

VI PRIVATE SECTOR CUSTOMERS

There are 65 oil and gas operators in Colombia and 97 exploration and/or production contracts under the so-called association structure are currently active. Many opportunities still exist for Canadian companies, as approximately only one third of the country has been explored.

Under the association contract system Ecopetrol contracts exploration, drilling and production activities to foreign operators in pre-determined zones. The most active oil and gas international operators in Colombia are: BP Exploration, Occidental Petroleum, Texas Petroleum, Exxon, Shell and Mobil Oil. A comprehensive list and details will be found on the next page.

The need to expand transport, storage and distribution facilities to increase crude oil exports and use of natural gas resources, brought about and still offers significant foreign investment opportunities in joint venture operations and in the execution of large projects under any of the new association systems (BOT, BOOT, BOMT, etc.).

New opportunities are mainly in privatization of natural gas distribution utilities in which Ecopetrol has participation i.e the natural gas distribution company in Bogotá - Gas Natural S.A - and in several planned natural gas distribution projects to serve medium size cities and small towns throughout the country.

Leading operators active in Colombia

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Mixed natural gas distribution utility
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Leading oil and gas company
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