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## **Royalties Boosting Partnership in Research between Brazilian Universities and Oil Industry**

The end of Monopolium of petroleum in Brazil, on the 6th of August of 1997, has started new scenario for the Brazilian research. On the 3rd of August of 1998 and on the 13th of January of 1999 were published federal resolutions establishing that royalties of 1%, over the gross production from highly productive fields, have to be invested in research and development projects to solve technological problems in the new Brazilian oil and gas industry. These investments have to be applied in the Brazilian universities or research institutes. In order to make it feasible, a National steering committee and a sponsoring funding program, National Plan for Science and Technology for the Oil and Gas sector - CTPETRO/FINEP, were created.

PETROBRAS Research Center - CENPES has had an important proactive role in this initial phase, inducing most of the research projects. This has been achieved by its technological programs and a counterpart of financial funding of the same order of magnitude as the royalties. As result of the three calls for projects (1999, 2000 and 2001), there have been selected and sponsored 400 new projects, which has totalized US\$ 85 millions.

As an example, the Technological Program for Exploration - PROFEX has promoted the aggregation of two Brazilian universities, UFPA and UFRGS, and 6 oil companies to conduct and sponsor, respectively, a multiclient project to study the Provenance of the sediments of the Amazon cone -- the CONAM project.