mr. Fonseca was elected as a member of our fiscal council as a nominee of Norquisa and Odebrecht. He served as president of our fiscal council in 2003 and 2004. Mr. Fonseca has been a

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partner of the law firm Mota Fonseca e Advogados since 1990 and previously served as legal and tax counsel of Coopers & Lybrand, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers Auditores Independentes. Mr. Fonseca holds a law degree from the Universidade de São Paulo, and a post-graduate degree in tax law from Fundação Getúlio Vargas.

Antônio Luiz Vianna de Souza. Mr. Vianna de Souza was elected as a member of our fiscal council as a nominee of Petroquisa. He has served as manager of Financial Planning of Petrobras S.A. since 2004, and held various other positions at Petrobras since 1980. Mr. Vianna holds a bachelor's degree in Engineering from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, a law degree from the Universidade Federal Fluminense, and a degree in economics from the EPGE Fundação Getúlio Vargas.

Jayme Gomes da Fonseca Junior. Mr. Fonseca was elected as a member of our fiscal council as a nominee of Norquisa and Odebrecht. He served as an alternate member of our fiscal council in 2007. Currently, he serves as the controller of CNO. He was our controller from 2004 to 2007 and previously served as a financial officer of Odebrecht Empreendimentos Imobiliários S.A. from January 2008 to April 2009, an executive officer of Ipiranga Química from 2007 to 2008, an executive officer of Ipiranga Petroquímica, prior to its merger into Braskem, fiscal manager of OPP Química from 1999 to 2004, fiscal manager of Odebrecht from 1996 to 1999, fiscal manager of CNO from 1993 to 1996, supervisor of Performance Auditoria e Consultoria S.C. from 1991 to 1993 and an assistant of Arthur Andersen S.C. from 1989 to 1991. Mr. Fonseca holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from UNIFACS Universidade de Salvador, an IAG Master in finances from PUC Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, and a MSc in Accounting and Finance from UMIST University of Manchester Institute of Science.

Marcos Antonio Silva Menezes. Mr. Menezes was elected as a member of our fiscal council as a nominee of Petroquisa. Mr. Menezes has been the director of PIFCo since 2003 and chief accountant officer of Petrobras since 1998. He joined Petrobras in 1976 and served as Deputy Superintendent of the former Financial Services SEFIN from 1995 through 1998. He served as a member of the fiscal council of Companhia de Gás de Minas Gerais GASMIG, of Companhia de Gás da Bahia BAHAGAS and as chairman of the fiscal council of the pension fund of Petrobras (*Fundação Petrobras de Seguridade Social Petros*), or PETROS. Mr. Menezes has been chairman of the fiscal council of Instituto Brasileiro de Petróleo e Gás since 1998, and a member of the fiscal council of Organização Nacional das Indústrias de Petróleo ONIP since 1999. He is also a member of the Associação Nacional dos Executivos de Finanças, Administração e Contabilidade ANEFAC and the Auditing and Accounting Rules Commission CANC of Associação Brasileira das Companhias Abertas ABRASCA and its Auditing and Accounting Rules Commission CANC. Mr. Menezes holds bachelor's degrees in accounting and in business management from Faculdade Moraes Júnior in Rio de Janeiro, a post-graduate degree in financial management from Fundação Getúlio Vargas, and completed an advanced management program PGA at Fundação Dom Cabral/INSEAD França.

Alternate Members of Fiscal Council

José Renato Andrade Mendonça. Mr. Mendonça was elected as an alternate member of our fiscal council as a nominee of Odebrecht. Mr. Mendonça has been the managing partner of Performance Auditoria e Consultoria Empresarial S/S since 1992, and worked for 17 years at Arthur Andersen S.C. Mr. Mendonça is the Director of the American Chamber of Commerce Brazil and Director of the Bahia Section of IBRACON. Mr. Mendonça holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Universidade Federal da Bahia, in accounting sciences from Fundação Visconde de Cairú and has a specialization degree in Controllership from UNIFACS Salvador.

Maria Cláudia Freitas Sampaio. Mrs. Sampaio was elected as an alternate member of our fiscal council as a nominee of Norquisa. Mrs. Sampaio has been a lawyer at the law firm Mota Fonseca e Advogados since 2001. Mrs. Sampaio served as a member of the fiscal council of Norquisa from 2003 to 2005. Previously, she served as an auditor of PricewaterhouseCoopers Auditores Independentes from 1990 to 1993 and she served as fiscal manager in Performance Consultoria Tributária e Empresarial Ltda. from 1994 to 1998. Mrs. Sampaio holds a law degree and a bachelor's degree in business administration from the Universidade Católica de Salvador.

Marcílio José Ribeiro Júnior. Mr. Júnior was elected as an alternate member of our fiscal council as a nominee of Petroquisa. He joined Petrobras in 2006 as an accountant in the financial governance area. Previously, he served as an accountant at Terminal Garagem Menezes Côrtes S.A. from 1998 through 2001, as accounting manager

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at ALTM S.A. Tecnologia e Serviços de Manutenção from 2001 to 2002, as accountant at Gás e Participações Ltda. (GASPART) from 2002 to 2004, as accounting manager at Starfish Oil and Gas S.A. from 2004 to 2005 and as controller at Queiroz, Galvão, Óleo e Gás S.A. from 2005 to 2006. Mr. Júnior holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and has a post-graduate degree in economics and financial engineering from the Universidade Federal Fluminense.

Sergio Garrido de Barros. Mr. Barros was elected an alternate member of our fiscal council as a nominee of Norquisa and Odebrecht. Mr. Barros has been an accounting and fiscal manager of CNO since 2005. Previously, he served as a senior auditor manager of PricewaterhouseCoopers Auditores Independentes from 1993 to 2004. Mr. Barros holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Universidade Católica de Salvador.

Sergio José de Barros. Mr. Barros was elected as a member of our fiscal council as a nominee of Petroquisa. Mr. Barros has been the accounting manager of international businesses of Petrobras since 2005, and served as the financial businesses manager of Petrobras from 2002 through 2005. Prior to 2002, he served in various capacities in the finance and accounting areas of Petrobras since 1993. He has been a member of the fiscal council of Petrobras Gás S.A. GASPETRO. He also served as member of the Fiscal Council of Companhia de Gás do Ceará CEGÁS in 2003 and 2004, Gás de Alagoas ALGÁS in 2005, and Sergipe Gás SERGÁS in 2005. He also served as a supervisor at KPMG Peat Marwick Auditores Independentes and at Boucinhas, Campos e Claro Auditores Independentes. Mr. Barros holds bachelor's degrees in accounting and law, a post-graduate degree in business management from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro UFRJ, and an MBA from IBMEC.

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, our board of executive officers and our fiscal council in compliance with our bylaws.

Compensation and Benefits

The aggregate compensation paid by us to all members of our board of directors, board of executive officers and our fiscal council for services in all capacities was approximately R\$26.5 million in 2008. On April 15, 2009, our shareholders (acting in the annual general meeting) established the following compensation for the year 2009:

- board of executive officers: an aggregate limit of R\$25.5 million; and
- fiscal council: an aggregate limit of R\$476,640.

We compensate our alternate directors for each meeting of our board of directors that they attend. We compensate alternate members of our fiscal council for each meeting of our fiscal council that they attend.

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. We made contributions into the Guarantee Fund for Time of Service for our executive officers in an aggregate amount of R\$0.8 million during the year ended December 31, 2008.

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.

Long-Term Incentive Plan

On September 26, 2005, we adopted a long-term incentive plan. Under the terms of this plan, we may issue investment units, each of which has an economic value equivalent to the economic value of one class A preferred share of our company, to our executive officers, senior management and other employees involved in our strategic programs, which the plan refers to as our business partners. These investment units do not carry any voting rights and may not be transferred. Each year, our Chief Executive Officer will submit an annual program to our board of directors stating:

- the maximum number of investment units to be issued in that year;
- the business partners that will be offered investment units in that year;
- the purchase price of the investment units to be paid by the participating business partners;
- the projected allocation of the investment units among the business partners; and
- as an incentive to purchase investment units, the number of additional investment units that each business partner will receive in connection with the purchase of an investment unit.

Upon the purchase by a business partner of his allocation of investment units, the business partner will receive additional investment units as an incentive for the purchase of the purchased investment units. We refer to the purchased investment units as alpha units and the additional investment units as beta units. Each beta unit will automatically convert into an alpha unit 10 years after the date of issue of the beta unit. Upon the payment by our company of dividends or interest attributable to shareholders' equity to holders of our class A preferred shares, we will issue additional units, which we refer to as gamma units, with an aggregate value equivalent to the value of the dividends or interest attributable to shareholders' equity attributed and paid to the holders of a class A preferred share.

Each year we will determine the unit value of the investment units applicable from April 1 of that year until March 31 of the following year calculated as the average closing price in *reais* of our class A preferred shares on the BM&FBOVESPA from October 1 of the preceding year through March 31 of the year in which the unit price is established. Following the fifth anniversary of the date on which any business partner first acquires investment units, we will redeem up to 20% of the investment units held by that business partner at the then-established unit price upon the request of that business partner made within 120 days following the delivery of an annual statement from us with respect to the investment units held by that business partner. After the first redemption, we will redeem up to 10% per year of the investment units held by that business partner at the then-established unit price upon the request of that business partner made in subsequent years. We will redeem any gamma unit at the then-established unit price upon the request of the holder made within 60 days following the issuance of that gamma unit. Any gamma unit not so redeemed will automatically convert into an alpha unit.

In the event that a business partner is dismissed without just cause or retires, we will redeem all of the investment units held by that business partner at the then-established unit price upon the request of that business partner. In the event that a business partner is dismissed for just cause or resigns, all of the beta units held by that business partner will be immediately extinguished, and we will redeem all of the alpha units held by that business partner at the then-established unit price upon the request of that business partner. Upon the death of a business partner, we will automatically redeem all of the investment units held by that business partner (for the benefit of the business partner's estate) at the then-established unit price.

Our board of directors adopted an annual program for the 2007 fiscal year. Under this annual plan, certain executive officers were entitled to purchase up to an aggregate of 430,180 investment units and to receive up to an additional 430,180 investment units. Our board of directors also adopted an annual program for the 2008 fiscal year. Under this annual plan, certain executive officers were entitled to purchase up to an aggregate of 360,384 investment units and to receive up to an additional 360,384 investment units. The annual program for the 2009 fiscal year has not been determined by our board of directors.

Corporate Governance Practices

The significant differences between our corporate governance practices and the standards of the NYSE are described in Item 16G. Corporate Governance.

Employees

The following table sets forth the number of our employees by main category of activity and location.

<u>Main Category of Activity</u>	At December 31,		
	2008(1)	2007(2)	2006(3)
Coordinators and operators	1,954	1,970	1,653
Engineers and other professionals	1,002	947	768
Administrative and support	458	488	281
Technicians	626	610	289
Maintenance	549	556	284
Managers and directors	213	212	219
Total	4,802	4,783	3,494

- (1) At December 31, 2008, 1,926 employees worked in the State of Bahia, 1,761 employees worked in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, 596 employees worked in the State of São Paulo, 462 employees worked in the State of Alagoas and 57 employees worked in other states in Brazil or abroad.
- (2) At December 31, 2007, 2,007 employees worked in the State of Bahia, 1,803 employees worked in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, 484 employees worked in the State of São Paulo, 472 employees worked in the State of Alagoas and 17 employees worked in other states in Brazil or abroad.
- (3) At December 31, 2006, 2,171 employees worked in the State of Bahia, 430 employees worked in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, 455 employees worked in the State of São Paulo, 423 employees worked in the State of Alagoas and 15 employees worked in other states in Brazil or abroad.

We do not employ a material number of temporary employees.

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 1,600 of our non-management employees were union members at December 31, 2008. 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 current collective bargaining agreements with our unions have one-year to two 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.

We have adopted and applied a personnel management philosophy 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 2008, we recorded an expense of R\$100.6 million related to this program with respect to approximately 5,000 employees, including 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

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operating, laboratory and maintenance personnel through agreements with technical training organizations. During 2008, our total investment in education and training amounted to R\$9.0 million for approximately 322,500 hours of training, representing an average of 67.2 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 2008, 37.1% 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 2008, we spent R\$24.5 million on this assistance.

The majority of our employees participate in the Odebrecht Pension Plan (*ODEPREV Odebrecht Previdência*). We pay part of the monthly payments made by our employees to the Odebrecht Pension Plan. This pension fund is a defined contribution plan that pays supplementary pension and retirement amounts in amount to those paid by the Brazilian government's pension system and is intended to provide its members with income on retirement. In 2008, we paid R\$9.8 million into this fund.

We also make contributions to PETROS under retirement and defined benefit pension plans that we assumed as a result of the acquisition of control of Copesul. Copesul closed these plans to new participants on January 1, 1995. In 2008, the rate of the contribution of employees participating in this plan was 12.93% of their total pay. In 2008, we made contributions of R\$6.2 million to these plans.

On May 2003, Copesul approved and implemented a supplementary private pension plan named COPESULPREV. COPESULPREV is a closed defined-contribution plan intended to cover those employees not included in the PETROS plan. The obligations of Copesul under the COPESULPREV plan were assumed by Braskem as a result of the merger of Copesul into Ipiranga Petroquímica and the subsequent merger of Ipiranga Petroquímica into Braskem. COPESULPREV is independently managed by PETROS, with no links to any other pension plan managed by PETROS, pursuant to the provisions of Complementary Law 109/2001. In 2008, we made contributions of R\$1.6 million to COPESULPREV.

Ipiranga Petroquímica and Ipiranga Química sponsor Fundação Francisco Martins Bastos Pension Plan, or FMBB, a defined benefit closed supplementary private pension entity, designed to manage and execute pension benefit plans for the benefit of the employees of Ipiranga Petroquímica and Ipiranga Química. The obligations of Ipiranga Petroquímica under the FMBB plan were assumed by Braskem as a result of the merger of Ipiranga Petroquímica into Braskem. In 2008, Ipiranga Petroquímica and Ipiranga Química made contributions of R\$1.6 million to this fund.

Prior to July 2005, we paid part of the monthly payments made by our employees to two additional private pension funds: PETROS and PREVINOR (*PREVINOR Associação de Previdência Privada*), or PREVINOR. The PETROS plan was a defined benefit plan and the PREVINOR pension plan was a defined contribution plan. In June 2005, we announced that we intended to withdraw as a sponsor of the PREVINOR pension plan and the PETROS plan effective June 30, 2005. The calculation of mathematical reserves of participants in the PETROS plan was completed in November 2006 and submitted in that month to the Secretariat for Complementary Pensions, a Social Security Ministry department in charge of regulating and inspecting private pension plans. Our withdrawal was approved by the Secretariat for Complementary Pension on April 29, 2009 as a sponsor of this plan without any additional payment by our company. The reserve computations with respect to the PREVINOR pension plan have been completed and the entity has a surplus; as a result, no contributions by our company are required. The sponsorship withdrawal was approved by the Secretariat for Complementary Pensions and the commitments to the plan participants were settled in 2007. See note 29(a) to our consolidated financial statements.

Prior to January 2007, Politeno was the sponsor of a defined contribution plan managed by PREVINOR. In December 2006, Politeno advised PREVINOR of its intention to withdraw from the plan effective at the end of December 2006. The calculation of mathematical reserves of participants to be refunded to plan was completed and

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submitted to the Secretariat for Complementary Pensions for approval in February 2008. This plan is fully funded and no additional disbursements by Braskem will be required.

Share Ownership of Directors and Officers

The total number of shares owned by members of Braskem's board of directors and executive officers as of July 7, 2009 represents less than 0.1% of Braskem's share capital. Under our by-laws, each of our directors must also be a shareholder of our company. Accordingly, if a person is appointed to our board of directors and is not one of our shareholders at the time, the shareholder that designated such person to be one of our directors (in accordance with the terms of the relevant shareholders agreement) generally transfers one share to the newly appointed director at no cost. All other shares owned by our directors were purchased at market prices through the BM&FBOVESPA. As of the date hereof, none of our executive officers owns any of our shares.

ITEM 7. MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Major Shareholders

At July 7, 2009, our issued and outstanding capital consisted of 190,462,446 common shares, 329,871,890 class A preferred shares and 593,818 class B preferred shares.

At July 7, 2009, we had approximately 20,100 shareholders, including one U.S. resident holder of our common shares, approximately 152 U.S. resident holders of our class A preferred shares (including The Bank of New York Mellon, as depository) and no U.S. resident holders of our class B preferred shares. At July 7, 2009, there were 478,100 common shares, 21,897,554 class A preferred shares (including class A preferred shares represented by ADSs), and no class B preferred shares held by U.S. resident holders.

The following table sets forth information concerning the ownership of our common shares and class A preferred shares at July 7, 2009, by each person whom we know to be the owner of more than 5.0% of our common shares and our class A preferred shares, and by all of our directors and executive officers as a group. Our principal shareholders have the same voting rights with respect to each class of our shares that they own as other holders of shares of that class.

	Common Shares		Class A Preferred Shares		Total	
	Number of Shares	%	Number of shares	%	Number of shares	%
Odebrecht (1)	118,691,670	62.3	80,697,920	24.5	199,389,590	38.3
Petroquisa	59,014,254	31.0	72,966,174	22.1	131,980,428	25.3
BNDESPAR			26,495,825	8.0	26,495,825	5.1
All directors, fiscal council members, their alternates and executive officers as a group (38 persons)	9	*	89,257	*	89,266	*

* less than 1%

- (1) Represents ownership of 89,052,471 common shares owned by Odebrecht, 29,639,199 common shares owned by Norquisa (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Odebrecht), one class A preferred share owned by Odebrecht, 78,512,673 class A preferred shares owned by Odebrecht's indirect subsidiary Belgravia Empreendimentos Imobiliarios S.A., or Belgravia, and 2,185,246 class A preferred shares owned by Norquisa.

We currently have no management or employee option plans or management or employee options outstanding. See Item 6. Directors, Senior Management, and Employees' Compensation Long-Term Incentive Plan.

Changes in Ownership

On May 30, 2008, we issued an aggregate of 46,903,320 common shares and 43,144,662 class A preferred shares to Petroquisa in the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction. As a result, the direct and indirect ownership of Odebrecht in our company was reduced to 60.3% of our common shares, 24.7% of our class A preferred shares and 38.1% of our total share capital, and the ownership of Petroquisa in our company increased to 30.0% of our common shares, 18.9% of our class A preferred shares and 23.1% of our total share capital.

On May 30, 2008, our subsidiary Braskem Participações S.A. transferred the shares of Braskem's share capital that it owned to Braskem.

On January 3, 2009, Odebrecht's subsidiary, Odebrecht Investimentos em Infra-Estrutura Ltda., transferred 20,685,872 class A preferred shares to Odebrecht's indirect subsidiary Belgravia.

On May 5, 2009, we issued an aggregate of 13,387,157 class A preferred shares in connection with the merger of Triunfo with and into our company, including 11,299,254 class A preferred shares that were issued to Petroquisa. As a result, the direct and indirect ownership of Odebrecht in our company was reduced to 24.5% of our class A preferred shares and 38.3% of our total share capital, and the ownership of Petroquisa in our company increased to 22.1% of our class A preferred shares and 25.3% of our total share capital.

Shareholders Agreements

Petrobras Shareholders' Agreement

On May 30, 2008, Petrobras, Petroquisa, Odebrecht and Norquisa, with Braskem as intervening party, entered into the Petrobras Shareholders' Agreement, which has a term of 25 years. The Petrobras Shareholders' Agreement superseded the Ipiranga Memorandum of Understanding and the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Shareholders Agreement that formerly governed the relationship between Odebrecht and Petroquisa regarding our shares,

Under the Petrobras Shareholders' Agreement, Petrobras and Petroquisa:

- together have the right to designate members of our board of directors and their alternates as described below;
- for so long as they own an aggregate of more than 18% of our voting share capital, together have veto rights over certain actions by Braskem's shareholders and board of directors, and, in some cases, by Braskem's subsidiaries such as (1) actions affecting our share capitalization or the rights of holders of our shares, (2) mergers, acquisitions or dispositions that result in specified consequences or exceed specified thresholds, (3) certain corporate governance matters, and (4) actions that would result in our violating certain financial ratios;
- for so long as they own an aggregate of more than 5% of our voting share capital, together have veto rights over related party transactions exceeding specified thresholds;
- for so long as they own an aggregate of 5% or more of our voting share capital, together have the right to designate one member of our fiscal council and his or her alternate; and
- have tag-along rights, preemptive rights, and other rights designed to prevent dilution of their equity interests.

Under the Petrobras Shareholders' Agreement, Petrobras and Petroquisa together have the right to designate:

- three members of our board of directors and their alternates for so long as they own an aggregate of 18% or more of our voting share capital;

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- two members of our board of directors and their alternates for so long as they own an aggregate of 12% or more of our voting share capital; and
- one member of our board of directors and his or her alternate for so long as they own an aggregate of 5% or more of our voting share capital.

For so long as Petrobras and Petroquisa together have the right to designate two or three members of our board of directors, one of these designees will serve as vice president of our board of directors.

Under the Petrobras Shareholders Agreement, Petrobras has the right to sell:

- a *pro rata* portion of its common shares of our company in connection with any direct or indirect sale of our common shares by the Odebrecht Group to a third party; and
- all of its common shares in case such sale involves a change of our control.

Pension Funds Memorandum of Understanding

On July 20, 2001, Odebrecht Química, Petroquímica da Bahia S.A., PETROS and *Caixa de Previdência dos Funcionários do Banco do Brasil* PREVI, or PREVI, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Shareholders Agreement, which we refer to as the Pension Funds Memorandum of Understanding. The Pension Funds Memorandum of Understanding grants certain preemptive and share transfer rights to PETROS and PREVI. 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 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.

BNDESPAR Shareholders Agreement

We, Odebrecht and BNDESPAR have entered into a shareholders agreement. This shareholders agreement provides that BNDESPAR has the right to appoint one member of our board of directors. This shareholders agreement will expire on the earlier of the first date on which BNDESPAR ceases to own more than 5.0% of our total share capital and August 24, 2011. This shareholders agreement also provides that BNDESPAR has the right 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 this 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, 2008.

We have engaged in extensive transactions with our principal shareholders and their affiliates and expect to do so in the future. 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 a party to three shareholders' agreements or memoranda of understandings with shareholders of our company. See Major Shareholders' Shareholders Agreements.

In connection with the Ipiranga Transaction, we entered into the Purchase Agreement, the Ipiranga Investment Agreement, the Interim Shareholders Agreement and the Ipiranga Memorandum of Understanding with Petrobras and the other parties thereto, and a shareholders agreement with Ultrapar and Petrobras, which we refer to as the RPI shareholders agreement, which gives each of Ultrapar, Petrobras and our company the right to nominate one-third of the directors of RPI. The Ipiranga Memorandum of Understanding has been superseded by the Petrobras Shareholders' Agreement. See Item 4. Information on the Company History and Development of Our Company Petrobras Transaction.

In connection with the Petrobras Transaction, we entered into the Petrobras Investment Agreement and the Petrobras Shareholders Agreement with Odebrecht, Petroquisa and the other parties thereto. See Item 4. Information on the Company History and Development of Our Company Petrobras Transaction.

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, each of our directors, their alternates and our 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. However, if one of our directors is absent from a meeting of our board of directors, that director's alternate may vote even if that director has a conflict of interest, unless the alternate director shares that conflict of interest or has another conflict of interest.

The Odebrecht Group

In December 2004, we entered into an Alliance Agreement with CNO, the 2004 Alliance Agreement, under which we have appointed CNO as a non-exclusive preferred provider with respect to maintenance services and efficiency enhancement projects at each of our plants. This agreement was unanimously approved by our board of directors. Under this agreement, we are required to request bids from CNO for these services and projects. If CNO is retained for any specific service or project, we will pay CNO its costs related to the service or project plus 15%. We are also required to pay any applicable taxes with respect to such fees. This agreement was formally terminated in December 2008. In December 2008, we entered into a new Alliance Agreement with CNO on substantially similar terms as the 2004 Alliance Agreement. The new Alliance Agreement expires in February 2011. The aggregate amount of services we purchased from CNO under these Alliance Agreements in 2008 was R\$205.2 million. We had accounts payable to CNO of R\$0.1 million at December 31, 2008.

On December 2008, we entered into another Alliance Agreement with CNO and Gemprow Engenharia S.A. for the construction of a new ethylene plant in the Southern Complex that will produce ethylene using sugar cane ethanol for our use in the production of polyethylene. For more information regarding this project, see Item 4. Information on the Company Capital Expenditures Green Polyethylene Project.

Petrobras

Merger and Acquisition Transactions with Petrobras

In the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction, on May 30, 2008:

- Petroquisa contributed the following assets to its wholly-owned subsidiary Grust:
 - Ø 36.4% of the voting and outstanding share capital of Copesul;

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Ø 40.0% of the voting and outstanding share capital of Ipiranga Química; and

Ø 40.0% of the voting and outstanding share capital of Paulínia; and

Braskem, Petroquisa and Grust engaged in an exchange of shares transaction in which an aggregate of 46,903,320 of our common shares and 43,144,662 of our class A preferred shares were issued to Petroquisa in exchange for all of the outstanding share capital of Grust.

For more information about the first phase of the Petrobras Transaction, see Item 4. Information on the Company History and Development of Our Company Petrobras Transaction.

On May 5, 2009, the second phase of the Petrobras Transaction was completed with the merger of Triunfo with and into Braskem. Braskem issued an aggregate of 13,387,157 of our class A preferred shares to the shareholders of Triunfo as consideration for their equity interests in Triunfo, including 11,299,254 class A preferred shares that were issued to Petroquisa. For more information about the second phase of the Petrobras Transaction, see Item 4. Information on the Company History and Development of Our Company Other Developments since January 1, 2008 Acquisition of Triunfo.

Financial Transactions with Petrobras

In September 2007, EDSP58 entered into an export prepayment credit facility with PIFCo, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Petrobras, under which EDSP58 is permitted to borrow an aggregate principal amount of up to US\$323.0 million. In October 2007, EDSP58 borrowed an aggregate of US\$312.5 million under this facility to fund a portion of the purchase price of the shares tendered in the Copesul Tender Offer. These loans bear interest at the rate of LIBOR plus 0.35% per annum until the first anniversary of their disbursement and thereafter at the rate of LIBOR plus 0.55% per annum. The principal amount of these loans is payable on or prior to the second anniversary of each disbursement. At December 31, 2008, the outstanding principal amount under this export prepayment credit facility was R\$730.4 million.

Commercial Transactions with Petrobras

In June 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 *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate. This contract was amended and renewed in February 1993 and in February 2003, and was terminated in June 2008. We have substantially completed the negotiation of a new naphtha supply contract with Petrobras that will replace the contract that was terminated in June 2008 as well as the existing naphtha supply contract between our company and Petrobras for the supply of naphtha to our basic petrochemicals plants located in the Southern Complex. We have received, and expect to continue to receive, naphtha from Petrobras under substantially the same terms as the contract that terminated in June 2008, other than terms relating to pricing and volume commitments which will be revised in the new naphtha supply contract. Since March 2009, the price that we have paid for naphtha that we purchase from Petrobras has been based on a variety of factors, including the market prices of a naphtha and a variety of other petroleum derivatives, the volatility of the prices of these products in the international markets, the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate, and the level of paraffinicity of the naphtha that is delivered. These pricing terms have applied to naphtha delivered to our basic petrochemicals plants located in both the Northeastern Complex and the Southern Complex.

In February 1996, Copesul and Petrobras entered into a 16-year renewable contract with Petrobras under which the prices paid by Copesul to Petrobras for petroleum condensate are established based on the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price and are linked to fluctuations in the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate. We expect this contract to be superseded by the new naphtha contract that we are negotiating with Petrobras as described above.

In March 2007, we entered into two five-year propylene supply contract with REFAP, a subsidiary of Petrobras, for the supply of propylene to our plants in the Southern Complex. In addition, we sell condensate and purchase naphtha from REFAP.

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In April 2007, we entered into a three-year caustic soda supply contract with Petrobras under which we will supply approximately 61,300 tons of caustic soda annually for use by Petrobras' Brazilian refineries. Petrobras uses caustic soda for the treatment of effluents in its refineries.

We sell automotive gasoline and LPG to Petrobras Distribuidora S.A., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Petrobras.

We purchased raw materials from Petrobras and its subsidiaries of R\$6,350.3 million in 2008 and sold products to Petrobras and its subsidiaries of R\$505.1 million during this period. At December 31, 2008, we had accounts payable to Petrobras and its subsidiaries in an aggregate amount of R\$1,046.2 million and accounts receivable from Petrobras and its subsidiaries in an aggregate amount of R\$84.7 million.

Our Jointly Controlled Companies and Associated Companies

Cetrel

We own directly 54.2% 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\$22.9 million in 2008. We had accounts payable to Cetrel of R\$2.1 million at December 31, 2008.

Borealis Brasil S.A.

We sell polypropylene and polyethylene to Borealis in which we have a 20.0% interest. We recorded net sales to Borealis of R\$157.2 million in 2008. We had accounts receivable from Borealis of R\$0.2 million at December 31, 2008.

Other

Engepack

We sell PET from time to time to Engepack Embalagens S.A., or Engepack, a packaging manufacturer. Francisco Teixeira de Sá, the chairman of the board of directors of Engepack, is an alternate member of our board of directors. We recorded net sales to Engepack of R\$43.3 million in 2008. Engepack purchases PET from a variety of second generation producers, including our company.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information

Reference is made to Item 19 for a list of all financial statements filed as part of this annual report.

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\$1,202.5 million at December 31, 2008. 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 and adversely affected.

IPI

IPI Credits on Raw Materials Purchases. We pay IPI tax on industrial products that we manufacture. The regulations governing the IPI tax assess this tax on a non-cumulative basis, meaning that companies may 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, on the basis that there is no law or regulation that expressly authorizes these credits. We believe that this interpretation is contrary to Article 153, paragraph 3 of the Brazilian Constitution, which sets forth the principle of non-cumulative taxation and does not exclude purchases of raw materials that are tax-exempt, non-taxable or taxed at a zero percent rate.

In July 2000, OPP Química (which has merged into our company) filed suit in the State of Rio Grande do Sul requesting the acknowledgement of IPI tax credits for its purchases of raw materials from our company and Copesul. The amount of credits claimed by OPP Química comprised the book value of those raw materials plus monetary adjustments. In December 2002, 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, including R\$367.9 million attributable to monetary adjustments, for the 10-year period preceding the filing of the suit, calculated based on the price of the raw materials purchased during this period, plus monetary adjustments based on official indices.

The Brazilian government appealed the decision of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court. In this special appeal, the Brazilian federal tax authorities are no longer challenging the validity of IPI tax credits, but are alleging some inaccuracies in the method of calculating monetary adjustments on those credits. These issues have already been resolved by decisions of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court and the Regional Federal Court favorable to OPP Química.

In December 2007, the First Panel of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court agreed to hear the special appeal. This decision was published in March 2009 and does not clearly identify the subject matter to be reviewed in the special appeal. Based on the opinions rendered by a majority of the justices sitting on the First Panel, we believe that the only matters to be heard in the special appeal will be those raised by the Brazilian government in the special appeal, as described in the preceding paragraph, and that the court will not revisit the validity of IPI tax credits.

In April 2009, we filed a motion for clarification regarding the subject matter to be reviewed in the special appeal. We believe that the First Panel will grant this motion and clarify that a judgment on the special appeal will only address the matters raised by the Brazilian government in the special appeal. Despite the possibility of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court's review of the merits of its former decision and its ruling against us, we believe that the December 2002 decision should nonetheless be given *res judicata* (i.e., final and binding) effect.

However, there may be a risk of changes in the previous decision of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court as a result of the special appeal, because, among other factors, the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court has revisited this matter on the merits in a similar lawsuit lodged by another taxpayer. We recognized IPI tax credits in an aggregate amount of R\$1,030.1 million in December 2002. At December 31, 2008, we have used the full amount of the R\$1,030.1 million IPI tax credit to offset IPI and other federal tax obligations.

In September 2006, the Brazilian federal tax authorities issued four tax deficiency notices to us, claiming that we owe approximately R\$1,100.0 million representing IPI taxes that we offset with OPP Química's IPI tax credits, including penalties and interest. The Brazilian government issued two of the deficiency notices, in an aggregate amount of R\$308.6 million solely to avoid forfeiting their claims due to the expiration of the statute of limitations; as a result, no penalties may be claimed on these amounts. The other two tax deficiency notices, in an aggregate amount of R\$791.4 million, allege that we are not allowed to recognize these IPI tax credits. In addition, during 2007 the Federal Revenue Office rejected approximately 200 applications made by our company to offset the IPI tax credits that we did not offset against IPI taxes against other federal taxes payable by our company.

The tax credits used by us (relating to both the 10-year period preceding the filing of our suit and the subsequent period during which we have relied on the favorable ruling of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court in December 2002, and as adjusted by applying the SELIC rate through December 31, 2008) amount to R\$2,682.2 million at December 31, 2008. The various collection proceedings referred to above have claimed R\$2,423.2 million (which includes interest) as of December 31, 2008, plus fines in the aggregate amount of R\$783.4 million.

We are contesting the tax deficiency notices and the rejection of these applications in administrative tax proceedings. In October 2008, the administrative appellate tribunal, or the Taxpayers Council, ruled against our

company in our disputes of some of these tax deficiency notices and rejections. Many of these decisions have not yet been published, and we do not believe that the few decisions that have been published clearly state the basis for the rejection of our challenges. Consequently, we have filed motions for clarification with respect to the published decisions. Upon publication of the remaining decisions of the Taxpayers Council, we intend to appeal these decisions. If we fail to prevail in our administrative appeal, we intend to challenge the decisions in these administrative proceedings at the judicial level.

The outcome of these disputes as they relate to the validity of IPI tax credits depends on the final decision of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court in the special appeal described above. The remainder of these disputes relate to the validity of fines imposed on our company for using the IPI credits. We believe that such fines are not payable because we relied upon a judicial decision in the recognition of the tax credits. We believe that it is probable that we will prevail in our disputes regarding the imposition of fines by the Brazilian federal tax authorities, as our decision to offset IPI tax credits against our IPI and other federal tax obligations was supported by a final decision of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court.

We have a similar suit pending on behalf of OPP Química (which has merged into our company) in federal court in the State of São Paulo, and two similar suits on behalf of Trikem (which has merged into our company) in federal courts in the States of São Paulo and Alagoas. In these cases, we obtained preliminary injunctions that allowed these companies to use these credits to offset other IPI tax obligations. These suits remain pending. We have used R\$120.5 million through December 31, 2008 of Trikem's and OPP Químicas' IPI tax credits to offset our IPI and other federal tax obligations and have recorded a provision in the amount of R\$245.8 million at December 31, 2008. We have not recognized any assets or gains in relation to these claims.

We note that the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court issued an unfavorable ruling in another case in February 2007 involving a taxpayer unrelated to our company, holding by a six-to-five vote that IPI tax credits arising from the purchase of raw materials that are taxed at a zero percent rate may not be used to offset IPI and other federal taxes. In June 2007, the full bench of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court contemplated whether this decision would have retroactive or prospective effect and, by majority opinion, ruled that a decision of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court that reversed an earlier determination made by the full bench of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court in favor of a taxpayer would apply retroactively.

For further information on our accounting treatment of these IPI credits, see notes 9 and 17(ii) to our consolidated financial statements.

IPI Export Credits. Brazilian Decree Law No. 491/69 provides a tax credit to exporters of manufactured products to compensate them for taxes paid in Brazil prior to exporting their products. The regulations governing the IPI tax permit exporters to offset IPI taxes with IPI export credits and/or to transfer their IPI export credits 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 based on Decree Law No. 1,724/79, which expressly delegated these powers to the Brazilian Ministry of Finance. We believe that this delegation of powers to the Ministry of Finance violated the distribution of functions among the executive branch, and that secondary administrative rules may not restrict or suspend a benefit created by a constitutionally superior norm. Accordingly, we believe that the administrative rules promulgated under the authority of Decree Law No. 1,724/79 have no legal effect. On these grounds, we filed suits against the Brazilian government challenging Decree Law No. 1,742/79 and these administrative rules and seeking to offset and transfer IPI export credits as provided under Decree Law No. 491/96.

In one of these suits, the Regional Federal Court ruled against OPP Química (which has merged into our company), holding that it does not have the right to IPI export credits. OPP Química's appeals before the Superior Court of Justice and the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court remain pending. Although our other suits also are pending, the Brazilian tax authorities have issued deficiency notices against us (1) attempting to collect amounts offset using these IPI export credits and (2) asserting their right to do so before the expiration of the applicable statute of limitations. We filed administrative appeals in respect of these deficiency notices, but we received unfavorable decisions in each of these appeals. We have appealed each of these unfavorable decisions to the taxpayers' council (an administrative appeal board). However, based on recent Brazilian Federal Supreme Court and other jurisprudence holding that the sub-delegation by the Ministry of Finance of the authority to regulate IPI export credits under Decree Law No. 1,742/79 was unconstitutional and that recognized the right to offset IPI export credits

as provided under Decree Law No. 491/96, we believe that it is reasonably possible that we will prevail in all of these judicial and administrative proceedings. Despite the issuance of Resolution No. 71 by the Federal Senate on December 27, 2005, which confirmed the unconstitutionality of this sub-delegation and ratified the validity of IPI export credits, the Superior Court of Justice, in an appeal made by another taxpayer seeking recognition of that taxpayers' entitlement to use such tax benefit, upheld its rejection to such prospective use and affirmed that the tax benefit expired in 1990. When the Superior Court of Justice completes its judgment, the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court will revisit the right to use those tax credits after 1990, based on application of Temporary Constitutional Provisions Act (ADCT) 41. We have used a portion of these credits to offset IPI and other federal taxes in the amount of R\$381.8 million through December 31, 2008 and recorded a provision in the amount of R\$731.1 million at December 31, 2008 because these suits remain pending. For further information on our accounting treatment of these IPI credits, see note 17(i) to our consolidated financial statements.

IPI Credits Arising from the Acquisition of Fixed Assets and Materials Not Used in Production. We are involved in four suits against the Brazilian government seeking the acknowledgment of IPI credits arising from the acquisition of fixed assets and materials not used by us in the production of our products. The regulations governing the IPI tax permit companies to offset against their IPI tax liability IPI credits arising from the acquisition of raw materials and other unfinished products only to the extent that they are used in production. We believe that this limitation imposed by the IPI regulations is unconstitutional. Article 153, paragraph 3 of the Brazilian Constitution sets forth a broad principle of non-cumulative taxation and does not limit the grant or use of IPI credits arising from the acquisition of fixed assets or in respect of materials not used in production.

We lost one of these suits in federal trial court and appealed this decision, which appeal remains pending. Although our three other suits also remain pending in federal court, the Brazilian tax authorities have issued deficiency notices against us attempting to collect amounts offset using these credits, asserting their right to do so before the expiration of the applicable statute of limitations. We appealed the issuance of these deficiency notices to the taxpayers' council. We believe that it is reasonably possible for us to prevail in all of these judicial and administrative proceedings. We have used R\$31.9 million through December 31, 2008 of these credits to offset IPI taxes and recorded a provision in the amount of R\$44.9 million at December 31, 2008 because these suits remain pending.

Social Contribution on Net Income

Law No. 7,689/88 created the CSLL, a tax similar to the corporate income tax. Under Article 146, item III of the Brazilian Constitution, the CSLL should have been enacted as a supplementary law and not as an ordinary law. Under Brazilian law, supplementary laws must be approved by at least a majority of the members of each house of the Brazilian Congress, while an ordinary law may be approved by a simple majority of the members of Congress present at the relevant voting session. In addition, we believe that CSLL violates Article 154, item II of the Brazilian Constitution, which provides that new taxes may not be assessed and calculated on the same basis as existing taxes. We believe the CSLL is assessed and calculated on the same basis as the corporate income tax.

On these grounds, we filed suit challenging the constitutionality of the CSLL. We received a final decision in our favor in 1992. However, in 1993, Brazilian tax authorities filed a rescission action (*ação rescisória*) against us in relation to all but one of these cases 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 CSLL. 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. The Brazilian Superior Court of Justice (*Superior Tribunal de Justiça*) issued a ruling in a case of another unrelated taxpayer dismissing one of the arguments that has been used by the Brazilian tax authorities in the rescission action. This decision should strengthen the arguments that we have used in our cases. In the remaining case, we believe that it is reasonably possible that the final decision in our favor will remain in effect.

Brazilian tax authorities issued several deficiency notices against us attempting to collect CSLL. We obtained suspensions of all deficiency notices that 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.

We believe it is reasonably possible that we will lose our appeals. However, if we lose these suits, we believe that we would be required to pay CSLL only from the date that a final decision is published. We note, however, that Brazilian law allows rescission actions to relate back to, and to take effect from, the date of the initial decision. Although this legislation does not involve tax proceedings and the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court has not ruled on this issue, the same line of reasoning has been adopted by the Brazilian tax authorities and may be adopted by the courts in our suit. Accordingly, we believe that it is reasonably possible that we will be required to pay these taxes retroactively.

If CSLL is charged retroactively, then our total estimated exposure at December 31, 2008 would be R\$835.4 million, including interest. This amount does not include approximately R\$242.0 million in penalties at December 31, 2008, which we believe are not payable because we relied upon a judicial decision in not paying CSLL. We believe that there is a possibility that we will be required to pay related interest and a remote possibility that we will be required to pay fines as a result of this tax litigation.

As we believe that CSLL may not be payable for periods before the date the final decision is published in the rescission action, we have not made any provision in our consolidated financial statements for these contingencies. For further information on our accounting treatment of CSLL, see note 18(c) to our consolidated financial statements.

Offset of Tax Credits

From May through October 2000, OPP Química and Trikem offset their own federal tax obligations with IPI tax credits assigned by a third-party export trading company. In June 1999, the export trading company filed a motion for a writ of mandamus requiring the federal tax authority of the State of São Paulo to recognize these offsets, and in October 1999, the federal tax authority of the State of São Paulo issued offset support certificates in response to an injunction obtained by the export trading company. In September 1999, the export trading company filed a motion for a writ of mandamus requiring the federal tax authority of the State of Rio de Janeiro to recognize the recovery of IPI tax credits by the export trading company and the validity of their use in offsetting third-party tax obligations. In March 2001, the motion for a writ of mandamus filed by the export trading company in the State of São Paulo was dismissed without prejudice, confirming the administrative and jurisdictional authority of the State of Rio de Janeiro to rule on the export trading company's tax credits.

In June 2005, the federal tax authority of the State of São Paulo issued regulations canceling the offset support certificates. Based on these regulations, the Federal Revenue Office unit in Camaçari, Bahia sent collection letters to our company in June 2005. We presented notices of dispute against these collection letters, but the administrative authorities declined to process these notices.

On October 3, 2005, the Federal Supreme Court granted a non-appealable writ of mandamus to the export trading company, confirming the export trading company's right to use its IPI tax credits from all its exports and the availability of these IPI tax credits for offsetting third-party obligations. As a result, we believe that our use of the export trading company's IPI credits to offset our federal taxes has been confirmed and that the assessment made by the Federal Revenue Office unit in Camaçari, Bahia is not due. In addition and notwithstanding the writ of mandamus granted to the export trading company, we believe that the statute of limitations has expired with respect to the federal taxes offset against the IPI tax credits of the export trading company and can no longer be claimed by the tax authorities.

In December 2005, the Federal Revenue Office unit in Camaçari, Bahia assessed past-due federal tax liabilities of R\$276.6 million against our company related to our alleged undue offset of federal taxes. In January 2006, we were ordered to post bond in aid of execution of the tax claim made by the Federal Revenue Office unit in Camaçari, Bahia, and we posted this bond in the form of an insurance policy.

We and the export trading company subsequently commenced judicial and administrative proceedings to defend the lawfulness and validity of those offsetting procedures. We believe that it is probable that we will prevail in these judicial and administrative proceedings in light of our view of the validity and liquidity of those credits as confirmed in a special audit conducted by the federal tax authority of the State of Rio de Janeiro. In the event that we are unsuccessful in all of these judicial and administrative proceedings, pursuant to the agreement under which the

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export trading company assigned the IPI tax credits to OPP Química and Trikem, we will be entitled to full recourse against the export trading company concerning all amounts we are required to pay to the National Treasury.

Other Tax Proceedings

We and our affiliates are involved in several other judicial and administrative proceedings regarding withholding taxes, corporate income taxes (*Imposto de Renda da Pessoa Jurídica*), the ICMS, the tax on financial transactions (*Imposto Sobre Operações Financeiras*), monetary adjustments, the PIS, compulsory loans to Eletrobrás and other issues related to tax matters. Some of these disputes involve substantial amounts.

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 collective bargaining agreements in effect at the time. 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, particularly a law that related to Brazilian public policy. In 2003, the workers' union requested reconsideration of this decision. The Brazilian Federal Supreme Court accepted the workers' union's request for reconsideration, but on May 31, 2005, the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court unanimously reaffirmed its December 2002 decision and dismissed the workers' union's appeal.

On October 24, 2005, the workers' union filed a divergence appeal to the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court, requesting the resolution of conflict between the decisions given by the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court under this proceeding and prior decisions given by the another panel of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court. The Brazilian Federal Supreme Court has agreed to consider this appeal, but has not yet issued a decision. However, the Brazilian attorney general has filed a brief in this matter in November 2006 supporting the position of the employers' union.

Employment and Occupational Health and Safety Proceedings

At December 31, 2008, we were involved in approximately 1,300 employment and occupational health and safety proceedings as to which the total amount claimed was approximately R\$223.3 million. We have deposited R\$6.2 million of this amount in court and have established a provision for these claims in an aggregate amount of R\$17.5 million at December 31, 2008. We do not believe that these proceedings will have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or operations.

Other Proceedings

At December 31, 2008, we were a defendant in two civil suits filed by a former caustic soda distributor, its controlling shareholder and a former transporter for breach of a caustic soda distribution agreement. The damages

claimed in these suits totaled R\$28.6 million at December 31, 2008 (monetarily adjusted). These suits are pending. We believe that we will possibly prevail in these suits.

We are parties to certain proceedings brought by some preferred shareholders of Braskem, Polialden and Politeno which we do not believe will have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Dividends and Dividend Policy

Payment of Dividends

Our dividend distribution policy has historically included the distribution of periodic dividends, based on annual balance sheets approved by our board of directors. When we pay dividends on an annual basis, they are declared at our annual shareholders' meeting, which we are required by the Brazilian Corporation Law and our by-laws to hold by April 30 of each year. When we declare dividends, we are generally required to pay them within 60 days of declaring them unless the shareholders' resolution establishes another payment date. In any event, if we declare dividends, we must pay them by the end of the fiscal year for which they are declared. Under Article 9 of Law 9,249/95 and our by-laws, we also may pay interest attributable to shareholders' equity as an alternative form of dividends upon approval of our board of directors. For a more detailed description of interest attributable to shareholders' equity, see *Payment of Dividends and Interest Attributable to Shareholders' Equity*.

The following table sets forth the dividends and/or interest attributable to shareholders' equity paid to holders of our common shares, class A preferred shares and class B preferred shares since January 1, 2004 in *reais* and in U.S. dollars translated from *reais* at the commercial market selling rate in effect as of the payment date.

Year	Payment Date	Nominal Brazilian Currency per			US\$ equivalent per		
		Common shares	Class A Preferred Shares	Class B Preferred Shares	Common shares	Class A Preferred Shares	Class B Preferred Shares
2005	April 12, 2005(1)	R\$0.56	R\$0.56	R\$0.56	US\$0.22	US\$0.22	US\$0.22
2006	April 18, 2006(2)	0.90	0.90	0.56	0.42	0.42	0.26
2007	April 9, 2007(3)		0.16	0.16		0.07	0.07
2008	April 7, 2008(4)	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.38	0.38	0.38

- (1) Represents interest attributable to shareholders' equity of R\$0.28 (US\$0.11) per common share, R\$0.56 (US\$0.22) per class A preferred share and R\$0.56 (US\$0.22) per class B preferred share, plus dividends of R\$0.28 (US\$0.11) per common share.
- (2) Represents interest attributable to shareholders' equity of R\$0.75 (US\$0.35) per common share, R\$0.75 (US\$0.35) per class A preferred share and R\$0.56 (US\$0.26) per class B preferred share, plus dividends of R\$0.15 (US\$0.07) per common share and R\$0.15 (US\$0.07) per class A preferred share.
- (3) Represents dividends of R\$0.16 (US\$0.07) per class A preferred share and R\$0.16 (US\$0.07) per class B preferred share.
- (4) Represents dividends of R\$0.64 (US\$0.38) per common share, R\$0.64 (US\$0.38) per class A preferred share and R\$0.64 (US\$0.38) per class B preferred share.

The following discussion summarizes the principal provisions of the Brazilian Corporation Law and our by-laws relating to the distribution of dividends, including interest attributable to shareholders' equity.

Calculation of Adjusted Net Profits

At each annual shareholders' meeting, our board of directors is required to recommend how to allocate our net profits for the preceding fiscal year, which recommendation our board of executive officers initially submits to our board of directors for approval. This allocation is subject to approval by our common shareholders. The Brazilian

Corporation Law defines net profits for any fiscal year as our net income after income taxes for that fiscal year, net of any accumulated losses from prior fiscal years and any amounts allocated to employees' participation in our net profits in that fiscal year. Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, our adjusted net profits available for distribution are equal to our net profits in any fiscal year, reduced by amounts allocated to our legal reserve and other applicable reserves, and increased by any reversals of reserves that we constituted in prior years.

Our calculation of net profits and allocations to reserves for any fiscal year are determined on the basis of financial statements prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP.

Reserve Accounts

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law and our by-laws, we are required to maintain a legal reserve. In addition, we are permitted by the Brazilian Corporation Law to establish the following discretionary reserves:

- a contingency reserve for an anticipated loss that is deemed probable in future years. Any amount so allocated in a previous year must be reversed in the fiscal year in which the loss had been anticipated if the loss does not occur as projected or charged off in the event that the anticipated loss occurs;
- a reserve for investment projects, in an amount based on a capital expenditure budget approved by our shareholders;
- an unrealized income reserve described under Mandatory Distributions below; and
- a tax incentive investment reserve, included in our capital reserve accounts, in the amount of the reduction in our income tax obligations due to government tax incentive programs. See note 21(c) to our audited consolidated financial statements.

Allocations to each of these reserves (other than the legal reserve) are subject to approval by our common shareholders voting at our annual shareholders' meeting.

The Brazilian Corporation Law provides that the legal reserve and the tax incentive investment reserve may be credited to shareholders' equity or used to absorb losses, but these reserves are unavailable for the payment of distributions in subsequent years. The amounts allocated to the other reserves may be credited to shareholders' equity and used for the payment of distributions in subsequent years.

Legal Reserve Account

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law and our by-laws, we must allocate 5% of our net profits for each fiscal year to our legal reserve until the aggregate amount of our legal reserve equals 20% of our paid-in capital. However, we are not required to make any allocations to our legal reserve in a fiscal year in which our legal reserve, when added to our other reserves, exceeds 30% of our shareholders' equity. At December 31, 2008, we had a balance of zero in our legal reserve account.

Capital Reserve Accounts

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, we are also permitted to record a capital reserve that may be used only (1) to absorb losses which exceed retained earnings and profit reserves as defined in the Brazilian Corporation Law, and (2) to redeem or repurchase share capital and/or participation certificates, (3) to increase our capital, or (4) if specified in our by-laws (which currently do not so specify), to pay preferred share dividends. Amounts allocated to our capital reserves are unavailable for the payment of distributions and are not taken into consideration for purposes of determining the mandatory distributable amount. At December 31, 2008, we had a balance of R\$396.1 million in our capital reserve accounts.

Dividend Preference of Preferred Shares

Under our by-laws, our preferred shareholders are entitled to a minimum annual non-cumulative preferential dividend, or the Minimum Preferred Dividend, equal to 6% of their *pro rata* share of our capital before dividends may be paid to our common shareholders. Distributions of dividends in any year are made:

- first, to the holders of preferred shares, up to the amount of the Minimum Preferred Dividend for such year;
- then, to the holders of common shares, until the amount distributed in respect of each common share is equal to the amount distributed in respect of each preferred share; and
- thereafter, to the holders of our common shares and our class A preferred shares on a *pro rata* basis.

Our class B preferred shareholders are not entitled to receive any additional dividend amounts after they have received the preferential dividend. If the Minimum Preferred Dividend is not paid for a period of three years, holders of preferred shares will be entitled to full voting rights.

Mandatory Distributions

As permitted by the Brazilian Corporation Law, our by-laws specify that 25% of our adjusted net profits for each fiscal year must be distributed to shareholders as dividends or interest attributable to shareholders' equity. We refer to this amount as the mandatory distributable amount.

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, the amount by which the mandatory distributable amount exceeds the realized portion of net income for any particular year may be allocated to the unrealized income reserve, and the mandatory distribution may be limited to the realized portion of net income. The realized portion of net income is the amount by which our net income exceeds the sum of (1) our net positive results, if any, from the equity method of accounting for earnings and losses of our subsidiaries and certain associated companies, and (2) the profits, gains or income obtained on transactions maturing after the end of the following fiscal year. As amounts allocated to the unrealized income reserve are realized in subsequent years, such amounts must be added to the dividend payment relating to the year of realization.

In addition to the mandatory distributable amount, our board of directors may recommend that holders of our common shares approve the payment of additional distributions. Distributions made to holders of our class A preferred shares and our class B preferred shares are computed in determining whether we have paid the required mandatory distribution. We net any payment of interim distributions against the required mandatory distribution for that fiscal year.

As described under Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions Major Shareholders Shareholders Agreements, we have entered into an agreement with two of our shareholders that establishes as our dividend policy the distribution of at least 50% of our adjusted net profits during any relevant period, provided that we have established and maintained all necessary reserves for the efficient operation and development of our business.

Under our 11.75% Notes due 2014, we may not pay dividends in excess of two times the minimum dividends or interest attributable to shareholders' equity payable under our by-laws or under applicable Brazilian law.

The Brazilian Corporation Law permits us to suspend the mandatory distribution if our board of directors reports to our annual shareholders meeting that the distribution would be incompatible with our financial condition at that time. Our fiscal council must approve any suspension of the mandatory distribution. In addition, our management must report the reasons of any suspension of the mandatory distribution to the CVM. We must allocate net profits not distributed by our company as a result of a suspension to a special reserve and, if not absorbed by subsequent losses, we must distribute these amounts as soon as our financial condition permits. In case our profits reserves, as defined in the Brazilian Corporation Law, exceed our share capital, the excess must be credited to shareholders' equity or used for the payment of distributions.

Payment of Dividends and Interest Attributable to Shareholders Equity

We may pay the mandatory distributable amount as dividends or as interest attributable to shareholders equity, which is similar to a dividend but is deductible in calculating our income tax obligations.

Because our shares are issued in book-entry form, dividends with respect to any share are automatically credited to the account holding such share. Shareholders who are not residents of Brazil must register with the Brazilian Central Bank in order for dividends, sales proceeds or other amounts with respect to their shares to be eligible to be remitted outside of Brazil.

The preferred shares underlying the ADSs are held in Brazil by Banco Itaú S.A., as agent for the depository, which has registered with the Brazilian Central Bank as the registered owner of our shares. Payments of cash dividends and distributions, if any, will be made in Brazilian currency to Banco Itaú S.A., or the Custodian, as custodian for our preferred shares represented by the ADSs, on behalf of the depository. The Custodian will then convert such proceeds into dollars and will cause such dollars to be delivered to the depository for distribution to holders of ADSs. As with other types of remittances from Brazil, the Brazilian government may impose temporary restrictions on remittances to foreign investors of the proceeds of their investments in Brazil, as it did for approximately six months in 1989 and early 1999, and on the conversion of Brazilian currency into foreign currencies, which could hinder or prevent the depository from converting dividends into U.S. dollars and remitting these U.S. dollars abroad. See Item 3. Key Information Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Class A Preferred Shares and the ADSs.

Dividends

We are required by the Brazilian Corporation Law and by our by-laws to hold an annual shareholders meeting by April 30 of each year. At our annual shareholders meeting, our common shareholders may vote to declare an annual dividend. Our payment of annual dividends is based on our audited financial statements prepared for our preceding fiscal year.

Any holder of record of shares at the time that a dividend is declared is entitled to receive dividends. Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, we are generally required to pay dividends within 60 days after declaring them, unless the shareholders resolution establishes another payment date, which, in any case, must occur prior to the end of the fiscal year in which the dividend is declared.

Our board of directors may declare interim dividends based on the accrued profits recorded or the realized profits in our annual or semi-annual financial statements approved by our common shareholders. In addition, we may pay dividends from net income based on our unaudited quarterly financial statements. These quarterly interim dividends may not exceed the amounts included in our capital reserve accounts. We may set off any payment of interim dividends against the amount of the mandatory distributable amount for the year in which the interim dividends were paid.

Interest Attributable to Shareholders Equity

Brazilian companies, including our company, are permitted to pay interest attributable to shareholders equity as an alternative form of payment of dividends to our shareholders. These payments may be deducted when calculating Brazilian income tax and social contribution tax. The interest rate applied to these distributions generally cannot exceed the TJLP for the applicable period. The amount of interest paid that we can deduct for tax purposes cannot exceed the greater of:

- 50% of our net income (after the deduction of the provision for social contribution tax and before the deduction of the provision for corporate income tax) before taking into account any such distribution for the period for which the payment is made; and
- 50% of the sum of our retained earnings and profit reserves.

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Any payment of interest attributable to shareholders' equity to holders of common shares, preferred shares or ADSs, whether or not they are Brazilian residents, is subject to Brazilian withholding tax at the rate of 15%, except that a 25% withholding tax rate applies if the recipient is a resident of a tax haven jurisdiction. A tax haven jurisdiction is a country (1) that does not impose income tax or whose income tax rate is lower than 20% or (2) which does not permit disclosure of the identity of shareholders of entities organized under its jurisdiction. See Item 10. Additional Information Taxation Brazilian Tax Considerations. Under our by-laws, we may include the amount distributed as interest attributable to shareholders' equity, net of any withholding tax, as part of the mandatory distributable amount.

Prescription of Payments

Our shareholders have three years to claim dividend distributions made with respect to their shares, as from the date that we distribute the dividends to our shareholders, after which any unclaimed dividend distributions legally revert to us. We are not required to adjust the amount of any distributions for inflation that occurs during the period from the date of declaration to the payment date.

Significant Changes

Other than as disclosed in this annual report, no significant change has occurred since the date of the audited consolidated financial statements included in this annual report.

ITEM 9. THE OFFER AND LISTING

Markets for Our Equity Securities

The principal trading market for our common shares, class A preferred shares and class B preferred shares is the BM&FBOVESPA, where they are traded under the symbols BRKM3, BRKM5, and BRKM6, respectively. Our common shares and class A preferred shares began trading on the BM&FBOVESPA on November 11, 1980, and our class B preferred shares began trading on the BM&FBOVESPA on August 19, 1983.

On December 21, 1998, ADSs representing our class A preferred shares began trading on the NYSE under the symbol BAK. On December 31, 2008, there were 8,888,727 ADSs outstanding, representing 17,777,454 class A preferred shares, or 5.6% of our outstanding class A preferred shares. Each ADS represents two 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 one share.

Price History of Our Class A Preferred Shares and the ADSs

The tables below set forth the high and low closing sales prices and the approximate average daily trading volume for our class A preferred shares on the BM&FBOVESPA and the high and low closing sales prices and the approximate average daily trading volume for the ADSs on the NYSE for the periods indicated.

	BM&FBOVESPA		New York Stock Exchange	
	Closing Price per		Closing Price per ADS	
	Class A Preferred Share			
	High	Low	High	Low
	(in reais)		(in U.S. dollars)	
2004	31.68	9.36	25.48	6.18
2005	31.84	16.16	25.82	14.57
2006	18.95	9.97	18.24	9.15
2007	18.19	12.34	19.27	11.56
2008	15.19	5.41	18.5	4.60

	BM&FBOVESPA		New York Stock Exchange	
	Closing Price per		Closing Price per ADS	
	Class A Preferred Share			
	High	Low	High	Low
	(in reais)		(in U.S. dollars)	
2007				
First Quarter	15.55	12.34	15.04	11.56
Second Quarter	17.22	14.44	17.59	14.14
Third Quarter	18.19	15.15	19.27	15.10
Fourth Quarter	17.24	13.42	19.11	14.55
2008				
First Quarter	15.19	11.76	18.05	13.76
Second Quarter	15.14	12.71	18.03	15.49
Third Quarter	13.92	9.21	17.76	9.69
Fourth Quarter	10.21	5.41	10.59	4.60
2009				
First Quarter	6.30	4.41	5.70	3.74
Second Quarter	8.30	4.93	8.11	4.35
Most Recent Six Months				
January 2009	6.30	5.62	5.70	4.87
February 2009	6.10	5.38	5.46	4.30
March 2009	5.17	4.41	4.60	3.74
April 2009	6.17	4.93	5.67	4.35
May 2009	8.30	6.66	8.11	5.83
June 2009	7.51	6.72	7.75	6.67
July 2009 (1)	7.18	7.07	7.44	7.18

(1) Through July 7, 2009.

Source: Economática Ltda./ Bloomberg

On July 7, 2009, the closing sales price of:

- our class A preferred shares on the BM&FBOVESPA was R\$7.12 per share;
- our class A preferred shares on the LATIBEX was 2.61 per share; and
- the ADSs on the NYSE was US\$7.18 per ADS.

Regulation of Brazilian Securities Markets

The Brazilian securities markets are regulated by the CVM, which has regulatory authority over the stock exchanges and the securities markets generally, the National Monetary Council and 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 markets are governed by (1) Law No. 6,385, as amended and supplemented, which is the principal law governing the Brazilian securities markets and which we refer to as the Brazilian Securities Law; (2) the Brazilian Corporation Law; and (3) the regulations issued by the CVM, the National Monetary Council and the Central Bank.

These laws and regulations provide for, among other things, disclosure requirements applicable to issuers of publicly traded securities, restrictions on insider trading and price manipulation (violations of which could lead to criminal sanctions under the Brazilian Penal Code), protection of minority shareholders and disclosure of transactions in a company's securities by its insiders, including directors, officers and major shareholders. They also provide for the licensing and oversight of brokerage firms and the governance of Brazilian stock exchanges.

However, the Brazilian securities markets are not as highly regulated or supervised as U.S. securities markets or securities 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, which may put holders of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs at a disadvantage. Finally, corporate disclosures also may be less complete than for public companies in the United States and certain other jurisdictions.

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, a company is either publicly held (*companhia aberta*), as we are, or privately held (*companhia fechada*). All publicly held companies are registered with the CVM and are subject to reporting and regulatory requirements. A company registered with CVM may have its securities traded either on the BM&FBOVESPA or in the Brazilian over-the-counter market. Shares of companies, such as our company, that are listed on the BM&FBOVESPA may not simultaneously trade on the Brazilian over-the-counter market. The shares of a publicly held company may also be traded privately, subject to certain limitations.

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

Disclosure Requirements

Law No. 6,385 and CVM Instruction No. 202 require that a publicly traded company, such as our company, submit to the CVM and the BOVESPA certain periodic information, including annual and quarterly reports prepared by management and independent auditors. Law No. 6,385 and CVM Instruction No. 202 also require us to file with the CVM our shareholders' agreements, notices of shareholders' meetings and copies of the minutes of these meetings.

CVM Instruction No. 358, which became effective in April 2002, revised and consolidated the requirements regarding the disclosure and use of information related to material facts and acts of publicly traded companies, including the disclosure of information in the trading and acquisition of securities issued by publicly traded companies.

CVM Instruction No. 358 includes provisions that:

- establish the concept of a material fact that gives rise to reporting requirements. Material facts include decisions made by the controlling shareholders, resolutions of the general meeting of shareholders and of management of the company, or any other facts related to the company's business (whether occurring within the company or otherwise related thereto) that may influence the price of its publicly traded securities, or the decision of investors to trade such securities or to exercise any of such securities underlying rights;
- specify examples of facts that are considered to be material, which include, among others, the execution of agreements providing for the transfer of control, the entry or withdrawal of shareholders that maintain any managing, financial, technological or administrative function with or contribution to the company, and any corporate restructuring undertaken among related companies;
- require the investor relations officer, controlling shareholders, other officers or directors, members of the fiscal council and other advisory boards to disclose material facts;

- require simultaneous disclosure of material facts to all markets in which the company's securities are admitted for trading;
- require the acquirer of a controlling stake in a company to publish material facts, including its intentions as to whether or not to de-list the company's shares, within one year;
- establish rules regarding disclosure requirements in the acquisition and disposal of a material shareholding stake; and
- prohibit trading on the basis of material non-public information.

Brazilian regulations also require that any person or group of persons representing the same interest that has directly or indirectly acquired an interest corresponding to 5% of a type or class of shares of a publicly traded company must provide such publicly traded company with information on such acquisition and its purpose, and such company must transmit this information to the CVM. If this acquisition causes a change in the control of the company or in the administrative structure of the company, or if this acquisition triggers the obligation to make a public offering in accordance with CVM Instruction No. 361, as amended, then the acquirer must disclose this information to the applicable stock exchanges and the appropriate Brazilian newspapers.

Recent Regulatory Developments

On July 13, 2007, the CVM issued CVM Rule No. 457 to require listed companies to publish consolidated financial statements prepared in accordance with IFRS beginning with the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010.

On December 28, 2007, Law No. 11,638 was enacted and amended numerous provisions of the Brazilian Securities Law and the Brazilian Corporation Law relating to accounting principles and authority to issue accounting standards. Law No. 11,638 sought to enable greater convergence between Brazilian GAAP and IFRS. To promote convergence, Law No. 11,638 modified certain accounting principles of the Brazilian Corporation Law and mandated the CVM to issue accounting rules conforming to the accounting standards adopted in international markets. In December 2008, the CVM issued Deliberation No. 565 implementing these changes in accounting policies. Additionally, Law No. 11,638 acknowledged a role in the setting of accounting standards for the Committee for Accounting Pronouncements (*Comitê de Pronunciamentos Contábeis*), or CPC, which is a committee of officials from the BM&FBOVESPA, industry representatives and academic bodies that has issued accounting guidance and pursued the improvement of accounting standards in Brazil. Law No. 11,638 permits the CVM and the Brazilian Central Bank to rely on the accounting standards issued by the CPC in establishing accounting principles for regulated entities.

On December 11, 2008, the CVM issued CVM Resolution No. 560 which requires a company listed on the BM&FBOVESPA to disclose all the benefits granted to its employees and managers, including any benefits paid to such employees and managers due to their ownership of shares or other securities of the listed company.

Trading on the BM&FBOVESPA

Overview of the BM&FBOVESPA

In 2000, the *Bolsa de Valores de São Paulo S.A.* (BVSP (the São Paulo Stock Exchange)), or the BOVESPA, was reorganized through the execution of memoranda of understanding by the Brazilian stock exchanges. Following this reorganization, the BOVESPA was a non-profit entity owned by its member brokerage firms and trading on the BOVESPA was limited to these member brokerage firms and a limited number of authorized nonmembers. Under the memoranda, all securities are now traded only on the BOVESPA, with the exception of electronically traded public debt securities and privatization auctions, which are traded on the Rio de Janeiro Stock Exchange.

In August 2007, BOVESPA underwent a corporate restructuring that resulted in the creation of BOVESPA Holding S.A., a public corporation, whose wholly-owned subsidiaries were (1) the BOVESPA, which was responsible for the operations by the stock exchange and the organized over-the-counter markets, and (2) the

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Companhia Brasileira de Liquidação e Custódia (the Brazilian Settlement and Custodial Company, or CBLC), which was responsible for settlement, clearing and depositary services. In the corporate restructuring, all holders of membership certificates of the BOVESPA and of shares of CBLC became shareholders of BOVESPA Holding S.A. As a result of the corporate restructuring, access to the trading and other services rendered by the BOVESPA is not conditioned on stock ownership in BOVESPA Holding S.A.

In May 2008, the BOVESPA merged with the *Bolsa de Mercadorias & Futuros* (Commodities and Futures Exchange) to form the BM&FBOVESPA. In November 2008, the CBLC merged with the BM&FBOVESPA. As a result, the BOVESPA now performs its own settlement, clearing and depositary services.

Trading and Settlement

Trading of equity securities on the BM&FBOVESPA is conducted through an electronic trading system called Megabolsa every business day from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., São Paulo time (or during daylight savings time in the U.S. from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., São Paulo time). Trading of equity securities on the BM&FBOVESPA is also conducted between 5:45 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., São Paulo time (or during daylight savings time in the U.S. from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., São Paulo time), in an after-market system connected to both traditional brokerage firms and brokerage firms operating on the internet. This after-market trading is subject to regulatory limits on price volatility of securities and on the volume of shares traded by investors operating on the internet.

Since March 2003, market making activities have been allowed on the BM&FBOVESPA, although there are no specialists or market makers for our shares on the BM&FBOVESPA. Trading in securities listed on the BM&FBOVESPA may be effected off the exchange in the unorganized over-the-counter market under certain circumstances, although such trading is very limited.

The trading of securities of a company on the BM&FBOVESPA may be suspended at the request of a company in anticipation of the announcement of a material event. A requesting company must also suspend trading of its securities on international stock exchanges on which its securities are traded. The CVM and the BM&FBOVESPA have discretionary authority to suspend trading in shares of a particular issuer, based on or due to a belief that, among other reasons, a company has provided inadequate information regarding a material event or has provided inadequate responses to inquiries by the CVM or the BM&FBOVESPA.

In order to reduce volatility, the BM&FBOVESPA has adopted a circuit breaker mechanism under which trading sessions may be suspended for a period of 30 minutes or one hour whenever the Ibovespa index falls 10% or 15%, respectively, compared to the closing of the previous trading session.

Settlement of transactions on the BM&FBOVESPA is effected three business days after the trade date, without adjustment of the purchase price for inflation. Delivery of and payment for shares is made through the facilities of the clearing and settlement chamber of the BM&FBOVESPA. The seller is ordinarily required to deliver shares to the clearing and settlement chamber of the BM&FBOVESPA on the second business day following the trade date.

Market Size

Although the Brazilian equity market is Latin America's largest in terms of market capitalization, it is smaller, more volatile and less liquid than the major U.S. and European securities markets. Moreover, the BM&FBOVESPA is significantly less liquid than the NYSE or other major exchanges in the world.

As of December 31, 2008, the aggregate market capitalization of all companies listed on the BM&FBOVESPA was equivalent to approximately R\$1,375.3 billion (US\$588.5 billion), the 10 largest companies listed on the BM&FBOVESPA represented approximately 52% of the total market capitalization of all listed companies and we accounted for approximately 0.2% of the market capitalization of all listed companies on the BM&FBOVESPA. By comparison, as of December 31, 2008, the aggregate market capitalization of the companies (including U.S. and non-U.S. companies) listed on the NYSE was approximately US\$14.3 trillion and the 10 largest companies listed on the NYSE represented approximately 14.6% of the total market capitalization of all listed companies. The average

daily trading volume of the BM&FBOVESPA and NYSE for 2008 was approximately R\$7.1 billion (US\$3.1 billion) and US\$152.6 billion, respectively.

Although any of the outstanding shares of a listed company may trade on the BM&FBOVESPA, in most cases fewer than half of the listed shares are actually available for trading by the public, the remainder being held by small groups of controlling persons, governmental entities or one principal shareholder that rarely trade their shares. For this reason, data showing the total market capitalization of the BM&FBOVESPA tends to overstate the liquidity of the Brazilian equity market. The relative volatility and illiquidity of the Brazilian equity markets may substantially limit your ability to sell our class A preferred shares at the time and price you desire and, as a result, could negatively impact the market price of these securities.

Regulation of Foreign Investments

Trading on the BM&FBOVESPA 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 Brazilian foreign investment regulations. With limited exceptions, non-Brazilian holders may trade on the BM&FBOVESPA only in accordance with the requirements of Resolution No. 2,689 of the National Monetary Council. Resolution No. 2,689 requires that securities held by non-Brazilian holders be maintained in the custody of, or in deposit accounts with, financial institutions that are authorized by the Central Bank and the CVM. In addition, Resolution No. 2,689 requires non-Brazilian holders to restrict their securities trading to transactions on the BM&FBOVESPA or qualified 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. See Item 10. Additional Information Exchange Controls Resolution 2,689 for further information about Resolution 2,689, and Item 10. Additional Information Taxation Brazilian Tax Considerations Taxation of Gains in Brazil for a description of certain tax benefits extended to non-Brazilian holders who qualify under Resolution No. 2,689.

BM&FBOVESPA Corporate Governance Standards

In December 2000, the BM&FBOVESPA introduced three special listing segments:

- Level 1 of Differentiated Corporate Governance Practices;
- Level 2 of Differentiated Corporate Governance Practices; and
- The *Novo Mercado* (New Market).

These special listing segments were 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 by Brazilian law. The inclusion of a company in any of the special listing segments requires adherence to a series of corporate governance rules. These rules were designed to increase shareholders rights and enhance the quality of information provided to shareholders.

The entry of a company into any one of the special listing segments of the BM&FBOVESPA occurs through the signing of an agreement that obliges the company to abide by the rules of corporate governance established in the regulations for the relevant level.

Our shares joined Level 1 of Differentiated Corporate Governance Practices on February 13, 2003. As a Level 1 company, we must, among other things:

- ensure that shares representing 25% of our total share capital are effectively available for trading;
- adopt offering procedures that favor widespread ownership of shares whenever we make a public offering;
- comply with minimum quarterly disclosure standards, including issuing consolidated financial information, a cash flow statement, and special audit revisions on a quarterly basis;

- follow stricter disclosure policies with respect to contracts with related parties, material contracts and transactions involving our securities made by our controlling shareholders, directors or executive officers;
- make a schedule of corporate events available to our shareholders; and
- hold public meetings with analysts and investors at least annually.

ITEM 10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Description of Our Company's By-laws

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*).

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 have been duly registered with the CVM under No. 4820 since December 18, 1978. Our principal place of business is in the Municipality of Camaçari, State of Bahia, Brazil. Our company has a perpetual existence.

At July 7, 2009, we had outstanding share capital of R\$5,473,180,912.45, equal to 520,928,154 total shares consisting of 190,462,446 common shares, 329,871,890 class A preferred shares and 593,818 class B preferred shares, including 1,506,060 class A preferred shares held in treasury. All of our share capital is fully paid. All of our shares are without par value. Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, the aggregate number of our non-voting and limited voting class A and class B preferred shares may not exceed two-thirds of our total outstanding share capital.

Corporate Purposes

Article 2 of our by-laws establishes 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 Petrobras and Petroquisa, over resolutions of our board of directors relating to certain matters under the Petrobras Shareholders Agreement. See Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions Major Shareholders Shareholders Agreements Petrobras Shareholders Agreement.

Election of Directors

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 Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions Major 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 and their alternates owe fiduciary duties towards us and all of our shareholders.

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, if one of our directors, their alternates or our executive officers has a conflict of interest with our company in connection with any proposed transaction, such director, alternate 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. However, if one of our directors is absent from a meeting of our board of directors, that director's alternate may vote even if that director has a conflict of interest, unless the alternate director shares that conflict of interest or has another conflict of interest.

Any transaction in which one of our directors (including the alternate members) 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 5.0% 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 5.0% or more of our share capital may bring 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 Item 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees Compensation.

Mandatory Retirement

Neither the Brazilian Corporation Law nor our by-laws establish any mandatory retirement age for our directors or executive officers.

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 our total outstanding share capital.

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