829,500 cubic metres. Its sewage services are provided to 535,700 households in 8 different municipalities. In the area of telecommunications the company has 719,650 subscribers for basic telephone service with 828,060 lines. The telephone service reaches 18 municipalities and there is a density of 27.17 lines for each 100 inhabitants.

EPM is preparing for the future and by 2002 its investments will reach US\$ 1.5 billion. It is currently planning the construction of the hydro-electric plant of Nechi, a 600 MW project located some 150 km north of Medellin. The feasibility study was recently completed by a consortium of two local engineering/consulting companies, Integral S.A. and Cedic which were subsequently granted a new contract to do the design phase. Although the design stage may not be fully completed until January 1998, preliminary construction work will need to begin on the access road and other preparations, so decisions on financing and tendering will need to be reached during the first half of 1997. The current intention is for EPM to finance 50% of the project with their own resources; external financing would be needed to make up the balance.

EPM is one of the more technically advanced and well-managed utility companies in Colombia. The company recently completed a comprehensive AM/FM/GIS project using mapping and facilities management hardware and software from Intergraph. The SIGMA project provides a GIS system for Medellin and the surrounding area, using Intergraph's FRAMME and MGE/MGA software. EPM will continue to be an important user of geomatics information in Colombia.

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EPSA has a number of power plants in the Cauca Valley region with a total installed capacity of 856 MW.

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EMCALI is a large integrated utility company located in Cali, the second largest city in Colombia. The company offers electric, gas, water, sewage and telephone services. It is currently involved in the construction of two power plants, which are Termopacifico and Termoemcali.