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A New Insight in the Research in Brazil -- The CTPETRO Program

In 1999 the FINEP (Brazilian Funding Agency for Science and Technology) has launched a new technological program for Brazilian research institutes and oil & gas companies. The main purposes of this program were: (i) to bring together Brazilian research institutes and the oil industry, in order to prepare these centers to face the new global market as strong technological institutes; (ii) to promote systematic financial support for research, with a significant amount of the resources paid to the Brazilian Government through petroleum royalties.

In the first call of projects, in 1999, the only industrial partner, in joint projects related to petroleum exploration, environmental and industrial processes together with government universities/institutes (such as UFRGS, UFRJ, UFBA, IPH, etc.) was PETROBRAS.

In the scope of the CTPETRO program came the idea to really stress the schedule program, as originally proposed by the partners. The preliminary results shows that, in most of cases, a very fruitful new face of the Brazilian research Institutes, strongly engaged in the reach objectives and schedules, as initially proposed.

In the second and third call of projects, 2000 and 2001, respectively, more companies joined this program (e.g. ExxonMobil, Texaco, BP, AGIP and ELF). This move has promoted the transformation of these projects from a one client into a multicient projects program.

At this moment, we are dealing with a program, which really can bring the Brazilian universities to face real technological market as already occurs in Europe, Japan and USA. On the other hand, the oil industry is becoming more confident in the ability of the Brazilian research institutes to contribute substantially to solve their technological questions.