

ON THE OIL AND GAS PROSPECTIVE

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Abstract. The development of industrial activities in the oil and gas economy sector has been very consistent in the country, six years after the enacting of the Brazilian Petroleum Law. The investment and realization indicators show consolidation of the industry under the new regulatory framework. On the other hand, the results obtained in the exploration segment, leading onto the new oil and gas discoveries, point to new challenges and opportunities for the near to medium term future. In the segments of transportation, processing and refining, the known industry and market demands are renewed. Also, along with the introduced regulations seeking to strengthening local supply of products and services, there is a new wave of demands in the oil and gas related sector, namely, the naval, mechanical, chemical industries, and in the service providers across the industry chain. As to the development of scientific and technical activities related to oil and gas, the picture has substantially changed after the dispositions brought in by the Petroleum Law and the consequential establishment of CTPetro - the Sectorial Fund for Oil and Gas. Designed to bring sustainability to the technical development of the petroleum industry, CTPetro contributed definitely to set a new paradigm for the funding of C&T in Brazil. The change conveyed in a large and extensive participation of various and different Brazilian universities. The new fund embodied and settled on the concept of partnership between university centers and production departments. And served as key to establish the much needed program for the development of human resources. The program is a known success in several areas intimately connected to day-to-day interest of the industry. Nevertheless, the amount of money budgetedly available has been systematically less than that provisioned by the Law, bringing in some concerns to the interested players involved and compromised to the results of these activities. The engineering disciplines, specially the mechanical engineering, have a distinguished and important role to play, for the contributions they can bring to the consolidation and future development of the oil and gas industry in the country. Both in the education and training of a well qualified workforce, and in the development of the applied science and technology, as well as providing consulting for highly specialized engineering services. The oil and gas industry faces new challenges related to well-alive, current themes of great adherence to the research line of work of professionals in mechanical science and engineering, who can definitely make a difference with their wisdom and expertise.