

## **The Parana Basin in the present Brazilian scenario**

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The Parana Basin is being studied envisaging the exploration and production of hydrocarbons, mainly natural gas, a product technologically recognized as the most viable fuel for the near future, since it is less pollutant than fuel oil and coal.

As a result of new petroleum law, in 1997, that ended with Petrobras operational monopoly and created the National Petroleum Agency (ANP), three blocks (BT-PR-1, BT-PR-2 and BT-PR-3) of the Parana Basin, located in the Parana State, were offered through the first ANP Bidding Round on July 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 1999. The decision of including these blocks in such bid was based on the great interest in this basin due to its location near important consumer centers and the Bolívia – Brazil pipeline, as well as the commercial gas discovery of Barra Bonita field (Pitanga's county), capable to produce 200,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day of gas during twenty years.

In spite of these set of positives factors, the result of the bidding did not fit government expectations. The Parana blocks offered by ANP were not been considered attractive by the companies, although they were offered twice in the bid, leading to questions such as: a) Which were the main reasons to this negative result in the bidding? b) What kind of future measures the Agency has to take concerning these results?

This paper has the objective to analyze and possibly answer these questions, having in mind the prevailing conditions and circumstances as well as exploratory perspectives of hidrocarbons in Parana Basin.