

BRASKEM SA
Form F-1/A
August 04, 2004

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 3, 2004

Registration Statement No. 333-114219

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

AMENDMENT NO. 2

to

Form F-1

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

Braskem S.A.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

N/A

(Translation of Registrant's name in English)

Federative Republic of Brazil

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

2860

*(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)*

N/A

*(IRS Employer
Identification Number)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED _____, 2004

Class A Preferred Shares

BRASKEM S.A.

(incorporated in the Federative Republic of Brazil)

In the form of American Depositary Shares

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

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

The ADSs are listed on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol BAK. The last reported sale price of the ADSs on The New York Stock Exchange on June 2, 2004 was US\$16.01 per ADS. Our class A preferred shares are listed on the São Paulo Stock Exchange in lots of 1,000 shares under the symbol BRKM5. The closing price of our class A preferred shares on the São Paulo Stock Exchange on June 2, 2004 was R\$50.10 per 1,000 class A preferred shares, which is equivalent to approximately US\$16.01 per 1,000 class A preferred shares, based upon an exchange rate of R\$3.130 to US\$1.00.

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

Investing in the ADSs involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 14.

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

Delivery of the ADSs will be made on or about _____, 2004.

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

Credit Suisse First Boston

Credit Suisse First Boston

Unibanco

UBS Investment Bank

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

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

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights information presented in greater detail elsewhere in this prospectus. This summary is not complete and does not contain all the information you should consider before investing in the ADSs. You should carefully read this entire prospectus before investing, including Risk Factors and our financial statements. See Presentation of Financial and Other Information for information regarding our financial statements, exchange rates, definitions of technical terms and other introductory matters.

Braskem

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

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

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

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

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

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

We believe the integration of the operations of the companies that formed our company has produced, and will continue to provide, significant synergies and cost savings from reduced taxes, procurement and logistics expenses, general and administrative expenses and other operating expenses. At March 31, 2004, we estimated that the implementation of our integration program will result in our achieving more than R\$300 million in annual recurring cost reductions as compared to costs that would have been incurred by our company and the companies that we have acquired. However, we may not be able to realize the full benefit of the existing or future identified annual cost savings in upcoming years.

Basic Petrochemicals Unit

At December 31, 2003, 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 produces a broad range of basic petrochemicals, including:

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

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

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

Polyolefins Unit

At December 31, 2003, 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 produces:

polyethylene, including low density polyethylene, or LDPE; linear low density polyethylene, or LLDPE; high density polyethylene, or HDPE; and ultra high molecular weight polyethylene; and

polypropylene.

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

In 2003, we had an approximate 29% share of the Brazilian polyethylene market and an approximate 40% share of the Brazilian polypropylene market, based on sales volumes.

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

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

Vinyls Unit

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

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

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

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

Business Development Unit

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

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In 2003, 37.8% of our Business Development Unit's net sales revenue was derived from the sale of PET, and 45.9% was derived from the sale of caprolactam. Our Business Development Unit conducts its manufacturing operations in two plants located in the Northeastern Complex.

Jointly Controlled Companies

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

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

Strategy and Challenges

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

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

The key elements of our strategy include:

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

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

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

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

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

We face numerous challenges and risks in operating our business and executing our strategy, many of which are outside our control. Because approximately two-thirds of our consolidated cost of sales and services rendered are related to purchases of naphtha, increases in the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price of naphtha result in increases in the costs of our products, and we may not be able to recover these costs through increases in our prices. In addition, our business is subject to risks that may arise from,

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among other factors, the cyclical nature of our industry, currency fluctuations, debt service requirements on our existing indebtedness, and decisions rendered in pending legal proceedings against us. For a more complete description of these risks and other risks relating to Brazil, our industry, our company and this offering, please see **Risk Factors** beginning on page 14 of this prospectus.

Principal Shareholders

Our controlling shareholder is the Odebrecht Group, which is one of the 10 largest Brazilian-owned private sector conglomerates based upon net sales revenue. The Odebrecht Group also controls Construtora Norberto Odebrecht S.A., one of the largest heavy construction and engineering companies in Latin America. The Odebrecht Group, through Odebrecht S.A., or Odebrecht, and its wholly-owned subsidiary, ODBPAR Investimentos S.A., or ODBPAR Investments, directly owns 38.5% of our total share capital, including 42.9% of our voting share capital. In addition, the Odebrecht Group owns 50.1% of the voting share capital of Nordeste Química S.A. Norquisa, or Norquisa, which owns 10.7% of our total share capital, including 29.4% of our voting share capital.

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

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

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

-
- (1) Includes, in addition to direct shareholdings, 997,813 ADSs outstanding, representing 997,813,000 class A preferred shares, or 1.3% of our total share capital.
 - (2) Pronor is controlled by Petroquímica da Bahia.
 - (3) Our subsidiary Copene Participações S.A. owns 0.3% of our total share capital, including 0.6% of our voting share capital.

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

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The Offering

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

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Immediately after the global offering (and giving effect to a conversion of class A preferred shares into common shares as required by Brazilian law), we will have _____ class A preferred shares outstanding and _____ total shares outstanding, assuming no exercise of the underwriters over-allotment options.

Voting rights

Holders of our class A preferred shares and, consequently, holders of the ADSs do not have voting rights, except in very limited circumstances.

Dividends

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law and our by-laws, we are required to distribute as dividends not less than 25% of our annual net income, subject to adjustments and exceptions. We may also pay dividends in the form of interest attributable to shareholders' equity in lieu of dividends. Brazilian companies, including our company, are permitted to pay interest attributable to shareholders' equity as a tax-efficient alternative form of dividends to shareholders. Under the terms of a shareholders agreement, we are required, subject to certain limitations, to distribute at least 50% of our adjusted net income in each fiscal year. Under the terms of certain of our debt obligations, we cannot distribute more than 50% of our adjusted net income in any fiscal year.

We have not paid dividends since May 20, 2002 because of our accumulated deficit arising from net losses in 2002. We expect to resume paying dividends, which may be in the form of interest attributable to shareholders' equity, when we have retained earnings.

The holders of ADSs will be entitled to receive dividends to the same extent as the owners of our class A preferred shares, subject to deduction of any fees and charges of the depository for the ADSs.

Taxation

Dividend distributions with respect to our class A preferred shares or ADSs are not currently subject to withholding of Brazilian income tax. However, payment of interest attributable to shareholders' equity (in lieu of dividends) currently is subject to withholding of Brazilian income tax. Gains from the sale or other disposition of ADSs or class A preferred shares outside of Brazil by shareholders not domiciled in Brazil could be subject to Brazilian income tax. For certain Brazilian and U.S. tax consequences with respect to U.S. holders of our class A preferred shares or ADSs, see Taxation.

Lock-up agreements

We have agreed with the underwriters, subject to certain exceptions, not to offer, sell, contract to sell, grant an option to sell or otherwise dispose of, directly or indirectly, or file a registration statement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, or the Brazilian Securities Commission (*Comissão de Valores Mobiliários*) relating to, any shares of our share capital or ADSs or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any shares of our share capital or ADSs or warrants or other rights to purchase any shares of our share capital or ADSs, or publicly disclose the intention to make any

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such offer, sale, disposition or filing, during the 120-day period following the date of this prospectus without the prior written consent of Credit Suisse First Boston LLC, on behalf of the international underwriters. The Odebrecht Group and our directors and executive officers have agreed to substantially similar lock-up provisions, subject to some exceptions.

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

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

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

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

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The following summary financial data has been derived from our financial statements.

The summary financial data at December 31, 2003 and 2002 and for the three years ended December 31, 2003 have been derived from our consolidated and combined financial statements included in this prospectus. The summary financial data at December 31, 2001 has been derived from our audited combined financial statements that are not included in this prospectus. The summary financial data at December 31, 2000 and 1999 and for the two years ended December 31, 2000 have been derived from audited financial statements of our company that are not included in this prospectus.

The summary financial data at March 31, 2004 and for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003 have been derived from our unaudited condensed consolidated quarterly information included in this prospectus, which include, in the opinion of our management, all adjustments necessary to present fairly our results of operations and financial condition at the dates and for the periods presented. The results for the three months ended March 31, 2004 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the entire year ending December 31, 2004.

Our financial statements are prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, which differs in significant respects from U.S. GAAP. For a discussion of the significant differences relating to these financial statements and a reconciliation of net income (loss) and shareholders' equity from Brazilian GAAP to U.S. GAAP, see note 29 to our audited consolidated and combined financial statements and note 21 to our unaudited condensed consolidated quarterly financial information included in this prospectus.

This financial information should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our financial statements in this prospectus. All per thousand share data presented below for periods before October 21, 2003 have been adjusted to give effect to the 20-for-one share split that was effective on that date.

| | At and for the Three Months Ended March 31, | | | At and for the Year Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2004(1) | 2004 | 2003 | 2003(1) | 2003 | 2002 | 2001(2) | 2000 | 1999 |
| | (in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | (in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | | | |
| | (in millions of reais, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | (in millions of reais, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | | | |
| Statement of Operations Data | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Brazilian GAAP:</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| Net sales revenue | US\$ 818.6 | R\$ 2,381.1 | R\$ 2,459.3 | US\$ 3,484.8 | R\$ 10,135.8 | R\$ 7,576.6 | R\$ 4,459.5 | R\$ 2,897.5 | R\$ 1,874.8 |
| Cost of sales and services rendered | (605.8) | (1,762.2) | (1,947.4) | (2,781.2) | (8,089.3) | (6,175.5) | (3,637.6) | (2,357.1) | (1,344.1) |
| Gross profit | 212.8 | 618.9 | 511.9 | 703.6 | 2,046.5 | 1,401.1 | 821.9 | 540.4 | 530.7 |
| Selling and general and administrative expenses | (44.7) | (130.0) | (89.5) | (162.2) | (471.9) | (577.7) | (210.3) | (116.2) | (101.7) |
| Investment in associated companies, net(3) | (7.6) | (22.1) | 7.7 | (54.4) | (158.2) | (251.7) | (214.3) | (3.6) | 4.2 |
| Depreciation and amortization | (25.1) | (73.1) | (41.9) | (66.5) | (193.5) | (222.4) | (111.3) | (36.5) | (36.1) |
| Financial expenses | (161.4) | (469.3) | (90.9) | (245.0) | (712.6) | (3,481.5) | (801.2) | (250.0) | (346.6) |
| Financial income | 34.7 | 100.9 | (9.5) | 3.1 | 9.0 | 619.6 | 294.7 | 178.6 | 173.2 |
| | | | | | | 1,030.1 | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|-------|
| Zero-rated IPI credit | | | | | | | | | |
| Other operating income (expenses) | 7.0 | 20.5 | (9.5) | 17.1 | 49.7 | 102.6 | 103.3 | (12.5) | 5.5 |
| Operating income (loss) | 15.7 | 45.8 | 278.3 | 195.7 | 569.0 | (1,379.9) | (117.2) | 300.2 | 229.2 |
| Non-operating expenses, net | 0.7 | 2.0 | (1.8) | (1.7) | (4.8) | (98.0) | (120.8) | (0.6) | (9.1) |

(Footnotes on pages after tables)

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| | At and for the Three Months Ended March 31, | | | At and for the Year Ended December 31, | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|------------|--|---|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|--|
| | 2004(1) | 2004 | 2003 | 2003(1) | 2003 | 2002 | 2001(2) | 2000 | 1999 | |
| | (in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | (in millions of reais, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | (in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | (in millions of reais, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | | | |
| Income (loss) before income tax and social contribution (current and deferred) and minority interest | 16.4 | 47.8 | 276.5 | 194.0 | 564.2 | (1,477.9) | (238.0) | 299.6 | 220.1 | |
| Income tax and social contribution (current and deferred) | (11.3) | (32.9) | (59.2) | (42.2) | (122.9) | (89.8) | (77.6) | (73.3) | (54.4) | |
| Income (loss) before minority interest | 5.1 | 14.9 | 217.3 | 151.8 | 441.3 | (1,567.7) | (315.6) | 226.3 | 165.7 | |
| Minority interest | (1.8) | (5.3) | (86.7) | (77.8) | (226.2) | 189.0 | (108.9) | 1.3 | 0.2 | |
| Net income (loss) for the year | US\$ 3.3 | R\$ 9.6 | R\$ 130.6 | US\$ 74.0 | R\$ 215.1 | R\$ (1,378.7) | R\$ (424.5) | R\$ 227.6 | R\$ 165.9 | |
| Number of shares outstanding at year end, excluding treasury shares (in thousands): | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common shares | | 25,730,062 | 24,521,820 | | 25,608,114 | 24,521,820 | 12,933,860 | 12,933,860 | 12,933,860 | |
| Class A preferred shares | | 50,608,971 | 42,156,480 | | 42,594,754 | 42,122,880 | 21,592,900 | 21,592,900 | 21,574,900 | |
| Class B preferred shares | | 229,155 | 229,160 | | 229,154 | 229,160 | 229,160 | 229,160 | 229,160 | |
| Net income (loss) per thousand shares at | US\$ 0.04 | R\$ 0.13 | R\$ 1.95 | US\$ 1.08 | R\$ 3.15 | R\$ (20.62) | R\$ (12.21) | R\$ 6.55 | R\$ 4.78 | |

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|---|------|------|------------|-----------|---------------|-------------|---------|------|------|
| year end | | | | | | | | | |
| Net income (loss) per ADS(4) at year end | 0.04 | 0.13 | 1.95 | 1.08 | 3.15 | (20.62) | (12.21) | 6.55 | 4.78 |
| Dividends declared per thousand shares: | | | | | | | | | |
| Common shares | | | | | | | 1.73 | 3.44 | 2.42 |
| Class A preferred shares | | | | | | 0.52 | 2.08 | 3.44 | 2.42 |
| Class B preferred shares | | | | | | 0.52 | 2.08 | 2.08 | 2.08 |
| Dividends declared per ADS(4) | | | | | | 0.52 | 2.08 | 3.44 | 2.42 |
| U.S. GAAP: | | | | | | | | | |
| Net income (loss) for the year | | | US\$ 130.0 | R\$ 378.1 | R\$ (1,144.0) | R\$ (471.0) | | | |
| Basic earnings (loss) per thousand shares (weighted average): | | | | | | | | | |
| Common shares | | | 1.94 | 5.63 | (47.71) | (26.71) | | | |
| Class A preferred shares | | | 1.88 | 5.48 | | | | | |
| Class B preferred shares | | | 0.60 | 1.74 | | | | | |
| Basic earnings (loss) per ADS (weighted average)(4) | | | 1.88 | 5.48 | | | | | |

(Footnotes on pages after tables)

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| | At and for the Three Months Ended March 31, | | | At and for the Year Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------|------|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2004(1) | 2004 | 2003 | 2003(1) | 2003 | 2002 | 2001(2) | 2000 | 1999 |
| | (in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | (in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | | | |
| | (in millions of reais, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | (in millions of reais, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | | | |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per thousand shares (weighted average): | | | | | | | | | |
| Common shares | | | | US\$ 1.92 | R\$ 5.58 | R\$ (47.71) | R\$ (26.71) | | |
| Class A preferred shares | | | | 1.88 | 5.46 | | | | |
| Class B preferred shares | | | | 0.60 | 1.74 | | | | |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per ADS (weighted average)(4) | | | | 1.88 | 5.46 | | | | |
| Balance Sheet Data | | | | | | | | | |
| Brazilian GAAP: | | | | | | | | | |
| Cash, cash equivalents and other investments | US\$ 641.4 | R\$ 1,865.7 | | US\$ 407.2 | R\$ 1,184.3 | R\$ 821.0 | R\$ 513.2 | R\$ 708.9 | R\$ 561.4 |
| Trade accounts receivable | 422.3 | 1,228.2 | | 418.1 | 1,216.2 | 959.0 | 484.1 | 231.6 | 188.6 |
| Inventories | 409.0 | 1,189.5 | | 368.4 | 1,071.6 | 889.1 | 667.8 | 163.4 | 119.9 |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | 1,815.7 | 5,281.2 | | 1,730.0 | 5,032.0 | 5,296.7 | 4,429.7 | 1,969.0 | 1,977.2 |
| Total assets | 5,209.5 | 15,152.4 | | 4,773.1 | 13,883.0 | 13,898.2 | 9,555.3 | 3,748.7 | 3,544.3 |
| Short-term loans and financing (including current portion of long-term debt) | 834.7 | 2,427.8 | | 937.4 | 2,726.5 | 2,746.1 | 1,966.4 | 331.5 | 257.4 |
| Short-term debentures | 159.1 | 462.9 | | 120.0 | 349.0 | 32.1 | 26.2 | | |
| Short-term related company debt | | | | 0.1 | 0.2 | 8.2 | 88.7 | | |
| Long-term loans and financing | 1,416.7 | 4,120.5 | | 1,243.0 | 3,615.3 | 3,891.6 | 3,101.7 | 861.8 | 915.6 |
| Long-term debentures | 646.5 | 1,880.4 | | 393.0 | 1,143.0 | 1,190.2 | 473.6 | | |
| Long-term related company debt | 62.8 | 182.8 | | 61.1 | 177.6 | 189.3 | 626.7 | 0.9 | 1.1 |
| Minority interest | 81.5 | 237.0 | | 190.6 | 554.4 | 433.1 | 738.0 | 27.4 | 30.1 |
| Share capital | 753.6 | 2,192.0 | | 648.9 | 1,887.4 | 1,845.4 | 1,201.6 | 1,203.9 | 1,203.9 |
| Shareholders equity | 834.9 | 2,428.5 | | 726.3 | 2,112.6 | 1,821.8 | 1,729.0 | 2,267.8 | 2,085.3 |
| U.S. GAAP: | | | | | | | | | |
| Total assets | | | | US\$ 3,801.9 | R\$ 11,058.2 | R\$ 10,531.7 | R\$ 7,803.0 | | |
| Shareholders equity | | | | 2.7 | 7.8 | (415.2) | 291.4 | | |
| Other Financial Information | | | | | | | | | |
| Brazilian GAAP: | | | | | | | | | |
| Net cash provided by (used in): | | | | | | | | | |

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|-------------------------------|------|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|------|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|
| Operating activities | US\$ | 214.3 | R\$ | 623.2 | R\$ | 448.4 | US\$ | 199.6 | R\$ | 580.5 | R\$ | 790.0 | R\$ | 1,453.9 | R\$ | 550.3 | R\$ | 613.6 |
| Investing activities | | (100.2) | | (291.3) | | (57.2) | | (158.3) | | (460.4) | | (646.7) | | (862.2) | | (115.6) | | (34.6) |
| Financing activities | | 280.3 | | 815.4 | | (327.3) | | 126.5 | | 367.8 | | (237.2) | | (404.9) | | (287.2) | | (210.7) |
| Capital expenditures: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | | 15.7 | | 45.6 | | 38.9 | | 73.8 | | 214.7 | | 419.9 | | 318.0 | | 18.4 | | 48.0 |
| Interest in other companies | | 5.1 | | 14.8 | | 1.8 | | 24.7 | | 71.7 | | 13.1 | | 1,172.3 | | 82.6 | | 26.6 |

(Footnotes on pages after tables)

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- (5) The terms and conditions of the notes issued under our medium-term note program include a covenant prohibiting us, and our subsidiaries, from issuing, directly or indirectly, any debt (subject to certain exceptions) unless our pro forma net debt to EBITDA ratio at the date of such issuance is less than 4.5 to 1.0. We have included a calculation of net debt, EBITDA and the net debt to

(Footnotes continued on next page)

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EBITDA ratio in accordance with this covenant, as we believe that (1) our medium-term note program is our most significant outstanding indebtedness, (2) this covenant is a material term of our medium-term note program and (3) information about this covenant is important for investors to understand our liquidity. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Liquidity and Capital Resources Indebtedness and Financing Strategy for a discussion of our medium-term note program and this covenant. EBITDA is not a measure under Brazilian GAAP and should not be considered as a substitute for net income or loss, cash flow from operations or other measures of operating performance or liquidity determined in accordance with Brazilian GAAP. EBITDA is not intended to represent funds available for dividends or other discretionary uses by us because those funds are required for debt service, capital expenditures, working capital and other commitments and contingencies. The use of EBITDA has material limitations, including:

EBITDA does not include interest expense. Because we have borrowed money to finance some of our operations, interest is a necessary and ongoing part of our costs and assists us in generating revenue.

EBITDA does not include taxes. The payment of taxes is a necessary and ongoing part of our operations.

EBITDA does not include depreciation. Because we must utilize property, plant and equipment in order to generate revenues in our operations, depreciation is a necessary and ongoing part of our costs.

We have calculated EBITDA in accordance with a covenant in our medium-term note program, which calculation may not be comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies.

- (6) Our medium-term note program requires that we calculate EBITDA at the end of each fiscal quarter on the basis of our financial results for the twelve-month period then ended. Accordingly, EBITDA as presented under the columns entitled At and for the Three Months Ended March 31, represents EBITDA for the twelve-month periods ended March 31.
- (7) Excluding intra-company sales within Braskem.
- (8) Represents the sum of the sales volumes of Polialden and OPP Química for 2001.
- (9) Represents the sales volume of Trikem for 2001.

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RISK FACTORS

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

Risks Relating to Brazil

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.

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of the Workers' Party took office as President of Brazil on January 1, 2003. In the period leading up to and following the October 2002 presidential election, there was substantial uncertainty regarding the policies that the new government would pursue. This uncertainty resulted in a loss of confidence in the Brazilian capital markets and a 34.3% devaluation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002. While the Brazilian government has adopted economic measures that are more conservative than initially expected by some observers, the Brazilian government may change these policies in a manner that slows the growth of the Brazilian economy, reducing demand for our products and, consequently, impairing our net sales revenue and overall financial performance. Any negative effect on our overall financial performance would also likely lead to a decrease in the market price of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs.

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 20.0% in 1999, 9.8% in 2000, 10.4% in 2001, 26.4% in 2002, 7.7% in 2003 and 2.8% during the three months ended March 31,

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2004, 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 also is 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 ADSs.

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, 2003, we had R\$1,189.3 million of loans and financing and debentures that were subject to the Long-Term Interest Rate, R\$783.7 million of loans and financing and debentures that were subject to the CDI (*Certificado Depositário Interbancário*), an interbank rate, and R\$1,155.5 million of loans and financing that were subject to LIBOR. The Long-Term Interest Rate is a Brazilian long-term interest rate that includes an inflation factor and is determined quarterly by the Central Bank. In particular, the Long-Term Interest Rate 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 2003 the CDI rate ranged from 25.3% per annum at January 31, 2003 to 16.3% per annum at December 31, 2003. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – 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.

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 devalued often during the last four decades. Throughout this period, the Brazilian government has implemented various economic plans and various exchange rate policies, including sudden devaluations, periodic mini-devaluations (during which the frequency of adjustments has ranged from daily to monthly), exchange controls, dual exchange rate markets and a floating exchange rate system. From time to time, there have been significant fluctuations in the exchange rate between the Brazilian currency and the U.S. dollar and other currencies. For example, the *real* depreciated in value against the U.S. dollar by 15.7% in 2001 and 34.3% in 2002 as compared with appreciation of 22.3% in 2003. The *real* depreciated against the U.S. dollar by 0.7% during the three months ended March 31, 2004 as compared to appreciation of 5.1% during the same period in 2003.

Devaluation of the *real* relative to the U.S. dollar also could result in additional inflationary pressures in Brazil by generally increasing the price of imported products and services and requiring recessionary

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government policies to curb demand. In addition, a devaluation of the *real* could weaken investor confidence in Brazil and reduce the market price of the ADSs. On the other hand, appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar may lead to a deterioration of the country's current account and the balance of payments and may dampen export-driven growth.

We had total foreign currency-denominated debt obligations in an aggregate amount of R\$5,765.1 million (US\$1,982.1 million) at March 31, 2004, representing 64.8% of our indebtedness, excluding related party debt, on a consolidated basis. We had total foreign-currency denominated obligations in an aggregate amount of R\$5,220.0 million (US\$1,806.7 million) at December 31, 2003, representing 66.0% of our indebtedness, excluding related party debt, on a consolidated basis. Although we manage a portion of our exchange rate risk through foreign currency derivative instruments, our foreign currency debt obligations are not completely hedged. A significant devaluation of the *real* in relation to the U.S. dollar or other currencies could 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*.

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

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

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 the past, the Central Bank has centralized certain payments of principal on external obligations. Many factors could cause the Brazilian government to institute more restrictive exchange control policies, including the extent of Brazil's foreign currency reserves, the availability of sufficient foreign exchange on the date a payment is due, the size of Brazil's debt service burden relative to the economy as a whole, Brazil's policy towards the International Monetary Fund and political constraints to which Brazil may be subject. A more restrictive policy could increase the cost of servicing (and thereby reduce our ability to pay) our foreign currency-denominated debt obligations and other liabilities. At December 31, 2003, 66.0% of our indebtedness on a consolidated basis was denominated in foreign currencies. If we fail to make payments under any of these obligations, we will be in default under those obligations, which could reduce our liquidity as well as on the market price of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs.

Energy shortages in Brazil could cause us to curtail our production, which would negatively affect our net sales revenue and our overall financial performance.

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

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unexpected shutdowns of our operations at the Northeastern Complex in the future, which could cause us to decrease our production and consequently reduce our net sales revenue and negatively affect our overall financial performance.

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 regularly implements 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. In April 2003, the Brazilian government presented a tax reform proposal, which was mainly designed to simplify tax assessments, to avoid internal disputes within and between the Brazilian states and municipalities, and to redistribute tax revenues. The tax reform proposal provided for changes in the rules governing the federal Social Integration Program (*Programa de Integração Social*), or PIS, the federal Contribution for Social Security Financing (*Contribuição para Financiamento da Seguridade Social - COFINS*), or COFINS, the Tax on the Circulation of Merchandise and Services (*Imposto Sobre a Circulação de Mercadorias e Serviços*), or ICMS, the Tax on Bank Account Transactions (*Contribuição Provisória sobre Movimentação ou Transmissão de Valores e de Créditos e Direitos de Natureza Financeira*), or CPMF, and some other taxes.

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

The effects of these proposed tax reform measures and any other changes that result from enactment of additional tax reforms have not been, and cannot be, quantified. However, some of these measures, if enacted, 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 Company and the Petrochemical Industry

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 cyclical nature 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 be under competitive pressure to lower our prices; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

During 2003, the price of naphtha in U.S. dollars increased by 5.6%, from US\$287.00 per ton in December 2002 to US\$313.00 per ton in December 2003. The U.S. dollar price of naphtha was volatile during 2003, increasing substantially between January and February prior to the commencement of the war in Iraq, declining sharply through May before rebounding in June and increasing steadily through the end of the year. During the three months ended March 31, 2004, the price of naphtha in U.S. dollars increased by 7.8%, from US\$313.00 per ton at December 31, 2003 to US\$337.50 per ton at March 31, 2004. Since the end of the first quarter of 2004, the price of naphtha in U.S. dollars has increased further, reaching US\$350.00 per ton at April 30, 2004 and US\$375.00 per ton at June 2, 2004. The price of naphtha may increase significantly or the *real* may devalue significantly in the future. An 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 U.S. dollar/*real* exchange rate. Although we attempt to pass on increases in naphtha prices through the prices of our products, in periods of high volatility in the U.S. dollar/*real* exchange rate, there is usually a lag between the time that the U.S. dollar appreciates and the time that we may effectively pass on those increased costs in *reais* to our customers in Brazil. As a result, if the *real* depreciates precipitously against the U.S. dollar in the future, we may not immediately be able to pass on all of the corresponding increases in our naphtha costs to our customers in Brazil, which would likely reduce our gross margin and net income.

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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 68.8% of the naphtha consumed by our company in 2003. Petrobras produces some of the naphtha it sells to us and imports the balance. 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 us to Petrobras facilities, whether as a consequence of an accident, natural disaster, fire or otherwise; or

any termination by Petrobras of the naphtha supply contract with our company, 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.

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

Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit is the only supplier of ethylene to our Vinyls Unit, and our Basic Petrochemicals Unit and Copesul are the only suppliers 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 or to Copesul's facilities through which ethylene or propylene is produced, or to the pipeline or other facilities that connect these units to our Basic Petrochemicals Unit or Copesul, whether as a consequence of an accident, natural disaster, fire or otherwise;

any termination by Copesul of the ethylene and propylene supply contracts with our company; or

any significant reduction in the supply of naphtha to our Basic Petrochemicals Unit or to Copesul, as naphtha is the principal raw material used in the production of ethylene and propylene.

In addition, any significant expansion of the production capacity of our Polyolefins Unit in the Southern Complex will depend on our ability to obtain additional ethylene and propylene from Copesul.

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

We had R\$8,891.6 million of total indebtedness on a consolidated basis at March 31, 2004, including R\$461.5 million of indebtedness of our jointly controlled companies, including Copesul, Politeno and Cetrel S.A. Empresa de Proteção Ambiental, or Cetrel, which we consolidate on a proportional basis as required by Brazilian GAAP, and excluding R\$182.8 million of related party debt. We had R\$7,833.8 million of total indebtedness on a consolidated basis at December 31, 2003, including R\$490.7 million of indebtedness of our jointly controlled companies and excluding R\$177.6 million of related party debt and R\$113.4 million of advances for purchase of credit rights, a form of long-term obligation.

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

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

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

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

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

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 and Poor's, and Fitch, Inc., or Fitch, maintain ratings of our company and our debt securities. Currently, Standard and Poor's maintains a local rating for our company of Br A, a local currency rating for our company of BB- stable, and a foreign currency rating for our company of B+ positive, and Fitch maintains a local currency rating for our company of Br A with outlook stable. 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 the ADSs.

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

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

Under a memorandum of understanding between Petroquisa, on the one hand, and Odebrecht and other key shareholders, on the other, Petroquisa has an option exercisable through April 30, 2005 to acquire from us, and in certain circumstances from the Odebrecht Group, a number of our common and preferred shares that would provide it with the same equity participation in our voting and total share capital as the participation owned collectively by the Odebrecht Group, Petroquímica da Bahia, and Norquisa (which participation at April 30, 2004 represented an aggregate of 75.6% of our voting share capital and 51.3% of our total share capital). Under this memorandum of understanding, the consideration for the shares issued by our company upon Petroquisa's exercise of the option will consist of shares of Copesul, and the exchange ratio of such consideration for our common and preferred shares will be based upon independent valuations of our company and Copesul. See Principal Shareholders and Related Party

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Transactions Petroquisa Memorandum of Understanding for a description of how these valuations will be conducted.

If Petroquisa exercises the option, Petroquisa will also be entitled to representation on our board of directors equal to that of the Odebrecht Group, the Mariani Group and Norquisa, jointly. In addition, Petroquisa and the other shareholders party to the memorandum of understanding will be obligated to coordinate their votes and to vote as a block at meetings of our board of directors and shareholders.

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

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

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

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

We take into account, when setting the domestic prices for our products, tariff rates imposed by the Brazilian government on imports of similar products and the products of our customers. We currently benefit from tariffs that allow us to charge lower prices for our polyolefins and vinyls products than imports of those products. Our margins from sales in the Brazilian market are therefore significantly higher than our margins from exports. However, the Brazilian government has in the past used import and export tariffs to effect economic policies, with the consequence that tariffs can vary considerably, especially tariffs on petrochemical products. Future adjustments of tariffs could 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 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 to remain compliant could increase substantially and could decrease the availability of funds for other capital expenditures and other purposes.

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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.

The Brazilian antitrust authorities could impose costly or restrictive conditions on the approval of the formation of our company.

As part of our corporate reorganization process that began in 2001, we merged with each of OPP Química, Trikem, Proppet and Nitrocarbano and we acquired Polialden. We closed these transactions, as permitted by Brazilian law, subject to the final approval of the Brazilian antitrust authorities. We have submitted the terms and conditions of these transactions to the Brazilian antitrust authorities. These antitrust authorities will determine whether these transactions negatively impact competitive conditions in the markets in which we compete or whether they would negatively affect consumers in these markets. Although two of the three Brazilian antitrust authorities have issued non-binding opinions recommending the unconditional approval of these corporate reorganization transactions, the third and governing antitrust authority continues to review this matter and may disagree with these opinions and not approve these transactions. Any action by the Brazilian antitrust authorities to impose conditions or performance commitments on our company as part of the approval of these transactions could materially adversely affect our business and negatively affect our overall financial performance.

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 about the likelihood of winning these lawsuits.

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

Social Contribution on Net Income. We and some of our subsidiaries have challenged the constitutionality of the Brazilian federal Social Contribution on Net Income (*Contribuição Social Sobre o Lucro Líquido*). A Brazilian Federal Supreme Court (*Supremo Tribunal Federal*) decision in our favor was overruled in a subsequent rescission action filed by the Brazilian tax authorities, and our appeal of that suit is pending. Our total estimated exposure, including interest, was R\$476.0 million at March 31, 2004. This amount does not include approximately R\$154.4 million in penalties at March 31, 2004 that we believe are not payable because we relied upon a judicial decision in not paying the Social Contribution on Net Income. We believe that it is reasonably possible that we will lose this rescission action, and we believe that there is a remote possibility that we will be required to pay fines and related interest as a result of this tax litigation. We have not established a provision for these lawsuits. However, as there are adverse precedents under Brazilian law that allow 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 these taxes from the date of the original decision.

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Cost of Living Adjustments on Workers' Wages. The unions that represent employers and workers in the Northeastern Complex are involved in a lawsuit over the indices we and other companies have used for cost of living adjustments on workers' wages since early 1990. For a description of the legal bases of these suits, see *Business Legal Proceedings Labor Proceedings*. The Brazilian Federal Supreme Court has held in favor of the employers' union, but the workers' union has requested reconsideration of the decision, and the decision of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court is not yet final and does not address damages. We believe it is reasonably possible that the employers' union will lose this suit, which could adversely affect us. While we believe that it is possible (although unlikely) that an adverse judgment against the employers' union could impact wages that we paid from April 1990 to the present, we believe that any judgment would most likely impact wages that we paid from April 1990 to September 1990 (when the next collective bargaining agreement was entered into). As we believe that it is not probable that the employers' union will lose this suit, we have not recorded a provision in respect of this suit. If the employers' union loses this suit and we are required to pay damages from 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 and some of our subsidiaries believe that our chances of success are remote in a series of lawsuits in which we challenged the constitutionality of an increase in the COFINS tax rate. For a description of the legal bases of these suits, see *Business Legal Proceedings Tax Disputes*. We had established total provisions of R\$289.9 million at March 31, 2004 for all our lawsuits relating to PIS and COFINS, including separate lawsuits challenging the basis of calculation of PIS and COFINS. Because we have deposited only R\$94.0 million of this amount with the courts, we would be required, in the event we and our subsidiaries 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 and/or applicable law. In some cases where we have received favorable lower court decisions, we have used these credits to offset other tax obligations and have established provisions in an equivalent amount until a final decision is rendered (adjusting these provisions based on the SELIC (*Sistema Especial de Liquidação e de Custódia - SELIC*), or SELIC interest rate). These provisions totaled R\$777.1 million at March 31, 2004. 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 *Business Legal Proceedings*.

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. However, until our general shareholders meeting in 2006, any member elected to our board of directors by these preferred shareholders must be selected from a list of three nominees chosen by our controlling shareholder. Holders of our class A preferred shares and the ADSs are not entitled to vote to approve corporate transactions, including mergers or consolidations of our company with other companies.

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

Holders may exercise the limited voting rights with respect to our class A preferred shares represented by the ADSs only in accordance with the deposit agreement relating to the ADSs. There are practical limitations upon the ability of ADS holders to exercise their voting rights due to the additional steps involved in communicating with ADS holders. For example, we are required to publish a notice of our shareholders meetings in certain newspapers in Brazil. To the extent that holders of our class A preferred shares are entitled to vote at a shareholders meeting, they will be able to exercise their voting rights by attending the meeting in person or voting by proxy. By contrast, holders of ADSs will receive notice of a shareholders meeting by mail from the ADR depository following our notice to the ADR depository requesting the ADR depository to do so. To exercise their voting rights, ADS holders must instruct the depository on a timely basis. This noticed voting process will take longer for ADS holders than for holders of class A preferred shares. If it fails to receive timely voting instructions for all or part of the ADSs, the depository 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 ADSs have voting rights, they may not receive the voting materials in time to instruct the depository to vote our class A preferred shares underlying their ADSs. In addition, the depository and its agents are not responsible for failing to carry out voting instructions of the holders of ADSs or for the manner of carrying out those voting instructions. Accordingly, holders of ADSs may not be able to exercise 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.

Brazilian law provides that whenever there is a significant imbalance in Brazil's balance of payments or a significant possibility that such imbalance will exist, the Brazilian government may impose temporary restrictions on the remittance to foreign investors of the proceeds of their investment in Brazil (as it did for approximately six months in 1989 and early 1990) and on the conversion of Brazilian currency into foreign currencies. 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 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 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.

Investors in the ADSs will not be direct shareholders of our company and will be 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 our 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

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

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

Holders of ADSs will be unable to exercise the preemptive rights relating to our class A preferred shares underlying ADSs unless a registration statement under the Securities Act is effective with respect to those rights or an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act is available. We are not obligated to file a registration statement with respect to the shares relating to these preemptive rights or to take any other action to make preemptive rights available to holders of 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 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.

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

Historically, any capital gain realized on a sale or other disposition of ADSs between non-Brazilian holders outside Brazil was not subject to Brazilian income tax. However, a new Brazilian law provides that, commencing on February 1, 2004, the acquiror, individual or legal entity resident or domiciled in Brazil, or the acquiror's attorney-in-fact, when such acquirer is resident or domiciled abroad, shall be responsible for the retention and payment of the income tax applicable to 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. It is unclear whether ADSs representing class A preferred shares, which are issued by the depository outside Brazil, will be deemed to be property located in Brazil for purposes of this law. Accordingly, we cannot determine whether Brazilian tax authorities will attempt to tax any capital gains arising from the sale or other disposition of ADSs, 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 São Paulo Stock Exchange, which is the principal Brazilian stock exchange, had a market capitalization of US\$234.2 billion (or R\$676.7 billion) at December 31, 2003 and an average daily trading volume of US\$271.9 million for 2003. In comparison, The New York Stock Exchange had a market capitalization of US\$17.3 trillion at December 31, 2003 and an average daily trading volume of US\$38.5 billion for 2003. There is also significantly greater concentration in the Brazilian securities markets. The 10 largest companies in terms of market capitalization represented approximately 48% of the aggregate market capitalization of the São Paulo Stock Exchange at December 31, 2003. The 10 most widely traded stocks in terms of trading volume accounted for approximately 54% of all shares traded on The São Paulo Stock Exchange in 2003. These market characteristics may substantially limit the ability of holders of the ADSs to sell class A preferred shares underlying ADSs at a price and at a time when they wish to do so 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 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.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

the cyclical nature of the Brazilian and global petrochemical industries;

the level of our indebtedness and related debt service requirements;

our ability to obtain financing on satisfactory terms;

competition;

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

prices of naphtha and other raw materials;

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

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

other factors identified or discussed under Risk Factors.

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

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PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL AND OTHER INFORMATION

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

On June 2, 2004, the exchange rate for *reais* into U.S. dollars was R\$3.130 to US\$1.00, based on the commercial selling rate as reported by the Central Bank of Brazil (*Banco Central do Brasil*), or the Central Bank. The commercial selling rate was R\$2.908 at March 31, 2004, R\$2.889 to US\$1.00 at December 31, 2003, R\$3.353 at March 31, 2003 and R\$3.533 to US\$1.00 at December 31, 2002. The *real*/dollar exchange rate fluctuates widely, and the commercial selling rate at June 2, 2004 may not be indicative of future exchange rates. See Exchange Rates for information regarding exchange rates for the Brazilian currency since January 1, 1999.

Solely for the convenience of the reader, we have translated some amounts included in Prospectus Summary Summary Financial and Other Information, Capitalization, Selected Financial and Other Information and elsewhere in this prospectus from *reais* into U.S. dollars for convenience only using the commercial selling rate as reported by the Central Bank at March 31, 2004 of R\$2.908 to US\$1.00. These translations should not be considered representations that any such amounts have been, could have been or could be converted into U.S. dollars at that or at any other exchange rate. Such translations should not be construed as representations that the *real* amounts represent or have been or could be converted into U.S. dollars as of that or any other date.

Financial Statements

We maintain our books and records in *reais*.

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

Our unaudited condensed consolidated quarterly information at March 31, 2004 and for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003 are included in this prospectus.

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

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

the rules and regulations of the Brazilian Securities Commission; and

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

Brazilian GAAP differs in significant respects from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or U.S. GAAP. For more information about the differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP and a reconciliation of our net income (loss) and shareholders equity from Brazilian GAAP to U.S. GAAP, see note 29 to our consolidated and combined financial statements and note 21 to our unaudited condensed consolidated quarterly information.

Consistent with Brazilian GAAP, our consolidated and combined financial statements at December 31, 2003 and 2002 and for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001 and our unaudited condensed consolidated quarterly information at March 31, 2004 and for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003 proportionally consolidate the results of operations and financial condition of jointly controlled companies which are not our subsidiaries, but which we jointly control with one or more other shareholders. The U.S. GAAP reconciliation eliminates the effects of proportional consolidation for those companies that are not jointly controlled by all voting shareholders.

Share Split

On October 20, 2003, we authorized the split of all of our issued common shares, class A preferred shares and class B preferred shares into 20 shares for each issued share. This share split was effective on October 21, 2003. As a result of this share split, the ratio of our class A preferred shares to ADSs changed

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from 50 class A preferred shares per ADS to 1,000 class A preferred shares per ADS. All references to numbers of shares and dividend amounts in this prospectus have been adjusted to give effect to this 20-for-one share split.

Market Share and Other Information

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

Technical and Other Terms

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

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

Rounding

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

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USE OF PROCEEDS

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

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

We have not identified specific short-term indebtedness that we intend to repay with the proceeds of the global offering. Our short-term indebtedness is utilized primarily for working capital purposes, and the interest rates for this indebtedness vary depending on market conditions.

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

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

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

At June 2, 2004, we had approximately 9,500 shareholders, including three U.S. resident holders of our common shares, approximately 46 U.S. resident holders of our class A preferred shares (including The Bank of New York, as depositary) and no U.S. resident holders of our class B preferred shares. At June 2, 2004, there were 217,667,900 common shares, 2,791,886,172 class A preferred shares (including class A preferred shares represented by ADSs), and no class B preferred shares held by U.S. resident holders.

Price History of Our Class A Preferred Shares and the ADSs

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

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

| | São Paulo Stock Exchange | | New York Stock Exchange | |
|----------------|---|----------|-------------------------|------------|
| | Reais per 1,000 Class A Preferred Shares | | U.S. dollars per ADS | |
| | High | Low | High | Low |
| 2002 | | | | |
| First Quarter | R\$29.24 | R\$23.02 | US\$ 12.75 | US\$ 10.05 |
| Second Quarter | 27.11 | 18.75 | 11.77 | 6.09 |
| Third Quarter | 20.35 | 11.50 | 7.11 | 3.18 |
| Fourth Quarter | 12.25 | 9.60 | 3.50 | 2.57 |
| 2003 | | | | |
| First Quarter | 13.25 | 7.90 | 4.10 | 2.20 |
| Second Quarter | 20.75 | 11.40 | 7.20 | 3.35 |

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| | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Third Quarter | 36.30 | 19.20 | 12.49 | 6.60 |
| Fourth Quarter | 66.85 | 35.80 | 23.39 | 12.40 |
| 2004 | | | | |
| First Quarter | 80.51 | 63.00 | 29.25 | 21.50 |

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| | São Paulo Stock Exchange | | New York Stock Exchange | |
|---------------|---|----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| | Reais per 1,000 Class A Preferred Shares | | U.S. dollars per ADS | |
| | High | Low | High | Low |
| December 2003 | R\$66.85 | R\$48.30 | US\$23.39 | US\$16.61 |
| January 2004 | 80.51 | 67.10 | 29.25 | 23.25 |
| February 2004 | 77.00 | 63.00 | 26.00 | 21.50 |
| March 2004 | 77.41 | 72.88 | 26.79 | 23.22 |
| April 2004 | 72.49 | 58.00 | 35.53 | 20.12 |
| May 2004 | 57.62 | 40.02 | 19.51 | 12.63 |

Source: Economática Ltda.

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

our class A preferred shares on the São Paulo Stock Exchange was R\$50.10 per 1,000 shares;

our class A preferred shares on the LATIBEX was 13.10 per 1,000 shares; and

the ADSs on The New York Stock Exchange was US\$16.01 per ADS.

The following table sets forth the average daily trading volume for our class A preferred shares on the São Paulo Stock Exchange and for the ADSs on The New York Stock Exchange for the periods indicated.

| | Average Daily Trading Volume | |
|----------------|---|-------------------------|
| | São Paulo Stock Exchange | New York Stock Exchange |
| | Lots of 1,000 Class A Preferred Shares | ADSs |
| 2002 | | |
| First Quarter | 37,027 | 4,435 |
| Second Quarter | 26,946 | 5,091 |
| Third Quarter | 30,059 | 5,613 |
| Fourth Quarter | 42,813 | 8,988 |
| 2003 | | |
| First Quarter | 74,239 | 6,672 |
| Second Quarter | 81,541 | 11,435 |
| Third Quarter | 106,240 | 18,414 |
| Fourth Quarter | 105,632 | 14,661 |
| 2004 | | |
| First Quarter | 142,360 | 29,868 |

Trading on the São Paulo Stock Exchange

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

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The São Paulo Stock Exchange is significantly less liquid than The New York Stock Exchange and many other of the world's major stock exchanges. While all of the outstanding shares of a listed company

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may trade on the São Paulo Stock Exchange, in most cases fewer than half of the listed shares are actually available for trading by the public. The remaining shares are often held by a single or small group of controlling persons or by governmental entities.

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

Regulation of Brazilian Securities Markets

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

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

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

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

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

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São Paulo Stock Exchange Corporate Governance Standards

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

Corporate Governance Level 1;

Corporate Governance Level 2; and

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

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

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

In becoming a Level 1 company, we agreed to:

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

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

comply with minimum quarterly disclosure standards;

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

disclose any existing shareholders agreements and stock option plans; and

make a schedule of corporate events available to our shareholders.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The following table sets forth our consolidated debt and capitalization at March 31, 2004, derived from our unaudited condensed consolidated quarterly information prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP:

on an actual historical basis; and

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

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

| | At March 31, 2004 | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Historical | | As Adjusted | |
| | (in millions of reais) | (in millions of US\$(1)) | (in millions of reais) | (in millions of US\$(1)) |
| Short-term debt (including accrued interest and current portion of long-term debt) | | | | |
| <i>Real</i> -denominated debt (including debentures): | | | | |
| Secured(2) | R\$ 489.4 | US\$ 168.2 | R\$ | US\$ |
| Unsecured | 409.4 | 140.8 | | |
| Foreign currency-denominated debt: | | | | |
| Secured(2)(3) | 59.7 | 20.5 | | |
| Unsecured | 1,741.3 | 598.7 | | |
| Short-term debt of proportionally consolidated companies | 190.9 | 65.6 | | |
| Total short-term debt | R\$2,890.7 | US\$ 993.8 | R\$ | US\$ |
| Long-term debt | | | | |
| <i>Real</i> -denominated debt (including debentures): | | | | |
| Secured(2) | R\$1,107.1 | US\$ 380.6 | R\$1,107.1 | US\$ 380.6 |
| Unsecured | 1,106.8 | 380.5 | 1,106.8 | 380.5 |
| Foreign currency-denominated debt: | | | | |
| Secured(2)(3) | 174.1 | 59.9 | 174.1 | 59.9 |
| Unsecured | 3,342.3 | 1,149.1 | 3,342.3 | 1,149.1 |
| Long-term debt of proportionally consolidated companies | 270.6 | 93.0 | 270.6 | 93.0 |
| Total long-term debt | R\$6,000.9 | US\$2,063.1 | R\$6,000.9 | US\$2,063.1 |
| Related party debt (long-term) | | | | |
| <i>Real</i> -denominated debt: | | | | |
| Unsecured | R\$ 19.0 | US\$ 6.5 | R\$ 19.0 | US\$ 6.5 |
| Foreign currency-denominated debt: | | | | |
| Unsecured | 163.8 | 56.3 | 163.8 | 56.3 |
| Total related party debt | R\$ 182.8 | US\$ 62.8 | R\$ 182.8 | US\$ 62.8 |
| Shareholders equity | R\$2,428.5 | US\$ 834.9 | R\$ | US\$ |

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Total capitalization (long-term debt, related party debt (long-term) plus shareholders equity)

R\$8,612.2

US\$2,960.8

R\$

US\$

- (1) Translated for convenience only using the commercial selling rate as reported by the Central Bank at March 31, 2004 for *reais* into U.S. dollars of R\$2.908=US\$1.00.

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- (2) Our secured debt is secured by accounts receivable, property, plant and equipment and shares of our jointly controlled companies.
- (3) At March 31, 2004, R\$44.0 million of our foreign currency-denominated debt (R\$11.3 million in short-term debt and R\$32.7 million in long-term debt) was guaranteed by the Odebrecht Group. The Odebrecht Group granted this guaranty in connection with the financing of the construction of a PET plant by Proppet in January 1998. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Liquidity and Capital Resources - Bank Credit Facilities.

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DILUTION

Dilution Relating to Global Offering

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

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

At March 31, 2004, our net book value was approximately US\$10.90 per thousand shares, translated at the commercial selling rate as reported by the Central Bank at March 31, 2004 for *reais* into U.S. dollars of R\$2.908 = US\$1.00. Based upon an the initial public offering price of US\$ per ADS, the immediate dilution to purchasers of the ADSs in the global offering will be US\$ per share or %. The following table illustrates this per ADS dilution:

| | Per ADS |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Initial public offering price | US\$ |
| Net book value at March 31, 2004 | — |
| Dilution to new investors | US\$ |

Future Dilution

Holders of ADSs may, in the future, experience further substantial dilution upon the exercise of the Petroquisa option to acquire new common shares and preferred shares from our company or upon conversion by ODBPAR Investments of R\$642.6 million principal amount of convertible subordinated debentures. See [Principal Shareholders and Related Party Transactions](#) [Principal Shareholders](#) [Shareholders Agreements](#) and [Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations](#) [Liquidity and Capital Resources](#) [Indebtedness and Financing Strategy](#).

Table of Contents**EXCHANGE RATES**

There are two principal legal foreign exchange markets in Brazil:

the commercial rate exchange market; and

the floating rate exchange market.

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

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

From March 1995 through January 1999, the Central Bank allowed the gradual devaluation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar. In January 1999, the Central Bank allowed the *real*/ U.S. dollar exchange rate to float freely. Since then, the *real*/ U.S. dollar exchange rate has been established mainly by the Brazilian interbank market and has fluctuated considerably. From December 31, 1998 through December 31, 2003, the *real* devalued by 58.2% against the U.S. dollar, and at June 2, 2004, the commercial selling rate for U.S. dollars was R\$3.130 per US\$1.00. The Central Bank has intervened occasionally to control unstable movements in the foreign exchange rate. However, the exchange market may continue to be volatile, and the *real* may depreciate or appreciate substantially in value in relation to the U.S. dollar in the future.

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

| Year | Reais per U.S. Dollar | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| | High | Low | Average | Period End |
| 1999 | R\$2.165 | R\$1.210 | R\$1.851 | R\$1.789 |
| 2000 | 1.985 | 1.723 | 1.835 | 1.956 |
| 2001 | 2.801 | 1.936 | 2.353 | 2.320 |
| 2002 | 3.955 | 2.271 | 2.998 | 3.533 |
| 2003 | 3.662 | 2.822 | 3.071 | 2.889 |
| 2004 (through March 31, 2004) | 2.987 | 2.802 | 2.895 | 2.908 |

| Month | Reais per U.S. Dollar | |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------|
| | High | Low |
| December 2003 | R\$2.943 | R\$2.888 |
| January 2004 | 2.941 | 2.802 |
| February 2004 | 2.988 | 2.904 |
| March 2004 | 2.941 | 2.872 |
| April 2004 | 2.952 | 2.874 |
| May 2004 | 3.205 | 2.957 |

Source: Central Bank

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The following selected financial data has been derived from our financial statements.

The selected financial data at December 31, 2003 and 2002 and for the three years ended December 31, 2003 have been derived from our consolidated and combined financial statements included in this prospectus. The selected financial data at December 31, 2001 has been derived from our audited combined financial statements that are not included in this prospectus. The selected financial data at December 31, 2000 and 1999 and for the two years ended December 31, 2000 have been derived from audited financial statements of our company that are not included in this prospectus.

The selected financial data at March 31, 2004 and for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003 have been derived from our unaudited condensed consolidated quarterly information included in this prospectus, which include, in the opinion of our management, all adjustments necessary to present fairly our results of operations and financial condition at the dates and for the periods presented. The results for the three months ended March 31, 2004 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the entire year ending December 31, 2004.

Our financial statements are prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, which differs in significant respects from U.S. GAAP. For a discussion of the significant differences relating to these financial statements and a reconciliation of net income (loss) and shareholders' equity from Brazilian GAAP to U.S. GAAP, see note 29 to our audited consolidated and combined financial statements and note 21 to our unaudited condensed consolidated quarterly financial information included in this prospectus.

This financial information should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our financial statements in this prospectus. All per thousand share data presented below for periods before October 21, 2003 have been adjusted to give effect to the 20-for-one share split that was effective on that date.

| | At and for the Three Months Ended March 31, | | | At and for the Year Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2004(1) | 2004 | 2003 | 2003(1) | 2003 | 2002 | 2001(2) | 2000 | 1999 |
| | (in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | (in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | | | |
| | (in millions of reais, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | (in millions of reais, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | | | |
| Statement of Operations Data | | | | | | | | | |
| Brazilian GAAP: | | | | | | | | | |
| Net sales revenue | US\$ 818.6 | R\$ 2,381.1 | R\$ 2,459.3 | US\$ 3,484.8 | R\$ 10,135.8 | R\$ 7,576.6 | R\$ 4,459.5 | R\$ 2,897.5 | R\$ 1,874.8 |
| Cost of sales and services rendered | (605.8) | (1,762.2) | (1,947.4) | (2,781.2) | (8,089.3) | (6,175.5) | (3,637.6) | (2,357.1) | (1,344.1) |
| Gross profit | 212.8 | 618.9 | 511.9 | 703.6 | 2,046.5 | 1,401.1 | 821.9 | 540.4 | 530.7 |
| Selling and general and administrative expenses | (44.7) | (130.0) | (89.5) | (162.2) | (471.9) | (577.7) | (210.3) | (116.2) | (101.7) |
| Investment in associated companies, net(3) | (7.6) | (22.1) | 7.7 | (54.4) | (158.2) | (251.7) | (214.3) | (3.6) | 4.2 |
| Depreciation and amortization | (25.1) | (73.1) | (41.9) | (66.5) | (193.5) | (222.4) | (111.3) | (36.5) | (36.1) |
| Financial expenses | (161.4) | (469.3) | (90.9) | (245.0) | (712.6) | (3,481.5) | (801.2) | (250.0) | (346.6) |
| Financial income | 34.7 | 100.9 | (9.5) | 3.1 | 9.0 | 619.6 | 294.7 | 178.6 | 173.2 |

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| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|------|-------|------|------|---------|-------|--------|-----|
| Zero-rated IPI credit | | | | | | 1,030.1 | | | |
| Other operating income (expenses) | 7.0 | 20.5 | (9.5) | 17.1 | 49.7 | 102.6 | 103.3 | (12.5) | 5.5 |

(Footnotes on pages after tables)

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| | At and for the Three Months Ended March 31, | | | At and for the Year Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|--|--|---|------------|--|---|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| | 2004(1) | 2004 | 2003 | 2003(1) | 2003 | 2002 | 2001(2) | 2000 | 1999 |
| | (in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | (in millions of reais, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | (in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | (in millions of reais, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | | |
| Operating income (loss) | 15.7 | 45.8 | 278.3 | 195.7 | 569.0 | (1,379.9) | (117.2) | 300.2 | 229.2 |
| Non-operating expenses, net | 0.7 | 2.0 | (1.8) | (1.7) | (4.8) | (98.0) | (120.8) | (0.6) | (9.1) |
| Income (loss) before income tax and social contribution (current and deferred) and minority interest | 16.4 | 47.8 | 276.5 | 194.0 | 564.2 | (1,477.9) | (238.0) | 299.6 | 220.1 |
| Income tax and social contribution (current and deferred) | (11.3) | (32.9) | (59.2) | (42.2) | (122.9) | (89.8) | (77.6) | (73.3) | (54.4) |
| Income (loss) before minority interest | 5.1 | 14.9 | 217.3 | 151.8 | 441.3 | (1,567.7) | (315.6) | 226.3 | 165.7 |
| Minority interest | (1.8) | (5.3) | (86.7) | (77.8) | (226.2) | 189.0 | (108.9) | 1.3 | 0.2 |
| Net income (loss) for the year | US\$ 3.3 | R\$ 9.6 | R\$ 130.6 | US\$ 74.0 | R\$ 215.1 | R\$ (1,378.7) | R\$ (424.5) | R\$ 227.6 | R\$ 165.9 |
| Number of shares outstanding at year end, excluding treasury shares (in thousands): | | | | | | | | | |
| Common shares | | 25,730,062 | 24,521,820 | | 25,608,114 | 24,521,820 | 12,933,860 | 12,933,860 | 12,933,860 |
| Class A preferred shares | | 50,608,971 | 42,156,480 | | 42,594,754 | 42,122,880 | 21,592,900 | 21,592,900 | 21,574,900 |

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|------|---------|-----|---------|-----|-----------|-----|---------|-----|------|-----|------|
| Class B preferred shares | | 229,155 | | 229,160 | | 229,154 | | 229,160 | | 229,160 | | 229,160 | | 229,160 | | | | |
| Net income (loss) per thousand shares at year end | US\$ | 0.04 | R\$ | 0.13 | R\$ | 1.95 | US\$ | 1.08 | R\$ | 3.15 | R\$ | (20.62) | R\$ | (12.21) | R\$ | 6.55 | R\$ | 4.78 |
| Net income (loss) per ADS(4) at year end | | 0.04 | | 0.13 | | 1.95 | | 1.08 | | 3.15 | | (20.62) | | (12.21) | | 6.55 | | 4.78 |
| Dividends declared per thousand shares: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common shares | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1.73 | | 3.44 | | 2.42 |
| Class A preferred shares | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.52 | | 2.08 | | 3.44 |
| Class B preferred shares | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.52 | | 2.08 | | 2.08 |
| Dividends declared per ADS(4) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.52 | | 2.08 | | 3.44 |
| U.S. GAAP: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Net income (loss) for the year | | | | | | | US\$ | 130.0 | R\$ | 378.1 | R\$ | (1,144.0) | R\$ | (471.0) | | | | |
| Basic earnings (loss) per thousand shares (weighted average): | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common shares | | | | | | | | 1.94 | | 5.63 | | (47.71) | | (26.71) | | | | |
| Class A preferred shares | | | | | | | | 1.88 | | 5.48 | | | | | | | | |
| Class B preferred shares | | | | | | | | 0.60 | | 1.74 | | | | | | | | |
| Basic earnings (loss) per ADS (weighted average)(4) | | | | | | | | 1.88 | | 5.48 | | | | | | | | |

(Footnotes on pages after tables)

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| | At and for the Three Months Ended March 31, | | | At and for the Year Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------|------|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2004(1) | 2004 | 2003 | 2003(1) | 2003 | 2002 | 2001(2) | 2000 | 1999 |
| | (in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | (in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | | | |
| | (in millions of reais, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | (in millions of reais, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | | | |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per thousand shares (weighted average): | | | | | | | | | |
| Common shares | | | | US\$ 1.92 | R\$ 5.58 | R\$ (47.71) | R\$ (26.71) | | |
| Class A preferred shares | | | | 1.88 | 5.46 | | | | |
| Class B preferred shares | | | | 0.60 | 1.74 | | | | |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per ADS (weighted average)(4) | | | | 1.88 | 5.46 | | | | |
| Balance Sheet Data | | | | | | | | | |
| Brazilian GAAP: | | | | | | | | | |
| Cash, cash equivalents and other investments | US\$ 641.4 | R\$ 1,865.7 | | US\$ 407.2 | R\$ 1,184.3 | R\$ 821.0 | R\$ 513.2 | R\$ 708.9 | R\$ 561.4 |
| Trade accounts receivable | 422.3 | 1,228.2 | | 418.1 | 1,216.2 | 959.0 | 484.1 | 231.6 | 188.6 |
| Inventories | 409.0 | 1,189.5 | | 368.4 | 1,071.6 | 889.1 | 667.8 | 163.4 | 119.9 |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | 1,815.7 | 5,281.2 | | 1,730.0 | 5,032.0 | 5,296.7 | 4,429.7 | 1,969.0 | 1,977.2 |
| Total assets | 5,209.5 | 15,152.4 | | 4,773.1 | 13,883.0 | 13,898.2 | 9,555.3 | 3,748.7 | 3,544.3 |
| Short-term loans and financing (including current portion of long-term debt) | 834.7 | 2,427.8 | | 937.4 | 2,726.5 | 2,746.1 | 1,966.4 | 331.5 | 257.4 |
| Short-term debentures | 159.1 | 462.9 | | 120.0 | 349.0 | 32.1 | 26.2 | | |
| Short-term related company debt | | | | 0.1 | 0.2 | 8.2 | 88.7 | | |
| Long-term loans and financing | 1,416.7 | 4,120.5 | | 1,243.0 | 3,615.3 | 3,891.6 | 3,101.7 | 861.8 | 915.6 |
| Long-term debentures | 646.5 | 1,880.4 | | 393.0 | 1,143.0 | 1,190.2 | 473.6 | | |
| Long-term related company debt | 62.8 | 182.8 | | 61.1 | 177.6 | 189.3 | 626.7 | 0.9 | 1.1 |
| Minority interest | 81.5 | 237.0 | | 190.6 | 554.4 | 433.1 | 738.0 | 27.4 | 30.1 |
| Share capital | 753.6 | 2,192.0 | | 648.9 | 1,887.4 | 1,845.4 | 1,201.6 | 1,203.9 | 1,203.9 |
| Shareholders equity | 834.9 | 2,428.5 | | 726.3 | 2,112.6 | 1,821.8 | 1,729.0 | 2,267.8 | 2,085.3 |
| U.S. GAAP: | | | | | | | | | |
| Total assets | | | | US\$ 3,801.9 | R\$ 11,058.2 | R\$ 10,531.7 | R\$ 7,803.0 | | |
| Shareholders equity | | | | 2.7 | 7.8 | (415.2) | 291.4 | | |

(Footnotes on pages after tables)

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| | At and for the Three Months Ended March 31, | | | At and for the Year Ended December 31, | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|--|---|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--|--|
| | 2004(1) | 2004 | 2003 | 2003(1) | 2003 | 2002 | 2001(2) | 2000 | 1999 | | |
| | (in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | (in millions of US\$, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | (in millions of reais, except per thousand shares and per ADS amounts and financial ratios) | | | | | | |
| Other Financial Information | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brazilian | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GAAP: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Net cash provided by (used in): | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Operating activities | US\$ 214.3 | R\$ 623.2 | R\$ 448.4 | US\$ 199.6 | R\$ 580.5 | R\$ 790.0 | R\$ 1,453.9 | R\$ 550.3 | R\$ 613.6 | | |
| Investing activities | (100.2) | (291.3) | (57.2) | (158.3) | (460.4) | (646.7) | (862.2) | (115.6) | (34.6) | | |
| Financing activities | 280.3 | 815.4 | (327.3) | 126.5 | 367.8 | (237.2) | (404.9) | (287.2) | (210.7) | | |
| Capital expenditures: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 15.7 | 45.6 | 38.9 | 73.8 | 214.7 | 419.9 | 318.0 | 18.4 | 48.0 | | |
| Interest in other companies | 5.1 | 14.8 | 1.8 | 24.7 | 71.7 | 13.1 | 1,172.3 | 82.6 | 26.6 | | |
| Other Information: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Net debt(5) | US\$ 2,213.5 | R\$ 6,438.1 | R\$ 6,615.2 | US\$ 2,161.3 | R\$ 6,286.5 | R\$ 6,878.4 | R\$ 4,742.3 | | | | |
| EBITDA(5)(6) | US\$ 650.6 | R\$ 1,892.4 | R\$ 2,277.0 | US\$ 621.8 | R\$ 1,808.4 | R\$ 2,062.7 | R\$ 722.5 | | | | |
| Net debt to EBITDA ratio(5) | 3.4x | 3.4x | 2.9x | 3.5x | 3.5x | 3.3x | 6.6x | | | | |

| | At and for the Three Months Ended March 31, | | At and for the Year Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|--|---|-------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001(2) | 2000 | 1999 | |
| Operating Data(7): | | | | | | | | |
| Ethylene: | | | | | | | | |
| Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons) | | 108.3 | 127.8 | 1,047.3 | 994.8 | 1,064.8 | 1,103.8 | 1,121.1 |
| Average domestic price per ton (in R\$) | | 1,725 | 1,926 | 1,634 | 1,292 | 1,135 | 1,046 | 633 |
| Propylene: | | | | | | | | |
| Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons) | | 97.9 | 84.7 | 403.4 | 415.2 | 421.1 | 487.7 | 494.3 |
| Average domestic price per ton (in R\$) | | 1,373 | 1,540 | 1,495 | 1,106 | 825 | 875 | 444 |
| Polyethylene(8): | | | | | | | | |
| Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons) | | 118.5 | 110.7 | 445.4 | 491.8 | 199.0 | | |
| Average domestic price per ton (in R\$) | | 2,671 | 2,773 | 2,567 | 2,007 | 2,108 | | |
| Polypropylene(8): | | | | | | | | |
| Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons) | | 96.5 | 104.5 | 374.9 | 395.1 | 140.4 | | |

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|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Average domestic price per ton (in R\$) | 2,723 | 2,751 | 2,689 | 1,931 | 1,969 | | |
| PVC(9): | | | | | | | |
| Domestic sales volume (in thousands of tons) | 102.1 | 99.0 | 342.4 | 350.1 | 125.9 | | |
| Average domestic price per ton (in R\$) | 2,636 | 2,487 | 2,358 | 1,969 | 1,612 | | |
| Number of employees (at period end) | 2,911 | 2,824 | 2,868 | 2,817 | 1,424 | 1,161 | 1,104 |

- (1) Translated for convenience only using the commercial selling rate as reported by the Central Bank of Brazil (*Banco Central do Brasil*), or the Central Bank, at March 31, 2004 for *reais* into U.S. dollars of R\$2.908=US\$1.00.
- (2) The financial and other information for 2001 is not comparable with the financial and other information for 2000 and 1999 as a result of our merger with OPP Produtos Petroquímicos S.A.,

(Footnotes continued on next page)

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which we accounted for as if it had occurred on July 25, 2001 as a result of the common control exercised by the Odebrecht Group over our company and OPP Produtos Petroquímicos S.A.

- (3) Investment in associated companies, net comprises equity in the results, amortization of goodwill, net, foreign exchange variation and tax incentives and other.
- (4) Net income (loss) per 1,000 shares or ADS under Brazilian GAAP is based on shares outstanding at the end of each year. Earnings (loss) per 1,000 shares or ADS under U.S. GAAP is based on the weighted average number of class A preferred shares outstanding during each period.
- (5) The terms and conditions of the notes issued under our medium-term note program include a covenant prohibiting us, and our subsidiaries, from issuing, directly or indirectly, any debt (subject to certain exceptions) unless our pro forma net debt to EBITDA ratio at the date of such issuance is less than 4.5 to 1.0. We have included a calculation of net debt, EBITDA and the net debt to EBITDA ratio in accordance with this covenant, as we believe that (1) our medium-term note program is our most significant outstanding indebtedness, (2) this covenant is a material term of our medium-term note program and (3) information about this covenant is important for investors to understand our liquidity. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Liquidity and Capital Resources—Indebtedness and Financing Strategy for a discussion of our medium-term note program and this covenant. EBITDA is not a measure under Brazilian GAAP and should not be considered as a substitute for net income or loss, cash flow from operations or other measures of operating performance or liquidity determined in accordance with Brazilian GAAP. EBITDA is not intended to represent funds available for dividends or other discretionary uses by us because those funds are required for debt service, capital expenditures, working capital and other commitments and contingencies. The use of EBITDA has material limitations, including:

EBITDA does not include interest expense. Because we have borrowed money to finance some of our operations, interest is a necessary and ongoing part of our costs and assists us in generating revenue.

EBITDA does not include taxes. The payment of taxes is a necessary and ongoing part of our operations.

EBITDA does not include depreciation. Because we must utilize property, plant and equipment in order to generate revenues in our operations, depreciation is a necessary and ongoing part of our costs.

We have calculated EBITDA in accordance with a covenant in our medium-term note program, which calculation may not be comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies.

- (6) Our medium-term note program requires that we calculate EBITDA at the end of each fiscal quarter on the basis of our financial results for the twelve-month period then ended. Accordingly, EBITDA as presented under the columns entitled At and for the Three Months Ended March 31, represents EBITDA for the twelve-month periods ended March 31.
- (7) Excluding intra-company sales within Braskem.
- (8) Represents the sum of the sales volumes of Polialden and OPP Química for 2001.
- (9) Represents the sales volume of Trikem for 2001.

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

The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our audited consolidated and combined financial statements at December 31, 2003 and 2002 and for the three years ended December 31, 2003 and our unaudited condensed consolidated quarterly information at March 31, 2004 and for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003 included in this prospectus, as well as with the information presented under "Presentation of Financial and Other Information" and "Selected Financial and Other Information."

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

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

- a brief overview of our company and the principal factors that influence our results of operations, financial condition and liquidity;
- a review of our financial presentation and accounting policies, including our critical accounting policies;
- a discussion of the principal factors that influence our results of operations;
- a discussion of our results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003 and the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001;
- a discussion of our liquidity and capital resources, including our working capital at March 31, 2004 and December 31, 2003, our cash flows for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, and our material short-term and long-term indebtedness at March 31, 2004;
- a discussion of our off-balance sheet arrangements;
- a discussion of our capital expenditures and our contractual commitments;
- a qualitative and quantitative discussion of market risks that we face; and
- a brief overview of the differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP as they relate to our financial statements.

Overview

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

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

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

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

the international market price of naphtha, our principal raw material, which significantly affects the cost of producing our products;

the expansion of global production capacity for the products that we sell and the growth rate of the global economy;

the exchange rate of the Brazilian *real* against the U.S. dollar;

the level of our outstanding indebtedness and the interest rates we pay on this indebtedness, which affects our net financial expenses;

the results of operations of those companies in which we have minority equity interests, such as Copesul and Politeno, a portion of which are consolidated into our results of operations as required by Brazilian GAAP; and

the tax policies adopted by, and resulting tax obligations to, the Brazilian government and the governments of the Brazilian states in which we operate.

Our financial condition and liquidity is influenced by a variety of factors, including:

our ability to generate cash flows from our operations;

prevailing 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 ability to extend the average maturity of our loans and debt securities as we refinance our existing indebtedness; and

our capital expenditure requirements, which consist primarily of maintenance of our operating facilities, expansion of our production capacity and research and development activities.

Financial Presentation and Accounting Policies

Presentation of Financial Statements

We have prepared our unaudited condensed consolidated quarterly information at March 31, 2004 and for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003 and our consolidated and combined financial statements at December 31, 2003 and 2002 and for the three years ended December 31, 2003 in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, which differs in significant respects from U.S. GAAP. See note 29 to our consolidated and combined financial statements and note 21 to our unaudited condensed consolidated quarterly information for an explanation of these differences. The financial information contained in this prospectus is in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, except as otherwise noted.

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

We accounted for the acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our merger with 52114 Participações at the respective date of the acquisition or merger. However, as a result of the common control exercised by the Odebrecht Group over our company and OPP Produtos prior to the merger of OPP Produtos, we

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accounted for the merger of OPP Produtos as if this acquisition had occurred on July 25, 2001, the date we acquired Nova Camaçari and the date on which such common control had commenced. As a result:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003 are fully comparable.

Business Segments and Presentation of Segment Financial Data

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

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

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

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

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

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

We report business segment data in note 29 to our combined and consolidated financial statements in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 131, Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information. SFAS No. 131 requires that segment data be presented on the basis of the internal information that is used by management to assess performance and make operating decisions, including decisions regarding the allocation of resources among segments. Because we evaluate and manage segment performance based on information generated from our statutory accounting records, which are maintained in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, the segment data included in our financial statements is presented under Brazilian GAAP.

Critical Accounting Policies

The presentation of our financial condition and results of 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 those estimates. In order to provide an understanding about how we form our judgments and estimates about certain future events, including the variables and assumptions underlying the estimates, and the sensitivity of those judgments to different variables and conditions, we have included comments related to the following critical accounting policies under Brazilian GAAP:

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

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

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

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concerning these cash flows is a complex and often subjective process involving estimation of future revenues, costs and taxes.

Valuation of Derivative Instruments. We use swaps, forwards, options and other derivative instruments to manage risks from changes in foreign exchange and interest rates. We record these instruments at their estimated fair market value based on market quotations for similar instruments and assumptions as to future foreign exchange and interest rates. During the periods presented, we did not designate any derivative financial instruments as hedges and the fair value adjustments to our derivatives were thus recorded in current net income.

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

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

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

Principal Factors Affecting Our Results of Operations

Nova Camaçari Acquisition and Mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações

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

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

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

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

we acquired a substantial minority interest in Politeno.

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

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

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

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

we acquired a substantial minority interest in Copesul.

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

At March 31, 2004, we estimated that the implementation of our integration program will result in our achieving more than R\$300 million in annual recurring cost reductions as compared to costs that would have been incurred by our company and the companies that we have acquired, as estimated by our management. These cost reductions have been achieved primarily in the areas of tax, logistics, operations and information technology, and personnel. We believe that we will be able to achieve additional annual recurring cost reductions over the next three years through other actions that are expected to complete our integration program. We cannot assure holders of ADSs that we will realize the full benefit of the existing or future identified annual cost savings in upcoming years. To the extent that we fail to do so, for any reason, in any year, our results of operations for that year will be adversely affected.

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

Sales in Brazil represented 74.2% of our net sales revenue in 2003 and 81.1% of our net sales revenue during the three months ended March 31, 2004. As a Brazilian company with substantially all of our operations in Brazil, we are significantly affected by economic conditions in Brazil. Our results of operations and financial condition have been, and will continue to be, affected by the growth rate of GDP in Brazil because our products are used in the manufacture of a wide range of consumer and industrial products.

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

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

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

In 2003, GDP in Brazil declined by 0.2%. In 2003, Brazilian consumption volumes of polyethylene decreased by 2.1%, polypropylene increased by 2.9% and PVC decreased by 12.4%, respectively, compared

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to 2002. The decreased consumption volumes of polyethylene and PVC were primarily a result of reduced economic activity.

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

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

Effects of Fluctuations in Naphtha Prices

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

Effects on Cost of Sales

Naphtha is the principal raw material used by our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. Purchases of naphtha represented 81.8% of the total cost of sales and services rendered of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit in 2003 and 89.0% during the three months ended March 31, 2004. Directly and indirectly through the cost of basic petrochemicals that we bought from Copesul, naphtha represented 65.2% of our consolidated cost of sales and services rendered both in 2003 and during the three months ended March 31, 2004.

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

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

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

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

Effects on Prices of Our Products

The prices that we charge for ethylene reflect both the international market prices for naphtha and the international and domestic prices for second generation products. The price of ethylene is calculated

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based on a margin sharing system described in Business Basic Petrochemicals Unit Sales and Marketing of Our Basic Petrochemicals Unit.

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

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

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

Cyclical Trends Affecting the Petrochemical Industry and Capacity Utilization

Capacity Expansions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Capacity Utilization

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

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

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

- (1) Gives effect to our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações as if they had occurred on January 1, 2002.
- (2) Gives effect to our acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our mergers with OPP Produtos and 52114 Participações as if they had occurred on January 1, 2001.
- (3) Based on production capacity of 1,280,000 tons in 2003 and 1,200,000 tons in 2002 and 2001.

The utilization rate of our ethylene production capacity was adversely affected during 2003 as a result of an unscheduled shutdown of one of our olefins units for 11 days due to a maintenance problem. The utilization rate of our ethylene production capacity was adversely affected during the three months ended March 31, 2004 as a result of the shutdown of the Olefins 2 and Aromatics 2 units of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit for 35 days for scheduled maintenance and inspection.

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.

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

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

Our ability to export to other South American countries is a function of the level of economic growth in these countries and other economic conditions, including prevailing inflation rates. We believe that significant growth in the global economy would likely lead to increased global demand and international market prices for our products, and consequently increased domestic prices for our products. In addition, increased global demand for our products would enhance our ability to export our products in the event that the Brazilian economy does not similarly expand. Conversely, slow or negative growth of the global economy would have the opposite effects on our company.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The price of naphtha, our principal raw material, is linked to the U.S. dollar. Our naphtha purchase contract with Petrobras provides that the prices that we pay to Petrobras for naphtha in any month are established based on the average Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp market price for naphtha in U.S. dollars during the previous month, converted into *reais* at the U.S. dollar/*real* exchange rate in effect on the last day of the previous month. Fluctuations in the *real* affect the cost of naphtha and other U.S. dollar-linked or imported raw materials.

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

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in Brazil. These pricing mismatches decrease when fluctuations in the U.S. dollar/*real* exchange rate are less volatile.

Our consolidated U.S. dollar-denominated indebtedness represented 66.0% of our outstanding indebtedness at December 31, 2003 and 64.8% of our outstanding indebtedness at March 31, 2004, 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 increases in *reais*, which negatively affects our results of operations in *reais*;

the amount of our U.S. dollar-denominated indebtedness increase 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Export sales, which enable us to generate receivables payable in foreign currencies, tend to provide a hedge against a portion of our U.S. dollar-denominated debt service obligations, but they do not fully match them. Accordingly, we often enter into hedges to mitigate exchange rate fluctuations 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 generated by us from exports may not be in an amount sufficient to cover all of our U.S. dollar trade finance liabilities.

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

Effect of Level of Indebtedness and Interest Rates

At March 31, 2004, our total outstanding indebtedness on a consolidated basis, excluding related party debt, was R\$8,891.6 million. At December 31, 2003, our total outstanding consolidated indebtedness on a consolidated basis, excluding related party debt, was R\$7,833.8 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

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debt, foreign exchange losses or gains, and other items as set forth in note 23 to our consolidated and combined financial statements. During the three months ended March 31, 2004, we recorded total financial expenses, net of R\$469.3 million, of which R\$177.3 million consisted of foreign exchange losses. By contrast, during the three months ended March 31, 2003, we recorded total financial expenses, net of R\$90.9 million, of which R\$128.5 million consisted of interest expense and R\$276.7 million consisted of foreign exchange gains. In 2003, we recorded total financial expenses, net of R\$712.6 million, of which R\$543.6 million consisted of interest expense and R\$969.4 million consisted of foreign exchange gains. By contrast, in 2002, we recorded total financial expenses, net of R\$3,481.5 million, of which R\$735.4 million consisted of interest expense and R\$2,076.1 million consisted of foreign exchange losses. The interest rates that we pay depend on a variety of factors, including prevailing Brazilian and international interest rates and risk assessments of our company, our industry and the Brazilian economy made by potential lenders to our company, potential purchasers of our debt securities and the rating agencies that assess our company and its debt securities.

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

Our debt obligations with variable interest rates expose our company to market risks from changes in the Long-Term Interest Rate, the CDI rate, IGP-M and LIBOR. To mitigate our exposure to interest rate risk, we often have sought to enter into hedges to mitigate fluctuations in LIBOR.

Results of Operations of Jointly Controlled Companies

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

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

Effect of Taxes on Our Income

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

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Tax Exemptions

We are generally subject to Brazilian federal income tax at an effective rate of 25%, which is the standard corporate tax rate in Brazil. We have available certain federal tax exemptions based upon federal law that offers tax incentives to companies that locate their manufacturing operations in the northeastern region of Brazil. These exemptions entitle us to pay only 25% of the statutory income tax rate on the profit arising from the sale of basic petrochemical products and utilities until December 31, 2011. We are also exempt from corporate income tax until December 31, 2004 on the results of our industrial operations at our PVC plant in the Northeastern Complex and until December 31, 2008 on the results of our industrial operations at our PVC plant in Alagoas. We are entitled to pay only 25.0% of the statutory income tax rate on the results of our industrial operations at our polyethylene plant in the Northeastern Complex (until December 31, 2011) and at Polialden's plant in the Northeastern Complex (until December 31, 2012). We are also entitled to pay only 25.0% of the statutory income tax rate until December 31, 2011 on the results of our industrial operations at our caprolactam plant in the Northeastern Complex.

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

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

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

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

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

Due to operating losses sustained by us in the past, we had R\$322.8 million of deferred tax assets made up of tax loss carryforwards available at December 31, 2003 and R\$260.7 million available at March 31, 2004. Income tax loss carryforwards available for offset in Brazil do not expire. However, the annual offset is limited to 30% of our adjusted net income. This limit also affects the Social Contribution on Net Income.

Our export sales are currently exempt from PIS (a value-added tax on industrial products), COFINS (a value-added tax on industrial products), IPI (a value-added tax on industrial products) and ICMS (a tax on sales and services) under generally available exemptions, subject to our compliance with the requirements of these exemptions.

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

Tax Disputes

We pay IPI tax on industrial products that we manufacture. The regulations governing the IPI tax assess this tax on a non-cumulative basis, which means 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 purchases of raw materials that are tax-exempt, non-taxable or taxed at a zero percent rate do not generate IPI tax credits, because they maintain that there is no legal provision 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 in a broad manner and does not exclude purchases of raw materials that are tax-exempt, non-taxable or taxed at a zero percent rate. OPP Química brought a suit against the Brazilian government claiming that it had the right to IPI tax credits on its purchases of raw materials that are in a zero percent tax bracket. In December 2002, the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court ruled in favor of OPP Química in this suit. The

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Brazilian government has appealed this decision, requesting clarification of the calculation of these tax credits but not challenging their validity. Accordingly, we recognized a tax credit of R\$1,030.1 million in our statement of operations included in our consolidated and combined financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2002. Of this total tax credit, we used R\$265.6 million during the year ended December 31, 2002 and R\$364.9 million during the year ended December 31, 2003 to offset IPI tax obligations, and we will use the remainder of this tax credit to offset other IPI tax obligations in the future based on our earnings and future results. Although the ruling of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court only applies to our operations in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, we have also brought litigation against the Brazilian government in respect of our purchases of raw materials in the States of São Paulo, Bahia and Alagoas seeking to obtain a similar tax credit. We have not recognized any assets or gains in relation to our claims in these states.

We are currently involved in numerous tax proceedings. We have established reserves based on our obligations under current legislation, utilization of the contingent IPI tax credits, and our estimated costs of resolving other claims in which we believe we have a probable tax loss. The tax contingencies relate primarily to the Social Contribution on Net Income (a tax similar to the corporate income tax), 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 *Business Legal Proceedings Tax Proceedings*.

Tax Reform

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

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

Constitutional Amendment No. 42 provides for the assessment of PIS and COFINS on import transactions. Law No. 10,865/04, which implemented this provision, requires PIS and COFINS to be assessed on the import of goods, as well as on the remuneration paid to non-residents for the rendering of services. These changes became effective on May 1, 2004. Constitutional Amendment No. 42 also provides for an extension of the CPMF assessment until December 31, 2007. Prior to the adoption of Amendment No. 42, CPMF was scheduled to expire on December 31, 2004.

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

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

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

limitations on the grant of regional tax incentives.

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

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

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adverse effect on our results of operations in future periods, although we cannot provide holders of ADSs with any assurances in this regard.

Recent Developments

On June 7, 2004, our wholly-owned Cayman Islands subsidiary, Overseas III Export Ltd., entered into a US\$200.0 million syndicated credit agreement. This loan has been guaranteed by our company and is secured by certain of our exports. The first tranche of this loan in the principal amount of US\$145.0 million bears interest at the rate of six-month LIBOR plus 3.5% per annum, payable semi-annually in arrears. Principal on the first tranche is payable in five semi-annual installments beginning in December 2005 with a final maturity date in December 2007. The second tranche of this loan in the principal amount of US\$55.0 million bears interest at the rate of six-month LIBOR plus 4.5% per annum, payable semi-annually in arrears. Principal on the second tranche is payable in eight semi-annual installments beginning in December 2005 with a final maturity date in June 2009.

Results of Operations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The results of operations of our Business Development segment, which consists of the operations historically conducted by Proppet and Nitrocarbano, only include the results of the operations of Proppet for the period after July 25, 2001, the date on which we acquired Proppet, and the results of the operations of Nitrocarbano for the period after August 16, 2002, the date of our merger with 52114 Participações. Therefore, the results of operations of our Business Development segment for 2003, 2002 and 2001 are not comparable. Our results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003 are fully comparable.

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

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

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

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

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

Three Months Ended March 31, 2004 Compared with Three Months Ended March 31, 2003*Consolidated Results*

The following table sets forth consolidated financial information for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003.

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 |
| | Consolidated | Consolidated |
| | (In millions of reais) | |
| Net sales revenue | R\$ 2,381.1 | R\$ 2,459.3 |
| Cost of sales and services rendered | (1,762.2) | (1,947.4) |
| Gross profit | 618.9 | 511.9 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | (130.0) | (89.5) |
| Investment in associated companies, net(1) | (22.1) | 7.7 |
| Depreciation and amortization | (73.1) | (41.9) |
| Financial expenses, net | (368.4) | (100.4) |
| Other operating income (expenses) | 20.5 | (9.5) |
| Operating income | 45.8 | 278.3 |
| Non-operating income (expenses), net | 2.0 | (1.8) |
| Income before income tax and social contribution and minority interest | 47.8 | 276.5 |
| Income tax and social contribution | (32.9) | (59.2) |
| Income before minority interest | 14.9 | 217.3 |
| Minority interest | (5.3) | (86.7) |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Net income for the period | R\$ | 9.6 | R\$ | 130.6 |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|

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- (1) Investment in associated companies, net, comprises equity in the results, amortization of goodwill, net, foreign exchange variation and tax incentives and other.

Net Sales Revenue

Net sales revenue decreased by 3.2% in the three months ended March 31, 2004, compared to the same period in 2003 primarily as a result of the 4.3% decline in net sales revenue of our Basic Petrochemicals segment and the 5.2% decline in net sales revenue of our Polyolefins segment (as discussed below). The declines in net sales revenue experienced by these segments were partially offset by the 43.7% increase in net sales revenue of our jointly controlled companies. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, our net sales revenue decreased by 6.6% in the three months ended March 31, 2004.

Cost of Sales and Services Rendered and Gross Profit

Cost of sales and services rendered decreased by 9.5% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003, primarily as a result of the 19.6% decline in the cost of sales and services of our Basic Petrochemicals segment and the 6.2% decline in the cost of sales of our Polyolefins segment. These declines were partially offset by the 43.0% increase in the cost of sales of our jointly controlled companies. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, our cost of sales and services rendered decreased by 13.1% in the three months ended March 31, 2004.

As a result, gross profit increased by 20.9% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, gross profit increased by 18.7% in the three months ended March 31, 2004.

Gross profit as a percentage of net sales revenue, or gross margin was 26.0%, in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to 20.8% in the same period in 2003. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, gross margin increased to 26.1% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to 20.5% in the same period in 2003.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased by 45.3% in the three months ended March 31, 2004, primarily as a result of:

a R\$19 million increase in expenses related to our provision for doubtful accounts as a result of a provision of R\$6.4 million recorded during the three months ended March 31, 2004 and a reversal of doubtful accounts in the amount of R\$13 million in respect of the settlement of certain overdue accounts by some of our clients in Argentina, which we recorded in the three months ended March 31, 2003;

increased costs under service contracts with third parties as a result of inflation effects;

higher payroll expenses associated with wage increases implemented in September 2003; and

increased personnel expenses associated with the scheduled maintenance and inspection shutdowns of the Aromatics 2 and Olefins 2 units of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit, the Northeastern Complex plants of our Polyolefins Unit, Vinyls Unit and Business Development Unit, and our PVC plant in Alagoas.

Selling, general and administrative expenses represented 5.5% of net sales revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to 3.6% of net sales revenue for the same period in 2003. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, selling, general and administrative expenses increased by 50.9% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003, and selling, general and administrative expenses represented 5.4% of net sales

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revenue in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to 3.3% of net sales revenue in the same period in 2003.

Investment in Associated Companies, Net

Investment in associated companies, net, was an expense of R\$22.1 million in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to revenue of R\$7.7 million in the same period in 2003. The expense in the three months ended March 31, 2004 was primarily a result of foreign exchange losses of certain of our overseas affiliates due to the 0.7% devaluation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar during this period. The revenue in the three months ended March 31, 2003 was primarily a result of tax benefits and the reversal of provision for losses on affiliated companies. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, investment in associated companies, net, decreased by 31.2% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003.

Depreciation and Amortization

Depreciation and amortization increased by 74.5% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003, primarily as a result of the amortization of the premium related to the merger of Trikem into our company in January 2004. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, depreciation and amortization increased by 63.6% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003.

Financial Expenses, Net

Financial expenses, net, increased by 266.9% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003, primarily as a result of the effects of the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed assets and liabilities. A 0.7% devaluation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar during the three months ended March 31, 2004 resulted in financial expense of R\$77.0 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed liabilities and financial income of R\$2.0 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated assets. By contrast, as a result of the 5.1% appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar during the three months ended March 31, 2003, we recorded financial income of R\$276.7 million related to the exchange rate effect on our monetary liabilities and financial expense of R\$83.6 million related to the exchange rate effect on our monetary assets. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, financial expenses, net increased by 323.3% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003.

Other Operating Income (Expense), Net

Other operating income, net was R\$20.5 million in the three months ended March 31, 2004, compared to other operating expense, net of R\$9.5 million in the same period in 2003. This other operating income was primarily a result of the fact that we are no longer obligated to pay taxes on sales to OPP Química and Nitrocarbón as we did between January 1 and March 31, 2003, as the companies have since merged into our company. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, other operating income, net was R\$8.7 million in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to other operating expense of R\$11.2 million in the same period in 2003.

Operating Income (Loss)

Operating income decreased by 83.5% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003. Operating income represented 1.9% of net sales revenue in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to 11.3% of net sales revenue in the same period in 2003. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, operating income decreased by 90.7% in the three months ended March 31, 2004, and operating income was 1.2% of net sales revenue in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to 11.8% during the same period in 2003.

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Non-Operating Income (Expenses), Net

Non-operating income, net was R\$2.0 million in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to non-operating expenses, net of R\$1.8 million in the same period in 2003. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, non-operating income, net was R\$2.1 million in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to non-operating expense, net of R\$1.1 million in the same period in 2003.

Income Tax and Social Contribution

Income tax and social contribution decreased by 44.4% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003. This decrease was primarily a result of our lower income in the three months ended in March 31, 2004 and a R\$12.0 million decrease in non-deductible amortization of goodwill.

Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, income tax and social contribution decreased by 76.3% in the three months ended March 31, 2004.

Minority Interest

Minority interest expense decreased by 93.9% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003, primarily as a result of the our merger with Trikem on January 15, 2004. Without giving effect to the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, minority interest decreased by 93.9% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003.

Net Income

We recorded net income of R\$9.6 million, or 0.4% of net sales revenue, in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to net income of R\$130.6 million, or 5.3% of net sales revenue, in the same period in 2003.

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The following table sets forth consolidated financial information for our business segments for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003.

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------|
| | 2004 | 2003 |
| | Consolidated (in millions of reais, except percentages) | |
| Basic Petrochemicals | | |
| Net sales revenue | R\$ 1,130.3 | R\$ 1,180.7 |
| Cost of sales | (904.0) | (1,124.2) |
| Gross profit | 226.3 | 56.5 |
| Operating income(1) | 188.9 | 24.5 |
| Gross margin (%) | 20.0% | 4.8% |
| Operating margin (%) | 16.7% | 2.1% |
| Polyolefins | | |
| Net sales revenue | R\$ 711.2 | R\$ 750.3 |
| Cost of sales | (501.4) | (534.4) |
| Gross profit | 209.9 | 215.9 |
| Operating income(1) | 174.0 | 180.9 |
| Gross margin (%) | 29.5% | 28.8% |
| Operating margin (%) | 24.5% | 24.1% |
| Vinyls | | |
| Net sales revenue | R\$ 399.4 | R\$ 401.1 |
| Cost of sales | (278.3) | (268.7) |
| Gross profit | 121.1 | 132.4 |
| Operating income(1) | 108.0 | 123.6 |
| Gross margin (%) | 30.3% | 33.0% |
| Operating margin (%) | 27.0% | 30.8% |
| Business Development | | |
| Net sales revenue | R\$ 126.4 | R\$ 125.0 |
| Cost of sales | (108.1) | (111.6) |
| Gross profit | 18.3 | 13.4 |
| Operating income(1) | 12.2 | 8.5 |
| Gross margin (%) | 14.5% | 10.7% |
| Operating margin (%) | 9.7% | 6.8% |

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

Basic Petrochemicals

Net Sales Revenue. Net sales revenue of the Basic Petrochemicals segment decreased by 4.3% in the three months ended March 31, 2004. Significant factors contributing to this decrease were:

- a R\$59.3 million, or 24.1%, decrease in net sales revenue from domestic sales of ethylene to third parties;
- a R\$22.5 million, or 13.5%, decrease in net sales revenue from export sales of propylene to third parties;
- a R\$16.8 million, or 13.6%, decrease in net sales revenue from domestic sales of benzene to third parties;

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a R\$16.3 million, or 39.4%, decrease in net sales revenue from export sales of MBTE to third parties;

a R\$15.8 million, or 25.7%, decrease in net sales revenue from domestic sales of butadiene to third parties; and

a R\$11.6 million, or 15.9%, decrease in net sales revenue from sales of utilities to third parties.

These decreases were partially offset by:

a R\$25.3 million, or 63.4%, increase in net sales revenue from export sales of benzene to third parties; and

a R\$21.2 million, or 44.3%, increase in net sales revenue from total sales of automotive gasoline.

Sales of basic petrochemicals by our Basic Petrochemicals segment to our other segments increased by 15.1% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 to R\$294.9 million from R\$256.3 million in the same period in 2003 and sales of utilities by our Basic Petrochemicals segment to our other segments increased by 28.9% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 to R\$29.3 million from R\$22.7 million in the same period in 2003. Sales of utilities to third parties decreased by 15.9% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 to R\$61.5 million from R\$73.1 million in the same period in 2003. Net export sales of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 0.2% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 to R\$ 147.7 million from R\$147.4 million in the same period in 2003.

Domestic sales volume of ethylene to third parties decreased by 15.3% to 108.3 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 127.8 thousand tons in the same period in 2003, principally due to the scheduled maintenance and inspection shutdown of the Olefins 2 and Aromatics 2 units of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit for 35 days in the three months ended March 31, 2004. Average domestic prices for ethylene decreased by 10.4% to R\$1,725 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$1,926 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Export sales volume of propylene decreased by 64.3% to 8.5 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 23.7 thousand tons in the same period in 2003, principally due to increased domestic demand in part resulting from lower average domestic prices for propylene, which declined by 10.8% to R\$1,373 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$1,540 per ton in the same period in 2003. Average export prices for propylene decreased by 26.2% to R\$1,127 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$1,527 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Domestic sales volume of benzene to third parties decreased by 31.1% to 28.9 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 42.0 thousand tons in the same period in 2003, principally due to a scheduled maintenance stoppage at one of our principal benzene customers in the three months ended March 31, 2004. Average domestic prices for benzene decreased by 28.0% to R\$1,430 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$1,986 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Export sales volume of MBTE decreased by 8.5% to 26.8 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 29.3 thousand tons in the same period in 2003. Average export prices for MBTE decreased by 33.8% to R\$933 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$1,408 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Domestic sales volume of butadiene to third parties decreased by 13.0% to 30.0 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 34.5 thousand tons in the same period in 2003, principally due to the scheduled maintenance and inspection shutdown of the Olefins 2 and Aromatics 2 units of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit for 35 days in the three months ended March 31, 2004. Average domestic prices for butadiene decreased by 14.5% to R\$1,522 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$1,780 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Export sales volume of benzene increased by 118.1% to 47.0 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 21.5 thousand tons in the same period in 2003, principally due to a scheduled maintenance stoppage at one of our principal benzene customers in the three months ended March 31,

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2004. Average export prices for benzene decreased by 25.1% to R\$1,390 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$1,855 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Sales volume of automotive gasoline increased by 37.6% to 93.8 thousand cubic meters in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 68.2 thousand cubic meters in the same period in 2003, principally due to delays in making this product available in the three months ended March 31, 2003, whereas we were able to make the product available more quickly in the same period in 2004 in part through exports financed by export pre-payment contracts. Average domestic prices for automotive gasoline increased by 15.8% to R\$796 per cubic meters in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$687 per cubic meters in the same period in 2003, while average export prices for automotive gasoline decreased by 5.3% to R\$683 per cubic meters in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$721 per cubic meters in the same period in 2003.

Cost of Sales and Services and Gross Profit. Cost of sales and services of the Basic Petrochemicals segment decreased by 19.6% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003. This decrease was primarily attributable to the decrease in the average cost of naphtha to R\$948 per ton for the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$1,150 per ton for the same period in 2003 and the decrease in sales volume in the three months ended March 31, 2004 as a result of the scheduled maintenance and inspection shutdown of the Olefins 2 and Aromatics 2 units of our Basic Petrochemicals Unit. Naphtha accounted for 89.0% of the Basic Petrochemicals segment's cost of sales in the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 87.0% during the same period in 2003.

Gross profit of the Basic Petrochemicals segment increased by 300.5% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003, and gross margin increased to 20.0% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to 4.8% in the same period in 2003.

Operating Income. Operating income of the Basic Petrochemicals segment (which excludes financial income and expense and results from investment in associated companies) increased by 671.0% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003, principally as a result of a R\$169.8 million increase in gross profit. Operating margin of the Basic Petrochemicals segment in the three months ended March 31, 2004 was 16.7% compared with 2.1% in the same period in 2003.

Polyolefins

Net Sales Revenue. Net sales revenue of the Polyolefins segment decreased by 5.2% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003. This decrease was primarily attributable to an 8.6% decline in domestic polypropylene sales and a 11.8% decline in export sales of polyethylene from period to period. The effects of these declines were partially offset by a 3.1% increase in domestic sales of polyethylene and a 47.1% increase in export sales of polypropylene. Net export sales of the Polyolefins segment decreased by 15.2% to R\$132.0 million in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$155.6 million in the same period in 2003.

Domestic sales volume of polyethylene increased by 7.0% to 118.1 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 110.4 thousand tons in the same period in 2003, principally due to increased demand in part resulting from lower average domestic prices for polyethylene, which decreased by 3.8% to R\$2,666 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$2,771 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Domestic sales volume of polypropylene decreased by 7.7% to 96.5 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 104.5 thousand tons in the same period in 2003, principally due to the effects of increased competition in the domestic polypropylene market as a result of the commencement of operations of Polibrasil's polypropylene plant in Mauá, in the State of São Paulo, in the second half of 2003. Average domestic prices for polypropylene decreased by 1.0% to R\$2,723 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$2,751 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Export sales volume of polyethylene decreased by 15.1% to 43.9 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 51.7 thousand tons in the same period in 2003, principally due to our decision

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to sell a greater volume of polyethylene products domestically in light of increased demand in the domestic market. Average export prices for polyethylene increased by 4.6% to R\$2,227 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$2,129 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Export sales volume of polypropylene increased by 50.0% to 10.8 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 7.2 thousand tons in the same period in 2003, reflecting our decision to increase exports of polypropylene due to an oversupply of polypropylene in the domestic market, which caused polypropylene prices in the domestic market to decrease. Average export prices for polypropylene decreased by 1.9% to R\$2,220 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$2,263 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Cost of Sales and Gross Profit. Cost of sales of the Polyolefins segment decreased by 6.2% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003. This decrease was primarily attributable to the decline in the cost of polyethylene and polypropylene as a result of the decline in the average cost of naphtha in *reais* and the 1.6% decline in total sales volume of this segment.

Gross profit of the Polyolefins segment decreased by 2.8% in the three months ended March 31, 2004; however, gross margin increased to 29.5% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to 28.8% during the same period in 2003.

Operating Income. Operating income of the Polyolefins segment (which excludes financial income and expenses and results from investment in associated companies) decreased by 3.8% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003, primarily as a result of a R\$6.0 million decrease in gross profit and a R\$1.0 million increase in depreciation and amortization expenses. Operating margin of the Polyolefins segment increased slightly to 24.5% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to 24.1% in the same period in 2003.

Vinyls

Net Sales Revenue. Net sales revenue of the Vinyls segment decreased by 0.4% in the three months ended March 31, 2004. This decrease was primarily attributable to a 13.5% decline in domestic sales of caustic soda, a 38.5% decline in export sales of PVC, and a 7.8% decline in export sales of EDC. The effects of these declines were partially offset by a 9.2% increase in domestic sales of PVC. Net export sales of this segment decreased by 19.2% to R\$52.2 million in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$64.6 million in the same period in 2003.

Domestic sales volume of caustic soda increased by 3.8% to 105.8 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 101.9 thousand tons in the same period in 2003, principally due to our strategic decision to reduce our caustic soda prices in order to recover our market share. Average domestic prices for caustic soda declined by 16.8% to R\$615 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$739 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Export sales volume of PVC decreased by 42.3% to 6.7 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 11.6 thousand tons in the same period in 2003, principally due to our decision to increase our domestic PVC sales on which we earned higher margins.

Export sales volume of EDC decreased by 0.9% to 43.4 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 43.8 thousand tons in the same period in 2003. Average export prices for EDC declined by 6.9% to R\$864 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$928 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Domestic sales volume of PVC increased by 3.1% to 102.1 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 99.0 thousand tons in the same period in 2003. Average domestic prices for PVC increased by 6.0% to R\$2,636 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$2,487 per ton in the same period in 2003.

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Cost of Sales and Gross Profit. Cost of sales of the Vinyls segment increased by 3.6% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003. This increase was primarily attributable to the increase of 2.4% in the total sales volume of this segment.

Gross profit of the Vinyls segment decreased by 8.5% in the three months ended March 31, 2004, while gross margin declined to 30.3% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 33.0% in the same period in 2003.

Operating Income. Operating income of the Vinyls segment (which excludes financial income and expenses and results from investment in associated companies) decreased by 12.6% in the three months ended March 31, 2004, primarily as a result of an R\$11.3 million decrease in gross profit and a R\$6.6 million increase in selling, general and administrative expenses, primarily due to increased personnel expenses, associated with the scheduled maintenance and inspection shutdown of the Northeastern Complex plants of our Vinyls Unit and our PVC plant in Alagoas during the three months ended March 31, 2004. Operating margin of the Vinyls segment declined to 27.0% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 30.8% in the same period in 2003.

Business Development

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

Net Sales Revenue. Net sales revenue of our Business Development segment increased by 1.1% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003. This increase was primarily attributable to our exports of PET during the three months ended March 31, 2004. The effects of this increase were partially offset by a 9.9% decrease in domestic sales of caprolactam and a 84.3% decrease in domestic sales of DMT. Net export sales of this segment increased to R\$17.6 million in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$7.7 million in the same period in 2003.

Export sales volume of PET was 3.3 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004. We did not export PET in the three months ended March 31, 2003. Average export sales prices of PET were R\$3,220 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004.

Domestic sales volume of PET increased by 7.8% to 15.2 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 14.1 thousand tons, primarily as a result of the increase in our PET plant's annual production capacity from 60,000 tons to 70,000 tons in 2003. Average domestic sales prices of PET declined by 7.7% to R\$3,143 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$3,406 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Domestic sales volume of caprolactam remained stable at 10.9 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003. Average domestic sales prices of caprolactam declined by 10.5% to R\$4,183 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$4,676 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Domestic sales volume of DMT decreased by 84.0% to 0.4 thousand tons in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 2.5 thousand tons during the same period in 2003, principally due to the reduced availability of paraxylene, a raw material used in the production of DMT. Average domestic sales prices of DMT declined by 4.5% to R\$1,995 per ton in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from R\$2,089 per ton in the same period in 2003.

Cost of Sales and Gross Profit. Cost of sales of the Business Development segment decreased by 3.1% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in 2003, primarily reflecting the effects of a 2.5% decrease in sales volume of this segment. Gross profit of the Business Development segment increased by 36.6% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 compared to the same period in

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2003, resulting in a gross margin for this period of 14.5% compared to 10.7% during the same period in 2003.

Operating Income. Operating income of the Business Development segment (which excludes financial income and expenses and results from investment in associated companies) increased by 43.5% in the three months ended March 31, 2004, principally as a result of a R\$4.9 million increase in gross profit. The effect of this increase was partially offset by a R\$1.1 million increase in selling, general and administrative expenses, primarily as a result of increased personnel expenses associated with the scheduled maintenance and inspection shutdowns of the plants of our Business Development Unit during the three months ended March 31, 2004. Operating margin of the Business Development segment increased to 9.7% in the three months ended March 31, 2004 from 6.8% in the same period in 2003.

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

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

| | Year Ended December 31, | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|
| | 2003 | 2002 |
| | Consolidated | Combined |
| | (in millions of reais) | |
| Net sales revenue | R\$ 10,135.8 | R\$ 7,576.6 |
| Cost of sales and services rendered | (8,089.3) | (6,175.5) |
| Gross profit | 2,046.5 | 1,401.1 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | (471.9) | (577.7) |
| Investment in associated companies, net(1) | (158.2) | (251.7) |
| Depreciation and amortization | (193.5) | (222.4) |
| Financial expenses, net | (703.6) | (2,861.9) |
| Other operating income | 49.7 | 1,132.7 |
| Operating income (loss) | 569.0 | (1,379.9) |
| Non-operating expenses, net | (4.8) | (98.0) |
| Income (loss) before income tax and social contribution and minority interest | 564.2 | (1,477.9) |
| Income tax and social contribution | (122.9) | (89.8) |
| Income (loss) before minority interest | 441.3 | (1,567.7) |
| Minority interest | (226.2) | 189.0 |
| Net income (loss) for the year | R\$ 215.1 | R\$(1,378.7) |

- (1) Investment in associated companies, net, comprises equity in the results, amortization of goodwill, net, foreign exchange variation and tax incentives and other.

Net Sales Revenue

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

increased by 33.8% in 2003.

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Cost of Sales and Services Rendered and Gross Profit

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

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

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

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

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

Investment in Associated Companies, Net

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

Depreciation and Amortization

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

Financial Expenses, Net

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

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Other Operating Income, Net

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

Operating Income (Loss)

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

Non-Operating Expenses, Net

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

Income Tax and Social Contribution

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

Minority Interest

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

Net Income (Loss)

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

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

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

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

Basic Petrochemicals

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Polyolefins

Net Sales Revenue. Net sales revenue of the Polyolefins segment increased by 36.4% in 2003. This increase was primarily attributable to a 32.1% increase in domestic sales of polypropylene, a 60.1% increase in export sales of polyethylene, a 16.0% increase in domestic sales of polyethylene and a 359.8% increase in export sales of polypropylene. Net export sales of the Polyolefins segment increased by 68.5% to

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R\$1,233.7 million in 2003 from R\$732.2 million in 2002. For more information about the sales volumes and net sales revenue of our polyolefins products by product line and markets, see Business Polyolefins Unit Products of Our Polyolefins Unit.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vinyls

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

Domestic sales volume of PVC decreased by 2.2% to 342.4 thousand tons in 2003 from 350.1 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to reduced demand for applications in the infrastructure, sanitation and construction sectors. This reduced demand was partially offset by increased exports of PVC

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and increased demand for PVC for applications in footwear, plastic films and laminates. Average domestic prices for PVC increased by 17.4% to R\$2,390 per ton in 2003 from R\$2,035 per ton in 2002.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Business Development

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

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

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

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Domestic sales volume of caprolactam increased by 181.7% to 42.5 thousand tons in 2003 from 15.1 thousand tons in 2002, principally due to the effect of our merger with 52114 Participações. Average domestic prices for caprolactam declined by 5.8% to R\$4,237 per ton in 2003 from R\$4,500 per ton in 2002, primarily as a result of the effects of price competition stemming from excess global capacity for this product.

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

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

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

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

| | Year Ended December 31, | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|
| | 2002 | 2001 |
| | Combined | Combined |
| | (in millions of reais) | |
| Net sales revenue | R\$ 7,576.6 | R\$ 4,459.5 |
| Cost of sales and services rendered | (6,175.5) | (3,637.6) |
| Gross profit | 1,401.1 | 821.9 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | (577.7) | (210.3) |
| Investment in associated companies, net | (251.7) | (214.3) |
| Depreciation and amortization | (222.4) | (111.3) |
| Financial expenses, net | (2,861.9) | (506.5) |
| Other operating income | 1,132.7 | 103.3 |
| Operating loss | (1,379.9) | (117.2) |
| Non-operating expenses, net | (98.0) | (120.8) |
| Income (loss) before income tax and social contribution and minority interest | (1,477.9) | (238.0) |
| Income tax and social contribution | (89.8) | (77.6) |
| Loss before minority interest | (1,567.7) | (315.6) |
| Minority interest | 189.0 | (108.9) |
| Net loss for the year | R\$(1,378.7) | R\$ (424.5) |

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Net Sales Revenue

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

Cost of Sales and Services Rendered and Gross Profit

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

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

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

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

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

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

Investment in Associated Companies, Net

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

Depreciation and Amortization

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

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

Table of Contents*Financial Expenses, Net*

Financial expenses, net increased by 465.0% in 2002, primarily as a result of the inclusion of the indebtedness from the companies that we acquired in the acquisition of Nova Camaçari and our merger with OPP Produtos. In addition, our financial expenses, net increased as a result of the effects of the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed assets and liabilities. The 34.3% devaluation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar in 2002 resulted in a financial expense of R\$2,076.1 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed liabilities and financial income of R\$137.5 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated assets. In contrast, as a result of the 15.7% depreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar in 2001, we recorded financial expense of R\$290.7 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated and U.S. dollar-indexed liabilities and financial income of R\$92.8 million related to the exchange rate effect on our U.S. dollar-denominated assets.

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

Other Operating Income

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

Operating Loss

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

Non-Operating Expenses, Net

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

Income Tax and Social Contribution

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

Minority Interest

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

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the proportional consolidation of our jointly controlled companies, minority interest was R\$199.1 million in 2002 compared to negative R\$112.2 million in 2001.

Net Loss

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

Business Segment Results

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

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

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

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Basic Petrochemicals

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

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

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

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

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

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

These factors were partially offset by:

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

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

Production and sales volumes of some of our basic petrochemical products were affected in 2002 by the scheduled shutdown of one of our pyrolysis plants for 92 days in 2002. Domestic sales volumes of certain of our basic pe