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Brazil's Seismic Opportunities

With the change of strategy in the government to abolish the oil and gas monopoly that Petrobras had for so many years, the window of opportunity was flung open in 1999, and the petroleum industry has shown great interest investing in Brazil. This caused a huge demand for high quality regional 2D data immediately, and the seismic companies responded sending up to 23 survey vessels to Brazil. Of these, only a handful were 3D acquisition vessels. 3D marine streamer acquisition, however, took the lead in investment dollars, and is expected to far outpace investment in 2D data in the future.

Now that the initial boom is over, the industry is targeting 3D data acquisition to better understand the reservoir systems identified with the 2D data on Brazil's continental margin. Over the last two years other streamer techniques such as High Density 3D (HD3D) and Continuous Long Offset (CLO) acquisition have been used over some of the most promising deep water areas. This trend is expected to continue into 2002, with most of the vessels expected to be 3D vessels. As the exploration in Brazilian waters develops, ocean-bottom cable acquisition is also starting to pick up in the shallow offshore blocks offered by the ANP.