

BRAZILIAN PETROLEUM CORP
Form 6-K
December 20, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer
Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of December, 2004

Commission File Number 1-15106

PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO S.A. - PETROBRAS
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Brazilian Petroleum Corporation - PETROBRAS
(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

Avenida República do Chile, 65
20035-900 - Rio de Janeiro, RJ
Federative Republic of Brazil
(Address of principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO S.A. - PETROBRAS

**Public Company
PRESS RELEASE**

Petrobras formalizes its acquisition of a participation in Gasmig

(Rio de Janeiro, December 17, 2004) - PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO S/A - PETROBRAS, [Bovespa: PETR3/PETR4, NYSE: PBR/PBRA, Latibex: XPBR/XPBRA], a Brazilian international energy company, announces that, with enacting of The Law 15,404 of December 3 2004, The Government of Minas Gerais State, authorized the Companhia Energética de Minas Gerais CEMIG to concluding the process of association with the Petrobras Group for the management of Companhia de Gás de Minas Gerais GASMIG.

The Association consists of the sale by CEMIG to PETROBRAS Gás S/A GASPETRO and GASPETRO's subsidiary TSS Participações S/A TSS of shares representing 40% (forty per cent) of the total shareholders equity of GASMIG.

GASPETRO/TSS and CEMIG, as shareholder of GASMIG, jointly will examine the necessary actions to develop and expand the company's natural gas distribution network in Minas Gerais State. PETROBRAS, through its affiliated companies, will be responsible for the expansion of the network of pipelines for transporting gas to the state.

The Association was approved by GASPETRO's Board of Directors and by the Executive Board of PETROBRAS, as announced on August 11 2004, and by the Boards of Directors of CEMIG and GASMIG, and formalized by the Signing on December 15 2004 of the Agreements and Contracts for the Association.

José Sergio Gabrielli de Azevedo
CFO and Investor Relations Officer

<http://www.petrobras.com.br/ri/english>

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This document may contain forecasts that merely reflect the expectations of the Company's management. Such terms as anticipate, believe, expect, forecast, intend, plan, project, seek, should, along with similar or analogous expressions, are used to identify forecasts. These predictions evidently involve risks and uncertainties, whether foreseen or not by the Company. Therefore, the future results of operations may differ from current expectations, and readers must not base their expectations exclusively on the information presented herein.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: December 20, 2004

PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO
S.A--PETROBRAS

By: */s/* José Sergio Gabrielli de
Azevedo

**José Sergio Gabrielli de
Azevedo
Chief Financial Officer
and Investor Relations
Director**

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This press release may contain forward-looking statements. These statements are statements that are not historical facts, and are based on management's current view and estimates of future economic circumstances, industry conditions, company performance and financial results. The words "anticipates", "believes", "estimates", "expects", "plans" and similar expressions, as they relate to the company, are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Statements regarding the declaration or payment of dividends, the implementation of principal operating and financing strategies and capital expenditure plans, the direction of future operations and the factors or trends affecting financial condition, liquidity or results of operations are examples of forward-looking statements. Such statements reflect the current views of management and are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. There is no guarantee that the expected events, trends or results will actually occur. The statements are based on many assumptions and factors, including general economic and market conditions, industry conditions, and operating factors. Any changes in such assumptions or factors could cause actual results to differ materially from current expectations.
