

BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO  
Form 20-F  
June 14, 2005

---

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, DC 20549

---

**FORM 20-F**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)  
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004  
Commission file number: 001-14477**

---

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

(F/K/A (TELE CENTRO SUL PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.)

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

---

**Brazil Telecom Holding Company**  
(Translation of Registrant's Name into English)

**The Federative Republic of Brazil**  
(Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

---

**SIA/Sul, ASP, Lote D, Bloco B -  
71215-000 - Setor de Indústria, Brasília, DF, Brazil**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

---

**Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:**

Title of Each class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Preferred Shares, without par value represented by American Depositary Shares*	New York Stock Exchange

\* American Depositary Shares issuable upon deposit of Preferred Shares were registered under a separate registration statement on Form F-6

**Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None**

**Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act: None**

**Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by this Annual Report:**

At December 31, 2004 there were outstanding:

132,550,888,203 Common Shares, without par value  
226,007,752,980 Preferred Shares, without par value

**Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.**

Yes                      No

**Indicate by check mark which financial statement item the registrant has elected to follow:**

Item 17                      Item 18

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<u>PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>PART I</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>ITEM 3. Key Information</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Selected Financial Data</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Exchange Rates</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>ITEM 4. Information on the Company</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>History and Development of the Company</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Capital Expenditures</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Business Overview</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>Regulation of the Brazilian Telecommunications Industry</u>	<u>55</u>
<u>Property, Plant and Equipment</u>	<u>62</u>
<u>Environmental and Other Regulatory Matters</u>	<u>62</u>
<u>ITEM 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects</u>	<u>63</u>
<u>Overview of Results of Operations</u>	<u>63</u>
<u>U.S. GAAP Reconciliation</u>	<u>68</u>
<u>Critical Accounting Policies</u>	<u>69</u>
<u>New Accounting Pronouncements</u>	<u>72</u>
<u>Results of Operations for the Years Ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004</u>	<u>73</u>
<u>Liquidity and Capital Resources</u>	<u>86</u>
<u>ITEM 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees</u>	<u>93</u>
<u>Board of Directors and Senior Management</u>	<u>93</u>
<u>Board Practices</u>	<u>96</u>
<u>Corporate Governance Practices</u>	<u>99</u>
<u>Employees</u>	<u>99</u>
<u>Share Ownership</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>ITEM 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>Major Shareholders</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>Related Party Transactions</u>	<u>104</u>
<u>ITEM 8. Financial Information</u>	<u>105</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information</u>	<u>105</u>
<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	<u>105</u>
<u>Dividend Policy</u>	<u>114</u>
<u>ITEM 9. The Offer and Listing</u>	<u>116</u>

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
(conitnued)

		<b>Page</b>
	<u>Offer and Listing Details</u>	<u>116</u>
	<u>Markets</u>	<u>119</u>
<u>ITEM 10.</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>	<u>121</u>
	<u>Memorandum and Articles of Association</u>	<u>121</u>
	<u>Material Contracts</u>	<u>121</u>
	<u>Exchange Controls</u>	<u>125</u>
	<u>Taxation</u>	<u>126</u>
	<u>Independent Auditors</u>	<u>132</u>
	<u>Documents on Display</u>	<u>132</u>
<u>ITEM 11.</u>	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	<u>133</u>
	<u>Quantitative Information About Market Risk</u>	<u>133</u>
<u>PART II</u>		<u>136</u>
<u>ITEM 14.</u>	<u>Material Modifications to the Rights of Security Holders and Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>136</u>
<u>ITEM 15.</u>	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	<u>136</u>
<u>ITEM 16A.</u>	<u>Audit Committee Financial Expert</u>	<u>136</u>
<u>ITEM 16B.</u>	<u>Code of Ethics</u>	<u>136</u>
<u>ITEM 16C.</u>	<u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	<u>136</u>
<u>ITEM 16E.</u>	<u>Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers</u>	<u>137</u>
<u>PART III</u>		<u>138</u>
<u>ITEM 17.</u>	<u>Financial Statements</u>	<u>138</u>
<u>ITEM 18.</u>	<u>Financial Statements</u>	<u>138</u>
<u>ITEM 19.</u>	<u>Exhibits</u>	<u>138</u>
Omitted items of Form 20-F are either not required in a Form 20-F filed as an annual report, not applicable or reserved.		
	<u>INDEX OF DEFINED TERMS</u>	<u>140</u>
	<u>TECHNICAL GLOSSARY</u>	<u>141</u>
	<u>SIGNATURES</u>	<u>144</u>
	<u>INDEX TO EXHIBITS</u>	<u>145</u>

## PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In this Annual Report, Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. (previously Tele Centro Sul Participações S.A) a corporation organized under the laws of the Federative Republic of Brazil, and its subsidiaries are referred to collectively as "our company," "we", "us" or the "Registrant." References to our company's businesses and operations are references to the businesses and operations of our company on a consolidated basis for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004.

References to (i) the "*real*," "*reais*" or "R\$" are to Brazilian *reais* (plural) and the Brazilian *real* (singular) and (ii) "U.S. dollars," "dollars" or "U.S.\$" are to United States dollars. All amounts in Brazilian currencies that existed prior to the adoption of the *real* as the Brazilian currency on July 1, 1994 have been restated in *reais*. On May 31, 2005, the Commercial Market selling rate (as defined in Item 3 "Key Information Selected Financial Data Exchange Rates") was R\$2.4038 to U.S.\$1.00 as published by the Brazilian Central Bank. The exchange rate information in this Annual Report should not be construed as a representation that any such amounts have been, would have been or could be converted at this or any other exchange rate.

Our audited consolidated financial statements were prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in Brazil ("Brazilian GAAP") which are similar to the Brazilian Corporation Law (Law 6404/76, as amended by Law 10.303/01), except for the effects of the recognition of inflationary effects from January 1, 1996 to December 31, 2000, and are consistent with the rules and regulations of the Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM *Comissão de Valores Mobiliários*), and the accounting standards issued by the Brazilian Institute of Independent Auditors (*Instituto dos Auditores Independentes do Brasil* or "IBRACON"). Investors should note that financial statements prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP differ from financial statements prepared in accordance with Brazilian Corporation Law in the methodology used for the recognition of inflation, among other things. See Notes 2a and 2b to our audited consolidated financial statements for (i) a summary of the principal differences between Brazilian GAAP and Brazilian Corporation Law as they relate to us and (ii) a reconciliation from Brazilian Corporation Law to Brazilian GAAP of shareholders' equity as of December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004 and net income (loss) for each of the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004. Brazilian GAAP when applied to us differs in certain important respects from generally accepted accounting principles in the United States ("U.S. GAAP"). See Note 33 to our audited consolidated financial statements for (i) a summary of the principal differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP as they relate to us and (ii) a reconciliation to U.S. GAAP of shareholders' equity as of December 31, 2003 and 2004 and net income (loss) for each of the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004. These audited consolidated financial statements are referred to herein as the "Financial Statements."

Our audited annual consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2002, December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2004, and for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2004 prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP with reconciliation of shareholders' equity and income statements to U.S. GAAP, included in this Annual Report, have been audited by KPMG Auditores Independentes, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board as stated in their report appearing in this Annual Report.

The "Index of Defined Terms" that begins on page 140 lists the page where each defined term is defined within this document. Technical terms are defined in the Technical Glossary on page 141.

Certain figures included in this Annual Report have been subject to rounding adjustments. Accordingly, figures shown as totals in certain tables may not be an arithmetic aggregation of the figures that precede them.

## **FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT**

This Annual Report contains forward-looking statements. We may also make forward-looking statements in press releases and oral statements. Forward-looking statements are not statements of historical fact and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties. The words "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," "expects," "forecasts," "intends," "plans," "predicts," "projects," "targets" and similar words are intended to identify these forward-looking statements.

In this Annual Report, we have made forward-looking statements with respect to, but not limited to:

- our marketing strategy;
- our ability to meet our network expansion, service quality and modernization obligations;
- our market share;
- our compliance with radiation standards;
- the reduction of our labor force;
- the payment of our debt;
- the material adverse financial effect of any labor, civil or tax claims arising out of acts committed by Telebrás prior to the effective date of the breakup of Telebrás;
- the retroactive application of state value-added taxes to certain services, including installation services, rendered during the five years preceding June 30, 1998;
- the growth in the customer base and products offered by cable television services providers in our region;
- our projected capital expenditures; and
- our liquidity.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of performance. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions because they relate to future events and therefore depend on circumstances that may or may not occur in the future. Our future results and shareholder values may differ materially from those expressed in or suggested by these forward-looking statements. Many of the factors that will determine these results and values are beyond our ability to control or predict.

Because these forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, there are important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. These factors include:

- the performance of the Brazilian economy generally;
- the levels of exchange rates between Brazilian and foreign currencies;
- the telecommunications policy of Brazil's federal government;

- the growth of the Brazilian telecommunications industry as a whole;
- the introduction of competition to the Brazilian telecommunications industry in general and in our region in particular;

- the receipt of additional, and/or the revocation of our existing, governmental approvals and licenses;
- the availability of financing;
- the emergence of new technologies and the response of our customer base to those technologies;
- acquisition by us of other companies; and
- other factors discussed under Item 3 "Key Information Risk Factors."

The reader should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statement. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and we do not undertake any obligation to update them in light of new information or future developments. Neither our independent auditors, nor any other independent accountants, have compiled, examined, or performed any procedures, with respect to the prospective financial information contained herein, nor have they expressed any opinion or any other form of assurance on such information or its achievability, and assume no responsibility for, and disclaim any association with the prospective financial information.

Information included in this Report concerning Brazil, Telecom Italia International N.V. ("TII"), Techold Participações S.A. ("Techold") and Timepart Participações Ltda. ("Timepart") and other direct and indirect shareholders has been included herein based on public filings or other sources we assume to be correct but we have not independently verified such information.

**PART I****ITEM 3. Key Information****Selected Financial Data*****Background***

The selected financial information presented herein should be read in conjunction with our Financial Statements and notes, which appear elsewhere in this Annual Report. Our selected financial information is presented on a combined consolidated basis for the year 2000 and on a consolidated basis for the years 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

The following paragraphs discuss some important features of the presentation of the selected financial information and our Financial Statements. These features should be considered when evaluating the selected financial information.

***Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP***

Our Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, which differ in certain significant respects from U.S. GAAP. See Note 33 to our Financial Statements for (i) a summary of the principal differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP as they relate to us, and (ii) a reconciliation to U.S. GAAP of shareholders' equity as of December 31, 2003 and 2004 and net income (loss) for each of the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

***Effects of Inflation***

Unless otherwise specified, all financial information included in this Annual Report for the year 2000, recognizes certain effects of inflation and is restated in constant *reais* of December 31, 2000, all in accordance with Brazilian GAAP. We used the General Market Price Index, *Índice Geral de Preços de Mercado* ("IGP-M"), published by *Fundação Getúlio Vargas* for purposes of such restatement. However, pursuant to Brazilian GAAP, our audited financial statements as of and for the years commencing after December 31, 2000, no longer recognize the effects of inflation and are not restated in constant *reais*.

***Change in Accounting Methodology******Depreciation***

See Item 4 "Information on the Company Property, plant and equipment" and Item 5 "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects Operating Results Results of Operations for the Years Ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004 Cost of Services Depreciation and Amortization."

***Difference from Financial Statements Published in Brazil***

Our statutory financial statements prepared in accordance with the Brazilian Corporation Law (the "Statutory Financial Statements") are the basis for dividend and tax determinations. Our audited consolidated financial statements for the year 2000 include the effects of inflation through December 31, 2000, while our Statutory Financial Statements include the effects of inflation only through December 31, 1995. See Notes 2a and 2b to our audited consolidated financial statements for (i) a summary of the principal differences between Brazilian GAAP and Brazilian Corporation Law as they relate to us and (ii) a reconciliation from Brazilian Corporation Law to Brazilian GAAP of shareholders' equity as of December 31, 2003 and 2004 and net income (loss) for each of the years ended



December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004. Our Statutory Financial Statements also differ from our Consolidated Financial Statements in respect of certain reclassifications, and presentation of comparative information.

**Selected Financial Information****Year ended December 31,**

<b>Income Statement Data:</b>	<b>2000<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>2001<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>2002<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>2003<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>2004</b>
	(thousands of <i>reais</i> , except per share data)				
<b>Brazilian GAAP:</b>					
Net operating revenue	4,652,184	6,158,408	7,071,368	7,915,194	9,0
Cost of services	3,768,699	4,765,593	5,143,358	5,455,019	6,1
Gross profit	883,485	1,392,815	1,928,010	2,460,175	2,9
Operating expenses:					
Selling expenses	379,235	724,507	763,346	821,627	1,0
General and administrative expenses	534,624	624,751	687,462	865,052	1,0
Other net operating expenses (income)	(56,899)	60,875	(121,181)	211,308	69,1
Operating income (loss) before net financial expenses	26,525	(17,318)	598,383	562,188	729,8
Net financial expenses	(20,480)	47,051	330,460	610,159	399,8
Operating income (loss)	47,005	(64,369)	267,923	(47,971)	330,0
Net non-operating expenses (income)	(166,753)	85,167	78,312	550,022	111,7
Employee's profit share	18,516	52,783	42,619	3,510	58,0
Income (loss) before taxes and minority interests	195,242	(202,319)	146,992	(601,503)	160,2
Income and social contribution tax benefits (expenses)	(74,386)	87,347	(916)	261,390	5,8
Income (loss) before minority interests	120,856	(114,972)	146,076	(340,113)	166,0
Minority interests	31,456	75,720	2,397	171,466	(37,9)
Net income (loss)	152,312	(39,252)	148,473	(168,647)	128,1
Number of Common Shares (millions) <sup>(3)</sup>	124,369,030	128,459,878	130,971,517	132,550,888	132,550,888
Number of Preferred Shares (millions) <sup>(3)</sup>	219,863,511	219,863,511	219,863,511	222,670,188	226,007,753

Operating Income (loss) per thousand Common Shares ( <i>reais</i> ) <sup>(3)</sup>	0.38	(0.67)	2.05	(0.36)	2.49
Net income (loss) per thousand Common Shares ( <i>reais</i> ) <sup>(3)</sup>	(1.22)	(0.32)	1.13	(1.27)	0.97
Dividends per thousand Common Shares ( <i>reais</i> ) <sup>(3)</sup>	0.34	0.38	0.55	0.54	0.70
Dividends per thousand Common Shares (U.S. dollars) <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.19	0.26
Dividends per thousand Preferred Shares ( <i>reais</i> ) <sup>(3)</sup>	0.34	0.38	0.55	0.54	0.70
Dividends per thousand Preferred Shares (U.S. dollars) <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.19	0.26

(1) Presented in constant *reais* of December 31, 2000.

(2) Pursuant to Brazilian GAAP, our audited consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004 no longer recognize the effects of inflation after January 1, 2001 and are not restated in constant *reais*.

(3) See Note 3s to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

(4) Dividends per thousand shares were converted into dollars at the Commercial Market selling rate of R\$1.955 per U.S. dollar on December 31, 2000, of R\$2.32 per U.S. dollar on December 31, 2001, of R\$3.5333 per U.S. dollar on December 31, 2002, of R\$2.8892 per U.S. dollar on December 31, 2003 and of R\$2.6544 per U.S. dollar on December 31, 2004, respectively.

## Selected Financial Information (continued)

Year ended December 31,

Income Statement Data  
(continued)2000<sup>(1)</sup> 2001<sup>(2)</sup> 2002<sup>(2)</sup> 2003<sup>(2)</sup> 2004<sup>(2)</sup>(thousands of *reais*, except per share data)*U.S. GAAP:*

Net income (loss)	117,722	(133,894)	279,899	(8,347)	271,444
Net income (loss) per thousand shares ( <i>reais</i> ) <sup>(5)</sup> :					
Common Shares Basic	0.35	(0.39)	0.80	(0.02)	0.76
Common Shares Diluted	0.34	(0.39)	0.80	(0.02)	0.76
Preferred Shares Basic	0.35	(0.39)	0.80	(0.02)	0.76
Preferred Shares Diluted	0.34	(0.39)	0.80	(0.02)	0.76

- (5) In accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") 128 "Earnings Per Share," basic and diluted earnings per share have been calculated, for U.S. GAAP purposes, using the "two class method." See Note 33e to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

At December 31,

2000<sup>(1)</sup> 2001<sup>(2)</sup> 2002<sup>(2)</sup> 2003<sup>(2)</sup> 2004<sup>(2)</sup>(thousands of *reais*)

## Balance Sheet Data:

*Brazilian GAAP:*

Intangibles <sup>(3)</sup>	472,680	372,536	470,544	531,556	896,713
Property, plant and equipment, net <sup>(4)</sup>	11,476,414	12,231,013	11,265,991	9,579,821	9,359,958
Total assets	16,695,102	16,399,570	17,154,721	16,636,543	18,721,897
Loans and financing current portion	1,187,221	448,778	591,874	1,696,958	856,638
Loans and financing non-current portion	2,354,060	2,699,466	3,584,293	2,093,044	3,851,591
Total liabilities (including funds for capitalization and minority interests)	9,550,008	9,666,203	10,491,289	10,375,112	12,593,407

Shareholders' equity	7,145,094	6,733,367	6,663,432	6,261,431	6,128,490
<b>U.S. GAAP:</b>					
Intangibles <sup>(5)</sup>	292,898	607,509	724,160	910,511	1,420,724
Property, plant and equipment, net	11,847,183	13,186,333	11,483,967	9,883,100	9,647,334
Total assets	16,584,762	16,673,834	17,626,319	17,318,777	19,533,284
Loans and financing current portion	1,048,542	307,621	470,462	1,502,689	600,280
Loans and financing non-current portion	2,354,060	2,699,466	3,389,399	1,847,501	3,622,527
Total liabilities (including funds for capitalization and minority interests)	9,457,843	9,794,184	10,817,968	10,736,513	12,916,913
Shareholders' equity	7,126,919	6,879,650	6,808,351	6,582,264	6,616,371

- 
- (1) Presented in constant *reais* of December 31, 2000.
  - (2) Pursuant to Brazilian GAAP, our audited consolidated financial statements at December 31, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 no longer recognize the effects of inflation after January 1, 2001 and are not restated in constant *reais*.
  - (3) Includes the goodwill from our acquisition of a controlling stake in CRT, which was calculated based on book value.
  - (4) Stated at indexed cost up to December 31, 2000, less accumulated depreciation. See Note 3g to our Consolidated Financial Statements.
  - (5) Intangibles under U.S. GAAP, up to 2003, include the step-up goodwill paid by Solpart Participações S.A. ("Solpart") as a consequence of the exchange of shares between companies under our common control pursuant to our merger with Telesc, Telegoiás, Telebrasília, Telemat, Telems, Teleron, Teleacre and CTMR. Intangibles under U.S. GAAP also include the goodwill from our merger with Telesc, Telegoiás, Telebrasília, Telemat, Telems, Teleron, Teleacre and CTMR and our merger with CRT at December 31, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004, and amounts relating to our PCS licenses at December 31, 2002, 2003, and 2004. See Note 33o to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

## Exchange Rates

Until March 14, 2005, there were two principal foreign exchange markets in Brazil: the commercial rate exchange market (the "Commercial Market") and the floating rate exchange market (the "Floating Market"). Most foreign trade and financial foreign currency exchange transactions were carried out on the Commercial Market. Purchases of foreign exchange in the Commercial Market could be carried out only through a financial institution authorized to buy and sell currency in that market. The Floating Market rate generally applied to transactions to which the Commercial Market rate did not apply.

Aside from the two mentioned principal exchange markets, there was also a market for international transfers in *reais* TIRs, which followed its own rules. Due to the enactment of Resolution 3265 of the National Monetary Council ("CMN") on March 4, 2005, the exchange markets were unified in a single market. Additional rules were issued on March 9, 2005. The market expects the new regulation to provide a more flexible environment and foster foreign investment in Brazil. The potential impact of the new rules is still uncertain. Prior to February 1, 1999, the exchange rate in each market was established independently, resulting in different rates during some periods. Since February 1, 1999, the Central Bank authorized the unification of the exchange positions of the Brazilian financial institutions in the Commercial Market and Floating Market, which led to a convergence in the pricing and liquidity of both markets. However, each market continued to have a specific regulation. Most trade and financial transactions were carried out on the Commercial Market. The foreign currencies may only be purchased through a Brazilian financial institution authorized to operate in the market. Rates are freely negotiated but may be strongly influenced by Central Bank intervention.

Under the *Real* Plan ("*Real* Plan"), on July 1, 1994, the *real* was introduced as the official unit of Brazilian currency, with each *real* having an exchange rate of R\$1.00 to U.S.\$1.00. The issuance of *reais* was initially subject to quantitative limits backed by a corresponding amount of U.S. dollars in reserves, but the government subsequently expanded those quantitative limits and allowed the *real* to float, with parity between the *real*/U.S. dollar (R\$1.00 to U.S.\$1.00) as a ceiling.

Since January 15, 1999 the *real* has been allowed to float freely. In 2000, the *real* devalued by 9.3% against the U.S. dollar to R\$1.9554. Further deterioration in the political and economic environment in 2001, in addition to the Brazilian energy crisis, resulted in the *real* devaluing by 18.7% against the U.S. dollar in that year. In the final quarter of 2001, however, the *real* appreciated by 13.1% from R\$2.6713 per U.S. \$1.00 at September 30, 2001 to R\$2.3204 per U.S.\$1.00 on December 31, 2001.

In 2002, as a reaction to political and economic uncertainties, the global economic downturn, the crisis in Argentina and the Brazilian presidential elections, the U.S. dollar appreciated by 52.3% against the *real* to R\$3.5333 per U.S.\$1.00 at December 31, 2002. The *real* recovered in 2003, appreciating by 18.2% to R\$2.8892 per U.S.\$1.00, at December 31, 2003. In 2004, the *real* appreciated by 8.1% against the U.S. dollar, quoted at R\$2.6544

per U.S.\$1.00 on December 31, 2004. We cannot assure you that the *real* will not substantially devalue again in the future. See " Risk Factors Risks Relating to Brazil."

As of May 31, 2005, the Commercial Market selling rate published by the Brazilian Central Bank was R\$2.4038 per U.S.\$1.00.

### ***Commercial Market Selling Rate for U.S. Dollars***

The following table sets forth the reported high and low Commercial Market selling rates for U.S. dollars for the months indicated.

	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
December 2004	2.7867	2.6544
January 2005	2.7222	2.6248
February 2005	2.6320	2.5621
March 2005	2.7621	2.6011
April 2005	2.6598	2.5195
May 2005	2.5146	2.3784

---

Source: Brazilian Central Bank

The following table sets forth the reported high and low, average and period-end Commercial Market selling rates for U.S. dollars for the annual periods indicated. The average Commercial Market selling rates represent the average of the month-end commercial market selling rates (R\$/U.S.\$) during the relevant period.

<b>For the Year Ended December 31,</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Period End</b>
2000	1.985	1.723	1.835	1.955
2001	2.801	1.936	2.352	2.320
2002	3.955	2.271	2.915	3.533
2003	3.662	2.822	3.060	2.889
2004	3.205	2.654	2.926	2.654

---

Source: Brazilian Central Bank

Brazilian law provides that, whenever there is a serious imbalance in Brazil's balance of payments or reliable information to foresee such an imbalance, temporary restrictions may be imposed on remittances of foreign capital abroad. We cannot assure you that these types of measures will not be taken by the Brazilian government in the future. See " Risk Factors Risks Relating to Brazil."

### **Risk Factors**

The following are risk factors that relate materially to our company and to an investment in our Preferred Shares or ADSs. Our business, results of operations or financial condition could be harmed if any of these risks materialize and, as a result, the trading price of our Preferred Shares or ADSs could decline and a holder of those securities could lose



a substantial portion or all of his investment.

***Risks Relating to Our Company***

*Regulatory developments could affect our services, including placing restrictions on the rates we charge for our services, which could adversely impact our business*

Our business, including the services that we provide and the rates that we charge, is subject to comprehensive regulation under Brazilian law. Our ability to retain our concessions is a precondition to our success,

but in light of the regulatory framework, it is possible that the terms of our concessions could be modified in an adverse manner.

Under Brazilian law, public -regime companies, like our company, must have the rates that they charge for products and services approved by Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações ("Anatel"). On June 20, 2003, Anatel enacted Resolution 341, which provides for new types of Anatel concession contracts, effective from January 1, 2006 until 2025. The new form of concession contract provides for changes in the way in which rates are set. For example, the General Price Index - Internal Availability, *Índice Geral de Preços Disponibilidade Interna* (IGP-DI), will no longer be used to determine the annual inflation-based adjustments to rates. Private -regime companies that compete with us do not require Anatel approval when setting their rates and may unilaterally determine the prices that they charge for their services. As a result, adverse changes in Brazilian telecommunications regulations and non-approval or even delays in the approval of rate changes by Anatel could adversely impact our operations and competitive position.

On May 12, 2004, the Consumer Defense Committee of the House of Representatives approved a bill of law proposing the termination of the monthly subscription fees charged for fixed-line services by the Brazilian telephone concessionaires, including Brasil Telecom S.A. The bill is still subject to the approval of other Committees within the House of Representatives, the Senate and President Lula's signature. Should this bill be approved, it will have an impact on our current rate structure and, as a result, our operations and competitive position could be adversely impacted.

*We are subject to financial covenants and other contractual provisions under our existing indebtedness. Failure to comply with these provisions could adversely affect our business and financial condition.*

The agreements that govern our debt, including our credit facilities with the National Bank for Social and Economic Development ("*Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social*" - BNDES), contain a number of significant covenants that could adversely impact our business. In particular, the terms of these agreements restrict our ability, and the ability of our subsidiaries, to incur additional debt, make capital expenditures, grant liens, pledge assets, sell, or dispose of, assets and make certain acquisitions, mergers and consolidations. Furthermore, in accordance with a number of our debt agreements, including our credit facilities with BNDES, we are required to comply with these covenants and maintain certain specified financial ratios in order to maintain the current maturity dates for these debt agreements.

During December 2004, we initiated a process of adjustment of the covenants of certain agreements with BNDES, in order to fit them to the new reality of the telecommunications sector and of our company.

In the loan agreement signed during 2004, BNDES and Brasil Telecom S.A. introduced a new mechanism pursuant to which the failure by Brasil Telecom S.A. to comply with the financial covenants, instead of giving the right to BNDES to accelerate the whole debt, gives it the right to request the retention of funds in an amount equivalent to three times the highest installment due under such agreement. If Brasil Telecom S.A., after the retention, fails again in complying with the financial covenants, then BNDES will have the right, but not the obligation, to declare the acceleration of the debt. The negotiation mentioned above includes the extension of these remedies to all BNDES agreements to which we are a party.

On December 20, 2004, the financial institutions involved in the agreement approved the changes requested by the Company and forwarded the process to BNDES. BNDES approved these changes on February 1st, 2005, with validity as from December 31, 2004. If we had not obtained the referred approval from BNDES, we would not be in compliance with the covenant related to the level of our EBITDA margin, as defined in such loans and financing contracts.

Compliance with these covenants in future periods will depend upon our financial and operating performance, which may be affected by adverse business, market and economic conditions. If we are unable to comply with these covenants, or to obtain waivers from our lenders, the maturity dates of our debt agreements may be accelerated and the terms of our debt agreements may be otherwise amended adversely. If we are unable to meet our debt service obligations or comply with our debt covenants, we could be forced to restructure or refinance our

indebtedness, seek additional equity capital or sell assets. See Item 5 "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects Liquidity and Capital Resources Indebtedness."

*Certain beneficial shareholders control a large percentage of our voting shares, and their interests may conflict with the interests of our other shareholders, including minority shareholders. Disputes among our controlling shareholders and entities that manage our controlling shareholders have had and could in the future have a material adverse effect on our management and operations.*

## CONTROL ISSUES

We are controlled by Brasil Telecom Participações S.A., which is in turn controlled by Solpart Participações S.A. ("Solpart"), the ownership of which is held by Timepart, Techold and TII. As the controlling shareholder of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A., Solpart has the power to modify our business plan, modify our dividend plan and sell our material assets. As of the date of this annual report, control of Solpart as well as certain actions taken by Solpart shareholders are the subject of a number of judicial proceedings.

On March 9, 2005, International Equity Investments Inc, as the sole shareholder of CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners LP (since renamed Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil, LP) which holds a stake in Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and Opportunity Zain S.A. ( Zain ), a company which integrates the controlling corporate structure of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and Brasil Telecom S.A. - ("CVC LP"), sent a public notice informing about the ousting of CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners, Ltd ("CVC Ltd") currently named Opportunity Equity Partners, Ltd. from the management of CVC LP, having designated as a substitute, a new company incorporated abroad, named Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil LLC ("CVC International Brazil"). CVC LP in compliance with CVM/SEP/GEA-2 Written Notice 225/05 and the terms of CVM Instruction 358, informed us that:

- In March 2005, International Equity Investments, Inc. and the CVC LP entered into certain agreements with Investidores Institucionais Fundo de Investimento em Ações ( Investidores Institucionais FIA ), Caixa de Previdência dos Funcionários do Banco do Brasil Previ ( Previ ), Fundação dos Economistas Federais Funcef ( Funcef ) and Fundação Petrobras de Seguridade Social Petros ( Petros ), including the Shareholders Agreement of Zain, as announced in the material fact published on 03.11.05 (collectively, the Agreements ).
- The Agreements establish that the CVC LP and the Investidores Institucionais FIA, with combined shareholdings of around 90% of the voting and total capital of Zain, will conjunctly perform the corporate control of such company and Invitel S.A. ( Invitel ), a company controlled by Zain with about 68% of its voting and total capital, and in which Previ, Funcef, Petros and other non-publicly held pension entities hold nearly the totality of the remaining voting and total capital. The Agreements also establish that the parties are to attempt to disinvest, under identical terms, conjunctly and in an organized manner, their shareholdings in Zain and Invitel, companies which control, among other companies, our company, Brasil Telecom S.A. and 14 Brasil Telecom Celular S.A.
- In the context of the execution of the Agreements, Previ, Funcef and Petros signed the Put Option on Shares Issued by Zain Agreement, granting the CVC LP a put option on its Zain shares, which may be exercised in a limited period of time, but not before November 2007. If and when the CVC LP exercises its put option, a right conditioned to the occurrence of future and uncertain events, some of which are out of the control of the CVC LP, Investidores Institucionais FIA, Previ, Funcef and Petros, the exercise price is to be set to R\$1,045,941,692.43, adjusted by the variation of the IGP-DI Index + 5% p.a.. The fulfillment of the conditions to the exercise of such put option granted by Previ, Funcef and Petros does not depend or is tied to the occurrence of any operation or business involving, directly or indirectly, property or other assets owned by Zain, Invitel or any of their controlled companies, among which, our company, Brasil Telecom S.A. and 14

Brasil Telecom Celular S.A.

On April 12, 2005, Anatel issued a decision approving among other things (i) the replacement of CVC Ltd by CVC International Brazil as manager of CVC LP; (ii) Angra Partners Consultoria Empresarial e Participações Ltda. as the new manager of Investidores Institucionais FIA, one of the indirect controlling shareholders of Brasil Telecom S.A. and (iii) the changes resulting from the Zain and Futeretel S.A. Shareholders' Agreements. This decision was published in the Federal Gazette (*Diário Oficial*) on April 14, 2005. After reviewing our appeal, Anatel upheld its decision dated April 12, 2005.

On October 6, 2003, Fundação 14 de Previdência Privada ( Fundação 14 ), successor to Fundação Sistel de Seguridade Social, was prevented by the other shareholders from exercising its voting rights during the Investidores Institucionais FIA's Unitholders Meeting. At the said meeting, Banco Opportunity S.A. was ousted from the administration of Investidores Institucionais FIA. In consequence of this event, Fundação 14 brought an ordinary action before the 5th Federal Court of Rio de Janeiro against several defendants, seeking a declaration that the resolutions adopted at the Investidores Institucionais FIA's Unitholders Meeting held on October 6, 2003 were invalid. At the date of this annual report, this matter continues to be the subject of judicial proceedings. Recently, the same plaintiff brought a motion for preliminary relief before the Court as an incidental proceeding to the ordinary action against the same defendants ets of Investidores Institucionais FIA, including agreements for the sale, encumbrance and/or acquisition of interests by the fund. On April 13, 2005, a preliminary order was issued suspending the effects of any acts for the alienation or encumbrance of Investidores Institucionais FIA assets, or the acquisition of interests by the Fund until a subsequent decision, which will be issued after the defendants have submitted their arguments.

Pending the resolution of the disputes described above, our Board of Directors may be unable to act on matters of importance to us,

### ISSUES ARISING OUT OF OVERLAP OF LICENSES WITH TIM

TII is controlled by Telecom Italia S.p.A. ("Telecom Italia"). Telecom Italia acquired, through various subsidiaries now consolidated into TIM Brasil Serviços e Participações S.A., ("TIM"), authorizations to deploy personal communication service ("PCS") in the whole country, including Region II, where we provide fixed-line services. Because our company and TII were deemed to be affiliates, TIM could not exploit the PCS authorizations before January 1, 2004 unless either Telecom Italia ceased to be our affiliate or we achieved sooner our 2003 universalization targets. In order to allow TIM to exploit its PCS licenses, TII, Techold and Timepart agreed to amend the shareholders agreement dated July 19, 1998, (as amended, the "Solpart Agreement") on August 27, 2002. Following the amendment, TII was not a controlling shareholder or affiliate of our company but retained a right to reacquire such an interest under certain circumstances.

Since we received certification of our compliance with the 2003 targets established by Anatel, we have begun offering national and international fixed-line services as well as mobile services. If TII were to reacquire an indirect controlling interest in our company, our company and TIM would be deemed affiliates under Brazilian telecommunications law, and our ability to offer national and international fixed-line services as well as mobile services in the same regions as TIM would be at risk of being terminated by Anatel. On January 16, 2004 Anatel issued an Act (the Anatel Decree ) pursuant to which Anatel consented to an 18 month period during which TII may reacquire an indirect controlling interest in our company, provided TII does not participate or vote in any matters related to the overlapping services offered by our company and TIM such as national and international long distance fixed-line services as well as mobile services. If, after the 18-month period (expiring July 18, 2005), our company and Telecom Italia did not reach an agreement which resolved the overlap, Anatel reserved the right to impose sanctions on any or all involved parties. Depending on Anatel's final decision, these sanctions could have a material adverse effect on our business and operations.

Additionally, ANIMEC (the Brazilian Association of Investors of Capital Markets) filed an injunction before the Conselho Administrativo de Defesa Econômica ("CADE") (Brazil's Antitrust Authority) to prevent TII from acquiring an indirect controlling interest in our company. On March 17, 2004, the injunction was granted by unanimous decision and TII appealed CADE's decision. In June 2004, CADE issued a new injunction granting TII the right to return to our control group so long as TII does not participate or vote in any matters related to the overlapping services or nominate any officers. To date, this matter remains unresolved since there is still an act of concentration on Anatel's analysis, which assembles all the demands presented by TII and/or its opponents, and that will return to CADE's analysis after Anatel's decision.

In order to eliminate the regulatory risk associated with the overlapping of licenses between TII and us and add value to our shareholders, our subsidiary 14 Brasil Telecom Celular S.A. ( BTC ) and Brasil Telecom S.A., and TII and TIM Brasil Serviços e Participações S.A. ( TIMB ), and collectively with TII the TIM Group ) entered into a Merger Agreement and a related Protocol (collectively, the Merger Agreement ) on April 28, 2005. Among other things this transaction guarantees the settlement of the overlapping of licenses and authorizations with the TIM Group so as to avoid potential sanctions and penalties to be imposed by Anatel. Pursuant to the Merger Agreement BTC will merge into TIMB and we will receive shares in the resulting TIMB company, the size of such interest to be determined based on appraisals of relative value to be performed by an international investment banking firm hired by us. In addition TIMB will surrender to Anatel and enter into preferred provider arrangements and operational agreements with our company for those services as well as other telecommunications services and products of mutual interest, which will allow us to continue to offer convergence services to our clients. The completion of the Merger is subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions precedent, including our Board of Directors and Anatel prior approvals. Despite our attempt to resolve the regulatory issue of overlapping licenses and authorizations (including those for national and international long distance services, as well as mobile services), certain indirect shareholders have filed judicial actions preventing the consummation of the Merger Agreement. The Merger is currently subject to various judicial

injunctions (see below).

Concurrently with the signing of the Merger Agreement, the Solpart Agreement was amended to restore TII to the control block of Solpart, our company, and Brasil Telecom S.A. This was implemented by a second amendment to the Solpart Agreement restoring certain rights of TII and allowing TII to restore a 38% ownership position in Solpart. As of the date of the filing of this annual report, this restoration is also being contested by judicial proceedings.

- 11 -

---

As a result of entering into these various agreements, we agreed to settle existing disputes relating to TII's acts and omissions that caused material damages to our company. This agreement to settle is at the date of this annual report being contested judicially by certain indirect shareholders.

### LAWSUITS AND INJUNCTIONS AFFECTING OUR OPERATIONS

There are currently lawsuits pending seeking to block the Merger Agreement. As of the date of this filing a preliminary injunction has been issued by the Court pending further hearings preventing implementation of the Merger or the accomplishment of any extraordinary managerial act, without prior consent of the Board of Directors and approval through a general shareholders meeting. To similar effect we became aware that a preliminary injunction has been issued by the United States District Court, Southern District of New York preventing Opportunity Equity Partners, Ltd. and persons acting in concert with them from taking any action enforcing the Merger Agreement or the other agreements entered into at the same time or entering into any agreement or transaction outside the ordinary course of business involving any entity in which the CVC LP has a direct or indirect interest (this would include the Company).

We are unable to predict the outcome of these disputes, whether the Merger will be accomplished while these actions are pending and whether the overlap of licenses will be resolved without the application by Anatel of any sanctions or penalties. Our ability to offer national and international fixed-line services and/or mobile services in the same regions as TIM are at risk of being terminated by Anatel if the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement involving our wireless operations and the surrender by TIMB of long distance licenses are not allowed to be completed by July 18, 2005.

In addition, the disputes among the shareholders of Solpart including with respect to the ownership structure of Solpart, and management of entities which hold a stake in Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and Zain, a company which integrates the controlling corporate structure of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and Brasil Telecom S.A may result in changes to our board and/or senior management.

*We face increasing competition in all segments of the Brazilian telecommunications industry, and the telecommunications industry may not continue to grow or may grow at a slower rate. This may have a material adverse effect on our market share, margins, results of operations and financial condition*

The telecommunications industry in Brazil is becoming increasingly competitive. Our public-regime fixed-line concessions are not exclusive, and Anatel could grant additional private-regime authorizations in our region. Our fixed-line services are also subject to competition from wireless service providers, however such competition is still limited by the fact that rates for wireless calls are currently much higher than rates for calls on our fixed-line network. We also face competition from wireless service providers in the low end of the market through the offer of prepaid plans by such wireless providers. To date, Telemar Norte Leste S.A. ("Telemar"), Empresa Brasileira de Telecomunicações S.A. ("Embratel"), Intelig Telecomunicações Ltda ("Intelig"), Telecomunicações de São Paulo S.A. ("Telesp"), Global Village Telecom ("GVT"), Telmex do Brasil Ltda ("Telmex"), Fonet Brasil Ltda ("Fonet"), and Novação Telecomunicações Ltda ("Novação") have been granted permission by Anatel to provide local fixed telecommunications services in the totality of our Region. Additionally, to date, TNL PCS S.A. ("Oi"), Embratel, Intelig, Telesp, GVT, Albra Telecomunicações Ltda ("Albra"), TIM Celular S.A. ("TIM"), and Easystone Telecomunicações Ltda ("Easystone") have been granted permission by Anatel to provide long distance telecommunications services in the totality of our Region. The certification of other service providers' compliance with universalization and expansion targets permits other service providers to operate in our region. Now we also have to compete in our region against competitors from outside of our region that offer fixed-line, mobile, data local and/or long distance telecommunications services throughout Brazil. Increased competition could have a material adverse effect on our market share, margins, results of operations and financial condition. Since January 2004, we have the



ability to counteract losses in market share in the local fixed-line market by providing telecommunications services in other regions.

In September 2004, we commenced offering our wireless services. Wireless services are equally competitive and we face competition in Region II from (i) a joint venture between Telefônica and Portugal Telecom (marketing under the brand name "Vivo"), (ii) Telmex, which competes against us in our region through América Móviles (marketing under the brand name "Claro"), (iii) TIM, (iv) Sercomtel Celular, and (v) CTBC Celular. Competition for wireless telecommunications customers may require us to increase our costs and marketing expenses or provide services at lower rates than those we currently expect to charge for such service. . If we are able

to complete the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement, then we will not be offering wireless services directly but will participate in this business through the acquisition of an equity interest in TIMB, which as of April 28, 2005, had approximately 14.6 million wireless users. The Merger Agreement also contemplates operational agreements through which we will be able to continue to offer convergence services.

Competition in data transmission services is not subject to regulatory restriction. The market is open to a great number of competitors. Increased competition in data transmission services may require us to reduce the rates we charge for data transmission services.

In addition, the Brazilian telecommunications industry is consolidating, which results in larger competitors with greater resources. There can be no assurance that increased competition in all segments of the Brazilian telecommunications industry will not have a material adverse effect on our market share, margins, results of operations and financial condition.

Our ability to continue to compete successfully will depend on the success of our marketing, financial and other resources (including our access to capital) in comparison to our competitors and on our ability to anticipate and respond to competitive factors affecting the industry, including the introduction of new services, changes in consumer preferences, changes in regulation, demographic trends, economic conditions, discount pricing strategies by competitors as well as further industry consolidation. Currently, we compete with our competitors primarily on the basis of features, pricing and customer service. However, we cannot predict exactly which factors in the future will be important in maintaining our competitive position, such as the increasing need to offer promotions, discounts and other marketing initiatives, or what expenditures will be required to develop and provide the necessary technologies, products and services to remain competitive. This may adversely affect our market share, margins, results of operations and financial condition.

In addition, we may also face increased competition due to unbundling regulations. On May 13, 2004, Anatel issued Order (*Despacho*) 172, which establishes rules for partial ("line sharing") and full unbundling of local telephone networks and requires us to make our networks available to other telecommunications service providers. This legislation limits the rate we can charge for line sharing per line for broadband speeds of up to 512kbps. Additional charges, such as co-location, are applied over the line sharing base price, increasing the total cost of the unbundled line. Anatel has not yet fixed rates for full unbundling, although we expect that these rates will be lower than the rates we currently are permitted to charge. This regulation was designed to increase competition in the local fixed-line and broadband internet access markets by making it easier for new telephone companies operating under either the public or private regime to enter these markets and for existing providers to provide new services or enter new regions, since the networks of all telecommunications service providers, including fixed-line operators such as us, will be made available at lower rates. Similarly, this legislation makes it easier for us to provide new services and enter into new regions in competition with other operators. However, operational rules for the implementation of unbundling have not yet been agreed among Brazilian telecommunications operators. These regulations are recent and as of December 31, 2004, no unbundled lines had been used by competitors in our region. We cannot assure that we can compete without suffering an adverse impact on market share, margins, results of operations or financial condition based on the implementation of unbundling.

Any economic, technological or other developments resulting in a slowdown in growth or a reduction in demand for our fixed-line or other services may harm our business and revenues. To remain competitive we must diversify further our services, and there can be no assurance that we will be successful in doing so.

*We depend on other telecommunications services providers. We may not be able to enter into favorable interconnection and unbundling agreements*

In order to receive or send calls from or to customers of other fixed-line and wireless Brazilian networks and international networks, we must interconnect with the networks of our competitors. The Brazilian General Telecommunications Law requires all telecommunications service providers to interconnect their networks with those of other providers on a non-discriminatory basis. The rates to be paid by one network operator to the other for the use of each other's network are currently regulated by Anatel.

The current interconnection model is asymmetric, with higher rates in effect for mobile interconnection than fixed-line interconnection. As a result, mobile operators generally retain more than 80% of net revenues from fixed-to-mobile calls, while fixed-line carriers, like us, usually offer this service incurring negative margins. In light of such imbalance, Anatel established that from July 2004, interconnection rates for wireless networks (the VU-M) would be freely negotiated. Nevertheless, the Brazilian network operators have not been fully successful in negotiating and reaching acceptable interconnection agreements; if telecommunications companies cannot agree on interconnection rates and conditions, Anatel may, by mediation, arbitration or intervention, establish the terms of such interconnection agreements. Our operating and financial results may be adversely affected in case we are not able to negotiate favorable interconnection agreements.

*The failure to implement the technology necessary to assess and combat fraud on our network could adversely affect our results of operations*

The fraudulent use of telecommunications networks imposes a significant cost upon service providers, who must bear the cost of services provided to fraudulent users. We suffer loss of revenue as a result of fraudulent use, and also cash costs due to our obligation to reimburse carriers for the cost of services provided to fraudulent users. During 2004, we installed a Fraud Management System to detect and prevent fraud. In addition to the system to monitor customers' usage based on their traffic behavior, we implemented a system to keep subscribers under close surveillance. The fraud system is based on a signaling network and has an interface to the call-blocking platform in order to limit revenue loss once fraudulent use has been identified.

In addition, there can be no assurance that all operators with which our network is interconnected have appropriate anti-fraud treatment in their networks. In 2001, we created a fraud management department to provide specialized customer service to customers affected by fraud. During the fiscal year 2002, several automated procedures were created and placed in various parts of our operations to detect and control possible abnormalities that could represent fraudulent activities. These controls have a preventive function, and work both pro-actively and, should a fraud occur, reactively. In 2003, we implemented controls to capture fraud events automatically, such as a non-billing mechanism for fraud-blocked terminals, a cut-off limit system for service usage, and a webpage to gather any fraud claim from the community. At the end of 2003, we created the IT Revenue Assurance Group, which develops systems to assist the revenue assurance department in fraud combating. During 2004, the Group implemented a significant number of applications to monitor and detect fraud in different areas including public telephony, bad debt, revenue chain, key performance indicators and others. These actions achieved a better level of control and mitigated the risk of loss from fraud as compared to previous years. The levels of accuracy and effectiveness of these procedures have reached the desired and expected performance for fraud control. Notwithstanding, we continue to deploy and implement the technology necessary to assess the accuracy and effectiveness of our fraud combative procedures. Should we not be able to correctly quantify and combat fraud on our network, our results of operations could be adversely affected.

In September 2004, Anatel issued Order (*Ofício*) 603, which established that fraudulent calls should not be considered for purposes of payment of interconnection rates.

*Developments in the global telecommunications industry and technology are difficult to predict, and a failure by us to respond to such developments may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations*

All companies in the global telecommunications industry must adapt to rapid and significant changes in technology that are often difficult to anticipate. While we have been upgrading our network with technologically advanced fiber optic cable with a microwave overlay, it is possible that our network will be challenged by competition from improved or new technologies in the future. Technological changes may adversely affect our competitive position, require substantial new capital expenditures and/or require write-offs of obsolete technology.



*In the event of a natural disaster, war, significant public disturbance or for economic reasons, the Brazilian government could temporarily seize or permanently expropriate our assets, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations*

The Brazilian government has the authority to temporarily seize all assets related to telecommunications concessions in the event of natural disaster, war, significant public disturbance, threats to internal peace, or for economic reasons and other reasons related to national security. In addition, the Brazilian government has the statutory right to permanently expropriate any telecommunications concession and claim any related assets for reasons of public interest. Brazilian law provides for compensation in connection with losses and damages related to temporary seizure or expropriation. However, in the event of a temporary seizure or expropriation of any of our assets there can be no assurance that the actual compensation paid would be adequate or that such payment would be timely. This would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

### ***Risks Relating to Brazil***

*Brazilian political and economic conditions have a direct impact on our business and the market price of the Preferred Shares underlying the ADSs*

Substantially all of our operations and customers are located in Brazil. Accordingly, our financial condition and results of operations are substantially dependent on Brazil's economy, which has been characterized by frequent and occasionally drastic intervention by the Brazilian government and volatile economic cycles in the past. In 2004 the *real* appreciated in value by 8.1% in relation to the U.S. dollar, from R\$2.8892 per U.S. dollar on December 31, 2003 to R\$2.6544 per U.S. dollar on December 31, 2004. In 2004, the Central Bank raised Brazil's base interest rate by a total of 1.25 percentage points in an effort to stabilize the currency and decrease inflationary pressures. In the past, the Brazilian government has often changed monetary, fiscal, taxation and other policies to influence the course of Brazil's economy. We have no control over, and cannot predict, what measures or policies the Brazilian government may take in response to the current Brazilian economic situation or how Brazilian government intervention and government policies will affect the Brazilian economy and, both directly and indirectly, our operations and revenues.

Our operations, financial condition and the market price of our Preferred Shares and ADSs may be adversely affected by changes in policy involving exchange controls, tax and other matters, as well as factors such as:

- fluctuations in exchange rates;
- base interest rate fluctuations;
- inflation; and
- other political, diplomatic, social and economic developments within and outside Brazil that affect the country.

The Brazilian government may impose restrictions on capital outflow that would hinder or prevent the custodian in Brazil, or non-Brazilian holders who have exchanged ADSs for the underlying Preferred Shares, from converting the proceeds relating to the Preferred Shares into U.S. dollars and remitting those proceeds abroad. Brazilian law permits the government to impose these restrictions whenever there is a serious imbalance in Brazil's balance of payments or reasons to foresee such a serious imbalance. Although there is no current material imbalance in Brazil's balance of payments, there can be no assurance that such an imbalance will not arise in the future or that the Brazilian government will not institute more restrictive exchange control policies in the future. See Item 10 "Additional Information Taxation Brazilian Tax Considerations."

On January 1, 2003, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva from the Labor Party took office as the new President of Brazil. Until now, the economic policies of former President Fernando Henrique Cardoso have been continued by the current administration of the Brazilian government. Although the new government has not departed

significantly from previous policies, and the *Real* appreciated 8.1% against the U.S. dollar during 2004, concerns remain about future policies of the Brazilian government. While the current administration's policies have to date not been adverse to the telecommunications industry, the uncertainty over what policies the current Brazilian government may propose or adopt in the future, may have an impact on our business and may contribute to economic uncertainty in Brazil and to heightened volatility in the Brazilian international securities markets and thus have an impact on our business.

*If Brazil experiences substantial inflation in the future, our revenues and the market price of the Preferred Shares and ADSs may be reduced*

Brazil has in the past experienced extremely high rates of inflation, with annual rates of inflation reaching as high as 2,489.1% in 1993 (according to the Brazilian National Consumer Price Index (*Índice Nacional de Preços ao Consumidor*) published by the IBGE). Inflation itself and governmental measures to combat inflation have in the past had significant negative effects on the Brazilian economy. Inflation, actions taken to combat inflation and public speculation about possible future actions have also contributed to economic uncertainty in Brazil and to heightened volatility in the Brazilian securities markets. If Brazil experiences substantial inflation in the future, our costs may increase, and our gross profit may be affected to the extent that our rate increases and our net operating revenues do not keep up with the rate of inflation.

*Devaluation of the real may lead to substantial losses on our liabilities denominated in or indexed to foreign currencies and a reduction in our revenues*

The Brazilian Central Bank has periodically devalued the Brazilian currency during the last four decades. The exchange rate between the *real* and the U.S. dollar has varied significantly in recent years. For example, the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate fell from R\$1.9554 per U.S. dollar at December 31, 2000 to R\$3.5333 at December 31, 2002. In 2003, the *real* has strengthened against the U.S. dollar. At December 31, 2003 the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate was R\$2.8892 per U.S. dollar. In 2004 the *real* appreciated in value by 8.1% in relation to the U.S. dollar to R\$2.6544 per U.S. dollar.

A significant amount of our financial assets and liabilities are denominated in or indexed to foreign currencies, primarily U.S. dollars. When the Brazilian currency is devalued, we incur losses on our liabilities denominated in or indexed to foreign currencies, such as our U.S. dollar-denominated long-term debt and foreign currency loans, and experience gains on our monetary assets denominated in or indexed to foreign currencies, as the liabilities and assets are translated into *reais*. If devaluation occurs when the value of such liabilities significantly exceeds the value of such assets, including any financial instruments entered into for hedging purposes, we could incur significant reduction in our revenues, even if their value has not changed in their original currency. This could adversely affect our ability to meet certain of our payment obligations.

*We are subject to delays and delinquency on accounts receivable*

Our business is affected by customers' ability to pay their bills. If the Brazilian economy worsens because of, among other factors:

- the level of economic activity;
- inflation;
- devaluation of the *real*; or



- an increase in domestic interest rates,

a greater portion of our customers may not be able to pay their bills, which would increase our bad debts and provisions for doubtful accounts. Strict regulation from Anatel prevents us from implementing certain policies that could have the effect of reducing delinquency, such as service restrictions or limitations on the types of services provided based on a subscriber's credit record. Losses from accounts receivable reached R\$410.3 million in 2004,

against R\$298.0 million in 2003, increasing in percentage of gross revenues terms, from 2.7% in 2003 to 3.2% in 2004. However, if economic conditions worsen in Brazil or if we are unable to implement policies to limit subscriber delinquencies or otherwise select our customers, persistent subscriber delinquencies and bad debt can adversely affect our financial results. See "Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates Provision for Doubtful Accounts."

*Any increase in taxes levied on the telecommunications sector could affect the results of our operations. Tax reform will be gradually implemented in the following years.*

Increases in Brazil's already high level of taxation could adversely affect our profitability. Increases in taxes for the telecommunications sector usually result in higher tariffs for our customers. High tariff levels generally result in lower levels of usage of our services and, therefore, lower net sales. Lower net sales result in lower margins because a significant portion of our costs are fixed and thus do not vary substantially based on the level of usage of our network or our services. There can be no assurance that the Brazilian government will not increase current tax levels, at state and/or federal levels, and that this will not adversely impact our business.

In December 2003, the Federal Senate approved part of the tax reform bill that had been under discussion for eight months. The text approved by the Senate was consolidated in Constitutional Amendment 42, enacted on December 19, 2003. Constitutional Amendment 42 is already in force, and provides for an extension on the assessment of the Provisional Contribution of Financial Transfers (*Contribuição Provisória sobre Movimentação Financeira - "CPMF"*), the assessment of *Programa de Integração Social* ("PIS"); and *Contribuição para Financiamento da Seguridade Social* ("COFINS") taxes on import transactions, and the assessment of COFINS under a non-cumulative regime.

Some important issues originally provided for in the tax reform bill relate to: (i) harmonization of ICMS tax rules, which would be governed by a single federal legislation applicable to all states; (ii) equalization of ICMS rates; and (iii) limitations on granting tax incentives. If approved, such measures shall be gradually adopted in 2005 and 2007. The delay in the approval and implementation of the tax reforms bill may negatively affect the Brazilian economy and capital markets. For a further discussion of the impact of taxation on our business, see "Item 10. Additional Information Taxation."

*The proposed changes in Brazilian labor law may affect labor relations*

In April 2003, the Lower House reopened the discussions regarding the changes in the Brazilian Labor Law (*Consolidação das Leis do Trabalho*, or CLT). A revision of union relations in Brazil is also being discussed. It is not clear whether the proposed changes, if approved by the Congress, would impact our business in the future.

*It may be difficult to effect service of process upon, or to enforce foreign judgments upon us, our directors and our officers*

We are organized under the laws of Brazil, and all of our directors and officers reside outside the United States. In addition, a substantial portion of our assets, and most or all of the assets of our directors and officers are located in Brazil. As a result, it may be difficult for an ADS holder to effect service of process within the United States or other jurisdictions outside of Brazil upon our company or such persons, or to enforce against them judgments of courts in the United States, predicated upon the civil liability provisions of the federal securities or other laws of the United States.

***Risks Associated with Our Preferred Shares or American Depositary Shares***

*Holding Preferred Shares in ADS form may subject the holder to several risks and may jeopardize certain rights relating to voting, dividends and distributions, and preemptive rights, among others, that such holder would otherwise enjoy as a holder of Preferred Shares*

- In the limited circumstances where holders of Preferred Shares are able to vote, an ADS holder will be able to exercise voting rights with respect to the Preferred Shares represented by ADSs only in

accordance with the provisions of the deposit agreement relating to the ADSs. There are practical limitations upon an ADS holder's ability to exercise voting rights due to the additional procedural steps involved in communicating with such holders. See Item 7 "Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions Major Shareholders" and Item 10 "Additional Information Memorandum and Articles of Association Voting Rights."

- If an ADS holder is a resident of the United States, it may not be able to exercise preemptive rights, or exercise other types of rights, with respect to our Preferred Shares. An ADS holder's ability to exercise preemptive rights is not assured unless a registration statement is effective with respect to those rights or an exemption from the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), is available. We are not obligated to file a registration statement relating to preemptive rights with respect to our Preferred Shares. Moreover, there can be no assurance that we will file any such registration statement. If a registration statement is not filed and an exemption from registration does not exist, Citibank, N.A., as depositary (the "Depositary"), will attempt to sell the preemptive rights, and the ADS holder will be entitled to receive its share of the proceeds of the sale. However, the preemptive rights will expire if the Depositary cannot sell them. For a more complete description of preemptive rights with respect to our Preferred Shares, see Item 10 "Additional Information Memorandum and Articles of Association."
- Payments of cash dividends and distributions, if any, will be made in Brazilian currency to Banco Itaú S.A., as custodian for the ADS holders' Preferred Shares, on behalf of the Depositary, which will then convert such proceeds into U.S. dollars and will cause such U.S. dollars to be delivered to the Depositary for distribution to such ADS holders. Holders of ADSs could be adversely affected by devaluations of the Brazilian currency that may occur due to delays in, or a refusal to grant any, required government approval for conversions of Brazilian currency payments and remittances abroad in connection with the Preferred Shares underlying our ADSs. See Item 10 "Additional Information Memorandum and Articles of Association Dividends."
- We may agree with the Depositary to modify the deposit agreement at any time without the ADS holders' consent. We undertake to give holders of ADSs 30 days' prior notice of any modifications that would materially prejudice any of their substantial rights under the deposit agreement. ADS holders will be bound by the modifications to the deposit agreement if such holders continue to hold ADSs after the modifications to the deposit agreement become effective.

*Holder of ADSs may have fewer and less well-defined shareholders' rights than in the United States*

Our corporate affairs are governed by our Bylaws and Brazilian Corporation Law, which may differ from the legal principles that would apply if we were incorporated in a jurisdiction in the United States. Under Brazilian Corporation Law, the holders of our Preferred Shares and our ADSs may have fewer and less well defined rights to protect their interests relative to actions taken by our board of directors or the holders of our Common Shares than under the laws of other jurisdictions outside Brazil.

Restrictions on insider trading and price manipulation, rules and policies against self-dealing and regarding the preservation of shareholder interests may not be as detailed, well-established and enforced in Brazil as in the United States, potentially disadvantaging the holders of our Preferred Shares and/or ADSs. For example, when compared to Delaware corporation law, Brazilian Corporation Law and practice has less detailed and well-established rules, and judicial precedents relating to the review of management decisions involving duty of care and duty of loyalty standards in the context of corporate restructurings, transactions with related parties, and sale-of-business transactions. In addition, shareholders in Brazilian companies must hold at least 5.0% of the outstanding share capital of a corporation in order to have standing to bring shareholders' derivative suits, and shareholders in Brazilian companies ordinarily do not have standing to bring class action suits.



*The relative volatility and illiquidity of the Brazilian securities markets may substantially limit an ADS holder's ability to sell the Preferred Shares underlying the ADSs at the price and time desired*

Brazilian investments, such as investments in our securities, are subject to economic and political risks, including, among others:

- changes in the regulatory, tax, economic and political environment; and
- restrictions on foreign investment and on repatriation of capital invested, that may affect the ability of investors to receive payment, in whole or in part, in respect of their investments.

The Brazilian securities markets are substantially smaller, less liquid, more concentrated and more volatile than major U.S. and European securities markets, and are not as highly regulated or supervised as these markets. The relatively small capitalization and the illiquidity of the Brazilian equity markets may substantially limit an ADS holder's ability to sell the Preferred Shares underlying the ADSs.

*Developments in other countries may affect the Brazilian economy, and the market price of the Preferred Shares and the ADSs*

The securities of Brazilian issuers have been influenced by economic and market conditions in other countries, especially other emerging market countries. Since the end of 1997, and in particular during 2001 and 2002, the international financial markets have experienced significant volatility as a result of economic problems in various emerging market countries. Investors subsequently have had a heightened risk perception for investments in such markets. As a result, in some periods, Brazil has experienced a significant outflow of U.S. dollars and Brazilian companies have faced higher costs for raising funds, both domestically and abroad, and have been impeded from accessing international capital markets. We cannot assure investors that international capital markets will remain open to Brazilian companies, including Brasil Telecom S.A., or that prevailing interest rates in these markets will be advantageous to us and our ability to obtain additional financing on acceptable terms or at all. As a consequence, the market value of our securities may be adversely affected by these or other events outside of Brazil. See Item 9 "The Offer and Listing Offer and Listing Details." There can be no assurances that future events elsewhere, especially in emerging market countries, will not have an adverse effect on the market value of our Preferred Shares and our ADSs.

*Changes in Brazilian tax laws may have an impact on the taxes applicable to the disposition of the ADSs*

According to Law 10,833, enacted on December 29, 2003, the disposition of assets located in Brazil by non-residents of Brazil, whether to other non-residents of Brazil or Brazilian residents and whether made within or outside Brazil is subject to taxation in Brazil. Considering the general and unclear scope of Law 10,833 and the absence of judicial guidance in respect thereof, we are unable to predict how the scope of Law 10,833 would be interpreted in the courts of Brazil.

#### **ITEM 4. Information on the Company**

##### **History and Development of the Company**

We are one of the fixed-line telecommunications companies that resulted from the breakup and privatization of Telebrás by the Brazilian Federal Government in 1998. We are an amalgamation of the following operating companies formerly controlled by *Telebrás: Telecomunicações de Santa Catarina S.A. Telesc ("Telesc"), Telecomunicações de Goiás S.A. Telegoiás ("Telegoiás"), Telecomunicações de Brasília S.A. Telebrasília ("Telebrasília"), Telecomunicações do Mato Grosso S.A. Telemat ("Telemat"), Telecomunicações do Mato Grosso do*

*Sul S.A. Telems ("Telems"), Telecomunicações de Rondônia S.A. Teleron ("Teleron"), Telecomunicações do Acre S.A. Teleacre ("Teleacre"), Companhia Telefônica Melhoramento e Resistência*

CTMR ("CTMR"), and our predecessor, *Telecomunicações do Paraná S.A. Telepar* ("Telepar") and CRT, a company formerly controlled by Telefônica S.A. and acquired by us in July 2000.

Our principal executive office is located at SIA/Sul, ASP, Lote D, Bloco B 71215-000 *Setor de Indústria e Abastecimento*, Brasília, DF, Brazil, and our telephone number is (55-61) 415-1140. Our agent in the United States is CT Corporation System, located at 111 Eighth Avenue, 13th floor, New York, New York 10011.

### ***Historical Background***

Prior to the incorporation of Telebrás in 1972, there were more than 900 telecommunications companies operating throughout Brazil. Between 1972 and 1975, Telebrás acquired almost all the other telephone companies in Brazil and thus came to have a monopoly over the provision of public telecommunications services in almost all areas of the country. Beginning in 1995, the Federal Government undertook a comprehensive reform of Brazil's telecommunications regulatory system. In July 1997, Brazil's National Congress approved the *Lei Geral de Telecomunicações* (the "General Telecommunications Law," and together with the regulations, decrees, orders and plans on telecommunications issued by Brazil's Executive Branch, the "Telecommunications Regulations"), which provided for the establishment of a new regulatory framework, the introduction of competition and the privatization of Telebrás.

The General Telecommunications Law established Anatel as the regulator of the telecommunications industry in Brazil. Anatel is administratively independent from the Brazilian Government and financially autonomous. Anatel is required to report on its activities to the Ministry of Communications and to the Brazilian Congress on an annual basis. In addition, any proposed regulation of Anatel is subject to a period of public comment, including public hearings. Anatel's decisions may be challenged in the Brazilian courts. Among its functions are the following:

- to propose the implementation or elimination of services in the public regime;
- to manage the spectrum of radio frequency and the use of orbits;
- to settle conflicts of interest among the companies that render telecommunications services;
- to protect and defend the users' rights;
- to prevent, control and impose penalties of the economic order, in the telecommunications industry;
- to impose restrictions, limits or conditions on corporate groups in obtaining or transferring the concessions, permissions and authorizations, in order to ensure a competitive environment; and
- to establish the rate structure for each kind of service rendered in the public regime.

On January 30, 1998, in preparation for the restructuring and privatization of Telebrás, the cellular telecommunications operations of Telebrás' operating subsidiaries were spun off into separate companies. On May 22, 1998, Telebrás was restructured to form, in addition to Telebrás, 12 new holding companies by means of a procedure under Brazilian Corporation Law called *cisão*, or split-up. These new holding companies were allocated virtually all the assets and liabilities of Telebrás, including the shares held by Telebrás in its operating companies. The split-up of Telebrás into 12 new holding companies is referred to herein as the "breakup of Telebrás."

These holding companies, together with their respective subsidiaries, consisted of (i) eight cellular service providers, each operating in one of the regions into which Brazil has been divided for purposes of cellular



telecommunications services in the frequency range formerly used by each of the former operating companies of Telebrás, (ii) three regional fixed-line service providers, each providing local and intraregional long-distance service in one of the three regions into which Brazil has been divided for purposes of fixed-line telecommunications, and (iii) Embratel, which provides domestic (including intraregional and interregional) long-distance telephone service and international telephone service throughout Brazil.

Set forth below are maps of Brazil showing the locations of the fixed-line, long-distance regions and cellular regions into which the country was split-up following the breakup of Telebrás:

*Brasil Telecom Participações S.A* is one of the three holding companies providing local and long-distance services in Brazil. See Item 7 "Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions Major Shareholders." In the breakup of Telebrás, Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. was allocated all the share capital held by Telebrás in Telesc, Telegoiás, Telebrasília, Telemat, Telems, Teleron, Teleacre, CTMR and Telepar, our predecessor; companies which provided fixed-line telecommunications service in the northern, western, central and southern

regions of Brazil. See " Business Overview Our Region." In July 1998, the Federal Government sold all its voting shares of these holding companies, including the shares it held in Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. to private sector buyers. The sale of all of the Federal Government's voting shares in the holding companies to private sector buyers is referred to herein as the "privatization of Telebrás." As a result of the merger of Telepar, Telesc, Telegoiás, Telebrasília, Telemat, Telems, Teleron, Teleacre, CTMR and CRT, ultimately turning into our subsidiary Brasil Telecom S.A., we became the leading local and intraregional fixed-line telecommunications service provider in our region. The only other relevant fixed-line telecommunications service provider in our region is Global Village Telecom (Sercomtel and CTBC also operate partially in our region but we do not service the same cities). For intraregional long-distance telecommunications services, Intelig and Embratel, among others, are providers that are authorized to provide long-distance services in our region.

The other major telecommunications operators which were created as a result of the privatization of Telebrás are: Telemar which is our mirror telecommunications service provider in Region I, Telesp which is our mirror telecommunications service provider in Region III, and, Embratel which provides domestic and international long-distance service throughout Brazil. We, Telemar, Telesp, and Embratel all operate pursuant to public concessions granted by Anatel.

Since the privatization of Telebrás, Anatel has continued to implement regulations which further its policy of promoting competition and quality of service in the Brazilian telecommunications market place. As part of this policy initiative, Anatel has allowed new private competitors into the Brazilian market to compete directly against us. In addition, Anatel required us and the other public concession service providers to meet certain quality and universalization targets before we could compete in other service providers' market areas. On January 19, 2004, we received certification by Anatel that we have accomplished our universalization targets. Accordingly, we are now authorized to offer local fixed and domestic and international long-distance telephone services, originated inside or outside our region as well as mobile services in our region. The certification of other service providers' compliance with universalization and expansion targets permits other service providers to operate in our region.

### *History of Our Company*

The following bullet points briefly illustrate the history of our company:

- November 27, 1963: Telepar was incorporated as a corporation under the laws of Brazil.
- June 5, 1975: The control of our company was transferred to the Brazilian government and we became a subsidiary of Telebrás.
- May 22, 1998: Restructuring of Telebrás System, with the creation of Tele Centro Sul Participações S.A. (currently Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.), a holding company of Telesc, Telepar, Telegoiás, Telebrasília, Telemat, Telems, Teleron, Teleacre and CTMR.
- July 29, 1998: Solpart acquired Tele Centro Sul Participações S.A. (currently Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.), from the Brazilian government in the privatization process of Telebrás.
- February 28, 2000: The concessionaires Telesc, Telepar, Telegoiás, Telebrasília, Telemat, Telems, Teleron, Teleacre and CTMR, controlled by Tele Centro Sul Participações S.A., currently Brasil Telecom Participações S.A., were reorganized and merged into Telepar and became a single company.
- April 28, 2000: We changed our corporate name from Tele Centro Sul Participações S.A to Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and our subsidiary changed its corporate name from Telecomunicações do Paraná

S.A.-Telepar to Brasil Telecom S.A.

- July 5, 2000: Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.'s ADSs were listed on the New York Stock Exchange and started trading under new symbol "BRP."

- 22 -

---

- July 31, 2000: Brasil Telecom S.A acquired 98.8% of the corporate capital of TBS Participações S.A. ("TBS"), a company controlled by Telefônica, which held 85.2% of the voting capital of CRT, representing 31.6% of the total share capital of CRT, for approximately R\$1,500.0 million. CRT was the leading fixed-line telecommunications service company in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. The acquisition of CRT was financed partly through the use of Brasil Telecom S.A own cash reserves, as well as through the domestic placement of commercial paper of approximately R\$900.0 million.
- December 28, 2000: TBS was merged into CRT, and immediately afterwards CRT was merged with and into Brasil Telecom S.A. Pursuant to our merger with CRT, minority shareholders of CRT were given the right to exchange their CRT shares for Preferred Shares and Common Shares of Brasil Telecom S.A. The exchange of shares was made based on the market value of Brasil Telecom S.A's shares compared to those of CRT.
- November 1, 2001: BrT Serviços de Internet S.A. ("BrTSi"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of our company, acquired 15.4% of the total capital stock of iBest Holding Corporation, for approximately R\$10.0 million.
- November 16, 2001: Brasil Telecom S.A listed ADSs evidencing its Preferred Shares on the New York Stock Exchange.
- December 5, 2001: Brasil Telecom S.A acquired 19.9% of the capital stock of Vant, a leading corporate data solutions provider, for R\$3.9 million from AESCOM Sul Ltda. and Luiz Cruz Schneider together with an option to purchase the remaining 80.1% after certification by Anatel of compliance with the 2003 targets stipulated in our concession contracts.
- May 9, 2002: Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and Brasil Telecom S.A joined the Special Corporate Governance Level 1 of the São Paulo Stock Exchange ("BOVESPA").
- June 3, 2002: Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.'s shares listed on BOVESPA and started trading under new symbols: "BRTP" for Common Shares and "BRTP4" for Preferred Shares. Brasil Telecom S.A shares listed on BOVESPA and started trading under new symbols: "BRTO3" for Common Shares and "BRTO4" for Preferred Shares.
- December 18, 2002: Brasil Telecom S.A acquired licenses for the personal communications system ("PCS") for R\$191.5 million through the auction held on November 19, 2002. The minimum price was R\$182.9 million and Brasil Telecom S.A paid a premium of 3.6%.
- February 18, 2003: Brasil Telecom S.A announced the acquisition of 19.9% of the capital of MTH Venturas do Brasil Ltda. ("MTH"), a company that holds 99.99% of the capital of MetroRED Telecomunicações Ltda. ("MetroRED"), for U.S.\$17.0 million together with an option to purchase the remaining 80.1% of the capital of MTH for U.S.\$51.0 million after certification by Anatel of compliance with the 2003 targets stipulated in our concession contracts.
- June 11, 2003: Brasil Telecom S.A acquired, through BrTSi, the entire submarine fiber-optic cable system from GlobeNet Communications Group Ltd. for U.S.\$46.8 million. A total of U.S.\$27.6 million was paid on June 11, 2003, with the remaining U.S.\$19.2 million payable within 18 months of the first installment.
- June 26, 2003: Brasil Telecom S.A acquired the remaining capital of iBest Holding Corporation for U.S.\$36.0 million.

- January 19, 2004: Anatel certified that we had met our universalization targets and authorized us to provide interregional long-distance services throughout Brazil and international long-distance services, also from any point in the country. We also received authorization to offer local services outside our original concession area and to offer mobile services in our region.

- March 17, 2004: CADE issued a provisory decision determining that TII, one of our former controlling shareholders, could not return to Brasil Telecom's block of control.
- May 13, 2004: Brasil Telecom S.A purchased the remaining 80.1% of the capital of MTH for U.S.\$51.0 million which was only possible once we received certification of our compliance with the 2003 targets stipulated by Anatel in our concession contracts.
- May 13, 2004: Brasil Telecom S.A purchased the remaining 80.1% capital of Vant for R\$15.6 million which was only possible once we received certification of our compliance with the 2003 targets stipulated by Anatel in our concession contracts.
- September 27, 2004: Brasil Telecom S.A began offering wireless telecommunications services through our subsidiary 14 Brasil Telecom Celular S.A., under the brand name "Brasil Telecom GSM".
- November 24, 2004: Brasil Telecom S.A. concluded the acquisition of approximately 63% of iG's capital stock, for U.S.\$104.9 million. Considering that we already held, indirectly, 10% of iG's total capital, both companies now hold approximately 73% of the total capital of iG.
- April 28, 2005: Brasil Telecom S.A. entered into an agreement with TIM providing for the merger into TIMB of our subsidiary through which we provide wireless services. TIMB agreed to surrender their overlapping long distance licenses and to use us as a preferred provider for national and international long distance services as well as for other telecommunications services and products. TII returned to our control group. (See Risk Factors - Risks Relating to Our Company for a discussion of current obstacles to these transactions.)

### ***Organizational structure***

Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. is structured as a holding company, and conducts substantially all of its operations through its only and wholly owned subsidiary Brasil Telecom S.A. Brasil Telecom S.A. currently has four subsidiaries, BrT Serviços de Internet S.A., 14 Brasil Telecom Celular S.A., Vant Telecomunicações S.A. and MTH Ventures do Brasil Ltda., and Brasil Telecom S.A. is subdivided into eleven operational branches, Tocantins, Goiás, Acre, Rondônia, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Paraná, Santa Catarina, Rio Grande do Sul, Pelotas and the Federal District. For information on our shareholding structure, please see Item 7 "Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions Major Shareholders." The following chart sets forth a summary of our organizational structure, including the percentage of total capital held in each of our indirect significant subsidiaries as of December 31, 2004. All of our indirect significant subsidiaries are organized and existing under the laws of the Federative Republic of Brazil, except for Brasil Telecom Subsea Cable Systems (Bermuda) Ltd. incorporated under the laws of Bermuda, Brasil Telecom of America Inc. incorporated under the laws of the United States of America, Brasil Telecom de Venezuela S.A. incorporated under the laws of Venezuela, and Internet Group (Cayman) Limited and iBest Holding Corporation, incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands.

### *BrT Serviços de Internet S.A.*

We formed BrTSi in October 2001. Through BrTSi, we provide broadband internet services through our internet service provider ("ISP") BrTurbo and data center services. BrTSi is also the parent company of our free internet service providers iG and iBest.

### *iBest*

In November 2001, BrTSi acquired 15.4% of iBest Holding Corporation for approximately R\$10.0 million. iBest Holding Corporation controlled iBest S.A. ("iBest"), a free internet service provider and important brand name. On June 26, 2003, we acquired through our wholly owned subsidiary, BrTSi, the remaining capital of iBest Holding Corporation for U.S.\$36.0 million, consolidating our 100% ownership of iBest. The iBest Group was composed by the following main entities: (i) iBest Holding Corporation; (ii) iBest S.A.; (iii) Febraio S.A.; and (iv) Freelance S.A. On May 31st, 2004, a corporate reorganization of the iBest Group was concluded, and Freelance fully incorporated Febraio S.A., iBest S.A. and its subsidiary Mail BR Comunicações Ltda. Freelance S.A. became the owner of iBest's trademark, and is now the operating company of the Group.

### *iG*

In November 2004, we concluded the acquisition of approximately 63% of iG's capital stock, for U.S.\$104.9 million. Considering that Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. already held, indirectly, 10% of iG's total capital, both companies now hold approximately 73% of the total capital of iG. iG is the leading dial-up internet service provider in Brazil. The acquisition of iG made us the largest internet company in Latin America.

### *Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos (Submarine Fiber-Optic Cable System)*



On June 11, 2003, Brasil Telecom S.A. acquired the entire submarine fiber-optic cable system from GlobeNet Communications Group Ltd which we now refer to as Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos (former GlobeNet), for U.S.\$46.8 million. A total of U.S.\$27.6 million was paid on June 11, 2003, with the remaining U.S.\$19.2 million payable within 18 months of the first installment. As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004 there was an outstanding balance of U.S.\$12.0 million to be paid until April 30, 2005. Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos is formed by five operating subsidiaries: Brasil Telecom Cabos Submarinos (Holding) Ltda., Brasil Telecom Cabos Submarinos Ltda., Brasil Telecom of America, Inc., Brasil Telecom Subsea Cable Systems (Bermuda) Ltd. and Brasil Telecom de Venezuela, S.A. These companies own and operate the Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos fiber optic

cable system that connects the United States, Bermudas, Brazil and Venezuela. Brasil Telecom of America, Inc. is headquartered in Boca Raton, Florida, and coordinates all Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos's activities and supports the commercial activities of the group in the international market. Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos is also the parent company of iG, our internet service provider.

#### *14 Brasil Telecom Celular S.A*

14 Brasil Telecom Celular S.A. ("Brasil Telecom GSM") is Brasil Telecom S.A.'s mobile telephony services subsidiary, which became operational on September 27, 2004. Brasil Telecom GSM offers wireless telecommunications services using Global System for Mobile Communications ("GSM") technology under the brand name "Brasil Telecom GSM". See " Business Overview Wireless Services." Brasil Telecom S.A. has entered into the Merger Agreement with TIMB, pursuant to which we have agreed to merge Brasil Telecom GSM into TIMB in return for an ownership interest in TIMB, the size of such interest to be determined based on appraisals of relative value to be performed by an international investment banking firm hired by us. (See Risk Factors - Risks Relating to Our Company for a discussion of current obstacles to these transactions)

#### *Vant Telecomunicações S.A.*

On May 13, 2004, Brasil Telecom S.A. exercised its option to purchase for R\$15.6 million the remaining 80.1% of the capital of Vant, giving Brasil Telecom S.A 99.99% of the capital of Vant. This purchase was made possible once we received certification by Anatel of our compliance with our 2003 universalization targets. Vant offers internet protocol as well as other products to the corporate market throughout Brazil.

#### *MetroRED Telecomunicações Ltda.*

On May 13, 2004, Brasil Telecom S.A exercised its option to purchase for U.S.\$51.0 million the remaining 80.1% of the capital of MTH, giving Brasil Telecom S.A 99.99% of the capital of MTH. This purchase was made possible once we received certification by Anatel of our compliance with our 2003 universalization targets. MetroRED is a leading local fiber optic network provider, with 343 kilometers of local network in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte, and a 1,600 kilometer long-distance network linking these three metropolitan areas as well as an internet solutions data center in São Paulo which will provide internet support to our customers. As part of the acquisition, we also integrated a management team with expertise in these markets.

### **Capital Expenditures**

The following table sets forth our capital expenditures on plant expansion and modernization for each of the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
	(millions of <i>reais</i> )		
Conventional Telephony	416.5	302.8	179.7
Data Network	231.3	264.9	300.0
Network Operation	372.8	251.6	270.2
Information Technology	366.8	210.1	216.1
Other <sup>(1)</sup>	618.5	651.4	725.7

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Total	Fixed Telephony	2,005.9	1,680.8	1,691.7
Total	Mobile Telephony	-	109.2	1,175.7
Total capital expenditures		2,005.9	1,790.0	2,867.4

---

(1) These investments include the acquisition of PCS licenses, the acquisition of Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos, MetroRED, iBest, Vant and IG, and investments to replace plant equipment and other fixed assets generally without altering the capacity of the assets replaced and certain investments in operational and technical support such as telecommunications management network systems and expansion projects.

Our capital expenditures increased approximately 60.2% to R\$2,867.4 million in the year ended December 31, 2004, from R\$1,790.0 million for the corresponding period in 2003. Of our total capital expenditures, R\$1,215.6 million relate to fixed telephony and internet operations, R\$1,175.7 million to mobile telephony operations and R\$476.1 million to acquisitions. The capital expenditures on the expansion and modernization of our fixed telephony operations consist mainly of updating technology and upgrading capacity in relation to our transmission backbone, switching centers, data network and intelligent network.

#### *Expected Capital Expenditures on Plant Expansion and Modernization*

We currently expect to invest approximately R\$2,166.0 million in the expansion and modernization of our network during the fiscal year 2005, which includes investments of approximately R\$398.0 million in our mobile telephone network. Considering that Brasil Telecom S.A. has entered into a Merger Agreement, investments in our mobile telephone network are subject to change. See Risk Factors - Risks Relating to Our Company for a discussion of current obstacles to these transactions. Of our total expected capital expenditures, R\$500.0 million relate to targets established by Anatel and required under the terms and conditions of our concessions. This amount may be revised by our board of directors once ongoing negotiations with Anatel come to an end. See Item 5 "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects Liquidity and Capital Resources Capital Expenditures."

#### *Acquisition of PCS Licenses*

As part of our strategy of providing integrated solutions to our clients, we acquired PCS licenses for R\$191.5 million, at an auction held on November 19, 2002.

On December 18, 2002, we paid the equivalent of 10.0% of the total bid amount at auction. The remaining 90.0% was to be paid in six equal installments annually, respectively due 36, 48, 60, 72, 84 and 96 months after the date of the signing of the term of authorization. These installments will be monthly adjusted by the IGP-DI index plus 1.0% interest rate over the indexed amount calculated from the term execution date. If we are able to complete the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement, then we do not expect to make payments other than those incurred by the time of the accomplishment of the Agreement.

#### **Business Overview**

We provide fixed-line telecommunications services in Region II under concessions which we assumed from each of Telepar, Telesc, Telegoiás, Telebrasil, Telemat, Telems, Teleron, Teleacre, CTMR and CRT for each of the states in our region. These concessions were granted by the Brazilian government to us and to each of these companies as a result of the privatization process. Until January 2004, these concessions authorized us to provide local and intrastate fixed-line telecommunications services in nine states located in the northern, western, central and southern regions of Brazil and in the Federal District. These concession areas constitute our region. See " Our region." As a result of these original concessions, we are the leading provider of local fixed-line telecommunications services and intraregional fixed-line telecommunications services in our region. Local fixed-line telecommunications services include all calls that originate and terminate within a single local area, as well as, installation, monthly subscription, public telephones and supplemental local services. Intrastate fixed-line telecommunications services include all calls between local areas within a state. Since January 2004 we have been able to offer interregional and international long-distance telecommunications services. We also provide a variety of data transmission services through various technologies and means of access. Since 1999, we have invested in data transmission capacity in response to the growing demand in Brazil for data, images and text transmission services, mainly for corporate networks and corporate and residential Internet access.

Our business, including the service we provide and the rates we charge, is subject to comprehensive regulation by Anatel, an independent regulatory agency, under the General Telecommunications Law and various administrative enactments thereunder. The licenses and concessions under which we operate our fixed-line services imposed certain universalization, expansion and modernization targets on us. On January 19, 2004, we received certification by Anatel that we have accomplished our universalization targets established for December 31, 2003. Accordingly, we were authorized to offer local fixed and domestic and international long-distance telephone services, originated inside or outside our region. We also acquired a license to provide mobile telephone services in our region.

- 27 -

---

Our main competitors are Embratel, Intelig, Global Village Telecom, Telesp, Telemar, TIM, Claro, Vivo, Companhia de Telecomunicações do Brasil Central ("CTBC Telecom") and *Sercomtel Telecomunicações S.A.* ("Sercomtel").

### ***Our Strategy***

Our goal is to become a leading provider of integrated telecommunications services in Brazil and in the Latin American countries that we can reach with our international infrastructure. We intend to achieve this goal by maintaining our strong position in the local and long distance markets while at the same time enhancing our existing services and developing new services which complement our existing products and services, as well as by implementing the following key strategies:

#### *Offer interregional and international long-distance services*

We intend to increase our market share in our business of providing long-distance service. Since January 22, 2004 we have begun offering interregional and international long distance services and started competing directly with other regional operators which currently provide such services. By offering interregional and international long-distance services, we expect to be able to offer our existing corporate and residential clients more competitive and integrated plans and capture market share. We intend to leverage the strength of the "Brasil Telecom" brand in Region II and to solidify Brasil Telecom S.A. as the carrier of choice through advertising campaigns that promote the use of our carrier selection code "14" and the synergies across our growing portfolio of integrated services, including wireless, data and long-distance services nationwide. Our ability to offer national and international fixed-line services and/or mobile services in the same regions as TIM are at risk of being terminated by Anatel if the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement involving our wireless operations and the surrender by TIMB of long distance licenses are not allowed to be completed by July 18, 2005. See Item 3 "Key Information Risk Factors Risks relating to our company Certain beneficial shareholders control a large percentage of our voting shares, and their interests may conflict with the interests of our other shareholders, including minority shareholders. Disputes among our controlling shareholders and entities that manage our controlling shareholders have had and could in the future have a material adverse effect on our management and operations."

#### *Strengthen our wireless telecommunications services*

Since September 27, 2004 we have begun offering wireless telecommunications services using Global System for Mobile Communications ("GSM") technology through our subsidiary, 14 Brasil Telecom Celular S.A., and under the brand name "Brasil Telecom GSM". With the introduction of wireless services, we are the only company in Region II to offer both wireline and wireless services and we expect to leverage this to increase our brand awareness and overall market share. We are able to offer competitive wireless service plans due, among other things, to the attractive prices paid for our licenses and the favorable terms available to us from our equipment vendors. We also intend to realize the synergies between our wireline and wireless operations by marketing to our existing client database, using our existing wireline sales channels, providing integrated packages and sharing infrastructure and operational systems. We also intend to develop new mobile products and services for the corporate market. If we are able to complete the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement, then we will not be offering wireless services directly but will participate in this business through the acquisition of an equity interest in TIMB, which as of April 28, 2005, had approximately 14.6 million wireless users. The Merger Agreement also contemplates operational agreements through which we will be able to continue to offer convergence services.

#### *Continue to integrate and acquire high technology network infrastructure in order to position ourselves as a market leader in the Brazilian corporate market*

Our acquisition in June 2003 of Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos, our submarine fiber optic cable system, and our acquisition in May 13, 2004 of MetroRED, our local fiber-optic network, and Vant, provided us with a state-of-the-art broadband infrastructure as well as local network capacity. These networks consist of a 22,000 kilometer submarine fiber optic system connecting us to Latin America and the United States, as well as 343 kilometers of local and 1,600 kilometers of long-distance fiber-optic lines in Brazil, allowing us to expand geographically to three

principal corporate markets outside our region São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte. In addition, through MetroRED we obtained an internet data center in São Paulo that will host various internet services. We have integrated these networks and this center into our existing network and business and to use this capacity to meet the growing demands for our network and data transmission services in order to become the market leader in both residential and corporate network and data transmission services.

*Develop integrated voice, data and multimedia services for residential and corporate clients*

We intend to offer voice, data and multimedia products and services through our existing distribution channels as well as through new mobile phone stores. Our strategy is to provide a one-stop shopping environment for both residential and corporate clients, satisfying all of their local, long distance, mobile, network and data transmission service needs. We intend to maximize synergies and increase client loyalty by providing value-added services and to attract new clients and maintain existing clients by offering competitively priced products. We also intend to provide integrated customer service which will allow us to improve our service quality as well as increase our sales.

*Evaluation of possible participation in consolidation of Brazilian telecommunications industry*

The Brazilian telecommunications industry has experienced and may continue to experience consolidation. We continue to evaluate potential consolidation opportunities in Brazil, which may include acquisitions or other methods of participation designed to increase our market share or to improve our efficiency.

***Our Services***

The fixed-line telecommunications services that we offer to our customers consist of (i) local services, including all calls that originate and terminate within a single local area in the region, as well as, installation, monthly subscription, measured services, public telephones and supplemental local services, (ii) intraregional long-distance services which include intrastate (calls between local areas within a state in our region) and interstate (calls between states in our region), (iii) interregional and international long-distance services, (iv) network services, including interconnection, leasing of facilities and fixed-to-mobile services, (v) data transmission services, (vi) wireless services and (vii) other services. On January 19, 2004, Anatel certified our compliance with universalization targets which enabled us to provide mobile services in our region and interregional and international long-distance services in all regions.

The following table sets forth our revenue by type of service for the indicated years. Our rates for each category of service are discussed below under " Rates." Trends and events affecting our operating revenue are discussed under Item 5 "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects."

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
	(millions of <i>reais</i> )		
Local services	6,255	6,900	7,371
Intraregional (Intrastate and Interstate) long-distance service	1,748	1,923	2,394
Interregional and International long-distance service	1	1	249



Network services	1,021	1,051	970
Data transmission	505	766	1,069
Mobile Services	-	-	88
Other	310	437	622
Gross operating revenues	9,840	11,077	12,763
Taxes and discounts	(2,769)	(3,162)	(3,698)
Net operating revenues	7,071	7,915	9,065

### *Local Services*

We are the leading provider of local telecommunications services in our region with an estimated 95.0% market share. In local fixed-line services, our main competitor is Global Village Telecom. Global Village Telecom is an independent service provider operating under an authorization from Anatel. As of December 31, 2004, we had approximately 9.5 million lines in service. We own and operate public telephones throughout our region. At December 31, 2004, we had approximately 295.9 thousand public telephones and a ratio of public telephones / 100 lines installed equal to 2.76 which meets Anatel's service targets. We also provide a variety of other supplemental local services that include voice mail, call waiting, call forwarding, conferencing, speed dialing and caller ID.

To date, numerous companies have permission by Anatel to provide local fixed telecommunications services in our region. Our fixed-line services are also subject to competition from wireless service providers. See Item 3 "Key Information Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Brazilian Telecommunications Industry We face increasing competition in the Brazilian telecommunications industry which may have a material adverse effect on our market share, results of operations and financial condition." We have also been authorized to provide local fixed telecommunications services outside our region, however as of May 31, 2005, we have not done so.

### *Intraregional (intrastate and interstate) long-distance service*

Calls from one local area in a region to another local area in the same region are referred to as "intraregional long-distance" calls. Intraregional long-distance service includes intrastate long-distance calls (calls within a given state in a region) and interstate long-distance calls (calls between states in a region). Prior to merging into us, each of Telepar, Telesc, Telegoiás, Telebrasil, Telemat, Telems, Teleron, Teleacre, CTMR and CRT was the exclusive provider of intrastate long-distance service in its state. As a result we became and still are the leading provider of intrastate fixed-line telecommunications services in our region with a 90.3% intrastate market share and an estimated 79.5% interstate market share in 2004. Until July 1999, Embratel was the exclusive provider of interstate long-distance service.

Pursuant to Anatel regulations, callers are able to choose a service provider for each long distance call by selecting a carrier selection code that identifies the carrier. Until July 6, 2003, this was permitted only for calls made from fixed-line phones. Since such date, mobile callers can also choose a service provider by selecting a carrier selection code. Our carrier selection code is "14".

As of July 1999, Embratel and Intelig were authorized to provide intrastate long-distance services within the states in our region, and we were authorized to begin to provide interstate long-distance services between the states in our region. See " Competition." As a result we have been expanding our network to provide interstate long-distance service in our region to compete against Embratel, and Embratel and Intelig have been expanding their networks to provide intrastate long-distance service to compete against us. Until we complete this expansion, we may lease transmission facilities from other carriers to complete interstate long-distance calls between states in our region. To date, numerous companies have permission by Anatel to provide intraregional long distance telecommunications services in our region. See Item 3 "Key Information Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Brazilian Telecommunications Industry We face increasing competition in the Brazilian telecommunications industry which may have a material adverse effect on our market share, results of operations and financial condition."

### *Interregional and International Service*

Historically, under Anatel rules, regional fixed-line companies, such as us, generally were not permitted to offer interregional or international long-distance services until December 31, 2003 (the date designed to correspond with the certification of our universalization targets by Anatel). As a result of Anatel having certified our compliance with

universalization targets, on January 19, 2004, we began offering interregional long-distance and international long-distance services. Interregional long-distance services consist of calls between locations within Brazil. International long-distance services consist of calls between different regions within Brazil and a location outside of Brazil. In order to provide these services, we have entered into interconnection agreements with Telemar and Telesp and we will also make use of the cable network we acquired through the Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos acquisition (linking Brazil with the United States, Bermuda and Venezuela) and through the MetroRED acquisition

(providing network facilities in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte). Our market share for these services have increased rapidly throughout 2004 and reached 35.6% and 23.8% in the interregional and international segments in our Region, respectively. To date, numerous companies have permission by Anatel to provide interregional and international long distance telecommunications services in our region. See Item 3 "Key Information Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Brazilian Telecommunications Industry We face increasing competition in the Brazilian telecommunications industry which may have a material adverse effect on our market share, results of operations and financial condition." We also expect to benefit from the preferred provider status that pursuant to the Merger Agreement TIMB has agreed to give our long distance services as well as other telecommunications services and products. If the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement involving our wireless operations and the surrender by TIMB of long distance licenses are not allowed to be completed by July 18, 2005, our ability to offer national and international long distance services and/or mobile services in the same regions as TIM would be at risk of being terminated by Anatel. See "Risk Factors Certain Beneficial Shareholders Control "

### *Network Services*

Our Network services consist of interconnection, lease of facilities and fixed-to-mobile services.

#### Interconnection services

Interconnection services consist of the use of our network by other telecommunications providers in order to:

- receive calls that originate on our network;
- complete calls that terminate on our network; and
- connect switching stations to our network.

Use of our interconnection services has grown substantially since they were introduced in 1998, as a result of:

- the spin-off of the cellular telecommunications businesses of each of Telepar, Telesc, Telegoiás, Telebrasília, Telemat, Telems, Teleron, Teleacre and CTMR;
- the breakup of Telebrás; and
- the advent of competition in the telecommunications sector in Brazil.

Telecommunications service providers are required to provide interconnection services on a nondiscriminatory basis. Subject to certain requirements, they are free to negotiate the terms of their interconnection agreements, but if the parties fail to reach an agreement, Anatel will arbitrate the controversy and establish the terms and conditions of interconnection. See " History and Development of the Company Regulation of the Brazilian Telecommunications Industry Obligations of Telecommunications Companies Interconnection" and " Rate Regulation." The terms of our interconnection services, particularly the pricing and technical requirements of these services, may affect our results of operations, competitive environment and capital expenditure requirements.

We provide interconnection services to long-distance providers, such as Embratel, Intelig, Global Village Telecom, "espelinhos", small private regime operators, and certain operators of trunking services. We also provide interconnection services to the cellular service providers that were spun off from each of Telepar, Telesc, Telegoiás, Telebrasília, Telemat, Telems, Teleron, Teleacre and CTMR as well as all Band B, D and E cellular service providers in our region.



### Lease of Facilities

Other telecommunications service providers, particularly cellular service providers, lease trunk lines from our company for use within their own network, which are used for bulk transmission of voice and data messages. Large corporate customers lease lines from our company for use in private networks connecting different corporate sites. We also lease our telecommunications facilities to Embratel and Intelig in order to provide access to our network.

### Fixed-to-Mobile Services

Fixed-to-mobile services consist of calls that originate in a fixed-line telephone and terminate on a mobile or cellular device. The cellular base rate per-minute charges are generally VC-1 (Communication Value 1) for local calls, VC-2 (Communication Value 2) for calls outside the cellular subscriber's registration area but inside the region where the respective cellular provider provides service, and VC-3 (Communication Value 3) for calls outside the subscriber's registration area and outside the region where the respective cellular provider provides service. The use of our fixed-to-mobile services has increased significantly in the past five years as the penetration rate of mobile services in our region has increased. We are the leading operator in the inter-city fixed-to-mobile services segment in our Region and reached, in 2004, the market share of 82.7% and 56.6% for interregional calls in VC-2 and VC-3 areas, respectively.

### Data Transmission Services

We provide a variety of data transmission services through various technologies and means of access. Since 1999, we have invested in data transmission capacity in response to the growing demand in Brazil for data, images and text transmission services, mainly for corporate networks and corporate and residential Internet access.

The primary data product that we offer to both residential and corporate clients is Turbo, our broadband access service based on Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) technology. Turbo is an important product because it acts as a primary access or last mile for other services which we offer, such as BrTurbo, our broadband internet service provider for residential clients and corporations. In addition Turbo provides us with a platform to offer new value-added services that increase the average revenue per user, such as "TvFone" and "Turbo Video" which was launched in October 2004. TvFone allows point-to-point videoconferences, over ADSL technology with more than 600kbps, using regular TV and telephone sets. Turbo Video is a video on demand service over PC, offered by BrTurbo, that allows the delivery of high-quality streams to its customers. We intend to continue to invest in our broadband business in order to better serve the expected increase in demand for this type of service, particularly in the Internet access market.

In addition to ADSL, we offer various data transmission services that are designed specifically for corporate clients such as:

- Asynchronous Transfer Mode ("ATM") and Frame Relay a broadband switching service and data transmission service for corporations;
- Dedicated Internet Protocol ("Dedicated IP") a leased line which functions as a dedicated gate for access to internet backbone typically used by internet service providers;
- Digital Dedicated Line Service ("SLDD") a newly introduced leased dedicated line service which offers wider band width than Dedicated IP;

- Dial up internet access a remote dial up internet access which we market under the name "DialNet". DialNet is used primarily by corporate internet service providers to provide remote access to corporate networks; and
- virtual private networks based on internet protocol a new product which we market to corporate clients under the "Vetor" brand name. The virtual private network offered by Vetor allows companies

to consolidate and organize their data communications services and improve the quality of such services through a virtual private network, which we create for each client using our data transmission infrastructure.

#### MetroRED

On May 13, 2004, we purchased the remaining 80.1% stake giving us 99.99% of the capital share of MTH, the parent company of MetroRED. MetroRED established its Brazilian branch in August 1997, beginning its commercial operations in December 1998 by providing private digital telecommunications network to the corporate segment.

Through MetroRED we provide our corporate data transmission services through local fiber optic networks in the São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte markets. MetroRED has 343 km of metropolitan network in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte, and 1,600 km of long-distance network connecting these three cities. In addition to its private network, MetroRED also has an Internet solution center of 3,790 square meters, which offers data center services and support such as co-location and hosting among others. As part of the acquisition, we acquired a management team with expertise in these markets. Currently, MetroRED has 648 clients in Brazil.

MetroRED plays a key role in our strategy to expand outside Region II, due to its excellent positioning in the key data service markets (São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte) as well as its highly qualified executive team. With a technologically advanced data network which complements our existing networks, MetroRED gives us direct access to main corporate clients in Brazil to whom we can offer national as well as international services, through Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos's infrastructure. The integration process of MetroRED with our other services, carried out throughout 2004, captured many synergies, not only on sales opportunities but also in reduction of general and administrative, and information technology costs. According to a study we conducted in 2002, approximately 80.0% of the interregional long-distance traffic originating in our region terminates in the three states where MetroRED has its network. By using MetroRED's infrastructure, we realize savings, as we do not have to use third parties' infrastructure to complete these calls. The integration of MetroRED with our existing services also increases our competitiveness in the other Regions, furthering our strategy of expanding beyond Region II.

#### Vant

On May 13, 2004, we purchased the remaining 80.1% stake giving us 99.99% of the share capital of Vant. Founded on October 1999, Vant was the first telecom company in Brazil to offer 100.0% of its services over the TCP/IP network technology. Through Vant we offer Dedicated IP and other products to the corporate market throughout Brazil. The Vant acquisition is expanding our corporate solutions services to the other two regions where we were not active. As MetroRED, Vant had its processes integrated with our other services throughout 2004, capturing synergies.

#### Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos

We offer bandwidth and interconnectivity to our clients through Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos (former GlobeNet). Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos was formed in 1998 to provide fiber-optic communications services in the United States and internationally between the United States and South America. Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos's system is composed of two armored submarine cable rings, representing approximately 22,000 kilometers of high quality fiber-optic cable, linking Brazil to the United States, passing through Venezuela and the Bermuda Islands, with an installed capacity of 80Gbps, with the potential to increase to 1,360Gbps.

The infrastructure offered by Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos assists us particularly in the expansion of our corporate data transmission services, allowing us to offer integrated services to national and international corporate clients which includes data communications (Internet and corporate) between Brazil and the USA. In addition, we can reduce our voice and data interconnections costs.



During 2004, Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos reduced operational costs, renegotiated contracts and developed new businesses in Venezuela, the Caribbean, United States, Brazil, and other Mercosur countries. These

efforts allowed Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos to finish the year ended on December 31, 2004 generating positive cash flows and EBITDA.

Additionally, Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos gave us the necessary autonomy to carry our international voice and data traffic (including IP traffic), reducing interconnection and transport costs. In 2004, we saved approximately U.S.\$8.0 million in international capacity rental expenses and we expect to save approximately U.S.\$16.0 million in 2005.

### *Internet Services*

In October 2001, we formed BrTSi (a wholly owned subsidiary) which provides internet services through BrTurbo, iBest, and iG, and data communications services through Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos.

#### *BrTurbo*

We offer broadband Internet services through BrTurbo, our broadband Internet service provider, based on ADSL technology. We created BrTurbo in 2002 as a broadband ISP to offer competitively priced broadband access and internet content. BrTurbo's content includes live transmission of news, entertainment channels, video channels with on-demand feature films and documentaries and an exclusive on-line games channel. In November 2002, BrTurbo launched TurboMeeting service, which allows two-line video-conferences.

In 2002, we developed BrTurbo Empresas, a line of services aimed at corporate clients, particularly small and medium-sized companies and home offices. As part of these services, we launched a portal which offers space for backup and storage of information, e-mail account, publication of Internet sites and hosting services. In March 2004, BrTurbo Empresas started offering a number of new products including Web Presence, Enterprise Webmail, Video Conference and BrTurbo VIP.

The BrTurbo portal was redesigned in 2004 and its new platform brought technical and visual improvements, offering better navigability and interactivity. BrTSi also established new partnerships for the restructuring and content management of BrTurbo. In October 2004, we launched Turbo Video, a new video-on-demand service allowing clients to rent movies on-line. We also extended the offer of the BrTurbo Asas Wi-Fi service, which we launched in December 2003, to offer internet to subscribers who occasionally need access while in transit. In order to expand our nation-wide Wi-Fi network we have established partnerships with other players and invested in our own infra-structure.

#### *iBest*

iBest was created in 1999 to develop commercially the "Prêmio iBest" brand name, an Internet award instituted in 1995 that quickly became a national reference for Internet awards in Brazil. In December 2001, iBest extended its activities in the Internet market by providing free dial up Internet access. The acquisition of iBest in June 2003, was a significant step in our Internet strategy.

iBest is an important traffic generator (incoming calls), which increases minutes of use and balances our traffic exchange with other networks in our Region. Traffic drain occurs when a competitor offers free internet services to customers in our region. Because the interconnection regime in Brazil requires us to pay an interconnection fee to the service provider who completes a call originating from our network, free internet increases the traffic in only one direction which generates this interconnection revenue for the service provider. Without a matching increase in traffic in the other direction, the continued traffic imbalance will result in increasing costs for us. Through iBest, we have been able to minimize the risk of traffic drain by stimulating the use of iBest through dial up access, thereby

increasing incoming traffic to our network.

We intend to leverage iBest's large customer base by targeting sales of broadband services (ADSL) to iBest's dial up customers. In addition to ADSL, we can also offer integrated services such as voice (local and long-distance), data and internet to iBest's customers, making iBest an important sales channel for us and allowing us to protect an important customer base from our competition.

### iG

We also offer internet services through iG which Brasil Telecom S.A. acquired in November 2004. iG was the first Brazilian portal to offer free internet access. Over the past years, the business model of iG has developed significantly and the portal started to generate revenues streams through advertising, e-commerce, broadband access, content commercialization, traffic generation, and other paid services such as connection accelerator, telephone customer support, premium email, hosting services, among others. iG is considered the largest dial-up internet service provider in Brazil with a market share of more than 30.0% of dial-up internet minutes. Additionally, iG is the largest wireless content portal of the country. iG has more than 3 million active internet users and 7.7 million active email accounts.

The acquisition of iG consolidates our existing leading position in the ISP market and strengthens our position in Regions I and III. Together, iG, iBest and BrTurbo serve approximately 5 million clients, which make us the largest internet service provider in Latin America and one of the 15 largest providers worldwide.

### *Other Services*

We provide telecommunications services beyond local, long distance, network and data transmission services including value-added services (900, call forwarding, voice mail, caller ID, call waiting, directory inquiry voice service) and advertising on public telephone cards. However, in accordance with our concessions, we are prohibited from providing cable television services, but we may lease our network to providers of such services.

### *Wireless Services*

As a result of our universalization targets certification by Anatel on January 19, 2004 and in furtherance of our business strategy to provide integrated telecommunications services both in our region and throughout Brazil, we started to offer wireless telephony services in our region using the PCS wireless license we obtained on December 18, 2002. Our license to provide wireless service is valid for fifteen years and may be renewed for another fifteen years.

All the prerequisites for the launch of the operations of Brasil Telecom GSM were met in 2004, including the authorizations for the rendering of mobile services conferred by Anatel on January 19, 2004, the acquisition and installation of network equipment and the integration of mobile telephony with other products of the Brasil Telecom Group.

As a result of the launch of its mobile operations, Brasil Telecom S.A. became the largest integrated telecommunications carrier in Region II, offering its clients a complete range of services, including fixed telephony, broadband and narrowband services, free internet, data transmission and mobile telephony.

The full launch of operations to the general public was on September 27, 2004, with the announcement of the advantages of convergence (The Only One, Bonus Every Month, Friends at All Times, Talk for Less and Boomerang 14) and a launch promotion, the Pula-Pula.

Brasil Telecom GSM started its operations with 18,000 post-paid clients, derived from the "Our Mobile" ("*Nosso Celular*") plan, which was created in January 2004 and targeted our employees and their relatives and friends.

### Convergence Products

Bonus Every Month (*Bônus Todo Mês*): allows clients to designate any Brasil Telecom S.A. fixed-line number to earn up to 200 minutes per month, equivalent to 50 pulses, in free local calls to any fixed-line number.

Boomerang 14 (*Bumerangue 14*): allows Brasil Telecom GSM clients to earn credits from long distance calls made using the carrier selection code 14 ("CSC 14"). Clients can then use their credits to make free local calls from their mobile phone to any Brasil Telecom S.A. fixed or mobile number.

- 35 -

---

Friends at All Times (*Amigos Toda Hora*): allows Brasil Telecom GSM post-paid clients to designate up to 14 numbers to speak to at a reduced rate of only R\$0.10 (excluding taxes) per minute, at any time. The designated numbers may be fixed-line numbers of any operator or Brasil Telecom GSM mobile numbers. Brasil Telecom GSM pre-paid clients can elect seven numbers, one of which may be a fixed-line number.

The Only One (*Único*): a pre-paid service that merges mobile, fixed-line and payphone services. Clients buy credits for their pre-paid mobiles, but also have the option to use the same credits to make phone calls from fixed-line or payphones. The client simply calls a toll free number and identifies the number to be called. The cost of the call is deducted from the pre-paid credits, and the rate charged is cheaper than the pre-paid one. Brasil Telecom GSM is also the only operator to offer SMS credits every time a calling card is purchased, regardless of the face value of the card.

Talk For Less (*Fale por Menos*): allows Brasil Telecom GSM customers to pay less for calls from a Brasil Telecom S.A. fixed-line number to a Brasil Telecom GSM mobile number. Calling mobile numbers from other operators is at least 60% more expensive, regardless of the time. This promotion was valid from October 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005.

#### Launch Promotion

The Pula-Pula promotion is an offer used to promote the launch and positioning of Brasil Telecom GSM in the mobile telephony market.

In the post-paid Pula-Pula, the amount billed in one month is deducted from the following month's bill, while in the pre-paid Pula-Pula the amount of minutes received in one month is credited as talk time in the following month, provided the customer buys credit at least once every month. The Pula-Pula promotion is guaranteed until 2010 for all clients who acquired their Brasil Telecom GSM phone by December 2004.

We extended the Pula-Pula promotion, guaranteeing similar benefits until 2009 ("Pula-Pula de Verão" summer promotion) for mobile phones activated from January 1, 2005 to February 8, 2005, and until 2008 (the "Pula-Pula 2008" promotion) for mobile phones activated between April 1, 2005 and May 8, 2005.

#### Flagship Stores One-stop-shop

Our 16 flagship stores were created with an innovative concept in mind, the one-stop-shop. In our stores, clients have access to the entire portfolio of products and services of the Brasil Telecom Group (fixed-line, ADSL, mobile, free internet installation CDs, intelligent services, alternative bundles of DLD and ILD rates, accessories, modems and even personal computers). This initiative meets the needs of the clients and capitalizes on the competitive advantages of an integrated telephony operation. The majority of our flagship stores are located in the main shopping centers of Region II.

#### Real Time Customer Retention

With our convergence offers and the Pula-Pula promotion, Brasil Telecom GSM became the first company in Brazil to offer a Real Time Customer Retention program, eliminating the need for our clients to subscribe to a program, earn points, view catalogs, and request prizes. After acquiring a Brasil Telecom GSM mobile phone, our clients can immediately enjoy the benefits of our convergence offers and the Pula-Pula promotion.

#### Roaming

The use of Brasil Telecom GSM phones is not restricted to Region II. Our clients have countrywide coverage through roaming agreements. Brasil Telecom GSM's preferred roaming partners are Oi and TIM in Regions I and III, respectively. As a result of an agreement between Brasil Telecom GSM and Oi, our clients do not pay for roaming charges and can benefit from advantageous rates when using their phones in Oi's authorization area, comprising the 3 south-eastern states (Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, and Espírito Santo), the 4 northern states (Amazonas, Amapá, Pará, and Roraima) and the 9 states in the northeast of Brazil (Bahia, Sergipe, Alagoas, Pernambuco, Paraíba, Rio Grande do Norte, Ceará, Piauí, and Maranhão).

### Products and Services

Brasil Telecom GSM offers three types of plans: post-paid, pre-paid and control (a plan where clients establish a pre-determined monthly rate and buy pre-paid credits if they wish to make extra calls). Besides voice services, Brasil Telecom GSM clients can also take advantage of value-added services, including data communications via GPRS and new services previously not offered by other carriers. An example is the Mobile Banking service, the result of a partnership between Brasil Telecom GSM and Banco do Brasil that allows clients to access account balances and statements, and make transfers, among other services.

### Clients

At the end of 2004, Brasil Telecom GSM had 622,300 clients, which represented a 3.2% market-share gained in only three months of operations. 33.1% of the clients were post paid, a percentage which is above the market average.

### Coverage

The Brasil Telecom GSM network covers 626 localities and 81.2% of the population of the states of Region II. Around 2,000 new towers were implemented during 2004. In 2005, new investments are expected to further broaden our coverage and increase the number of localities covered as well as the main highways that link the regions, enabling our clients to fully benefit from the mobility concept.

### Integration

The Brasil Telecom GSM sales team works in partnership with the Brasil Telecom S.A's commercial business area to offer all the group's product portfolio and address the necessities of clients within Region II.

### Points of Sales

In December 2004, Brasil Telecom GSM had 2,109 points of sale, including 16 flagship stores, 48 kiosks, 800 exclusive authorized dealers and non-exclusive authorized sales agents, and 1,300 pre-paid card resellers among the main retailers.

### ***Our Region***

Until January 2004, we were authorized by our original concessions to provide fixed-line telecommunications service only in nine states of Brazil located in the western, central and southern regions of Brazil, and in the Federal District, as listed in the chart below, excluding small areas in the States of Goiás, Mato Grosso do Sul and Paraná, which we refer to as our region. We have a unique advantage in this region as we inherited the telecommunications business in this region upon privatization of Telebrás. Since we received certification that we had met our universalization targets, we are now authorized to provide interregional long-distance services throughout Brazil and international long-distance services, also from any point in the country. We also received authorization to offer local services out of our original concession area and to offer wireless services in our region. Our primary source of revenues continues to come from operations in our region.

The states in our region cover an area of approximately 2.85 million square kilometers, representing 33.5% of the country's total area and generating 26.1% of Brazil's Gross Domestic Product ("GDP"). The estimated population of our region was approximately 41.5 million, representing 23.5% of the population of Brazil. Our region has four metropolitan areas with populations in excess of one million inhabitants, including Brasilia, the capital of Brazil.





The following table sets forth certain key economic data for the states in our region.

<b>State</b>	<b>Population (millions)<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Population per square kilometer<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Percentage of Brazil's GDP for 2002<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Per capita income (R\$) for 2002<sup>(1)</sup></b>
Paraná	9.9	49.59	6.05	8,241
Santa Catarina	5.6	58.63	3.85	9,272
Distrito Federal	2.2	375.78	2.65	16,361
Tocantins	1.2	4.36	0.26	2,931
Mato Grosso	2.6	2.92	1.33	6,773
Mato Grosso do Sul	2.2	6.06	1.14	7,092
Rondônia	1.5	6.33	0.54	4,843
Rio Grande do Sul	10.5	37.23	7.76	9,958
Acre	0.6	3.86	0.17	3,833
Goiás	5.3	15.54	2.33	5,921

<sup>(1)</sup> *Source: Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística - IBGE ("IBGE")* pursuant to the 2002 Regional Accounts of Brazil.

Set forth below is a map of Brazil showing the location of our region.

Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects depend on the performance of the Brazilian economy and the economy of our region, in particular.



**Seasonality**

Our main activity, which is to provide fixed-line telecommunications services, is generally not affected by seasonal variations.

**Targets Established by Anatel Applicable to Us**

We are required to achieve certain targets established by Anatel and required under the terms and conditions of our concessions, in connection with the quality and universalization of our services.

**Quality Targets**

We are required, pursuant to the Telecommunications Regulations and our concession contracts, to meet certain service quality targets relating to call completion rates, repair requests, rate of response to repair requests, operator response periods and other aspects of our telecommunications services. Noncompliance with these quality targets can result in certain fines. See " History and Development of the Company Regulation of the Brazilian Telecommunications Industry Obligations of Telecommunications Companies Quality of Service General Plan on Quality."

The following table indicates the individual performance of each of our concessions in accomplishing their respective quality of service obligations as of December 31, 2004.

**Quality Performance of Services measured on December 31, 2004**

	Teleacre	Teleron	Telemat	Telegoías	Tele-brasília	Telems	Telepar	Telesc	CRT	Pelotas	Target
Rate of completed originated local calls Morning	70.35	70.29	70.37	70.43	70.13	71.60	71.61	71.24	71.27	71.42	70.0
Rate of completed originated local calls Afternoon	70.75	70.19	70.93	70.14	70.21	72.51	71.60	70.86	71.01	71.31	70.0
Rate of completed originated local calls Night .....	72.74	70.36	71.80	70.75	70.34	71.61	70.42	70.45	70.07	70.71	70.0
Rate of completed originated DLD calls Morning	73.09	70.32	71.55	71.10	70.28	71.17	73.34	73.05	70.80	72.56	70.0
Rate of completed originated DLD calls Afternoon	70.17	70.89	72.39	71.92	71.39	70.80	73.33	72.83	70.62	70.89	70.0
Rate of completed originated DLD	72.78	70.91	73.02	72.24	70.28	70.72	71.30	70.26	70.48	70.14	70.0

calls Night												
Rate of amount of repair requests per 100 accesses in service	Integral	1.09	1.20	1.27	1.39	1.27	1.20	1.35	1.78	1.30	1.35	2.0
Rate of amount of repair requests per 100 public telephones	Integral	4.15	5.72	9.49	9.97	9.98	8.84	6.80	6.30	5.87	3.94	10.0
Response rate for user telephones of the STFC within 10 seconds	Morning	99.32	99.68	99.36	99.46	99.85	99.35	99.76	99.88	99.88	100	94.0
Response rate for user telephones of the STFC within 10 seconds	Afternoon	98.03	99.11	99.24	99.30	99.79	98.89	99.64	99.50	99.68	99.46	94.0
Response rate for user telephones of the STFC within 10 seconds	Night	99.31	99.59	99.50	99.57	99.91	99.57	99.87	99.60	99.71	99.70	94.0
Amounts of bills with complaints of errors in every 1,000 bills issued local mode		1.91	1.94	1.96	1.94	1.98	1.94	1.93	1.95	1.97	1.93	2.0

**Quality Performance of Services measured on December 31, 2004**

	Teleacre	Teleron	Telemat	Telegoías	Tele-brasília	Telems	Telepar	Telesc	CRT	Pelotas	Target
Amounts of bills with complaints of errors in every 1,000 bills issued											
DLD mode	1.64	1.88	1.72	1.76	1.59	1.74	1.80	1.55	1.23	1.69	2.0
Rate of claimed inaccurate bills with credit issued (for each 100 bills) for the local mode	Integral	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	97.0
Rate of originated DLD calls not completed due to traffic jam											
Morning	3.26	1.39	1.78	1.74	2.57	1.72	1.64	1.80	1.27	1.52	4.0
Rate of originated DLD calls not completed due to traffic jam											
Afternoon	3.90	1.91	2.24	1.84	2.54	2.06	1.86	1.60	1.52	1.76	4.0
Rate of originated DLD calls not completed due to traffic jam											
Night	1.81	1.70	1.68	1.75	2.91	1.58	1.59	1.76	1.89	1.98	4.0
Rate of originated local calls not completed due to traffic jam											
Morning	3.09	0.57	1.27	1.03	1.55	1.26	0.59	1.19	0.58	0.48	4.0
Rate of originated local calls not completed due to traffic jam											
Afternoon	0.75	0.70	1.03	2.27	2.84	1.14	0.70	1.54	0.86	0.40	4.0
Rate of originated local calls not completed due to traffic jam											
Night	1.14	2.06	1.23	2.06	1.38	2.30	0.77	1.90	2.53	0.69	4.0
Response rate to repair requests made by residential users in up to 24 hours	99.60	98.91	99.72	99.49	99.25	99.84	99.53	99.30	99.09	99.47	97.0

Integral												
Response rate to repair requests made by non-residential users in up to 8 hours	Integral	97.67	97.39	98.83	99.07	98.76	99.62	99.07	97.54	97.75	100	97.0
Response rate to repair requests made for public telephones in up to 8 hours	Integral	98.19	97.95	99.63	99.13	97.99	99.13	98.55	99.15	98.00	100	97.0
Response rate to address change requests from residential users in up to 3 business days	Integral	100	99.78	99.84	99.79	99.81	99.91	99.90	99.92	99.35	99.40	97.0
Response rate to address change requests from non residential users in up to 24 hours	Integral	100	97.22	100	99.20	99.42	100	99.22	99.45	97.78	100	97.0

---

*Universalization Network Expansion*

We are also required under the Telecommunications Regulations and our concessions to meet certain targets relating to network expansion and modernization. See " History and Development of the Company Regulation of the Brazilian Telecommunications Industry Obligations of Telecommunications Companies Network Expansion General Plan on Universal Service."

During 2004, all our universalization targets of the General Plan on Universal Service were met.

The table below indicates certain of our obligations relating to the expansion of our network in 2004 and our performance in accomplishing those obligations as of December 31, 2004.

Table of Contents

	<b>Targets at December 31, 2004</b>	<b>Company status at December 31, 2004</b>
Fixed-line service available to all communities larger than  (inhabitants)	600	Obligation met
At least one public phone available to all communities  larger than (inhabitants)	300	Obligation met
Maximum waiting time for installation of a line (weeks) <sup>(1)</sup> .	2	Obligation met
Minimum number of public telephones in service (thousands)	216	296
Minimum number of public telephones (per 1,000 inhabitants)	7.5	8.3
Minimum public telephones as a percentage of fixed-lines.	2.5	2.8

(1) Applies only to areas where fixed-line service is fully available.

***Our Rates***

For basic plans, our concessions establish a mechanism of annual rate adjustment, based on rate baskets and the use of the IGP-DI price index. Two rate baskets are defined, one for local services (local basket) and one for long-distance services (DLD basket). The rates for the provision of services through payphones and the rates for address change are treated separately.

The adjustment index considers the IGP-DI price index variation, discounting the pre-established productivity factor in the Concession Contract. Within each basket, the rates have a cap price, which can be adjusted up to a percentage above the established index (up to 9.0% higher for the local basket and up to 5.0% higher for the DLD basket). However, the application of a higher index to one of the items in the basket will require a balancing of the remaining items so as not to exceed the established limit for such basket.

The local basket includes activation fees (activation of the terminal), basic subscriptions and local pulse, and represents the weighted average of these rates. The national long-distance basket includes all different prices for calls, which vary according to the distance and the time of connection.

On the adjustment dates for the local and DLD baskets, the rate adjustments for network use are also approved. These rates apply when our networks are used by other telecommunications carriers.

The maximum adjustment indexes allowed for the baskets within the period of 1999 to 2004 are as follows:

	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Local Basket	7.9%	14.2%	10.4%	8.3%	16.0%	6.89%
DLD Basket	5.4%	11.9%	7.7%	4.9%	12.5%	3.20%



On June 30, 2004, Anatel authorized an increase in rates based on the IGP-DI index, in connection with local and long distance services and network usage, as provided for in our concession contract. These rate increases were equal to an average of 6.9% on local services and 3.2% on domestic long distance services. The maximum rate for the international long distance Basic Plan was increased by 8.0% .

On July 1, 2004, the Superior Court of Brazil ("STJ") suspended the preliminary injunction that stipulated the IPCA index (*Índice de Preços ao Consumidor Amplo*) as a substitute of the IGP-DI index in concession contracts as the base for rate adjustments in 2003, determining that rates were to be adjusted based on the IGP-DI index, as foreseen by concession contracts.

Fixed-line telephony service providers, in negotiation with Anatel, agreed to apply the rate adjustment in two installments, effective on September 01, 2004 and on November 01, 2004, as shown below:

Service Plan	Average Rate Adjustment on Sep 01, 2004	Average Rate Adjustment on Nov 01, 2004	Total Average Rate Adjustment
Local Basic	4.35%	4.17%	8.52%
Domestic Long Distance Basic	4.78%	4.56%	9.34%
Local Network Usage Rate	5.46%	5.18%	10.64%
Intercity Network Usage Rate	5.46%	5.18%	10.64%

*Local Rates*

Our revenue from local services derives from fees charged for service access, service availability, service usage and change of address.

An activation fee is applied for service access and consists solely of a charge paid when terminals are activated.

The monthly subscription charge is the amount paid for the availability of fixed switched telephone service, regardless of utilization. There are three types of monthly subscriptions, depending on the category of the terminal, which can be residential, non-residential or trunk. Payment of this charge includes 100 free pulses per month for residential clients and 90 free pulses per month for remaining clients (non-residential and trunk). Any pulses in excess of such amounts are billed to the customer as a measured service.

Since November 1, 2004, the date of the last rate adjustment, average monthly subscription charges (net of taxes) have been R\$25.54 for residential customers, R\$36.71 for non-residential customers, and R\$24.47 for trunk customers.

Users of measured service pay for local calls depending on usage, which is measured in pulses. Pulses occur system wide every four minutes for local calls. These system-wide pulses are recorded independently of when the individual calls are actually made. In addition to system-wide pulses, the system records one pulse for every call when the call is connected. After the first pulse, only system-wide pulses are used in determining the charge for a call. As a result, the time between the first and the second (system-wide) pulse may vary. For example, for a call being charged using four-minute pulse increments, the time between the first pulse and the second (system-wide) pulse may vary between one second and four minutes.

Local call charges for calls made on weekdays between 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m. and on Saturdays between 6:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., are determined by multiplying the number of pulses by the charge per pulse. For calls being made any weekday and on Saturdays between midnight and 6:00 a.m., on Saturdays between 2:00 p.m. and midnight and all day on Sundays and holidays, a caller is charged for only one pulse regardless of the duration of the call.

Since the last rate adjustment, on November 1, 2004, the average pulse charge (net of taxes) has been of R\$0.10294.

The following table sets forth selected information regarding our subscription charges and measured service charges for local telephone services for the periods indicated.

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Average rates for local telephone service <sup>(1)</sup> :		<i>(reais)</i>	
Monthly subscription:			
Residential	18.92	22.18	25.54
Commercial	24.80	29.08	36.71
Measured service (per local pulse)	0.07624	0.08938	0.10294

---

(1) Average rates, net of taxes.

Since the date of the last rate adjustment, which occurred on November 1, 2004, we charge an activation fee for a new line, net of taxes, between R\$3.47 and R\$73.42 (depending on the state) and a fee of R\$78.46, net of taxes, when a subscriber changes his/her address.

#### *Domestic Long-Distance Rates*

Domestic long-distance calls between fixed-line telephones are measured by the duration of the call and registered in the telephone bill call by call. The value per minute is defined by the distance involved (rate degrees from one to four), the day of the week and the time of the call. The measurement is based on a rate unit of one tenth of a minute (six seconds) and the minimum billable time is one minute.

The following table sets forth selected information regarding our domestic long-distance rates during the periods indicated.

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Domestic long-distance rates <sup>(1)</sup> :		<i>(reais)</i>	
0 to 50 km	0.50	0.59	0.62
50 to 100 km	0.73	0.82	0.90
100 to 300 km	0.85	0.95	1.05
Over 300 km	1.12	1.15	1.13

---

(1) Average rates for a domestic long-distance call (interstate), three minutes in duration between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. (peak hours) on weekdays, net of taxes.

#### *Network Usage Charges*

The network usage rates, responsible for a large part of our interconnection revenue, are applied in the following situations:

- in DLD calls originating and terminating at our network, executed with the use of the selection code of other providers;
- in calls terminating at our network, originating from networks of mobile carriers; and
- in local fixed-fixed type calls made between two local telephony carriers at the same location. In this case, interconnection revenue must be of the local carrier that configures a volume of traffic receipt

above 55.0% of the total volume of minutes between the two networks. The revenue will be calculated over whatever exceeds this limit.

The Local Network Usage Rate (*Tarifa de Uso de Rede Local* - TU-RL) is applied when third parties use our local network to complete their calls. When third parties use our long-distance network the Intercity Network Usage Rate (*Tarifa de Uso de Rede Interurbana* - TU-RIU) is applied.

The following table sets forth the average per-minute rates that we charged for network services during the indicated years.

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
		<i>(reais)<sup>(1)</sup></i>	
Network usage rate (local)	0.0512	0.05284	0.05248
Network usage rate (long-distance)	0.0860	0.09681	0.11083

---

(1) Net of taxes.

As of the date of the last rate adjustment, on November 1, 2004, network usage rates for local and long-distance services were approximately R\$0.05248 and R\$0.11083, respectively. The adjustment of rates for network usage in 2004, considering the indexes authorized by Anatel on June 30, 2004 and adding the differences in connection with the 2003 rate adjustment, which were suspended by the STJ and were applied in September and November 2004 after a new court ruling, was of approximately -0.7% for the Local Network Usage Rate and 14.5% for the Intercity Network Usage Rate.

Our revenue from network services also includes payments from other telecommunications service providers arranged on a contractual basis to use part of our network. Other telecommunications service providers, such as providers of trunking and paging services, may use our network to connect a central switching station to our network. Some mobile service providers use our network to connect mobile central switching stations to the mobile radio base stations. We also lease transmission lines, certain infrastructure and other equipment to other providers of telecommunications services.

#### *Fixed-Mobile Rates*

Wireless telecommunications services in Brazil, unlike in North America, are offered on a "calling party pays" basis. Under this policy, a cellular service subscriber generally pays cellular usage charges only for calls made by the cellular service subscriber and not for calls received. In addition, a subscriber pays roaming charges on calls made or received outside his or her home registration area. Calls received by a cellular service subscriber are paid for by the party that places the call in accordance with a rate based on cellular per-minute charges. For example, a fixed-line service customer pays a rate based on cellular per-minute charges for calls made to a cellular service subscriber. The cellular base rate per-minute charges are generally VC-1 (Communication Value 1) for local calls, VC-2 (Communication Value 2) for calls outside the cellular subscriber's registration area but inside the region where the respective cellular provider provides service, and VC-3 (Communication Value 3) for calls outside the subscriber's registration area and outside the region where the respective cellular provider provides service.

We charge our fixed-line service customers per-minute charges based on either VC-1, VC-2, or VC-3 rates when a fixed-line service customer calls a cellular subscriber. In turn, we pay the cellular service provider a mobile network

usage charge for such calls. For local calls, the VC-1 is applied, and for national long-distance calls, the VC-2 and VC-3 rates are applied.

The criteria for measurement of these calls are defined in the Concession Contract and have the following rules:

- Rating unit: six seconds (one tenth of a minute);

- Billable Minimum: 30 seconds; and
- Billable Calls: only calls with duration of more than three seconds are billed.

Like the local and DLD basket rates, rates for calls involving mobile telephones are set in the Concession Contract and are adjusted annually based on IGP-DI price index, after approval by Anatel. The month of reference for the adjustment is February.

During the same month, the values for mobile network use (VU-M) are also readjusted and are used to determine the amount that the fixed-line carriers will have to pay per minute, after the execution of calls of the fixed-mobile type, whether in local range or in national long-distance range.

Since July 6, 2003, by determination of Anatel, mobile telephone customers can choose, via the carrier selection code, the DLD carrier they prefer to complete their calls, following the same system adopted by the fixed telephony sector. With the introduction of this new system, the DLD carriers began to take part in this new market.

In February 2004, the VU-M was readjusted, on average, by 9.2% in our concession area and the VC-1, VC-2 and VC-3 rates were adjusted by 7.0% .

On April 7, 2005, Anatel announced that the VC-1 rate was to be adjusted by 7.99%, pending the approval of Anatel's board of directors. Also according to the announcement, Anatel expects mobile and fixed-line operators to reach an agreement regarding the VU-M rate. Anatel did not approve the adjustments for the VC-2 or VC-3 rates.

The following table sets forth the average per-minute rates that we charged for fixed to mobile services during the indicated years.

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002 <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
		<i>(reais)</i>	
VC-1	0.335	0.414	0.443
VC-2	0.694	0.847	0.906
VC-3	0.764	0.932	0.997

---

(1) Net of taxes.

#### *Data Transmission Rates*

The majority of revenue from data transmission services is generated by monthly line rental charges for private leased circuits. The balance consists mainly of nominal charges for access to the data transmission network and measured service charges based on the amount of data transmitted. The following table sets forth selected information about our average monthly line rental charges for private leased circuits during the indicated years.

**Year ended December 31,**

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
		<i>(reais)</i>	
Average rates for monthly line rental per leased circuit:			
Local circuit			
4.8 Kbps	254.75	302.00	302.00
9.6 Kbps	254.75	302.00	302.00
64Kbps	523.74	586.00	586.00
2Mbps	6,635.45	6,636.00	6,636.00
Long-distance circuit <sup>(1)</sup>			
4.8 Kbps	1,094.93	1,303.00	1,303.00
9.6 Kbps	1,094.93	1,303.00	1,303.00
64Kbps	2,961.79	3,317.00	3,317.00

- 45 -

---



	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
		<i>(reais)</i>	
2Mbps	37,565.23	37,566.00	37,566.00

(1) Average of rates, net of taxes, assuming a transmission distance between 300 and 500 kilometers and a three-year contract.

The table below sets forth the rates that we charged for ADSL services. These costs do not include the fees normally paid by customers to their Internet service providers.

<b>Residential Plans</b>	<b>Downstream/Upstream Speed</b>	<b>Monthly Subscription<sup>(1)</sup></b>
<i>Turbo Lite</i>	Up to 150 Kbps/Up to 64 Kbps	49.90 <sup>(2)</sup>
<i>Turbo 300</i>	Up to 300 Kbps/Up to 150 Kbps	79.90
<i>Turbo 600</i>	Up to 600 Kbps/Up to 300 Kbps	99.00
<i>Mega Turbo</i>	Up to 1.0 Mbps/Up to 300 Kbps	199.00
<b>Corporate Plans</b>	<b>Downstream/Upstream Speed</b>	<b>Monthly Subscription<sup>(1)</sup></b>
<i>Rápido</i>	Up to 400 Kbps/Up to 200 Kbps	119.90
<i>Super Rápido</i>	Up to 800 Kbps/Up to 400 Kbps	253.12
<i>Profissional</i>	Up to 1.5 Mbps/Up to 256 Kbps	593.44

(1) Monthly rates in *reais*, including taxes.

(2) Monthly value for 50 hours of Internet access. Additional hours are charged R\$ 2,95 per hour.

#### *Wireless Rates*

Our authorization establishes a price-cap mechanism of annual rate adjustment, based on the IGP-DI price index for basic and alternative plans. The price-cap is a weighted average price for the services offered in our Basic Plan, including monthly subscription and particular roaming charges, such as toll per call and local minute-basis tariffs.

However, tariffs and prices for value-added services, such as data communications services, are not subject to regulation and can be defined on a competitive basis. Such services are offered as pay-per-use or volume-based packages.

The Basic Plan follows a post-paid system, whereby clients pay a monthly charge for the availability of mobile services, regardless of utilization. In addition to this charge, subscribers are charged for the utilization of voice and data services.

The following table sets forth selected information about the average charges for our Basic Plan in 2004:

#### **Year ended December 31, 2004**

Average rates for the Basic Plan <sup>(1)</sup> :	<i>(reais)</i>
Activation	0.00
Monthly Subscription	27.74
Local calls to fixed-line numbers	0.4138
Local calls to Brasil Telecom GSM mobiles	0.4138
Local calls to other wireless operators	0.4138

---

(1) Average rates, net of taxes.

As of May 31, 2005 we also offered our wireless clients three different types of alternative plans, the *Brasil Conta Plan*, the *Brasil Controle Plan* and the *Brasil Cartão Plan*.

The *Brasil Cartão Plan* follows a pre-paid system, whereby our clients purchase credits in advance for the availability of mobile services. We offer reduced rates for either nighttime or daytime calls, with the *Brasil Cartão Noturno Plan* and the *Brasil Cartão Diurno Plan*, respectively, or charge a single tariff regardless of the time of the call, with the *Brasil Cartão Simples Plan*.

The *Brasil Conta Plan* follows a post-paid system, whereby clients pay a monthly charge for a given package of inclusive minutes. Any minutes used in excess of such amounts are billed to the customer according to the selected package, so that packages with a greater amount of inclusive minutes are generally charged a lower tariff. We offer 14 different packages of monthly inclusive minutes ranging from 50 to 2000 minutes. If subscribers do not use the total amount of inclusive minutes in any given month, the balance is brought forward to the following month.

The *Brasil Controle Plan* has characteristics of both pre- and post-paid systems. Clients pay a fixed monthly charge for the availability of mobile services, regardless of utilization. Payment of this charge includes cash credits of equal amount. Once all credits have been used, subscribers may purchase extra pre-paid credits. Tariffs charged for the plan are the same, regardless of whether the credit is post- or pre-paid. If subscribers do not use the total amount of cash credits in any given month, the balance is brought forward to the following month.

### ***Taxes on Telecommunications Services***

The cost of telecommunications services in Brazil includes a variety of taxes. The principal tax is a state value-added tax, the *Imposto sobre Circulação de Mercadorias e Serviços* ("ICMS"), which Brazilian states impose at varying rates on telecommunications services. The current average ICMS tax rate for telecommunications services is 25.0% . However, the ICMS tax rate varies between states. In the State of Acre, for example, the ICMS tax rate is 25.0%, while in the State of Mato Grosso the ICMS tax rate is 30.0% . In the State of Mato Grosso do Sul, the ICMS tax rate is 27.0% . In the State of Goiás, the ICMS tax rate is 26.0% .

The telecommunications tax burden also includes four other federal taxes, the *Programa de Integração Social*; ("PIS")" and *Contribuição para Financiamento da Seguridade Social* ("COFINS")" which are the two social contribution taxes based on our gross revenues and the Universal Telecommunications Service Fund ("FUST") and the Fund for Technical Development of Brazilian Telecommunications ("FUNTTEL").

PIS is applied at a 0.65% rate and COFINS is applied at a 3.0% rate for telecommunications services. Since December 2002, we have been subject to a 1.65% PIS rate for services other than telecommunications services and may be entitled to PIS credits calculated on our costs and expenses to offset the PIS due on those services. Since February 2004, we have been subject to a 7.6% COFINS rate for services other than telecommunications services and may be entitled to COFINS credits calculated on our costs and expenses to offset the COFINS due on those services.

The FUST and FUNTTEL are imposed on certain telecommunications services at the rates of 1.0% and 0.5%, respectively, of gross operating revenues net of certain deductions. See Item 10 "Additional Information Taxation Brazilian Tax Considerations Other Brazilian Taxes."

In 2004, taxes on telecommunications services represented approximately 28.0% of our annual operating revenues.

### ***Billing and Collection***

We send each customer of local services, long-distance services and other services a monthly bill covering all the services provided during the prior period. We group our customers into six different monthly cycles with six different payment dates. The telephone bill itemizes long-distance calls, calls made to cellular telecommunications networks, 300, 500 and 800 services and other services such as call waiting, voice mail and call forwarding.



For interregional and international long-distance services, customers either receive separate monthly bills from each company they use for long-distance calls or a combined bill issued by us. Customers make payments under agreements with various banks or other alternative agents by direct payment to a bank or an alternative agent, or by allowing their checking account to be debited.

Pursuant to Brazilian law, subscribers must receive a bill at least five days before the due date. When a payment is not made by the due date, we must send the customer, 15 days after the due date, a notice informing the customer of the right to contest the debt and if payment is not made within 30 days after the due date, all outgoing service will be suspended, and the customer will only be able to receive incoming calls. If payment is not made within 45 days after the due date, we send another notice informing the customer that if payment is not made within 60 days after the due date, all services will be suspended, the contract will be cancelled and the customer's failure to pay will be reported to a credit protection agency.

The following table sets forth information about our accounts receivable for the year ended on December 31, 2004. For the discussion of provisions for past due accounts, See Item 5 "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects Operating Results."

**At and for the year ended December 31,**

	<b>2004</b>
Due	64.5%
Past due 01 to 30 days	16.4%
Past due 31 to 60 days	5.7%
Past due 61 to 90 days	3.7%
Past due 91 to 120 days	2.7%
Past due More than 120 days	7.0%

***Network and Facilities***

*General*

The network is the combination of the physical and logical infrastructure which provides telecommunications services, whether it is voice, data and/or image.

*Network Expansion*

Voice Network

During 2004, we installed 50,700 lines. As a result, as of December 31, 2004, our plant consisted of approximately 10.7 million installed lines, of which 9.5 million were in service. Of the lines in service at that time, approximately 67.8% were residential lines, 18.0% were commercial lines, 3.1% were public telephone lines and 11.1% were other. Long-distance transmission is provided by a fiber-optic cable network and by microwave links.

At the end of 2003, we had 9.8 million lines in service and the telephone density reached 23.4 lines in service per 100 inhabitants. At December 31, 2004, we had 9.5 million lines in service and the telephone density was 22.4 lines in service per 100 inhabitants.

The following table sets forth combined information about our network for the periods indicated.

	<b>At the year ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Installed lines (millions)	10.7	10.7
Lines in service (millions)	9.8	9.5
Average lines in service for year ended (millions)	9.7	9.7
Lines in service per 100 inhabitants	23.4	22.4
Percentage of installed lines connected to digital exchanges	99.0	99.7
Number of public telephones (thousands)	296.3	295.9

## Data Networks

At the end of 2004 we had 620,406 ADSL installed ports and 535,457 accesses in service, which represents 253,557 new ADSL accesses added in 2004. This represents an 89.9% growth from the 281,900 accesses in service in 2003, and a growth in the ratio of active customers to 86.3% in 2004 compared to 81.4% in 2003. During 2004 we also increased the number of cities with ADSL services from 323 to 1,117.

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>ADSL</b>			
Installed Ports	346,233	620,406	79.2
Accesses in Service	281,900	535,457	89.9

ATM, Frame Relay, and Dedicated IP, expanded by 5.7% in 2004 compared to 2003. As of December 31, 2004, we had installed 10,829 ATM, Frame Relay or Dedicated IP ports, in 87 cities. The DialNet service increased from 150,174 ports installed at the end of 2003, to 192,236 ports installed in 239 cities at the end of 2004, representing an increase of 28.0 %.

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>% Change</b>
DialNet	150,174	192,236	28.0
ATM/Frame Relay/ Dedicated IP	10,245	10,829	5.7

The ratio of active customers in the several data communications networks are in the following table:

	<b>Aggregate value until December 2004</b>		
	<b>Total number of ports</b>	<b>Total ports in service</b>	<b>Utilization rate (%)</b>
RAS (DialNet)	192,236	157,692	82.0
ATM/Frame Relay (Cisco Network)	8,544	6,494	76.0
SLDD, EILD and Frame Relay (Deterministic Network)	38,617	27,846	72.1
Dedicated IP/IP Light (Access routers)	2,285	1,432	62.7

## GSM Network

Brasil Telecom S.A. initiated the implementation of its GSM network during the second quarter of 2004 with the challenge to implement an extensive GSM network from the state of Acre to the state of Rio Grande do Sul in a very short period of time, using the most advanced wireless technology available worldwide and integrated into one of the largest wireline networks of Brazil.



The project planning and the implementation of this new network took into consideration the following assumptions:

- GSM Technology 1800/900MHz for voice;
- GPRS/EDGE Technology for Data;
- Technological evolution guaranty;
- Unique Voice Core distributed in an initial topology of 3 MSCs organized regionally according to the traffic interest of each region;
- Two HLRs, geographically separated, assuring security and flexibility;
- Unique Data Core, fully integrated to the fixed-line data network of Brasil Telecom S.A.;
- Access network originally distributed through 615 localities covered by 1700 Radio Base Stations;
- GPRS coverage in 100% of the localities covered;
- Full integration with the existing transmission resources of the Brasil Telecom S.A. wireline network;
- Intensive sharing of the existing wireline infra-structure of Brasil Telecom S.A. and other wireless operators in the market;
- Integration with Brasil Telecom S.A. fixed-line platforms, leveraging technical/operational synergies between companies.

#### *Network Modernization*

With respect to our network infrastructure, we apply an operating model based on operating efficiency, which uses cutting-edge technological resources to assure flexibility and quality for our users.

The improvements in our network infrastructure were based on a convergence model of services and applications, as well as a single and flexible network accessible to all clients from any location and at any time. With our network infrastructure, we are able to provide fully integrated services, whether fixed-line or wireless, voice, data or image, thereby optimizing available resources.

During 2004, the following steps were taken to further the objectives listed above:

- a) Expansion of DSLAM capacity and capability was started as part of the "Broadband Services Expansion Project". This introduced support of ADSL2+ and the use of IP/Ethernet DSLAMs instead of ATM DSLAMs;
- b) Deployment of Metro Ethernet Metropolitan Network to provide high speed data services;
- c) Satellite platform was contracted to provide voice and data services complementarily to our earthen network coverage, mainly in remote areas and to reach clients beyond Region II;
- d) Expansion of the optical network, increasing DWDM capacity for the cities of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte;
- e) Deployment of point-to-multipoint wireless IP access in 21 cities (18 located outside our concession region), to provide voice and data services;
- f) Deployment of Sink Hole Routers/Network. These are used to divert attacks from hackers or viruses and provide the capability to reduce the risk of loss of network elements or of client access, while simultaneously allowing the investigation of on going attacks;
- g)

Deployment of a GSM/GPRS/EDGE network in our concession area, which is integrated with our fixed network, allowing the launch of convergent fixed-mobile services such as: integrated pre-paid card, fixed-mobile private voice network and unified voice mail; and

- h) Addition of a Convergence "Service Layer" to the topology of the Brasil Telecom network, based on a OSA/Parlay architecture. This allows services to be developed using commercial

software development packages and supports the rapid creation of applications that function across any kind of network.

### ***Competition***

We operate in the local fixed-line telecommunications, domestic long distance telecommunications as well as in the data communications markets in our region. We compete primarily on the basis of features, pricing and customer service. In general, the increasingly competitive marketplace has resulted in decreasing prices for telecommunications services, driven by increasing competition, implementation of new technology and regulatory oversight. Accordingly, the cost of maintaining our market share has increased and our margins have decreased due to higher subscriber acquisition costs in the form of advertising and discounts.

As a result of the certification by Anatel that we have met our universalization targets on January 19, 2004, we started offering interregional and international long distance services and we began offering wireless telephony services in our region in furtherance of our business strategy to provide integrated telecommunications services both in our region and throughout Brazil. The certification of other service providers' compliance with universalization and expansion targets permits other service providers to operate in our region. We may now have to compete in our region against competitors from outside of our region that offer a more extensive array of fixed-line, mobile, local and/or long-distance telecommunications services throughout Brazil.

### ***Local Services***

Currently, we are the leading local fixed-line telecommunications services provider in our region, with an estimated 95.0% market share. This estimate is based on outside consultants' statistical estimates using volume of outgoing and incoming local calls of our competitors that interconnect through our network. Global Village Telecom is our main competitor in providing local fixed-line telecommunications services in our region. Our dominant position in the local fixed-line telecommunications market is due, among other things, to the fact that we did not face any competition in this market until the entry of Global Village Telecom in November of 2000. Global Village Telecom is an independent service provider operating under an authorization from Anatel. Since then, we have been able to maintain our market share in our region due to our extensive network and the features, prices and services we offer.

In the short-term, we could lose market share in the provision of local fixed-line telecommunications services, mainly in the corporate segment, as additional competitors are allowed to enter the fixed-line market in our region. To date, numerous companies have permission by Anatel to provide local fixed telecommunications services in our region. Our fixed-line services are also subject to competition from wireless service providers. See Item 3 "Key Information Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Brazilian Telecommunications Industry We face increasing competition in the Brazilian telecommunications industry which may have a material adverse effect on our market share, results of operations and financial condition."

### ***Intraregional (intrastate and interstate) Long-Distance Service***

We are currently the leading intraregional long-distance telecommunications services provider in our region, with an estimated 84.9% of the intraregional market share in 2004. These estimates are based on the volume of outgoing and incoming long-distance calls that select us to carry such calls by imputing our carrier selection code. Pursuant to Anatel regulations, callers are able to choose a service provider for each long distance call by selecting a carrier selection code that identifies the carrier. Until July 6, 2003, this was permitted only for calls made from fixed-line phones. Since such date mobile callers can also choose a service provider by selecting a carrier selection code. Our carrier selection code is "14". Accordingly, domestic long distance carriers including us, compete in the mobile-line long distance market. As our carrier selection code "14" was widely used for calls originating from fixed telephones, we quickly gained a significant share of the long-distance calls originating from mobile phones. Embratel is our most

significant competitor in providing intraregional long-distance telecommunications services in our region with approximately 8.1% of the total market share in 2004. The remaining market share is divided among Global Village Telecom, Intelig and other operators. The licenses awarded to Embratel, Intelig and Global Village Telecom are not subject to the same service quality and network expansion and modernization obligations that we are subject to under our concessions.

In the short-term, we expect to lose market share in the provision of intraregional long-distance telecommunications services as additional competitors are allowed to enter the market. To date, numerous companies have permission by Anatel to provide intraregional long-distance telecommunications services in our region. See Item 3 "Key Information Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Brazilian Telecommunications Industry We face increasing competition in the Brazilian telecommunications industry which may have a material adverse effect on our market share, results of operations and financial condition."

#### *Interregional and International Service*

Historically, under Anatel rules, regional fixed-line companies, such as us, generally were not permitted to offer interregional or international long-distance services until December 31, 2003. Having received certification by Anatel of our compliance with universalization targets on January 19, 2004, we began offering interregional and international long-distance services. Due to our unique position in Region II combined with marketing and promotional pricing, we were quickly able to gain approximately 35.6% of the interregional market share and 23.8% of the international market share in Region II in 2004. We compete primarily against Embratel which has approximately 49.2% and 51.5% of the interregional and international market share, respectively, in our region in 2004. We expect our market share to increase as clients are no longer concerned about selecting a carrier based on where the call ends.

To date, numerous companies have permission by Anatel to provide long-distance interregional and international telecommunications services in our region. See Item 3 "Key Information Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Brazilian Telecommunications Industry We face increasing competition in the Brazilian telecommunications industry which may have a material adverse effect on our market share, results of operations and financial condition." There are also risks to our ability to continue to provide these services if TII returns to our control group. See Item 3 "Key Information Risk Factors Risks relating to our company Certain beneficial shareholders control a large percentage of our voting shares, and their interests may conflict with the interests of our other shareholders, including minority shareholders. Disputes among our controlling shareholders and entities that manage our controlling shareholders have had and could in the future have a material adverse effect on our management and operations." This could have a material adverse effect on our ability to increase our market share.

#### *Data Transmission Services*

Over the past few years, the data communications sector of the telecommunications industry has shown the highest annual growth rates and has accordingly attracted many participants. We believe that within data transmission services, the broadband market will grow substantially over the next few years as broadband, and in particular ADSL, can offer users a single access point through which they can obtain voice, data and image services.

We have increased our market share in the data communications market primarily through the development of our ADSL service. We are the leading provider of ADSL accesses in Region II with approximately 535,000 ADSL accesses. Our leading position in ADSL is based upon our market share of the local service market as ADSL accesses are provided through the local telephone lines in our region. Approximately 50.0% of the ADSL accesses we provide in Region II are to our BrTurbo customers. Global Village Telecom also provides ADSL accesses in our region. We also face competition from cable TV operators who provide broadband access through cable modems. To date, in Brazil, we have not faced significant competition from cable providers providing telephony or quasi-telephony services which compete with the telephony services we offer and the penetration of cable television in our region is limited.

In the dial-up services market, our DialNet service has approximately 86.0% of the internet dial up service market in our region. This estimate is based upon our share of the total volume and duration of dial up calls that are made using our network, which we can identify as calls made to dial up services including our own. We compete in the dial

up internet market primarily with Global Village Telecom. We have approximately 86.0% of the market share for Dedicated IP services in Region II, with the remainder offered by Embratel. Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos competes against the submarine cable business of Telefônica, Global Crossing and Telecom Italia. We may face significant competition in all of our data transmission services if we are required by Anatel to lower the rates we are permitted to charge other operators or ISPs to use our lines.

Vetor (MPLS based IP VPN) reached 1,300 accesses, corresponding to an approximate 37.0% market share in Region II. Following the major trends of the market, this product had the highest growth rate among data communications products.

In November 2004, we launched the International Private Line service, extending SLDD services to other countries. The service offers secure and efficient data, voice and multimedia transmission at different speeds and for various volumes of information and is targeted at the corporate, government and enterprise markets, focusing on connection points between Brazil and United States.

### *Internet Services*

In 2004, BrTurbo had an approximate 60.8% market share of the monthly broadband ISP sales in Region II. BrTurbo was the leader in terms of number of active clients among the providers operating high-speed access services based on ADSL technology in Region II. At December 31, 2004, it had 257,120 residential clients and 8,746 business clients. Currently, about 50.0% of the ADSL accesses we provide are to BrTurbo's clients. BrTurbo competes primarily against the ISPs Terra.com and Globo.com and local area ISPs.

Since we acquired iBest, the company has grown mainly in Region II, where it is currently the market leader with approximately 44.9% of total internet minutes. iBest ended 2004 with more than 8.3 million registered users of which 1.5 million were active, generating approximately 16.5 billion dial-up minutes during that year. The "Prêmio iBest" brand name has become the largest Internet Award in Brazil. iBest's main competitors in Region II are Click 21 and Pop, which are owned by Embratel and Global Village Telecom, respectively.

iG is considered the largest dial-up internet service provider of Brazil with a market share of more than 30.0% of dial-up internet minutes. Additionally, iG is the largest wireless content portal of the country. iG has more than 3 million active internet users and 7.7 million active email accounts.

### *Wireless Services*

We launched our wireless operations in September 2004. Wireless services are equally competitive and we face competition in Region II mainly from (i) a joint venture between Telefônica and Portugal Telecom (marketing under the brand name "Vivo"), (ii) Telmex, which competes against us in our region through América Móviles (marketing under the brand name "Claro") and (iii) TIM. In addition wireless services compete directly against fixed-line services. If we are able to complete the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement, then we will not be offering wireless services directly but will participate in this business through the acquisition of an equity interest in TIMB, which as of April 28, 2005, had approximately 14.6 million wireless users. The Merger Agreement also contemplates operational agreements through which we will be able to continue to offer convergence services.

### *Effects of Competition*

The deregulation that started in 2002 and includes our recent certification and authorization to provide additional services inside and outside our region is expected to increase competition in our businesses. Although we believe we have a unique infrastructure in Region II (having inherited the incumbent network upon privatization of Telebrás) and we have been developing strategies to effectively protect our business, we expect that the entry of additional competitors into the market for local, long distance and wireless services in Region II as well as significant industry consolidation may adversely affect our related revenues. We anticipate, however, that growth in the Brazilian market will generate higher revenues, especially now that we are able to offer long distance and data services on a nationwide basis and wireless services in our region. While we expect that local traffic per line will continue to decline as we expand our network to lower-income customers who, on average, make fewer calls, we expect that our expansion into

these new business areas will provide us with new growth opportunities.

The impact of these competitive pressures will depend on a variety of factors that cannot currently be assessed at this time, some of which are beyond our control. Among such factors are the technical and financial resources available to our competitors, the business strategies and capabilities of our competitors, prevailing market



conditions, the regulations applicable to new entrants and us, and the effectiveness of our efforts to prepare for increased competition and consolidation.

### ***Customer Service***

We provide customer service primarily through call centers and flagship stores. In addition we provide services through our website and in physical locations through lottery booths (which take payments) and post offices which provide services such as terminal activation and repair requests.

We have consolidated our call center structure, by merging our 30 pre-existing sites into five sites (Goiânia, Campo Grande, Florianópolis, Brasília and Curitiba) while improving the level of service through outsourcing.

In an effort to improve service to our corporate customers, we have created a call center which is dedicated to such customers. We have implemented a customer relationship management system which integrates our systems and provides a database of information for each customer so that we can provide better service and identify sales opportunities during each contact we have with our customers. In addition, we are targeting small and medium-sized companies, in order to render more specialized customer services to them.

### ***Sales Channels and Marketing***

We have improved our sales channels in order to render specialized customer services in different niches and sectors of our market, but primarily in the corporate market. Our sales channels consist of direct marketing, our website, and our customer service contacts. Our residential sales are primarily handled through our 800 numbers or our website. Our corporate sales are primarily handled through direct sales contacts with our sales representatives.

With the launch of our mobile operations in September 2004, we opened integrated flagship stores following the one-stop-shop concept. In these stores, clients have access to our entire portfolio of products and services and we are able to capitalize on the competitive advantages of an integrated telephony operation. The majority of our flagship stores are located in the main shopping centers of Region II. Our mobile brand, Brasil Telecom GSM, is also marketed in other points of sales, including kiosks, exclusive authorized sales agents, non-exclusive authorized sales agents and resellers among the main retailers.

We have increased our use of direct marketing in conjunction with outbound and inbound telemarketing as a way of targeting our market sectors (residential, commercial and corporate). At the same time, we have developed a complete portfolio of products and services, such as SLDD, Frame Relay, ATM, IP WAN, Dedicated IP, Light IP and DialNet, to meet the needs of our customers.

We have also developed and improved our website, in an effort to deliver some of our services online. Currently, customers are able to access over 16 different types of services online, including: registration for the purchase of a telephone line, issuance of a second copy of a bill, consultation of a detailed and summarized bill, download of a bill, verification of receipt of payment, and requests for repairs.

### ***Intellectual Property***

We conduct research and development in the areas of telecommunications services, but do not independently develop any new telecommunications technology.

Since prior to the breakup of Telebrás, our company, as well as each of the other operating subsidiaries of Telebrás, have contributed to *Fundação CPqD - Centro de Pesquisa e Desenvolvimento em Telecomunicações* ("the Center"), a

research and development center formerly operated by Telebrás which develops telecommunications technology in Brazil. Pursuant to our arrangement with the Center, we have access to telecommunications software developed by the Center and other technological services provided by the Center, such as equipment testing and consulting and training services. In addition to the Center, we also depend on manufacturers of telecommunications products for the development of new hardware and new telecommunications technologies. See Item 5 "Operating

and Financial Review and Prospects Research and Development." and " History and Development of the company Capital Expenditures Research and Development."

### ***Our Trademarks in Brazil***

We have numerous trademarks registered with the Brazilian Institute of Industrial Property (INPI).

### ***Our Domain Name in Brazil***

We have numerous registered domain names, in Brazil and abroad.

## **Regulation of the Brazilian Telecommunications Industry**

### ***General***

Our business, including the services we provide and the rates we charge, are subject to comprehensive regulation under the General Telecommunications Law. We operate in each of the states in our region based on the concessions that were granted to each of Telepar, Telesc, Telegoiás, Telebrasília, Telemat, Telems, Teleron, Teleacre, CRT and CTMR. We also operate outside our original concession area based on the new authorizations received from Anatel as a result of the universalization targets certification. These concessions and authorizations allow us to provide specified services and set forth certain obligations with which we need to comply (the "List of Obligations").

Anatel is the regulatory agency for telecommunications that acts under the *Regulamento da Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações* (the "Anatel Decree"). Anatel is administratively independent from the Government and financially autonomous. Anatel is required to report on its activities to the Ministry of Communications and to the Brazilian Congress. Any proposed regulation of Anatel is subject to a period of public comment, including public hearings, and Anatel's decisions may be challenged administratively before the agency itself or through the judiciary system only in the Brazilian courts.

### ***Concessions and Licenses***

#### ***General***

We operate under public switched telephone network concessions (local and domestic long-distance), which grant us the right to offer local and domestic long-distance services in Region II.

Concessions to provide public-switched telephone network services are granted under the public regime but such services may also be provided through authorizations granted under the private regime.

In addition to us, the companies that operate in the public regime in Brazil ("public regime companies") include Telemar, Telesp, Embratel and certain other local operators. The four main public regime companies are the primary providers of fixed-line telecommunications services in Brazil, including local services and intraregional, interregional and international long-distance services. All other telecommunications service providers, including the other companies authorized to provide fixed-line services in Region II, operate in the private regime ("private regime companies").

According to the terms of Article 63 of the General Telecommunications Law and of Article 13 of the Brazilian Telecommunications Services Regulation, public regime companies are subject to certain obligations as to continuity and the universalization of services. Public regime companies are also subject to Anatel's supervision in regard to the

rates that they may charge. On the other hand, private regime companies are generally not subject to the requirements as to universalization of services, but they are subject to certain network expansion and quality of service obligations set forth in their licenses.

Public regime companies, such as Brasil Telecom S.A., also often offer certain services in the private regime, of which the most significant are data transmission services. Our wireless services are offered under the private regime, according to a license acquired by us on December 18, 2002.

#### *Fixed-line Services Public Regime*

Each public regime company operates under a concession that expires on December 31, 2005. Each public regime company may extend its current concession for an additional 20-year period. On June 20, 2003, Anatel approved a new General Plan on Quality and the concession contract model under which all fixed-line telecommunications carriers will operate from January 1, 2006 onwards. On June 28, 2003 Decree 4769 was entered approving the General Plan on Universal Service. See "Obligations of Telecommunications Companies New Telecommunications Regulations." The concessions may also be revoked prior to expiration. Every second year during the 20-year extension period, companies will be required to pay biannual fees equal to 2.0% of their annual net revenues from the provision of telecommunications services (excluding taxes and social contributions) during the immediately preceding year.

Prior to January 2004, we were not permitted to offer interregional and international long-distance services. Since we received Anatel's certification for achieving the universalization targets, we were qualified to receive a concession to provide such services, following the corresponding amendments of the concession contracts, which were signed on January 20, 2004, enabling us to originate long-distance calls in our concession area and terminate them at any point in the country, as well as outside the country. See "Obligations of Telecommunications Companies Public Regime Service Restrictions."

#### *Fixed-line Services Private Regime*

The Brazilian Telecommunications Regulation provides for the introduction of competition in telephone services in Brazil by enabling the Brazilian federal government to authorize, through Anatel, four private-regime companies three to provide fixed-line local services and intraregional long distance services, one in each of the three regions of the General Concession Plan, and one to provide intraregional, interregional and international long distance services throughout Brazil. Anatel has granted private-regime operators licenses to operate in Region II. Anatel has also granted licenses to other private regime companies to operate in Regions I and III of the General Concession Plan and licenses to other private-regime companies to provide intraregional, interregional and international long distance service in Region IV of the General Concession Plan. Since 2002, the number of authorizations that can be granted by the Brazilian federal government is unlimited.

After receiving the certification for the accomplishment of our universalization targets, we obtained authorization to provide local and domestic long-distance services in certain sectors of our Region, under the private regime and to Regions I and III through the General Concession Plan. In addition, we were authorized to provide international long-distance services in Regions I, II and III (the entire country) of the General Concession Plan. The other primary public regime companies received similar authorizations.

#### *Regulation of wireless services PCS*

In September 2000, Anatel released a regulation regarding wireless telecommunications services for PCS. The PCS authorizations enable new participants in the Brazilian telecommunications market to compete with existing telecommunications service providers. The PCS regulation divides Brazil into ten distinct regions, each of which corresponds to the regions applicable to the public regime fixed-line telephone service providers. PCS services are provided within the 1800 MHz band, which contains Bands C, D and E. Accordingly, in addition to the adaptation of the terms of authorization of Band A and Band B service providers to PCS authorizations, up to three PCS

authorizations may be granted in each PCS region. Anatel held auctions for PCS authorizations during 2001 and 2002. No Band C PCS authorizations were granted.

The PCS license sets forth certain obligations and targets that must be met by a PCS service provider. Under these obligations and in our region, corresponding Region II of the General PCS Concession Plan, we are required to:

- 56 -

---

- cover an area equivalent to at least 50.0% of the urban area in 50.0% of the state capitals, the Federal District and cities with more than 500,000 inhabitants by December 18, 2003;
- cover all state capitals, the Federal District and all cities with more than 500,000 inhabitants by December 18, 2004;
- cover an area equivalent to at least 50.0% of the urban area in 50.0% of the cities with more than 200,000 inhabitants by December 18, 2005;
- cover all cities with more than 200,000 inhabitants by December 18, 2006; and
- cover all cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants by December 18, 2007.

A locality is considered "covered" when the covered service area contains, at least, 80.0% of the urban area. Failure to meet these targets may result in the penalties established in the regulations and, in extreme circumstances, in termination of the PCS license by Anatel.

#### *Obligations of Telecommunications Companies*

Like other telecommunications service providers, we are subject to obligations concerning quality of service and network expansion and modernization. The public regime companies are also subject to a set of special restrictions regarding the services they may offer, contained in the General Concession Plan, and special obligations regarding service quality, network expansion and modernization contained in the General Plan on Universal Service and the General Plan on Quality.

#### *New telecommunications regulations*

On June 10, 2003, the Brazilian government promulgated a presidential decree (the "Decree") setting forth a number of changes in the regulation of Brazil's public switched telephone network. The Decree sets forth general policies regarding, among others, universal access to telecommunications services, stimulation of employment and development of the Brazilian industry in the telecommunications sector, competition and adoption of rate adjustment policies that take into account Brazilian socio-economic conditions and the financial equilibrium of the existing concession contracts. The Decree also states that certain changes should be reflected in the terms of each concession contract to be entered into by each public regime company by December 31, 2005.

Pursuant to Decree 4769, dated June 27, 2003, the Federal Government approved a new General Plan on Universal Service, which will require PSTN providers to achieve certain targets from January 1, 2006. The purpose of the Plan is to allow all Brazilians, regardless of where they are located or their socio-economic status, to have access to the public switched telephone network. The costs related to meeting the targets contemplated by the Plan are to be paid for solely by the concessionaries of the PSTN (incumbents) pursuant to terms stipulated in each provider's concession contract. Anatel may revise the universal service targets, pursuant to the concession contracts, as well as propose additional targets and accelerate the Plan. The Plan applies to local, domestic and long-distance service providers in varying degrees.

Telecommunications services providers will be required to:

- install the public switched telephone network to provide access for individual residential, non-residential and "trunk" classes in locations with more than 300 inhabitants. Priority must be given to requests for individual access made by schools, hospitals, public security establishments, public libraries, museums, judiciary

agencies, federal public prosecutor's agencies, and consumer protection agencies. Special care and equipment must also be provided for the physically, hearing, visually and speech impaired;

- activate public telephones ("TUP"), which will allow any person to access the public switched telephone network, regardless of subscription or registration with the carrier, ensuring that the density



of TUPs per General Concession Plan sector is equal to or over 6 TUPs per 1,000 inhabitants from January 1, 2006 onwards. This requirement is less stringent than the targets established by the General Plan on Universal Service currently in force, which is 7.5 TUPs per 1,000 inhabitants for year-end 2003 and 8 TUPs per 1,000 inhabitants for year-end 2005. We believe this will have a lower impact on our costs and capital expenditures. When activating TUPs, providers must ensure there are at least 3 TUPs per group of 1,000 inhabitants evenly distributed over the service area. Fifty percent of the required TUPs must be installed in areas which are accessible twenty-four hours a day and 2.0% must be adapted for every kind of physical impairment. Local services providers are responsible for meeting the targets in areas located 30 kilometers or less from any other service area. Domestic and international long-distance providers must meet the targets in those service areas located thirty kilometers or more from any other service area covered by individual PSTN.

Local service PSTN providers will be required to activate and maintain telecommunications services stations ("PST") in each General Concession Plan sector in varying numbers. Such numbers will be determined by the estimated population from the years 2007 to 2011. The public switched telephone network incumbent services providers must also activate one PST per General Concession Plan sector in cooperative service stations ("UAC") in rural areas. For the years 2007 and 2008, the requirement will vary according to the size of the cooperative. For the year ended 2009, all cooperatives must be served.

The board of directors of Anatel also approved a public hearing with respect to the regulation of special individual access ("AICE"). The goal of AICE is to meet the needs of lower income households not yet serviced by the public switched telephone network, and the offer, rates, payment and utilization conditions, call treatment, network usage remuneration and taxation of AICE will be differentiated than for regular residential telephone services. AICE will be accessed via prepaid cards, which could be used for any type of telecommunications services. The installation orders of AICE will have to be fulfilled by the concessionaires within 30 days after the solicitation registration, according to the General Plan on Universal Service, effective from January 1, 2006.

On June 20, 2003, Anatel also approved the terms of the New Concession Contracts. See "Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Business." In June 2003, we notified Anatel of our intention to extend Brasil Telecom S.A.'s current concessions. Brasil Telecom S.A. and Anatel are expected to formally enter into new concession contracts by the end of 2005.

The New Concession Contracts contain terms reflecting the new General Plan on Quality and the new General Plan on Universal Service described above, which refer to:

- new universalization targets;
- changes in local rate measurement criteria from pulse to minute measurement;
- changes in rate adjustment formulas, including the creation of a telecommunications industry index and a reduction in chargeable rates for local interconnection rates.

Both the new General Plan on Quality and the new General Plan on Universal Service were approved in June 2003. They will only come into force upon the execution of the New Concession Contracts.

From our analysis to date, the major differences in the new models of the Concession Contracts relate to universalization targets and rate structure. Concessionaires will be required to implement the PSTN in a number of locations, including smaller communities, and the IGP-DI will no longer be used to determine the annual inflation-based adjustments to the rates. The terms of the New Concession Contracts also anticipate number portability and resale. This will enable customers to change telecom service providers without the inconvenience of having to change their contact number, which is especially important for corporate customers.



*Public Regime Service Restrictions*

Until December 31, 2003, according to the General Concession Plan, all fixed-line telecommunications service concessionaires, such as our company, were prohibited from offering new services, such as mobile services, fixed-line telecommunications services in the local mode outside our Region and in the interregional or international long-distance mode. Embratel was also prohibited from offering local or wireless services. The anticipated accomplishment of the universalization targets on behalf of the concessionaires enabled them to be exempt from this restriction. See " Network Expansion General Plan on Universal Service" and " Quality of Service General Plan on Quality." Every fixed-line telecommunications service provider was authorized, or is in the process of being authorized, to offer all other telecommunications services, except cable television services.

Public regime companies are subject to certain restrictions on alliances, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, including:

- holding more than 20% of the voting stock of any other public regime company for a five-year period beginning in July 1998. This prohibition is no longer enforced so long as the acquisition is not deemed detrimental to competition, does not put at risk the execution of the concession contract and is duly authorized by the necessary agencies;
- mergers between regional fixed-line services providers and wireless services providers (a prohibition that also applies to private-regime companies); and
- offering cable television services.

*Network Expansion General Plan on Universal Service*

Under the General Plan on Universal Service, each local fixed-line concessionaire is required to implement access to long-distance service within its region by installing public telephones in every location with more than 100 inhabitants situated at a geodesic distance of no more than 30 kilometers from another region serviced by the PSTN with individual access. The long distance concessionaire is responsible for providing service for locations with more than 100 inhabitants situated at a distance superior to 30 kilometers from another region serviced by the PSTN with individual access. No subsidies or other supplemental financing are anticipated for the network expansion obligations of the public regime companies. If a public regime company fails to meet its obligations in a particular region, Anatel may apply the penalties established in the terms and conditions of the concessions.

*Quality of Services General Plan on Quality*

Each regional public and private regime company must comply with the provisions of the General Plan on Quality and also with the terms of their respective concessions, licenses and authorizations. All costs related to the attainment of the goals established by the General Plan on Quality must be exclusively borne by the respective telephone service provider. The General Plan on Quality establishes minimum quality standards with regard to:

- responses to repair requests;
- responses to change of address requests;
- responses to customers by telephone;
- quality of public telephones;

- informing the user's access code;
- personal services to users;
- issuance of bills;

- modernization of the network; and
- responses to mail received from users.

These quality standards are measured according to the definitions and quality indicators established by Anatel. Companies are required to make monthly reports to Anatel regarding their performance in attaining the quality goals. Additionally, companies are obligated to provide Anatel an in-depth report and analysis regarding each quality goal that is not achieved. Anatel may also collect such data from companies at any time and without prior notice.

Companies that fail to attain the Anatel quality goals may be subject to warnings, fines, intervention by Anatel, temporary suspensions of service or cancellations of concessions and authorizations. See " Fines and Penalties" below.

#### *Fines and Penalties*

Failure to meet the network expansion and modernization obligations established by the General Plan on Universal Service, or any act or failure to act that harms competition in the telecommunications sector may result in fines and penalties of up to R\$50.0 million, as well as potential revocation of concessions.

Failure to meet the quality of service obligations established by the General Plan on Quality may result in fines and penalties of up to R\$40.0 million.

#### *Interconnection*

General rules regarding interconnection are described in the General Interconnection Rule, enacted by Anatel. All operating companies providing telecommunications services are required, if technically feasible, to make their networks available for interconnection on a non-discriminatory basis whenever such a request is made by any other telecommunications provider. Anatel currently sets and adjusts the interconnection rates between fixed-line networks as well as between fixed-line and wireless networks. Anatel has allowed fixed-line and wireless network operators to freely negotiate interconnection rates.

#### *Unbundling of local networks*

On May 13, 2004, Anatel issued Order (*Despacho*) 172, which establishes rules for partial ("line sharing") and full unbundling of local telephone networks and requires us to make our networks available to other telecommunications service providers. This Order limits the rate we can charge for line sharing for broadband speeds of up to 512kbps. Anatel has not yet fixed rates for full unbundling, although we expect that these rates will be lower than the rates we are currently permitted to charge. This Order was designed to increase competition in the local fixed-line and broadband internet access markets by making it easier for new telephone companies operating under either the public or private regime to enter these markets and for existing providers to provide new services or enter new regions, since the networks of all telecommunications service providers, including fixed-line operators such as us, will be made available at lower rates. Similarly, this Order makes it easier for us to provide new services and enter into new regions in competition with other operators. However, to date, operational rules for the implementation of the unbundling have not been agreed by the telecom operators in Brazil. These regulations are recent and by the end of 2004 no unbundled lines have been used by competitors in our region.

#### *Rate Regulation*

For basic plans, our concessions establish a mechanism of annual rate adjustment, based on rate baskets and the use of the IGP-DI price index. A rate basket is defined for local services (local basket) and long-distance services (DLD

basket). The rates for the provision of services through payphones and the rates for address change are treated separately.

- 60 -

---

The adjustment index considers the IGP-DI price index variation, discounting the pre-established productivity factor in the Concession Contract. Within each basket, the rates have a cap price, which can be adjusted up to a percentage above the established index (up to 9.0% higher for the local basket and up to 5.0% higher for the DLD basket). However, the application of a higher index to one of the items in the basket will require a balancing of the remaining items so as not to exceed the established limit for such basket.

On the adjustment dates for the local and DLD baskets, the rate adjustments for network use are also approved. These rates apply when any networks are used by other telecommunications carriers. There is a rate charged per minute of use of our local network by other carriers (TU-RL) and another for use of our intercity network (TU-RIU).

From the year 2001 to December 31, 2005, our rates and the other regional fixed-line companies have been and will be adjusted downward, in real terms, as follows:

	<b>K-factor annual productivity adjustments</b>				
	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Fixed-line companies local (services)	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Fixed-line companies local (network)	5.0%	10.0%	15.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Fixed-line companies long-distance and intercity network	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	5.0%	5.0%

We may also offer alternative plans in addition to the basic service plan. Such alternative plans must be submitted to Anatel for approval and are not subject to a price cap. Nevertheless, once set, prices may only be adjusted annually, based on the IGP-DI rate..

Companies holding PCS licenses are allowed to freely price their wireless services, provided they are linked to existing service plans authorized by Anatel. Price caps are adjusted annually, based on the IGP-DI. The interconnection rates were also subject to price caps fixed by Anatel and adjusted on an annual basis, up until June 2004, when the values started to be freely negotiated between the parties.

From the third year after the starting date of our concession, Anatel may submit us to the regime of free rating, provided that there is a large-scale and effective competition among the service providers. Under this regime, the concessionaire can establish its own rates. In the event this regime is implemented, Anatel may reestablish the previous regime should arbitrary increases of profits by the carriers or practices considered harmful to the competition occur.

For information on our current rates and service plans, see Item 4 "Information on the Company Rates."

#### *Termination of a Concession*

There are four possible ways that a public regime company's concession may terminate:

- non-renewal upon the expiration of the concession;

- an extraordinary situation in which the public interest is in jeopardy, during which time the Brazilian government may operate the company. In such cases, the Brazilian government must be legislatively authorized to terminate the concession and the company must be indemnified;
- contractual, legal or free-will termination by the company when an act or omission of the Brazilian government makes rendering services excessively burdensome to the company;
- the occurrence of:
  - a split-up, spin-off, amalgamation, merger, capital reduction or transfer of the company's corporate power without Anatel's authorization;



- the transfer of the concession without Anatel's authorization;
  - the dissolution or bankruptcy of the company; or
- an extraordinary situation where Brazilian government intervention, although legally possible, is not
- undertaken since such intervention would prove to be inconvenient, unnecessary or would result in unfair benefits for the company.

In the event a concession is terminated, Anatel may occupy the company's premises and use its employees in to continue providing services.

### **Property, Plant and Equipment**

Our main equipment consists of transmission equipment, including Synchronous Digital Hierarchy - SDH systems and radio links, switching equipment, including local, tandem and transit telephone exchanges, metallic and fiber-optic cable networks, data transmission equipment, network and infrastructure management systems, which include alternate current and direct current supply equipment, motor-generator groups, air conditioning, towers, buildings and land surveillance. Since we are a holding company, our property is owned by our subsidiary Brasil Telecom S.A.

Our properties are located in the States of Acre, Rondônia, Goiás, Tocantins, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Paraná, Santa Catarina, Rio Grande do Sul, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Belo Horizonte, as well as in the Federal District. The buildings used by our management are primarily located in the capital cities of these states. At December 31, 2004, we made use of approximately 5,380 properties, of which 3,452 were owned by our company and 1,928 were leased from third parties.

As of December 31, 2004, the net book value of our property, plant and equipment was approximately R\$9,360.0 million (which includes automatic switching, transmission and other equipment, buildings and other fixed assets net of accumulated depreciation and work-in-progress regarding the same).

### **Environmental and Other Regulatory Matters**

We, like other Brazilian telephone companies, are subject to federal, state and municipal environmental legislation and regulation. Our failure to comply with applicable environmental laws could result in administrative, civil and criminal sanctions against us.

As part of our day-to-day operations, we regularly install ducts for wires and cables and erect towers for transmission antennae. We may be subject to federal, state and/or municipal environmental licensing requirements due to our installation of cables along highways and railroads, over bridges, rivers and marshes, and through farms, conservation units and environmental preservation areas, among other places. So far, we have been demanded to obtain environmental licenses for the installation of transmission towers and antennae in the municipality of Porto Alegre, the capital of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, with no material impact on our operations. However, there can be no assurances that other state and municipal environmental agencies will not require us to obtain environmental licenses for the installation of transmission towers and antennae in the future and that such a requirement would not have a material adverse effect on the installation costs of our network or on the speed with which we can expand and modernize our network.

We must also comply with environmental legislation on the management of solid wastes. According to CONAMA Resolution 237 of 1997, companies responsible for the treatment and final disposal of solid industrial wastes, special wastes and solid urban wastes are subject to environmental licensing. Should the waste not be disposed of in

accordance with standards established by environmental legislation, the company generating such waste may be held jointly liable for any damage caused with the company responsible for treatment of the waste. In the States of Santa Catarina, Paraná and Mato Grosso, we have already implemented management procedures promoting the recycling of batteries, transformers and fluorescent lamps. During the current year those management practices will also be implemented in the other states.

In addition, we are subject to Anatel's requirements, which impose limits on the levels and frequency of the electromagnetic fields originating from our telecommunications transmissions stations.

We believe that we are in compliance with Anatel standards as well as with all applicable environmental legislation and regulations. We are currently not involved in any administrative or judicial proceeding involving material liability for environmental damage.

## **ITEM 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects**

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our Consolidated Financial Statements and notes, which are included elsewhere in this Annual Report. Certain important features of the presentation of our Consolidated Financial Statements are described in the introduction to "Selected Financial Data." See Item 3 "Key Information Selected Financial Data."

### **Overview of Results of Operations**

Our results of operations are significantly affected by a variety of factors, including:

- rate increases and changes in revenues from network services;
- regulatory factors;
- political and economic factors;
- foreign exchange and interest rate exposure;
- general trends of the telecommunications services industry; and
- competitive factors.

### ***Rates Increases and Changes in Revenue from Network Services***

Rates for fixed-line telecommunications services are subject to comprehensive regulation. Our concession contract establishes a price-cap mechanism by which Anatel sets and adjusts rates on an annual basis. The price-cap mechanism consists of maximum rates, established by Anatel, that may be charged for the provision of services and weighted average rates for baskets of basic services. The basket of local services covered by the maximum rate includes most of the services in the basic service plan, such as installation charges, monthly subscription fees and switched local services (traffic). Subject to certain limits, the rates for individual services within the basket may be increased by up to 9.0% above the limit, so long as the weighted average rate for the entire basket does not exceed the limit. Other services covered by the maximum rate include long distance services, which are determined based on five rate categories that vary with the time of day and the distance between the caller and the recipient, and network usage fees. For a further discussion of the application of prescribed rates to our individual services and average rates for baskets of services, see Item 4 "Information on the Company Business Overview Our Rates."

### ***Rate Increases***

Charges for local and non-local services changed substantially from 2000 to 2003. In 2000, Anatel authorized us to adjust the rates for our basket of local services, on average, by approximately 14.0%. In 2001, Anatel authorized us to adjust the rates for our basket of local services, on average, by approximately 10.0%. In 2002, Anatel again

authorized us to adjust the rates for our basket of local services, on average, by approximately 8.0% . These rate changes had a positive effect on revenues in the corresponding periods.

On June 27, 2003, Anatel authorized an increase in rates based on the IGP-DI index in connection with local and long distance services and network usage as provided for in our concession contract. The approved rate increases were equal to an average of 28.8% on local services and 24.9% on domestic long distance services. The

rate adjustments gave rise to a number of judicial claims throughout Brazil challenging the adjustments. In some claims preliminary injunctions were granted requiring rates to be adjusted based on the accumulated IPCA index variation over the 12 months prior to May 2003 (amounting to an average increase of approximately 17.2%). A conflict of jurisdiction proceeding was initiated for the purpose of having a single judge appointed to hear and decide on all these claims, in order to avoid conflicting decisions. On July 11, 2003, the STJ designated, on a provisional basis, the 2nd Federal Court of Fortaleza as the competent court to decide on all the claims. Although a final decision is still pending, in accordance with the provisional ruling, on July 12, 2003 we readjusted our rates downwards according to the IPCA index, effective retroactively to June 29, 2003.

When judgment was issued in the conflict of jurisdiction proceeding, the 2nd Federal Court of the Federal District was designated as the competent court to hear all the claims, and all preliminary decisions that had been issued were annulled.

On September 11, 2003, the 2nd Federal Court of the Federal District issued a preliminary injunction, in the public civil action originally brought by the Federal Attorney-General before the 2nd Federal Court of Fortaleza, stating that the rate adjustments should be based on the IPCA index and not the IGP-DI index as set forth in the concession contracts of the regional fixed-line telecommunications companies. The preliminary injunction was upheld in preliminary decisions issued in proceedings to suspend the effects of the preliminary injunction by the Federal Regional Court ("TRF") on October 20, 2003, the STJ on January 22, 2004 and the STF on March 15, 2004.

On July 1, 2004, the STJ issued its decision on the merits of the proceeding to suspend the preliminary injunction ordering that rate adjustments for 2003 were to be made on the basis of the IPCA index rather than the IGP-DI index. The STJ decided to suspend the effects of the preliminary injunction, determining that rates were to be adjusted based on the IGP-DI index, as foreseen by concession contracts, from the date of its decision.

The following table sets forth the adjustments in rates in 2004 for various services as adjusted by Anatel pursuant to the IGP-DI index. Rate adjustments have had a positive impact on our revenues for 2004.

	<b>Jul/02/2004</b>	<b>Sep/01/2004</b>	<b>Nov/01/2004</b>
Local services basket	6.89%	4.35%	4.17%
Installation	-18.50%	3.60%	3.42%
Residential subscription	7.44%	3.57%	3.43%
Non-residential subscription	7.43%	8.79%	8.09%
Trunk subscription	7.41%	3.55%	3.40%
Pulses	7.43%	3.61%	3.48%
Phone credits	7.41%	3.20%	3.08%
Change of address	7.42%	5.47%	5.19 %
Local interconnection	-10.47%	5.46%	5.18%
Domestic long distance basket	3.20%	4.78%	4.56%
Long distance interconnection	3.20%	5.46%	5.18%

#### *Network Services*

We provide access to our network and lease certain network facilities to other telecommunications companies as part of our network service business. This generates:

- interconnection fees paid to us by mobile service providers and other telecommunications operators (principally Embratel and Intelig) for the use of our network to complete calls to our subscribers;
- fees from mobile companies for the leasing of transmission facilities, certain infrastructure and other equipment used in transporting mobile calls within their own internal networks; and

- 64 -

---

- fees from the rental of our assets, such as points of presence, to other long-distance and mobile companies.

Interconnection fees are set by Anatel. With respect to revenue, the interconnection rate for the use of local networks (TU-RL) increased by 8.6%, 1.7%, 3.1%, and 0.68% in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004, respectively, while the interconnection rate for the use of intercity networks (TU-RIU) increased by 7.8%, 5.0%, 12.6%, and 14.5% in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004, respectively.

With respect to costs, we pay interconnection fees for using other companies' network to complete our clients' calls. To complete a fixed-to-mobile call, we pay an interconnection rate for the use of mobile networks (*Tarifa de Uso Móvel - TU-M / Valor de Uso Móvel - VU-M*), which increased by 11.0%, 22.0%, and 9.2% in 2002, 2003, and 2004, respectively. To complete a fixed-to-fixed call, we also pay interconnection rate for the use of local networks (*TU-RL*), and interconnection rate for the use of intercity networks (*TU-RIU*).

The growth of wireless telecommunications and an increase in long distance usage volumes have resulted in substantial growth of network services revenues for our competitors and us in 2001 and 2002. Network services revenues continued to grow in 2003, although at a lower rate, but contracted in 2004. Any adverse effect on our competitors' systems that in turn has a negative impact on their interconnection with our network could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

### ***Regulatory factors***

We operate under concessions from the Brazilian Government that authorize us to provide local fixed-line and specified types of long-distance telecommunications in our region, and require us to comply with certain obligations related to rates, quality of service, network expansion and modernization, and interconnection of our network. Our business, including the services that we provide and the rates that we charge, is subject to comprehensive regulation under Brazilian law. Brazil's telecommunications regulatory framework is continuously evolving. The interpretation and enforcement of regulations, the assessment of compliance with regulations and the flexibility of regulatory authorities are all marked by uncertainty.

Under Brazilian law, public regime companies, like us, must have the rates that they charge for products and services approved by Anatel. On June 20, 2003, Anatel enacted Resolution 341, which provides for new types of Anatel concession contracts, effective from January 1, 2006 until 2025. The Form of New Concession Contract provides for changes in the way in which rates are set. For example under the current proposals, the IGP-DI index will no longer be used to determine the annual inflation-based adjustments to the rates charged by telecommunications companies. Private regime companies that compete with us, like Global Village Telecom or Intelig, do not require Anatel approval when setting their rates and may unilaterally determine the prices that they charge for their services. As a result, adverse changes in Brazilian telecommunications regulations and non-approval or even delays in the approval of rate changes by Anatel, could adversely impact our operations and competitive position.

### ***Political and Economic Factors***

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the "Business Overview" section included in Item 4 "Information on the Company." Our financial condition and results of operations are significantly affected by Brazilian telecommunications regulations, including the regulation of rates. Our financial condition and net income have also been, and are expected to continue to be, affected by the political and economic environment in Brazil. In particular, our financial performance is affected by:

- economic growth and its impact on demand for telecommunications services;

- the cost and availability of financing;
- devaluation of the real and increase in interest rates;

- 65 -

---



- the exchange rates between Brazilian and foreign currencies; and
- competition

We are the leading provider of local fixed-line telecommunications services, as well as of intraregional fixed-line telecommunications services in our region. As of July 1999, Embratel and Intelig were authorized to and began to provide intraregional long-distance services in our region, thereby increasing competition for us. In 2000, Global Village Telecom began to provide local and intrastate fixed-line telecommunications services in our region. To date, Telemar, Embratel and Intelig, among others, have been granted permission by Anatel to provide local fixed telecommunications services in our region. Telesp, Albra, TIM and Global Village Telecom, among others, have been granted permission by Anatel to provide intraregional, interregional and international telecommunications services in our region. See Item 3 "Key Information Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Brazilian Telecommunications Industry We face increasing competition in the Brazilian telecommunications industry which may have a material adverse effect on our market share, results of operations and financial condition."

In 2002, various factors had a negative impact on the Brazilian economy, including the uncertainties relating to the political and economic future of Brazil and the political and economic uncertainties of other South American countries, including Argentina and Venezuela. These factors had an influence in 2002 on the increased unpredictability of the markets in Brazil, the decreased ability to obtain credit and the decreased investor confidence in the Brazilian marketplace.

During a period of relative economic stability in the first half of 2002, the Brazilian Central Bank decreased the base interest rate ("SELIC") to a level of 18.0% as of July 17, 2002. However, as a result of the deteriorating economic conditions and the internal political instability caused by the Brazilian presidential elections in the second half of 2002, the Central Bank increased the SELIC during the second half of 2002 to 25.0% on December 18, 2002. During 2002, GDP increased by 1.5% .

In 2003, the continued political and economic uncertainty in Brazil led the Brazilian Central Bank to raise the SELIC to 25.5% on January 22, 2003 and further to 26.5% on February 19, 2003. The base interest fell from a high of 26.5% to 16.5% at the end of 2003 due to the improving political situation in Brazil, the growth of the global economy and investors' perception of the Brazilian market.

Notwithstanding a certain amount of economic instability from 2000 to 2002, the economic policies initiated by the new government have increased stability in the market, leading to an appreciation of the *real* in 2003 by 18.2% to R\$2.8892 per U.S.\$1.00 as of December 31, 2003.

In the political field, 2004 began with the so-called "Valdomiro Case", a crisis involving members of the Brazilian Presidency. The year was also marked by the municipal elections, which distributed the political powers of the country more evenly, and the approval by the Federal Senate of the provisional measure that gave the President of the Brazilian Central Bank Minister status, which the Brazilian Government identified as the first step for the independence of the Central Bank.

Regarding the economy, 2004 was a year of economic recovery and continuing growth in exports, which contributed for the decrease in country-risk. Although pressured by the increase in crude oil prices and the economic recovery experienced in the year, inflation was kept under control.

The exchange rate was influenced by periods of economic uncertainties resultant from the political crisis which developed after the "Valdomiro Case". The exchange rate depreciated to R\$3.20 per U.S.\$1.00 in May 2004, from R\$2.89 per U.S.\$1.00 in December 2003, but appreciated gradually thereafter to close at R\$2.65 per R\$1.00 on

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

December 31, 2004. The following table shows the GDP growth, the inflation rate, the U.S. dollar exchange rate devaluation (appreciation) and the SELIC rate for the three-year period ended December 31, 2004.

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
GDP growth <sup>(1)</sup>	1.9	0.5	5.2

- 66 -

---

IGP DI Inflation rate <sup>(2)</sup> %	26.4	7.7	12.1
IGP M Inflation Rate <sup>(2)</sup> %	25.3	8.7	12.4
IPCA Inflation rate <sup>(3)</sup> %	12.5	9.3	7.6
U.S. dollar exchange rate devaluation / (appreciation) <sup>(4)</sup> %	52.3	(18.2)	(8.1)
SELIC <sup>(4)</sup> %	25.0	16.5	17.8

---

(1) Source: IBGE

(2) Source: Fundação Getúlio Vargas

(3) Source: Consumer Price Index IBGE

(4) Source: Brazilian Central Bank

### ***Foreign Exchange and Interest Rate Exposure***

Our current cost of financing is not materially exposed to exchange rate risk. At December 31, 2004, approximately 33.2% of our indebtedness, or R\$1,522.3 million, was denominated in foreign exchanges (U.S. dollars, Japanese Yens and Cesta de Moedas), not including hedge adjustments. At December 31, 2004, we hedged approximately 50.4% of our indebtedness in foreign currency. For the year ended December 31, 2004, loss on foreign currency and monetary restatement amounted to approximately R\$6.1 million, due to the appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar. We also face foreign exchange risk because a significant portion of our equipment costs, such as costs relating to switching centers and software used for upgrading network capacity, are denominated in U.S. dollars. Historically, approximately 35.0% our total capital expenditures have been U.S. dollar denominated. See Item 11 "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk Quantitative Information About Market Risk Exchange Rate Risk."

We are exposed to interest rate risk as a consequence of our floating rate debt. At December 31, 2004, 99.5% of our *reais*-denominated interest-bearing liabilities bore interest at floating rates, not including hedge adjustments. We have not entered into derivative contracts or made other arrangements to hedge against this risk. Accordingly, if market interest rates (principally the TJLP (the Brazilian federal long-term interest rate) and the CDI (the Brazilian interbank deposit rate)) rise in the future, our financing expenses will increase. Furthermore, at December 31, 2004, approximately 53.3% of our foreign currency denominated debt bore interest at floating rates based on either LIBOR or LIBOR Yen, not including hedge adjustments. At December 31, 2004, the six-month LIBOR was 2.8% per annum and the six-month LIBOR Yen was 0.1% per annum.

We use swap contracts to limit the risk of increases in our liabilities (expressed in *reais*) on our foreign currency debt as a result of currency fluctuations. The swap contracts consist of currency swaps under which an obligation denominated in foreign currency is exchanged for a *real*-denominated obligation bearing interest at the CDI rate. The gain (loss) of swap transactions recorded under the Corporation Law Method offsets the effect of exchange rate variations on our foreign currency indebtedness.

### ***General Trends of the Telecommunications Services Industry***

In 1998, Brazil had approximately 20.0 million fixed-line telephones and by the end of 2004, there were 42.5 million. According to Anatel, wireless subscribers increased from 7.4 million in 1998 to 65.6 million in 2004. Since mid-2003, we have been observing a stabilization in the growth of the fixed-line telecommunications services market, while the wireless telecommunications services segment of our industry continues to experience consistent growth.

We do not expect future material increases in the number of installed fixed-lines and revenues from basic fixed-line telecommunications services; however, we do expect to generate revenues from wireless telecommunications services. By owning both wireless and fixed-line telecommunications services networks, we expect to be able to minimize our

interconnection costs for outgoing calls and maximize interconnection revenues from incoming calls. If we are able to complete the transactions contemplated in the Merger Agreement, we expect to realize savings from our most-favored customer status and benefit from other operational agreements. We also expect an increase in revenues from our data transmission services due to the increased demand for our ADSL and other data transmission services.

- 67 -

---

**Competitive Factors**

We are the leading provider of local fixed-line telecommunications services and intraregional fixed-line telecommunications services in our region. However, we face rapidly increasing competition from companies that already operate in our region, such as Embratel, Intelig and Global Village Telecom and from companies which have been given permission to operate in our region, such as Telemar, Telesp, Albra, TIM, Telmex do Brasil, TNL PCS S.A., CTBC Telecom and Sercomtel.

The entry of new competitors in the local market, the long distance market or the other markets in which we compete may have an adverse impact on our business, financial condition, results of operations or prospects. The extent of any adverse effects on our results of operations and market share from competition will depend on a variety of factors that cannot now be assessed with precision, some of which are beyond our control. Among these factors are the technical and financial resources available to our competitors, their business strategies and capabilities, consolidation of competitors, prevailing market conditions, the regulations applicable to us and to the new entrants, including those pertaining to providers of wireless telecommunications services, and the effectiveness of our efforts to be prepared for increased competition.

**Attainment of Certification that the Universalization Targets set forth by Anatel have been met**

On January 19, 2004, Anatel certified the accomplishment of our network expansion and universal service targets established in our concession contract. We thereby received authorization to provide (i) local and intraregional long-distance services in Regions I and III; (ii) international long-distance services in Regions I, II and III; (iii) interregional long-distance services to anywhere within Brazil; (iv) wireless telecommunications services in our region; and (v) corporate data services throughout Brazil.

Telemar, Telesp and Embratel have also received certification from Anatel with respect to their network expansion and universal service targets and accordingly, they can provide services on a nationwide basis in direct competition with us. Having attained our certification, we now have the authorization to offer telecommunications services outside Region II and to compete directly with Telemar, Telesp, Embratel or any other telecommunications operator in their respective markets.

**U.S. GAAP Reconciliation**

We prepare our Consolidated Financial Statements in accordance with Brazilian GAAP, which differ in certain significant respects from U.S. GAAP. The following table sets forth a comparison of our net income (loss) and shareholders' equity in accordance with Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP as of the dates and for the periods indicated:

	<b>At and for the year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
	Thousands of <i>reais</i>		
Net income (loss) in accordance with:			
Brazilian GAAP	148,473	(168,647)	128,118
U.S. GAAP	279,899	(8,347)	271,444
Shareholders' equity in accordance with:			
Brazilian GAAP	6,663,432	6,261,431	6,128,490

U.S. GAAP	6,808,351	6,582,264	6,616,371
-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

See Note 33 to our Financial Statements for a description of the principal differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP as they relate to us, and a reconciliation of net income (loss) and shareholders' equity for the dates and periods indicated therein.

- 68 -

---

## **Critical Accounting Policies**

In preparing our consolidated financial statements, we have relied on estimates and assumptions derived from historical experience and various other factors that we deemed reasonable and relevant. "Critical accounting policies" are those that are important to the portrayal of our financial condition and results and utilize management's most difficult, subjective or complex judgments, estimates and assumptions. The application of these critical accounting policies often requires judgments made by our management regarding the effects of matters that are inherently uncertain on the carrying value of our assets and liabilities and the results of our operations. Our results of operation and financial condition may differ from those set forth in our consolidated financial statements, if our actual experience differs from management's assumptions and estimates. The following is a discussion of our critical accounting policies, including some of the variables, assumptions and sensitivities underlying the estimates relating to:

- goodwill impairment;
- revenue recognition;
- allowance for doubtful accounts;
- depreciation of property, plant and equipment;
- valuation of property, plant and equipment;
- provisions for contingencies;
- deferred income taxes; and
- provision for pensions.

## ***Goodwill Impairment***

In connection with SFAS 142's transitional goodwill impairment evaluation, we are required to perform an assessment of whether there was an indication that goodwill is impaired as of the date of adoption. To accomplish this, we were required to identify our reporting units and determine the carrying value of each reporting unit by assigning the assets and liabilities, including the existing goodwill and intangible assets, to those reporting units as of January 1, 2002. We were required to determine the fair value of each reporting unit and compare it to the carrying amount of the reporting unit within six months of January 1, 2002. To the extent the carrying amount of a reporting unit exceeded the fair value of the reporting unit, we would be required to perform the second step of the transitional impairment test, as this would be an indication that the reporting unit goodwill may be impaired. Under Brazilian GAAP, the amount of goodwill and other intangible asset impairment, if any, is measured based on projected undiscounted future operating cash flows.

Under the terms of the operating concessions granted by the Brazilian Federal Government, we are obliged to provide a certain minimum level of services over the entire area covered by our fixed-line operating licenses. Also, we do not possess specific financial information to determine an allocation of assets and liabilities in a level below the consolidated business nor do we manage different areas of the concession as if they were separate businesses. We therefore consider the entire fixed-line business to be one reporting unit and accordingly we determined the fair value, under U.S. GAAP, or the projected undiscounted future operating cash flows, under Brazilian GAAP, of our entire fixed-line business.

A determination of the fair value and the undiscounted future operating cash flows of our fixed-line business requires management to make certain assumptions and estimates with respect to projected cash inflows and outflows related to future revenues and expenditures and expenses. These assumptions and estimates can be influenced by different external and internal factors, such as economic tendencies, industry trends, interest rates, changes in our business strategies and changes in the type of services we offer to the market. The use of different



assumptions and estimates could significantly change our financial statements. For example, if we had used more conservative assumptions and estimates the expected future net cash flow may had lead us to recognize impairment charges on goodwill, which would have decreased our results of operations and shareholders' equity In viewing all of our fixed-line assets and liabilities as one reporting unit and performing an initial assessment on this reporting unit including the assumptions and estimates that we considered appropriate, we were not required to recognize any impairment loss under either, U.S. GAAP or Brazilian GAAP.

### ***Revenue recognition***

Under Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP, revenues from customer calls are based on time used, according to Brazilian law, and recognized when services are provided. Considering their high turnover and average short life, under Brazilian GAAP revenues from pre-paid phone cards for public telephones are recognized when the cards are sold. Under U.S. GAAP, revenues from sales of such pre-paid phone cards are recognized when the cards are used. Deferred revenues are determined based upon estimates of sold but unused public phone card credits outstanding as of each balance sheet date. Under Brazilian GAAP, revenues from activation and installation fees are recognized upon activation of customer services. Under U.S. GAAP, revenues and related costs from activation and installation fees are deferred and amortized over five years, the estimated average customer life.

We consider revenue recognition to be a critical accounting policy, because of the uncertainties caused by different factors such as the complex information technology required, high volume of transactions, fraud and piracy, accounting regulations, management's determination of collectibility and uncertainties regarding our right to receive certain revenues (mainly revenues for usage of our network). Significant changes in these factors could cause us to fail to recognize revenues or to recognize revenues that we may not be able to realize in the future, despite our internal controls and procedures. We have not identified any significant need to change our revenue recognition policy for U.S. GAAP or for Brazilian GAAP.

### ***Allowance for doubtful accounts***

Under Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP, we provide an allowance for doubtful accounts for accounts receivables for which recoverability is considered doubtful. We based our estimate on our historical collection experience and a review of the current status of all trade accounts receivable. This estimate considers the ratio of historical losses applied to the different categories of all outstanding amounts receivable from our customers. Additional allowance may be required in case the value of our estimated allowance for doubtful accounts differs from the amounts not actually collected due to a deterioration in the financial condition of our customers or otherwise.

### ***Depreciation of property, plant and equipment***

Under Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP, depreciation of property, plant and equipment is provided using the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the underlying assets and in accordance with tax rules. The principal depreciation rates are shown in Note 17 to the Consolidated Financial Statements. Given the complex nature of our property, plant and equipment, the estimates of useful lives require considerable judgment and are inherently uncertain, due to rapidly changing technology and industry practices, which could cause early obsolescence of our property, plant and equipment. If we materially change our assumptions of useful lives and if external market conditions require us to determine the possible obsolescence of our property, plant and equipment, our depreciation expense, obsolescence write-off and consequently net book value of our property, plant and equipment could be materially different.

### ***Valuation of property, plant and equipment***

In accordance with SFAS 144, long-lived assets, such as property, plant, and equipment, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to the estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its estimated future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized in the amount by which the

carrying amount of the asset exceeds the fair value of the asset. Under Brazilian GAAP, the recoverability of assets as mentioned above, if negative, would indicate the amount that would be considered impaired.

A determination of the fair value of an asset requires management to make certain assumptions and estimates with respect to projected cash inflows and outflows related to future revenues and expenditures and expenses. These assumption and estimates can be influenced by different external and internal factors, such as economic tendencies, industry trends, interest rates and changes in the marketplace. The use of different assumptions and estimates could significantly change our financial statements, for example if we had used more conservative assumptions and estimates the expected future net cash flow may had lead us to recognize impairment charges on our property, plant and equipment, which would had decreased our results of operations and shareholders' equity. No impairment losses have been recognized for any of the periods presented.

### ***Provisions for contingencies***

Under Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP, provisions for contingencies are recognized for the amounts of probable losses based on legal advice from our in-house and external legal counsel and management's opinion of the outstanding contingent matters at the balance sheet date. We continually evaluate the provisions for contingencies based on changes in relevant facts, circumstances and events, such as judicial decisions, that may impact the estimates, which could have material impact on our results of operations and shareholders' equity. While management believes that the current provisions for contingencies is adequate, there can be no assurance that these factors will not change in the future.

### ***Deferred income taxes***

We compute and pay income taxes based on results of operations under Brazilian Corporation Law, which are significantly different from the Brazilian GAAP figures that are presented in our financial statements in this annual report. Please see note 2b and 2c for more detailed description of the differences between Brazilian Corporation Law and Brazilian GAAP. Under Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP, we recognize deferred tax assets and liabilities based on the differences between the financial statement carrying amounts and the tax bases of assets and liabilities. We regularly review the deferred tax assets for recoverability and establish a valuation allowance if it is more likely than not that the deferred tax assets will not be realized, based on historical taxable income, projected future taxable income, and the expected timing of the reversals of existing temporary differences. When performing such reviews, we are required to make significant estimates and assumptions about future taxable income. In order to determine future taxable income, we need to estimate future taxable revenues and deductible expenses, which are subject to different external and internal factors, such as economic tendencies, industry trends, interest rates, changes in our business strategies and changes in the type of services we offer to the market. The use of different assumptions and estimates could significantly change our financial statements. For example, if we had used more conservative assumptions and estimates with respect to our expected future taxable income, we would be required to recognize valuation allowance charges on deferred income tax assets, which would decrease our results of operations and shareholders' equity. If we operate at a loss or are unable to generate sufficient future taxable income, or if there is a material change in the actual effective tax rates, the time period within which the underlying temporary differences become taxable or deductible, or any change in our future projections, we could be required to establish a valuation allowance against all or a significant portion of our deferred tax assets resulting in a substantial increase of our effective tax rate and a material adverse impact on our operating results.

### ***Provision for pensions***

In relation to the post-retirement pension liabilities, we are required to make assumptions and estimates regarding interest rates, investment returns, levels of inflation for future periods, mortality rates and projected employment

levels. The accuracy of these assumptions and estimates will determine whether we have created sufficient reserves for accrued pension and medical health care costs and the amount we are required to provide each year as our post-retirement pension costs. These assumptions and estimates are subject to significant fluctuations due to different external and internal factors, such as economic trends, social indicators, our capacity to create new jobs and our ability to retain our employees. If these assumptions and estimates are not accurate, we may be required to review our provisions for pensions, which could materially reduce the results of our operations and shareholders' equity.

## **New Accounting Pronouncements**

In May 2003 FASB Statement 150, Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments with Characteristics of both Liabilities and Equity, was issued. This Statement establishes standards for the classification and measurement of certain financial instruments with characteristics of both liabilities and equity. The Statement also includes required disclosures for financial instruments within its scope. For the Company, the Statement was effective for instruments entered into or modified after May 31, 2003 and otherwise was effective as of January 1, 2004, except for mandatorily redeemable financial instruments. For certain mandatorily redeemable financial instruments, the Statement will be effective for the Company on January 1, 2005. The effective date has been deferred indefinitely for certain types of mandatorily redeemable financial instruments. The Company currently does not have any financial instruments that are within the scope of this Statement.

In December 2003, FASB Statement 132 (revised), Employers' Disclosures about Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits, was issued. Statement 132 (revised) prescribes employers' disclosures about pension plans and other postretirement benefit plans; it does not change the measurement or recognition of those plans. The Statement retains and revises the disclosure requirements contained in the original Statement 132. It also requires additional disclosures about the assets, obligations, cash flows, and net periodic benefit cost of defined benefit pension plans and other postretirement benefit plans. The new annual disclosure requirements became effective for the Company as of the year ended December 31, 2004. Disclosures required by this standard are included in the notes to these consolidated financial statements.

In December 2003, the FASB issued Interpretation Nr. 46 (revised December 2003), Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities, which addresses how business enterprise should evaluate whether it has a controlling financial interest in an entity through means other than voting rights and accordingly should consolidate this entity. FIN 46R replaces FASB Interpretation Nr. 46, Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities, which was issued in January 2003. The Company was required to apply FIN 46R to variable interests in VIEs created after December 31, 2003. For variable interests in VIEs created before January 1, 2004, the Interpretation will be applied beginning on January 1, 2005. For any VIEs that must be consolidated under FIN 46R that were created before January 1, 2004, the assets, liabilities and noncontrolling interests of the VIEs initially would be measured at their carrying amounts with any difference between the net amount added to the balance sheet and any previously recognized interest being recognized as the cumulative effect of an accounting change. If determining the carrying amounts is not practicable, fair value at the date FIN 46R first applies may be used to measure assets, liabilities and noncontrolling interests of the VIE. The adoption of FIN 46R did not have a material effect on the Company's financial statements.

In December 2004, the FASB issued FASB Statement 123 (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment, which addresses the accounting for transactions in which an entity exchanges its equity instruments for goods or services, with a primary focus on transactions in which an entity obtains employee services in share-based payment transactions. This Statement is a revision to Statement 123 and supersedes APB Opinion 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, and its related implementation guidance. Management of the Company does not expect any significant impact on the Company's financial statements by applying this pronouncement.

In December 2004, the FASB issued FASB Statement 151, Inventory Costs, which clarifies the accounting for abnormal amounts of idle facility expense, freight, handling costs, and wasted material (spoilage). Under this Statement, such items will be recognized as current-period charges. In addition, the Statement requires that allocation of fixed production overheads to the costs of conversion be based on the normal capacity of the production facilities. This Statement will be effective for the Company for inventory costs incurred on or after January 1, 2006. Management of the Company does not expect any significant impact on the Company's financial statements by applying this pronouncement.

In December 2004, the FASB issued FASB Statement 153, Exchanges of Nonmonetary Assets, which eliminates an exception in APB 29 for nonmonetary exchanges of similar productive assets and replaces it with a general exception for exchanges of nonmonetary assets that do not have commercial substance. This Statement will be effective for the Company for nonmonetary asset exchanges occurring on or after January 1, 2006. Management of the Company does not expect any significant impact on the Company's financial statements by applying this pronouncement.

In March 2005, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation 47, *Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations*, which clarifies the term conditional asset retirement obligation as used in SFAS 143, *Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations*, as a legal obligation to perform an asset retirement activity in which the timing and/or method of settlement are conditional on a future event that may or may not be within the control of the Company. FIN 47 is effective no later than the end of fiscal years ending after December 15, 2005. The Company adopted SFAS 143 effective January 1, 2003, and currently does not expect that the adoption of the Interpretation 47 will have a material impact on the Company's results of operation or financial position.

In May 2005, the FASB issued FASB Statement 154, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, which replaces APB Opinion 20, *Accounting Changes*, and FASB Statement 3, *Reporting Accounting Changes in Interim Financial Statements*, and changes the requirements for the accounting for and reporting of a change in accounting principle. This Statement shall be effective for accounting changes and corrections of errors made in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2005.

### Results of Operations for the Years Ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004

The following discussion is based on and should be read in conjunction with our audited consolidated financial statements, as well as under the caption "Summary Information." The data at December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements, prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP. Investors should note that financial statements prepared in accordance with Brazilian GAAP differ from financial statements prepared in accordance with Brazilian Corporation Law in the methodology used for the recognition of inflation. Pursuant to Brazilian GAAP our audited financial statements as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003, and 2004 no longer recognize the effects of inflation after January 1, 2001 and are not restated in constant *reais*. Brazilian GAAP when applied to us differs in certain important respects from U.S. GAAP. See Note 33 to our Financial Statements for (i) a summary of the principal differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP as they relate to us, and (ii) a reconciliation to U.S. GAAP of shareholders' equity as of December 31, 2003 and 2004 and net income (loss) for each of the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

The following table sets forth certain components of our net income (loss), as well as the percentage change from the prior year, for 2002, 2003 and 2004.

	Year ended December 31,			Percentage change	
	2002	2003	2004	2002-2003	2003-2004
	(thousands of <i>reais</i> , except percentages)				
Net operating revenues	7,071,368	7,915,194	9,064,855	11.9	14.5
Cost of services	5,143,358	5,455,019	6,161,388	6.1	12.9
Gross profit	1,928,010	2,460,175	2,903,467	27.6	18.0
Operating expenses					
Selling expenses	763,346	821,627	1,087,028	7.6	32.3
General and administrative expenses	687,462	865,052	1,017,421	25.8	17.6
Other net operating expenses (income)	(121,181)	211,308	69,142	N/A	(67.3)
Operating income before net financial expenses	598,383	562,188	729,876	(6.0)	29.8
Net financial expenses	330,460	610,159	399,841	84.6	(34.5)

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Operating income (loss)	267,923	(47,971)	330,035	N/A	N/A
Net non-operating expenses	78,312	550,022	111,771	602.3	(79.7)
Employees' profit share	42,619	3,510	58,057	(91.8)	
Income (loss) before taxes and minority interests	146,992	(601,503)	160,207	N/A	N/A
Income and social contribution tax benefits	(916)	261,390	5,818	N/A	(97.8)
Income (loss) before minority interests	146,076	(340,113)	166,025	N/A	N/A
Minority interests	2,397	171,466	(37,907)	7,053.4	N/A
Net income (loss)	148,473	(168,647)	128,118	N/A	N/A

- 73 -

---



**Net Operating Revenues**

We generate operating revenues from:

- local services, including monthly subscription charges, measured service charges, public telephones and additional services;
- long-distance services;
- mobile services;
- data transmission;
- network services, including interconnection and leasing high-capacity lines; and
- other services, including toll-free, call forwarding and caller ID services.

Gross operating revenues are offset by value-added and other indirect taxes and discounts to customers. The composition of gross operating revenues by category of service is presented in our Financial Statements and discussed below before deduction of value-added and other indirect taxes. We do not determine net operating revenues for each category of revenue, as we do not believe such information to be useful to investors.

The following table sets forth certain components of our consolidated net operating revenues, as well as the percentage change from the prior year, for 2002, 2003 and 2004.

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>			<b>Percentage change</b>	
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>
	(thousands of <i>reais</i> , except percentages)				
Local services:					
Monthly subscription charges	2,656,631	2,858,002	3,110,050	7.6	8.8
Measured service charges	3,106,544	3,490,010	3,655,450	12.3	4.7
Public telephones	341,766	394,525	478,805	15.4	21.4
Other	149,643	147,434	126,260	(1.5)	(14.4)
Total local services	6,254,584	6,889,971	7,370,565	10.2	7.0
Long-distance services:					
Intraregional	1,748,190	1,923,094	2,393,997	10.0	24.5
Interregional and International	594	562	248,909	(5.3)	44,189.8
Total long-distance services	1,748,784	1,923,656	2,642,906	10.0	37.4
Data transmission	504,979	766,196	1,068,779	51.7	39.5
Network services	1,021,308	1,050,821	970,422	2.9	(7.6)
Mobile services	-	-	87,904	-	N/A
Other	310,025	446,737	622,866	44.1	39.4

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Gross operating revenues	9,839,680	11,077,381	12,763,442	12.6	15.2
Value added and other indirect taxes	(2,670,871)	(3,042,487)	(3,579,541)	13.9	17.6
Discounts	(97,441)	(119,700)	(119,046)	22.8	(0.5)
Net operating revenues	7,071,368	7,915,194	9,064,855	11.9	14.5

Net operating revenues increased 14.5% to R\$9,064.9 million in 2004 from R\$7,915.2 million in 2003. This growth in net revenues was principally due to: (i) the beginning of interregional and international services offer; (ii) a 39.5% increase in revenues from data transmission resulting from (a) an 89.9% increase in our ADSL accesses in service, (b) a 46.5% increase in our IP accesses (Dedicated IP, IP Light and IP Turbo) in service, and (c) a 10.7% increase in the number of our Frame Relays in service at December 31, 2004; and (iii) rate adjustments.

Net operating revenues increased 11.9% to R\$7,915.2 million in 2003 from R\$7,071.4 million in 2002. This growth in net revenues was principally due to: (i) a 10.2% increase in revenues from local services resulting

from a 6.7% increase in the average number of lines in service to approximately 9.7 million during 2003 from approximately 9.1 million in 2002; (ii) a 51.7% increase in revenues from data transmission resulting from (a) a 100.4% increase in our ADSL accesses in service, (b) a 91.7% increase in our IP accesses (Dedicated IP, IP Light and IP Turbo) in service, and (c) a 26.8% increase in the number of our Frame Relays in service at December 31, 2003; and (iii) rate adjustments.

#### *Revenues from Local Service*

Total revenues from local services increased by 7.0% to R\$7,370.6 million in 2004 from R\$6,890.0 million in 2003. This increase was primarily due to rate adjustments and achieved despite the decreasing penetration of fixed-line telecommunications services in our region, represented by a decrease in telephone density in our region of 22.4 lines in service per 100 inhabitants at December 31, 2004 from 23.4 lines in service per 100 inhabitants at December 31, 2003. The total number of lines in service decreased to 9.5 million at December 31, 2004 from 9.9 million at December 31, 2003.

Total revenues from local services increased by 10.2% to R\$6,890.0 million in 2003 from R\$6,254.6 million in 2002. This increase was primarily due to rate adjustments as well as the increasing penetration of telecommunications services in our region, represented by an increase in telephone density in our region of 23.4 lines in service per 100 inhabitants at December 31, 2003 from 23.1 lines in service per 100 inhabitants at December 31, 2002. The total number of lines in service increased to 9.9 million at December 31, 2003 from 9.5 million at December 31, 2002.

#### Monthly Subscription Charges

Total revenues from monthly subscription charges increased by 8.8% to R\$3,110.0 million in 2004 from R\$2,858.0 million in 2003. This revenue growth is primarily due to the rate adjustments of 15.1% and 26.2% to residential and non-residential clients, respectively. The increase in monthly subscription charges was partially offset by the decrease in lines in service and our continued offering of alternative plans to clients who requested line cancellations in areas where we have idle capacity. These alternative plans were implemented for the purpose of retaining clients in these areas.

Total revenues from monthly subscription charges increased by 7.6% to R\$2,858.0 million in 2003 from R\$2,656.6 million in 2002. This revenue growth is primarily due to the increase in the average number of lines in service during the period, as well as to the rate increase to residential and non-residential clients of 17.2%. The increase in monthly subscription charges was partially offset by our continued offering of alternative plans to clients who requested line cancellations in areas where we have idle capacity. These alternative plans were implemented for the purpose of retaining clients in these areas.

#### Measured Service Charges

Total revenues from measured service charges, which include charges for pulses used in excess of the fixed monthly allowance and charges for local fixed-line to mobile handsets, increased by 4.7% to R\$3,655.5 million in 2004 from R\$3,490.0 million in 2003. This increase was primarily due to a 5.7% increase in revenues from calls made from a fixed-line to mobile handsets inside the mobile subscriber's home area ("VC-1"), resulting from an increase in 2004 in the number of mobile lines in our region of 51.5%, according to Anatel estimates, offset by a decrease in telephone density in our region. The increase in VC-1 revenues was partly offset by a decrease in total billed pulses.

Total billed pulses, which are the number of pulses that exceed the fixed monthly allowance decreased by 9.7% to approximately 10.8 billion in 2004. A pulse represents an average of 2.5 minutes of call time. Besides the decrease in telephone density, the number of billed pulses per average lines in service per month decreased to 93.0 in 2004,

compared to 103.2 in 2003. This decrease in billed pulses is consistent with the industry-wide trend of fixed-to-mobile substitution and increased use of our ADSL service instead of our dial-up connections.

- 75 -

---

Total revenues from measured service charges, which include charges for pulses used in excess of the fixed monthly allowance and charges for local fixed-line to mobile handsets, increased by 12.3% to R\$3,490.0 million in 2003 from R\$3,106.5 million in 2002. This increase was primarily due to a 15.1% increase in revenues from calls made from a fixed-line to mobile handsets inside the mobile subscriber's home area ("VC-1"), resulting from an increase in 2003 in the number of mobile lines in our region of 36.5%, according to Anatel estimates, as well as increased telephone density in our region. The increase in VC-1 revenues was partly offset by a decrease in total billed pulses.

Total billed pulses decreased by 8.1% to approximately 12.0 billion in 2003. Despite the increase in telephone density, the number of billed pulses per average lines in service per month decreased to 103.2 in 2003, compared to 119.9 in 2002, reflecting our increasing penetration into lower income households. This decrease in billed pulses also reflects lower overall economic growth during 2003, and is consistent with the industry-wide trend of fixed-to-mobile substitution and increased use of our ADSL service instead of our dial-up connections. By not automatically disconnecting delinquent clients at switch centers with idle capacity, we were able to continue to realize revenues by blocking only their outgoing calls, enabling such clients to continue to generate fees for network service usage on calls they were permitted to receive on their blocked lines.

#### Public Telephones

Total revenues from public telephones increased by 21.4% to R\$478.8 million in 2004 from R\$394.5 million in 2003, primarily due to the rate increase of 14.3%, partially offset by a 2.5% decrease in the number of public phone services, which is the total call time purchased by clients on phone cards, to 5.82 billion credits in 2004 from 5.97 billion credits in 2003. Our revenues from public phone credits are generated from local and long-distance calls made from public payphones in our region using our prepaid telephone cards. This increase in our revenue from public phone credits was partially driven by an increase in public phone usage by prepaid mobile phone subscribers, because the rates charged for outgoing calls on fixed-line public telephones are lower than the rates charged on outgoing calls from prepaid mobile phones.

Total revenues from public telephones increased by 15.4% to R\$394.5 million in 2003 from R\$341.8 million in 2002, primarily due to the rate increase of 17.2%, as well as a 1.9% increase in the number of public phone credits to 5.97 billion credits in 2003 from 5.86 billion credits in 2002. This increase in our revenue from public phone credits was partially driven by an increase in public phone usage by prepaid mobile phone subscribers, because the rates charged for outgoing calls on fixed-line public telephones are lower than the rates charged on outgoing calls from prepaid mobile phones. The increase in public telephone revenues was also due to a 1.0% increase in the number of public telephones in service to 296,270 at December 31, 2003 from 293,282 at December 31, 2002.

#### Other Local Services

Total revenues from other local services which consist primarily of installation fees, address change and collect calls decreased by 14.4% to R\$126.3 million in 2004 from R\$147.4 million in 2003, due to a decrease in address change and collect calls revenues. Address change revenues decreased to R\$26.8 million in 2004 from R\$34.6 million in 2003 primarily as a result of the decrease in the number of address changes from 499,767 in 2003 to 446,436 in 2004. Collect calls revenues decreased to R\$49.8 million in 2004 from R\$61.9 million in 2003, principally due to the increase of 51.5% in 2004 in the number of mobile lines in our region, according to Anatel estimates.

Total revenues from other local services decreased by 1.5% to R\$147.4 million in 2003 from R\$149.6 million in 2002, due to a decrease in line rental revenues offset by an increase in installation revenues. Line rental revenues decreased to R\$2.2 million in 2003 from R\$5.2 million in 2002 as a result of the movement of some customers from rented lines to regular services in connection with our new promotional plans. Installation revenues increased to

R\$35.5 million in 2003 from R\$32.6 million in 2002, principally due to a reduction in the discounts we offered with respect to installation fees as part of our periodic promotional plans.

- 76 -

---

### *Revenues from Long-Distance Services*

At December 31, 2004, our revenues from long-distance services consisted primarily of intraregional (intrastate and interstate), interregional and international long-distance calls (both fixed-fixed and fixed-mobile).

#### *Intraregional Long-distance*

Our revenues from intraregional long-distance services increased by 24.5% to R\$2,394.0 million in 2004 from R\$1,923.1 million in 2003. This increase is due to: (i) a 56.3% increase in VC-2 minutes and a 311.0% increase in VC-3 minutes, which was fueled by the growth in the number of mobile subscribers in our region and the use of the CSC 14 in mobile calls, resulting in a combined increase in VC-2 and VC-3 fixed-mobile revenues to R\$916.8 million in 2004 from R\$473.1 million in 2003; (ii) the 3.2% average rate increase in the long-distance services basket in 2004; (iii) the increase in our estimated average market share to 90.3% from 90.1% in the intrastate segment, and to 79.5% from 78.1% in the interstate segment, due to our targeted and focused television, radio and newspaper advertising campaigns; and (iv) a 0.2% increase in the average number of lines in service, with a 9.8% decrease in traffic per line in 2004. VC-2 minutes are fixed-mobile minutes for calls generally made from a fixed-line to a mobile handset outside the mobile subscriber's home area but inside the region where the respective mobile operator provides service. VC-3 minutes are fixed-mobile minutes for calls generally made from a fixed-line to a mobile handset outside the mobile subscriber's home area and outside the region where the respective cellular provider provides service.

Our revenues from intraregional long-distance services increased by 10.0% to R\$1,923.1 million in 2003 from R\$1,748.2 million in 2002. This increase is due to: (i) a 6.7% increase in the average number of lines in service, with a 13.9% decrease in traffic per line in 2003; (ii) a 5.8% decrease in VC-2 minutes and a 21.9% increase in VC-3 minutes, which was fueled by the growth in the number of mobile subscribers in our region and resulted in a combined increase in VC-2 and VC-3 fixed-mobile revenues to R\$473.1 million in 2003 from R\$385.1 million in the corresponding period in 2002; (iii) the 12.55% average rate increase in the long-distance services basket in 2003; and (iv) the increase in our estimated average market share to 90.1% from 86.5% in the intrastate segment, and to 78.1% from 73.0% in the interstate segment, due to our targeted and focused television, radio and newspaper advertising campaigns.

#### *Interregional and International Long-distance*

Since January, 2004, Brasil Telecom, S.A. has been authorized to provide interregional and international long distance services. In 2003, revenues from interregional and international long-distance calls consist primarily of long-distance calls to bordering cities adjacent to our region. Revenues from interregional and international long-distance services increased by 44,189.8% to approximately R\$248.9 million in 2004, from approximately R\$562,000 in 2003. The increase in 2004 was primarily due to the offering of interregional and international long-distance services on a national scale since January 2004. Brasil Telecom, S.A.'s estimated market share in 2004 was of 35.6% and 23.8% in the interregional and international segments, respectively

Revenues from interregional and international long-distance services decreased by 5.3% to approximately R\$562,000 in 2003, from approximately R\$594,000 in 2002. The decrease in 2003 was primarily due to the 30.3% decrease in borderline traffic. Revenues from interregional and international long-distance calls decreased in 2003 because the services rendered in this segment were limited to interregional long-distance calls to bordering cities adjacent to our region.

### *Revenues from Data Transmission*

Total revenues from data transmission, which include revenues from ADSL, ATM, DialNet, Frame Relay and Dedicated IP, increased by 39.5% to R\$1,068.8 million in 2004 from R\$766.2 million in 2003. This growth was due to the 89.9% increase in the number of ADSL accesses in service to approximately 535,457 on December 31, 2004 from 281,900 accesses in service on December 31, 2003, which generated average revenues per line of approximately R\$89.5 during 2004, stable compared to the R\$90.1 observed in 2003. In addition, the 46.5% increase in the number of IP accesses (Dedicated IP, IP Light and IP Turbo) in service to 7,408 at December 31,



2004 from 5,057 at December 31, 2003 and the 10.7. % increase in the number of Frame Relay accesses in service to 14,480 at December 31, 2004 from 13,080 at December 31, 2003 also contributed to the higher revenues from data transmission over the period. The increase in ADSL subscribers was driven by increased residential demand while the increase in IP and Frame Relay accesses was due to increased corporate demand. Overall growth in all data transmission services was due to the expansion of our corporate client base and our ability to provide integrated solutions to our customers through targeted and focused marketing campaigns.

Total revenues from data transmission increased by 51.7% to R\$766.2 million in 2003 from R\$505.0 million in 2002. This growth was due to the 100.4% increase in the number of ADSL accesses in service to approximately 281,900 at December 31, 2003 from 140,690 accesses in service at December 31, 2002, which generated average revenues per line of approximately R\$90.1 during 2003, an increase of 31.0% from approximately R\$68.8 in 2002. In addition, the 91.7% increase in the number of IP access (Dedicated IP, IP Light and IP Turbo) in service to 5,057 at December 31, 2003 from 3,638 at December 31, 2002 and the 26.8% increase in the number of Frame Relay accesses in service to 13,080 at December 31, 2003 from 10,319 at December 31, 2002 also contributed to the higher revenues from data transmission over the period. The increase in ADSL subscribers was driven by increased residential demand while the increase in IP and Frame Relay accesses was due to increased corporate demand. Overall growth in all data transmission services was due to the expansion of our corporate client base and our ability to provide integrated solutions to our customers through targeted and focused marketing campaigns.

#### *Revenues from Network Services*

Revenues from network services are generated primarily from interconnection fees paid to us by other telecommunications operators for use of our network and, to a lesser extent, from leasing fees generated from mobile service providers for the leasing of our transmission facilities, infrastructure and other equipment, and fees from the rental of our assets, such as points of presence, to other long-distance and mobile operators.

Total revenues from network services decreased by 7.6% to R\$970.4 million in 2004, from R\$1,050.8 million in 2003, due to our entrance in the interregional and international segments. Since we provide these services, we no longer receive interconnection fees from other telecommunications companies. Total revenues from interconnection fees consisted of R\$468.0 million from fixed-to-fixed traffic (R\$607.1 million in 2003), R\$263.3 million from mobile-to-fixed traffic (R\$228.2 million in 2003) and R\$239.1 million from leasing fees (R\$215.5 million in 2003). This increase in interconnection fees from mobile-to-fixed traffic was due primarily to the growth in the number of mobile accesses in our region and, consequently, higher mobile traffic on our network combined with an increase in rates.

Total revenues from network services increased by 2.9% to R\$1,050.8 million in 2003, from R\$1,021.3 million in 2002, due to the increase in revenues generated from interconnection fees, which represent the majority of revenues from network services (R\$835.3 million in 2003). Total revenues from interconnection fees consisted of R\$607.1 million from fixed-to-fixed traffic and R\$228.2 million from mobile-to-fixed traffic. This increase in total revenue from interconnection fees was due primarily to the growth in the number of mobile accesses in our region and, consequently, higher mobile traffic on our network combined with an increase in rates.

#### *Mobile Services*

In September, 2004 we started offering mobile services through our subsidiary 14 Brasil Telecom Celular S.A. Total revenues from mobile services reached R\$87.9 million, consisting of: (i) R\$69.7 million in sales of handsets and others; and (ii) R\$18.2 million derived from services, primarily monthly subscription charges, which accounted for R\$10.2 million at December 2004. By the end of 2004 we had approximately 620,000 mobile subscribers.

*Revenues from Other Services*

Other services consist primarily of supplementary and value-added services such as toll-free, call forwarding and caller ID. Total revenues from other services increased by 39.4% to R\$622.9 million in 2004 from

- 78 -

---

R\$446.7 million in 2003. Revenues from supplementary and value-added services increased by 18.5% to R\$422.4 million in December 31, 2004 from R\$356.5 million in 2003. This growth was due to increased advertising campaigns promoting value-added services as part of our strategy to increase average revenue per line.

Total revenues from other services increased by 44.1% to R\$446,7 million in 2003 from R\$310.0 million in 2002. Revenues from supplementary and value-added services increased by 27.9% to R\$356.5 million in December 31, 2003 from R\$278.8 million in 2002.

### *Charges Against Gross Operating Revenues*

#### *Value-added and Other Indirect Taxes*

The principal taxes deducted from gross operating revenues are state value added taxes "ICMS", the federal social contribution taxes, PIS and COFINS, and the telecommunications contributions, FUST and FUNTTEL. We collect these taxes from our customers and transfer them to the appropriate governmental entities. The current average rate of ICMS is 25.0%. However, the ICMS tax rate varies in some states. In the state of Rondônia, for example, the ICMS tax rate is 35.0%, while in the state of Mato Grosso, the ICMS tax rate is 30% and in the state of Goiás, the ICMS tax rate is 26.0%. PIS and COFINS are currently imposed at a combined rate of 3.65% of gross operating revenues from telecommunications services. FUST and FUNTTEL are currently imposed at a combined rate of 1.5% of gross operating revenues, net of certain deductions.

The total amount of value-added and other taxes increased by 17.6% to R\$3,579.5 million in 2004 from R\$3,042.5 million in 2003. The rate of growth in value-added and other taxes reflects the rate of growth in our gross operating revenue during the period and the change in revenue mix, as there is less tax applicable to certain services, such as interconnection services.

The total amount of value-added and other taxes increased by 13.9% to R\$3,042.5 million in 2003 from R\$2,670.9 million in 2002. The rate of growth in value-added and other taxes reflects the rate of growth in our gross operating revenue during the period and the change in revenue mix, as there is less tax applicable to certain services, such as interconnection services.

#### *Discounts*

Discounts are generally divided into rebates on: (i) pre-paid telephone cards (typically having commissions of approximately 10.0% over the face amount sold), (ii) local wireline calls, (iii) long-distance calls, and (iv) intelligent network services (such as caller ID, call forwarding and conference calling). Discounts reached R\$119.0 million in 2004, stable compared to R\$119.7 million in 2003.

Discounts increased 22.8% to R\$119.7 million in 2003 from R\$97.4 million in 2002, primarily due to an increase in the promotions we offered to maintain our customer base.

### *Cost of Services*

Total cost of services increased by 12.9% to R\$6,161,4 million in 2004 from R\$5,455.0 million in 2003. Our cost of services increased primarily as a result of an increase in interconnection costs payable to other operators for completing calls originating on our network. However, as a percentage of net operating revenues, cost of services decreased to 68.0% in 2004 from 68.9% in 2003, primarily due to reductions in personnel costs and materials costs.

Total cost of services increased by 6.1% to R\$5,455.0 million in 2003 from R\$5,143.4 million in 2002. Our cost of services increased primarily as a result of an increase in interconnection costs payable to other operators for completing calls originating on our network. However, as a percentage of net operating revenues, cost of services decreased to 68.9% in 2003 from 72.7% in 2002, primarily due to reductions in personnel costs and relatively stable materials costs.

- 79 -

---

The following table sets forth certain components of our cost of services, as well as the percentage change from the prior year, for 2002, 2003 and 2004.

	Year ended December 31,			Percentage change	
	2002	2003	2004	2002-2003	2003-2004
	(thousands of <i>reais</i> , except percentages)				
Cost of Services:					
Depreciation and amortization	2,614,511	2,517,877	2,517,476	(3.7)	-
Personnel	144,581	129,404	120,172	(10.5)	(7.1)
Mobile handsets and accessories	-	-	113,642	-	N/A
Materials	78,760	84,263	66,613	7.0	(20.9)
Services	2,057,839	2,370,454	2,959,656	15.2	24.8
Other	247,667	353,021	383,829	42.5	8.7
Total cost of services	5,143,358	5,455,019	6,161,388	6.1	12.9

#### *Depreciation and Amortization*

Total depreciation and amortization costs reached R\$2,517.5 million in 2004, stable compared to R\$2,517.9 in 2003, due to a decrease in depreciation costs associated with CRT assets resulting from the disposal of such assets which occurred at the end of 2003, which was offset by an increase in depreciation costs associated with the expansion of our network in 2004, especially our data communications network.

Total depreciation and amortization costs decreased by 3.7% to R\$2,517.9 million in 2003 from R\$2,614.5 in 2002, due to a decrease in depreciation costs associated with CRT assets resulting from the disposal of such assets which occurred at the end of 2003 which was partially offset by an increase in depreciation costs associated with the expansion of our network in 2003, through an increase in lines installed to 10.7 million at December 31, 2003 from 10.6 million at December 31, 2002.

#### *Personnel*

Total personnel costs decreased by 7.1% in 2004 to R\$120.2 million from R\$129.4 million in 2003. This decrease in personnel costs was primarily due to reclassification, in 2003, of R\$12.5 million of employees' profit share to personnel expenses as a result of a CVM instruction that requires that employees' profit share be classified as a personnel expense when a net loss is realized. On December 31, 2004, we had approximately 6,686 employees, of which 881 relate to our mobile operations, an increase from 5,265 employees at December 31, 2003.

Total personnel costs decreased by 10.5% in 2003 to R\$129.4 million from R\$144.6 million in 2002. This decrease in personnel costs was primarily due to the outsourcing of maintenance services for our network, which resulted in a net reduction in our labor force by approximately 305 employees during the period, partially offset by the reclassification, in 2003, of R\$12.5 million of employees' profit share to personnel expenses as a result of a CVM instruction that requires that employees' profit share be classified as a personnel expense when a net loss is realized. At December 31, 2003, we had approximately 5,265 employees, a decrease from 5,571 employees at December 31, 2002.

#### *Materials*

Total costs related to materials, such as plastic phone cards and materials for network maintenance (such as cables), decreased by 20.9% to R\$66.6 million in 2004 from R\$84.3 million in 2003. This decrease in material costs was primarily due to the transfer of costs resulting from our outsourcing of maintenance services for our network to third parties.

Total costs related to materials, such as plastic phone cards and materials for network maintenance (such as cables), increased by 7.0% to R\$84.3 million in 2003 from R\$78.8 million in 2002. This increase in material costs was primarily due to the growth in usage of prepaid phone cards, partially offset by the transfer of costs resulting from our outsourcing of maintenance services for our network to third parties.

### *Services*

The cost of third party services, which include interconnection costs and the cost of maintaining our network infrastructure, increased by 24.8% to R\$2,959.7 million in 2004 from R\$2,370.5 million in 2003. This increase was due to the consolidation of expenses relating to our acquisition of Metrored, which included the maintenance of the data communication network acquired thereby, the costs related to the maintenance of the mobile network and, to a lesser extent, by the increased outsourcing of maintenance services for our network to third parties.

Interconnection costs increased to approximately 18.0% of gross revenues, or R\$2,297.5 million, in 2004 from approximately 16.1% of gross revenues, or R\$1,772.1 million, in 2003. This increase was due to higher mobile penetration and the fixed-to-mobile rate increase, mostly in VC-1 as well as directly related to the use of our carrier selection code on calls originating from mobile phones, as we must pay a fee to the originating mobile phone operator to complete these calls. The increase in fixed-to-mobile telephone traffic of approximately 6.5% to approximately 4.4 billion minutes in 2004 from approximately 4.1 billion minutes in 2003 also contributed to higher interconnection cost. The increase in costs of third party services was also due to subcontractor costs associated with maintaining our network infrastructure. Subcontracted costs increased by 10.4% to R\$660.7 million in 2004 from R\$598.3 million in 2003 due to our increased outsourcing of maintenance and fee adjustments resulting from inflation indexing provisions in the existing maintenance contracts.

In 2003, the total cost of third party services increased by 15.2% to R\$2,370.5 million from R\$2,057.8 million in 2002. This increase was due to the consolidation of expenses relating to our acquisition of Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos which included the maintenance of the submarine cables acquired thereby and, to a lesser extent, by the increased outsourcing of maintenance services for our network to third parties. Interconnection costs increased to approximately 16.0% of gross revenues, or R\$1,772.1 million, in 2003 from approximately 15.5% of gross revenues, or R\$1,526.5 million, in 2002. This increase was due to the fixed-to-mobile rate increase, mostly in VC-1 as well as directly related to the use of our carrier selection code on calls originating from mobile phones, as we must pay a fee to the originating mobile phone operator to complete these calls. The increase was partially offset by a decrease in fixed-to-mobile telephone traffic of approximately 6.4% to approximately 4.1 billion minutes in 2003 from approximately 4.4 billion minutes in 2002. The increase in costs of third party services was also due to subcontractor costs associated with maintaining our network infrastructure. Subcontracted costs increased by 12.6% to R\$598.3 million in 2003 from R\$531.4 million in 2002 due to our increased outsourcing of maintenance and fee adjustments resulting from inflation indexing provisions in the existing maintenance contracts.

### *Other*

Other costs of service, which primarily include fees paid for the rental of equipment and infrastructure, insurance and a fee imposed by Anatel on providers of telecommunications services for the inspection of switching stations and wireless terminals, referred to as *Taxa de Fiscalização de Telecomunicações*, or FISTEL, increased by 8.7% to R\$383.8 million in 2004 from R\$353.0 million in 2003. This increase was primarily due to the consolidation of Metrored in the second quarter of 2004.

Other costs of service, increased by 42.5% to R\$353.0 million in 2003 from R\$247.7 million in 2002. This increase was primarily due to the consolidation of iBest and Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos in the third quarter of 2003.

### *Gross Profit*

Our gross profit increased in 2004 by 18.0% to R\$2,903.5 million from R\$2,460.2 million in 2003, as a result of an increase in our net operating revenues in 2004. As a percentage of net operating revenues, gross profit increased to 32.0 in 2004 from 31.1% in 2003.

Our gross profit increased in 2003 by 27.6% to R\$2,460.2 million from R\$1,928.0 million in 2002, as a result of an increase in our net operating revenues in 2003. As a percentage of net operating revenues, gross profit increased to 31.1% in 2003 from 27.3% in 2002.



***Operating expenses***

Total operating expenses, which include selling expenses, general and administrative expenses and other net operating expenses, increased by 14.5% to R\$2,173.6 million in 2004 from R\$1,898.0 million in 2003. This increase was primarily a result of the increase in selling, general and administrative expenses in the period, as discussed below.

Total operating expenses increased by 42.7% to R\$1,898.0 million in 2003 from R\$1,329.6 million in 2002. This increase was primarily a result of the increase in general and administrative expenses in the period, as discussed below.

The following table sets forth certain components of our operating expenses, as well as the percentage change from the prior year, for 2002, 2003 and 2004.

	Year ended December 31,			Percentage change	
	2002	2003	2004	2002-2003	2003-2004
	(thousands of <i>reais</i> , except percentages)				
Operating expenses:					
Selling expenses	763,346	821,627	1,087,028	7.6	32.3
General and administrative expenses	687,462	865,052	1,017,421	25.8	17.6
Other net operating expenses (income)	(121,181)	211,308	69,142	N/A	(67.3)
Total operating expenses	1,329,627	1,897,987	2,173,591	42.7	14.5

### *Selling Expenses*

Total selling expenses increased 32.3% to R\$1,087.0 million in 2004 from R\$821.7 million in 2003. This increase was due primarily to (i) a 4.5% increase in expenses for salaries and bonuses relating to our sales personnel, primarily in the mobile and corporate segment, offset by the reclassification in 2003 of R\$11.7 million of employees' profit share to the personnel expense component of selling expenses as a result of a CVM instruction that requires that employees' profit share be classified as personnel expense when a net loss is realized; and (ii) a 37.7% increase of bad debts and provisions for doubtful accounts (partially connected with the correspondent increase in revenues); and (iii) 56.2% increase in advertising and marketing expenses, connected with the beginning of interregional and international long distance and mobile services offer.

Bad debts and provisions for doubtful accounts increased 37.7% in 2004 due to our increase in gross revenues combined with the change in the mix of the revenue. As a percentage of gross revenues, bad debts and provisions for doubtful accounts increased to 3.2% in 2004 from 2.7% in 2003. This increase in bad debts and provisions for doubtful accounts as a percentage of gross revenues is primarily due to the change in the mix of revenue, with higher share of long distance calls, although the continued focus on measures to control bad debt, such as the introduction of prepaid phone cards to mitigate credit risk.

Total selling expenses increased 7.6% to R\$821.7 million in 2003 from R\$763.3 million in 2002. This increase was due primarily to (i) a 27.3% increase in expenses for salaries and bonuses relating to our sales personnel, primarily in the corporate segment in connection with our retention programs for corporate personnel; (ii) a 13.1% increase of bad debts and provisions for doubtful accounts (connected with the correspondent increase in revenues); and (iii) the reclassification in 2003 of R\$11.7 million of employees' profit share to the personnel expense component of selling expenses as a result of a CVM instruction that requires that employees' profit share be classified as personnel expense when a net loss is realized. These increases were partially offset by a 27.3% decrease in advertising and marketing expenses.

Bad debts and provisions for doubtful accounts increased 13.1% in 2003 due to our increase in gross revenues. However, as a percentage of gross revenues, bad debts and provisions for doubtful accounts remained stable at 2.7% of gross revenues for 2003 in comparison to 2002. This stability in bad debts and provisions for doubtful accounts as a percentage of gross revenues reflects our continued focus on measures to control bad debt, such as the introduction of prepaid phone cards to mitigate credit risk.

*General and Administrative Expenses*

Total general and administrative expenses increased 17.6% to R\$1,017.4 million in 2004 from R\$865.1 million in 2003. This increase was primarily due to an increase in (i) expenses from information technology equipment depreciation; (ii) expenses for regular office services, such as security, cleaning and maintenance; offset by (iii) the reclassification, in 2003, of R\$21.5 million of employees' profit share to the personnel expense component of the general and administrative expenses. Employees' profit share is required by CVM to be classified as a personnel expense when a net loss is realized. As a percentage of net operating revenues, general and administrative expenses rose to 11.2% in 2004 from 10.9% in 2003.

Total general and administrative expenses increased 25.8% to R\$865.1 million in 2003 from R\$687.5 million in 2002. This increase was primarily due to an increase in (i) expenses from information

technology equipment depreciation; (ii) expenses for regular office services, such as security, cleaning and maintenance and (iii) the reclassification, in 2003, of R\$21.5 million of employees' profit share to the personnel expense component of the general and administrative expenses. Employees' profit share is required by CVM to be classified as a personnel expense when a net loss is realized. As a percentage of net operating revenues, general and administrative expenses rose to 10.9% in 2003 from 9.7% in 2002.

#### *Other Net Operating Expenses (Income)*

Total other net operating expenses decreased from R\$211.3 million in 2003 to R\$69.1 million in 2004. This decrease in expenses resulted primarily from (i) a decrease of R\$104.6 million in provision for contingent liabilities, as a result of court decisions in the fourth quarter of 2003, which required us to regard our loss relating to a portion of these proceedings as "probable"; (ii) revenues of approximately R\$125.0 million associated with the agreement entered into with Embratel; offset by (iii) the increase in expenses of approximately R\$60.0 million in connection with the application of the ICMS tax on IP ports, retroactive to January 2004.

Total other net operating expenses (income) decreased from an income of R\$121.2 million in 2002 to an expense of R\$211.3 million in 2003. This increase in expenses resulted primarily from an increase of R\$359.7 million in provision for contingent liabilities relating mainly to the operations of the Rio Grande do Sul branch, formerly CRT. This increase in provision is a result of court decisions in the fourth quarter of 2003, which require us to regard our loss relating to a portion of these proceedings as "probable". The contingent liabilities relate to CRT's pre-existing labor, civil and tax proceedings, primarily regarding salary issues (following reallocation of CRT staff) and entitlement to bonuses in connection with dangerous working conditions. We do not expect any material losses in excess of these amounts. See Item 8 "Financial Information - Legal Proceedings".

#### *Operating Income (Loss) Before Net Financial Expenses*

Our total operating income before net financial expenses increased by 29.8% to R\$729.9 million in 2004 from R\$562.2 million in 2003. As a percentage of net operating revenues, operating income before net financial expenses increased to 8.1% in 2004 from 7.1% in 2003.

Our total operating income before net financial expenses decreased by 6.0% to an income of R\$562.2 million in 2003 from an income of R\$598.4 million in 2002. As a percentage of net operating revenues, operating income before net financial expenses decreased to 7.1% in 2003 from 8.5% in 2002.

#### *Net Financial Expenses*

Total net financial expenses represent the net effect of interest income, interest expense and exchange rate and monetary restatement gain and loss. Our total net financial expenses decreased 34.5% to R\$399.8 million in 2004 from R\$610.2 million in 2003 primarily as a result of:

- a 5.3% decrease in our interest expense, to R\$796.8 million in 2004 from R\$841.1 million in 2003 as a result of lower interest rates in Brazil in 2004 compared to 2003, which decreased the cost of our real denominated indebtedness, as the average CDI in 2004 was 16.2% as compared to 23.3% in 2003.
- the decrease in interest expenses was combined with an increase in our interest income to R\$516.4 million in 2004 from R\$341.2 million in 2003, primarily as a result of the increase in average cash balances to R\$2,591.6 million in 2004 from R\$1,776.4 million in 2003.

In 2003 our net financial expenses increased 84.6% to R\$610.2 million from R\$330.5 million in 2002 primarily as a result of:

- a 55.3% increase in our interest expense, to R\$841.1 million in 2003 from R\$541.9 million in 2002 as a result of higher interest rates in Brazil in 2003 compared to 2002, which increased the cost of our real denominated indebtedness, as the average CDI in 2003 was 23.3% as compared to 19.1% in 2002.

- the increase in interest expenses was offset by a 49.3% increase in our interest income to R\$341.2 million in 2003 from R\$228.6 million in 2002, primarily as a result of the increase in average cash balances to R\$1,776.4 million in 2003 from R\$1,030.8 million in 2002.

### ***Operating Income (Loss)***

Our total operating income (loss) increased to an income of R\$330.0 million in 2004 from a loss of R\$48.0 million in 2003, primarily as a result of the 18.0% increase in gross profit and the 34.5% decrease in net financial expenses. As a percentage of net operating revenues, operating income (loss) increased to 3.6% of income in 2004 from 0.6% of loss in 2003.

Our total operating income decreased to a loss of R\$48.0 million in 2003 from an income of R\$267.9 million in 2002, primarily as a result of the 42.7% and 84.6% increase in operating expenses and net financial expenses, respectively. Operating loss was 0.6% of net operating revenues in 2003. Operating income was 3.8% of net operating revenues in 2002.

### ***Net Non-Operating Expenses***

Net non-operating expenses consist principally of equipment disposal in connection with the modernization of our network.

Total net non-operating expenses decreased by 79.7% to R\$111.8 million in 2004 from R\$550.0 million in 2003. Net non-operating expenses are comprised mainly of the amortization of goodwill we acquired as a result of the merger with CRT in December 2000. Goodwill amortization for CRT totaled R\$66.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2004 (See note 8 to our audited consolidated financial statements). Besides the amortization of goodwill, in 2003 we wrote-off property, plant and equipment, related to an obsolescence study made especially for CRT, in the amount of R\$302.7 million.

Total net non-operating expenses increased to R\$550.0 million in 2003 from R\$78.3 million in 2002. Net non-operating expenses are comprised mainly of the amortization of goodwill we acquired as a result of the merger of our subsidiary, Brasil Telecom S.A., with CRT in December 2000. Goodwill amortization for CRT totaled R\$96.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2003 (See note 8 to our audited consolidated financial statements). Besides the amortization of goodwill, in 2003 we wrote-off property, plant and equipment related to CRT in the amount of R\$302.7 million, as a result of the physical inventory performed for transmission equipment, tools and instruments and multi-pair cables, among others. In addition, we wrote off R\$20.0 million of other property, plant and equipment for a total of R\$322.7 million.

### ***Employees' Profit Share***

According to Law 10,101/2000, all Brazilian companies may compensate employees, in addition to their salary and benefits, with profit sharing. The amount of such profit sharing is generally determined by negotiations between our company and the labor unions that represent our employees.

Our employees' profit share increased 1,554.0% to R\$58.1 million in 2004 from R\$3.5 million in 2003 due to the reclassification in 2003 of R\$46.3 million as personnel expenses because we realized losses under Brazilian Corporation Law. Employees' profit share is required by CVM to be classified as a personnel expense when a net loss is realized.

Our employees' profit share decreased 91.8% to R\$3.5 million in 2003 from R\$42.6 million in 2002 due to the reclassification of R\$46.3 million as personnel expenses because we realized losses under Brazilian Corporation Law. Employees' profit share is required by CVM to be classified as a personnel expense when a net loss is realized.

***Income (Loss) Before Taxes and Minority Interests***

Our income (loss) before taxes and minority interests increased to an income of R\$160.2 million in 2004 from a loss of R\$601.5 million in 2003 primarily as a result of the increase in operating income and decrease in net non-operating expense. As a percentage of net operating revenues, income (loss) before taxes and minority interests increased to an income of 1.8% in 2004 from a loss of 7.6% in 2003.

Our income before taxes and minority interests decreased to a loss of R\$601.5 million in 2003 from an income of R\$147.0 million in 2002 primarily as a result of the increase in operating loss and net non-operating expense. As a percentage of net operating revenues, loss before taxes and minority interests increased to 7.6% in 2003 from 2.1% in 2002.

***Income and Social Contribution Tax Benefits (Expenses)***

Income and social contribution tax benefit decreased by 97.8% to R\$5.8 million in 2004 from R\$261.4 million in 2003, due to the income before taxes and minority interest of R\$160.2 million in 2004 compared to a loss before taxes and minority interest of R\$601.5 million in 2003.

Income and social contribution tax benefits increased to a benefit of R\$261.4 million in 2003 from an expense of R\$916,000 in 2002. This increase was due to an increase in loss before taxes and minority interests to a loss of R\$601.5 million in 2003 from an income of R\$147.0 million in 2002.

***Minority Interests***

In 2004, we allocated R\$37.9 million of income to minority shareholders originating from their stakes in Brasil Telecom S.A., iBest and iG.

In 2003, we allocated R\$171.5 million of loss to minority shareholders relating to their participation in Brasil Telecom S.A.'s losses in 2003.

***Net Income (Loss)***

Our net income (loss) increased to an income of R\$128.1 million in 2004 from a loss of R\$168.6 million in 2003, as a result of the increase in operating income and decrease in net non-operating expenses. As a percentage of net operating revenues, net income (loss) increased to an income of 1.4% in 2004 from a loss of 2.1% in 2003.

Our net income decreased to a loss of R\$168.6 million in 2003 from an income of R\$148.5 million in 2002, as a result of the increase in operating loss and net non-operating expense. Net loss was 2.1% of net operating revenues in 2003. Net income was 2.1% of net operating revenues in 2002.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources*****Cash Flow***

The following table sets forth certain components of our source of funds or cash flows for the years ending December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004.



	<b>Years ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
	(millions of <i>reais</i> )		
Cash flows provided by (used in):			
Operating activities	2,467.4	2,707.3	3,497.7
Investing activities	(1,852.3)	(1,636.9)	(2,746.7)
Financing activities	515.5	(710.0)	518.9
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	1,130.6	360.5	1,269.9

We use the net cash generated from our operations and from external financing to fund capital expenditures for our network expansion and modernization, to pay dividends, to meet our anticipated debt-service, and to invest in new businesses.

We believe that we have sufficient sources of liquidity and capital to meet these requirements for the next few years although we cannot assure you in this regard.

#### *Cash Flows Provided by Operating Activities*

Our primary source of funds continues to be cash generated from operations. Our cash flow from operating activities increased 29.2% to R\$3,497.7 million in 2004 from R\$2,707.3 million in 2003. This increase is primarily due to the 14.5% increase in net operating revenues and the resulting 18.0% increase in gross profit in 2004 compared to 2003, combined with an increase in accounts payable in 2004.

#### *Cash Flows Used in Investing Activities*

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment continue to be our primary use of cash flow and other capital resources. Our cash flow used in investing activities increased 67.8% to R\$2,746.7 million in 2003 from R\$1,636.9 million in 2003. In 2004, we invested R\$2,867.4 million to implement our mobile network, expand and modernize our fixed telephony network to facilitate the introduction of new products and services, enhance responsiveness to competitive challenges, increase the operating efficiency and productivity of our network and meet our network expansion and modernization goals. During the corresponding period in 2003, we invested R\$1,790.0 million to expand and modernize our network.

As part of our strategy to acquire high technology network infrastructure, we invested a total of R\$476.1 million during 2004 on our acquisitions of the capital stock of MetroRED, Vant and iG. This amount is part of the total R\$2,867.4 million mentioned above.

#### *Cash Flows Provided by Financing Activities*

We realized a cash inflow from financing activities of R\$518.9 million in 2004, as compared to an outflow of R\$710.0 million in 2003. The change from outflow to inflow from financing activities during 2004 was primarily due to (i) R\$2,427.0 million in new loans incurred in 2004, compared to R\$84.6 million in new loans incurred in 2003, (ii) a R\$1,054.5 million increase in loans repaid, for a total of R\$1,619.1 million in loans repaid in 2004, compared to R\$564.7 million in loans repaid in 2003, and (iii) a decrease in interest on shareholders' equity paid by R\$59.7 million to R\$258.1 million in 2004, from R\$198.3 million in 2003. See Item 5 "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects Liquidity and Capital Resources Indebtedness."

*Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents*

In 2004, our cash and cash equivalents increased by R\$1,269.9 million to R\$3,226.6 million, compared to an increase in cash and cash equivalents by R\$360.5 million to R\$1,956.7 million in 2003. The increase in our cash and cash equivalents was primarily due to the higher cash inflow from operating activities and financing activities, partially offset by the increase in the outflow for investing activities in 2004.

### ***Indebtedness***

At December 31, 2004, we had R\$4,708.3 million of indebtedness, an increase of 24.2% from R\$3,790.0 million at December 31, 2003. Our net debt position at the end of 2004 was R\$1,481.6 million, compared to R\$1,833.3 million at December 31, 2003, representing a decrease of 19.2% .

In the twelve months of 2004, our interest expense (including accrued interest) decreased by 13.7% to R\$520.9 million from R\$603.8 million in 2003, as a result of lower interest rates in Brazil in 2004 compared to 2003 and the following changes in indebtedness:

#### **New Loans**

On February 17, 2004, Brasil Telecom, S.A. issued U.S.\$200.0 million 9.375% Notes due 2014 in the international market. The notes will mature on February 18, 2014 unless extended for a period of up to eighteen months from the expected maturity date. The notes have the benefit of an irrevocable standby letter of credit, as well as an insurance policy provided by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. The net proceeds from the notes were intended to fund our 2004 and 2005 investment program.

On March 24, 2004, Brasil Telecom, S.A. entered into a Japanese Yen 21.6 billion-loan facility arranged by Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation ("SMBC"), guaranteed by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation ("JBIC") and granted by a syndicate of five commercial banks (including SMBC). The loan was contracted for a 7-year term, has a 1,5-year grace period, a 5-year amortization period, is not secured and bears interest at a rate equal to LIBOR Yen plus 1.92% per annum. Interest payments are due on September 24 and March 24 of each year. Brasil Telecom, S.A. borrowed the entire amount available under this facility on April 28, 2004 in the form of a single term loan, which was exchanged into approximately R\$576.0 million and which we used to partially finance our 2003 capital expenditures.

On July 5, 2004, Brasil Telecom, S.A. issued R\$500.0 million of public non-convertible debentures guaranteed by Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. The debentures will mature on July 5, 2009. Interest on the debentures is equivalent to the CDI rate + 1.0% per annum and is payable on a semi-annual basis, on January 5 and July 5 of each year, until the maturity of the debentures.

On August 13, 2004, Brasil Telecom, S.A. entered into a new loan agreement with BNDES, in a total amount of R\$1.27 billion, guaranteed by Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. The loan bears interest (a) at the variable TJLP rate plus 5.5% per annum for 80% of the amount and (b) at the variable Cesta de Moedas (a currency basket rate published by BNDES, representing basically the variation of the U.S. dollar versus the Brazilian real) plus 5.5% per annum for 20% of the amount. The loan has two different maturing dates (i) February 15, 2011 for the TJLP portion and (ii) April 15, 2011 for the Cesta de Moedas portion. The proceeds will be used to finance our investment in wireline network and in operational improvements to meet the targets established by Anatel in the General Plan on Universal Service and in the General Plan on Quality. On August 26, 2004, Brasil Telecom S.A received from BNDES the first tranche of this facility, in the amount of R\$400.0 million, from which R\$320.0 million bear interest of TJLP + 5.5% per annum and R\$80.0 million bear interest of Cesta de Moedas + 5.5% per annum. On October 26, 2004, Brasil Telecom, S.A. received a second tranche from BNDES, in the amount of R\$342.5 million, from which R\$282.7 million bear interest of TJLP + 5.5% per annum and R\$59.7 million bear interest of Cesta de Moedas + 5.5% per annum.

#### **Amortization of existing loans**

On May 1, 2004, Brasil Telecom, S.A. fully paid the R\$500 million public non-convertible debenture program issued on May 1, 2002, guaranteed by Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. The debenture had a 2-year term and interest equivalent to 109.0% of the CDI.

On July 27, 2004, Brasil Telecom, S.A. paid R\$390 million relative to the first installment of a R\$1.3 billion debenture program issued on January 27, 2001, in a private placement to Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.

The interest rate established for the debentures program is equivalent to 100% of the CDI rate and the two remaining installments are payable on July 27, 2005 (R\$390 million) and July 27, 2006 (R\$520 million).

On December 1, 2004, Brasil Telecom, S.A. fully paid the R\$400 million public non-convertible debenture program issued on December 1, 2002, guaranteed by Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. The debenture had a 2-year term and interest equivalent to 109.0% of the CDI.

At December 31, 2004, approximately 33.2%, or R\$1,522.3 million, of our total indebtedness before hedge adjustments was denominated in foreign exchanges (U.S. dollars, Japanese Yens and Cesta de Moedas), compared to 9.0%, or R\$341.7 million, at December 31, 2003. Of our indebtedness affected by exchange variation at December 31, 2004, approximately 50.4% was hedged against significant variations in exchange rates (R\$/U.S.\$, R\$/Yens and Cesta de Moedas). See Note 31 to our audited financial statements and " Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk" below.

The following table sets forth the repayment schedule of our indebtedness:

	<b>At December 31, 2004</b>
	(thousands of <i>reais</i> )
2005	856,638
2006	969,956
2007	781,231
2008	378,048
2009	786,172
2010	283,185
2011 and after	652,999
<b>Total Indebtedness</b>	<b>4,708,229</b>

Although our indebtedness increased to R\$4,708.2 million in 2004, and our interest expenses (including capitalized interest) decreased to R\$520.9 million in the twelve months of 2004, we expect to be able to repay substantially all of the principal and interest on our indebtedness with internally generated funds. Net cash flow from our operating activities was R\$3,497.7 million in 2004, compared to R\$2,707.3 million in 2003.

### ***Capital Expenditures***

Our capital expenditures increased approximately 60.2% to R\$2,867.4 million in 2004, from R\$1,790.0 million in 2003. Of our capital expenditures in 2004, R\$1,215.6 million relate to fixed-line and internet operations, R\$1,175.7 million to mobile operations and R\$476.1 million to the acquisition of the capital stock of MetroRED, Vant and iG. The capital expenditures on the fixed-line telephony operations consist mainly of updating technology and upgrading capacity in relation to our transmission backbone, switching centers, data network and intelligent network. Such expenditures decreased approximately 8.5% compared with 2003 (R\$1,328.2 million in 2003). This decrease was due to lower requirements for investment in equipment and networks due to better management as well as the general slowdown of the Brazilian economy, which resulted in lower equipment and network usage than projected. Capital expenditures related to mobile operations include investments with network implementation, IT equipment and platforms, reform and installation of 16 stores, with pre-operational costs realized until October 2004 and with the

acquisition of an additional license of 900 MHz, acquired to improve the quality of voice and data services provided to our mobile clients.

We currently expect to invest approximately R\$2,166.0 million in the expansion and modernization of our network during the fiscal year 2005, which includes investments of approximately R\$398.0 million in our mobile telephone network. At December 31, 2004 we had expected capital expenditure commitments amounting to approximately R\$358.8 million for 2005. For the three months ended March 31, 2005, we invested approximately R\$282.2 million in the expansion and modernization of our network (fixed and mobile). See Item 5 "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects Liquidity and Capital Resources Capital Expenditures." We expect to finance our remaining expected 2005 capital expenditures with internally generated funds from operations. Net cash flow

from our operating activities was approximately R\$3,300.0 million, R\$2,500.0 million and R\$2,300.0 million in 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

### *Research and Development*

We conduct research and development in the areas of telecommunications services, but we do not independently develop any new telecommunications technology. We have a group of professionals focused on the search of new technology, aiming at the application of this technology to the development of new services and, also, at adding value to the existing services. This work is performed in cooperation with suppliers of equipment and systems. As a result of this work, we are the first Brazilian carrier to launch services that use next generation network architecture.

Since prior to the breakup of Telebrás, we, and each of the other former operating subsidiaries of Telebrás, have contributed to the Center, which is a research and development center formerly operated by Telebrás that develops telecommunications technology for application in Brazil. On August 3, 2001 we entered into two service agreements with the Center, one in the amount of R\$7.0 million per year for a three-year period in order to maintain our access to telecommunications software developed by the Center, and the other in the amount of R\$10.0 million per year for a 2-year period in order to receive technological services provided by the Center, such as equipment testing and consulting and training services. In addition to the Center, we also depend on manufacturers of telecommunications products for the development of new hardware and new telecommunications technologies.

Our aggregate expenditures on research and development, including our contribution to the Center, were approximately R\$3.8 million, R\$2.6 million and R\$ 0.4 million in 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively.

### *Trend Information*

The evolution of the communications needs of our customers has been redefining the role of telecommunications in Brazil. We believe that the mass use of computers and the internet, the evolution of wireless and data compression technology, and the deregulation of and increased competition in telecommunications services will continue to increase the demand for telecommunications services in Brazil.

Due to these developments, the value of access and long-distance networks has decreased and the value of telecommunications applications and services has increased. As a result, telecommunications companies have been seeking to integrate vertically and expand geographically in order to obtain economies of scale and leverage revenue growth. This is expected to favor those companies with sufficient access to financing. Although we believe that our company is well positioned to take advantage of this trend, there can be no assurances that we will have access to sufficient financing in the future or on terms acceptable to us.

As an immediate effect of the geographic expansion and vertical integration, the degree of difference between the traditional players has diminished and the boundaries between the communications companies (i.e., voice/data via fixed accesses, voice/data via mobile accesses, Internet and cable modem) have become increasingly narrow. In order to differentiate ourselves from our competitors, we have sought to bundle our products and services, brand our services and introduce value-added services.

The deregulation and technological evolution of the telecommunications industry in Brazil has intensified the competition in the voice sector as well as in the data sector. This may have a material adverse effect on our market share, margins, results of operations and financial condition.

We believe that our main strength lies in the regional awareness of our brand name, the technologically advanced level of our network, the offer of convergence services, our success in the recruitment of top quality employees and

our strong operational cash flow generation.

- 90 -

---



Our key strategies for the period between 2005-2007 are to:

- Offer of convergence services, with complete and innovative solutions in telecommunications services, involving fixed-line, Internet and mobile telephony services;
- Seek excellent relations with our customers;
- Minimize our operational costs while expanding our network and services; and
- Attract, develop and retain qualified personnel and knowledge.

#### *"Off-Balance Sheet" Arrangements*

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements.

#### *Trading Activities*

Our company does not engage in any material trading activities involving commodity contracts that are accounted for at fair value. The only risk management activity that we engage in is the hedging of some of our U.S. dollar and Yen denominated indebtedness. See Item 11 "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk Quantitative information about market risk Exchange Rate Risk."

#### *Contractual Obligations*

The following tables set forth our obligations to make future payments under contracts, such as debt and lease agreements, and under contingent commitments, such as debt guarantees.

#### **Payments due by period at December 31, 2004**

Contractual Obligations	<b>Less than 1 year</b>	<b>1-3 years</b>	<b>4-5 years</b>	<b>After 5 years</b>	<b>Total</b>
	(thousands of reais)				
Indebtedness (incl. hedge adjustments)	856,638	2,129,236	1,069,356	652,999	4,708,229
Capital lease obligations	4,837	9,580	3,194	-	17,611
Operating leases	4,670	9,513	9,776	6,232	30,191
Unconditional purchase obligations	358,798	-	-	-	358,798
Other long-term obligations	44,056	96,856	101,868	62,824	305,603
<b>Total contractual cash obligations</b>	<b>1,514,455</b>	<b>2,527,007</b>	<b>1,197,597</b>	<b>747,927</b>	<b>5,986,986</b>

#### *Dividends*

We are required to distribute to our shareholders, either as dividends or as tax deductible interest on shareholder equity, 25.0% of our adjusted net income determined in accordance with Brazilian accounting principles and as adjusted in accordance with Brazilian Corporation Law including any realization of the net income reserve. Preferred Shareholders are entitled to receive a minimum non-cumulative dividend of Preferred Dividend equal to the greater of

(i) 6.0% per year of the value of our total share capital divided by our total number of shares or (ii) 3.0% per year of the book value of our shareholders' equity divided by the total number of our shares. In 2002, 2003 and 2004 we paid dividends of approximately R\$281.3 million, R\$198.3 million and R\$258.1 million respectively.

*Pension Plans*

We participate in a multi-employer defined benefit plan, the "Sistel Plan," that covers our inactive or retired employees who were employees of Telebrás. Under this plan, we are contingently liable, together with the other

companies that comprised the Telebrás system, for our proportionate share of unfunded obligations of the plan attributable to our participating employees as well as post-retirement health care benefits for active and inactive employees that were in this condition until January 31, 2000. Contributions to this plan may be required in case of an accumulated deficit. As of December 31, 2004 the plan was running a surplus. The retirement health benefits are covered by a defined-benefit assistance plan, maintained in conjunction with other sponsors from the former Telebrás system who provide telecommunications services. This benefit assistance plan is provided for participants who were being assisted on January 31, 2000, and for those assisted under the defined-benefit plans (PBS's) segregated from all the other Sistel sponsors. The contributions are funded by the company and represent 1.5% of the paychecks of active participants who are associated with the PBS-TCS group (incorporated to the TCSPrev plan in December 31, 2001). The company's responsibility for this assistance plan is exclusively limited to future contributions. In 2004, the contributions of the company to this assistance plan were R\$122,928. During the year 2000, we withdrew a portion of our funds from the multi-employer plan in order to establish a separate plan for our current employees who were also former employees of Telebrás. On February 28, 2000, we founded our own private pension entity implementing a defined contribution, variable benefit plan, TCSPrev ("TCSPrev") (Brasil Telecom's Pension Fund). This plan covers employees who signed terms of membership from February 28, 2000 onwards. Approximately 55.4% of our employees are covered under TCSPrev.

Under TCSPrev the sponsoring companies of SISTEL are no longer jointly liable. Instead, each sponsor is liable only for contributions with respect to its own employees. Joint liability among the plan sponsors continues to exist only with respect to retired employees, who will necessarily continue under the PBS Plan. The company has another health assistance defined-benefit plan under SISTEL which provides health assistance to retirees and pensioners associated with the PBT-BrT group (incorporated by TCSPrev in December 31, 2001) entitled PAMEC-BrT. The contributions for this plan were fully paid in July 1998 through a single payment. New contributions will be limited to the future need to cover expenses, if any occur. See Note 25 to our Financial Statements.

Prior to our acquisition of CRT, CRT created a pension program to provide retirement benefits to its employees (*Fundação dos Empregados da Companhia Riograndense de Telecomunicações* "FCRT"), which is today entitled *Fundação BrTPREV*. When we purchased CRT we assumed our proportionate share of the unfunded obligations of the FCRT attributable to those CRT employees that were assumed by our company (the BrTPREV covers approximately 39.0% of our current employees (approximately 2,612 employees as of December 31, 2004)).

We estimate that, at December 31, 2004, our proportionate share of the unfunded obligations of the BrTPREV attributable to our participating employees was approximately R\$6.6 million. In an effort to eliminate the existing deficit over a period of twenty years, since January 2002, we have been making additional monthly contributions to the BrTPREV in an amount equal to 57.285% of the combined salary of members of the BrTPREV who are employees of our company (48.92% is used for contributions which amortize the deficit and 8.365% is used for normal contributions). Since February 2003, we have been making additional monthly contributions to the BrTPREV in fixed amounts to amortize the deficit, which in 2004 was R\$98.5 million. In 2004, the normal monthly contribution represented approximately 5.8% of the combined salary of the members of the BrTPREV.

For the year ended December 31, 2004, the total cost of the BrTPREV to our company was approximately R\$105.1 million. We have contributed with approximately R\$98.5 million to amortize the deficit, totaling R\$6.6 million for normal contribution.

As a result of our potential unfunded obligations under the BrTPREV, in 2004 we have a provision for pensions of R\$29.5 million in the current liabilities (R\$28.0 million at December 31, 2003) and R\$471.9 million in non-current liabilities (R\$476.4 million at December 31, 2003). See Note 25 to our Financial Statements. The TCSPrev defined-benefit plan was created on February 28, 2000 and is subscribed to by approximately 55.4% of the company's employees. In December 31, 2001, all pension plans were incorporated under Sistel, which in turn created groups with

defined contributions, liquidated-benefits (benefício-saldado) and defined-benefits. The plans that joined TCSPrev, PBS-TCS, PBT-BrT, Convênio de Administração-BrT and "Termo de Relação Contratual Atípica", maintained the conditions established by their respective original plans. As of March 2003, this plan was no longer accepting new participants.

This plan kept the same bases as the original plans for contributions by groups of participants, which are determined through actuarial studies prepared by independent actuaries in accordance with the rules currently

effective in Brazil and complying with the capitalization regime for cost determination. Currently, participants and sponsors only contribute to the internal groups, PBS-TCS (defined-benefit) and TCSPrev (defined-contribution). In the TCSPrev group, both the participant and the sponsor contribute equally to the participant's individual account, with the contribution varying from 3.0% to 8.0% of the participant's salary, depending on the age of the participant. The participant may elect to make further contributions to the plan, although the sponsor is not required to match such contributions. In the PBS-TCS group, the sponsor's contribution is equal to 12.0% of the participant's monthly salary, whereas the participant's contribution varies according to the age, seniority and salary of the participant. The participant also has the option of making additional payments into the plan and the size of this contribution depends on the age when the participant entered into the plan. The sponsors are responsible for all administrative costs and risks of the plan. In 2004, the contributions of the company to TCSPrev were, on average, 6.75% of the total value of the payroll of the participants who were members of the plan, totaling R\$15.6 million.

## ITEM 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees

### Board of Directors and Senior Management

#### *Board of Directors*

The following are the current members of our board of directors, their age at December 31, 2004, their respective positions and the date they were elected. Their terms expire on the annual general meeting of shareholders to be held in April 2007.

Name (Age)	Position	Date Elected
Luis Octavio Carvalho da Motta Veiga (52)	Chairman	April 19, 2004
Veronica Valente Dantas (47)	Director	April 19, 2004
Arthur Joaquim de Carvalho (46)	Director	April 19, 2004
Fabio de Oliveira Moser (36)	Director	April 19, 2004
Lenin Florentino de Faria (43)	Director	April 19, 2004
Carlos Bernardo Torres Rodenburg (47)	Director	April 19, 2004

*Luis Octavio Carvalho da Motta Veiga*, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since April 30, 2001. Mr. Motta Veiga is currently a partner with the law firm of *Carvalhosa, Eizirik e Motta Veiga Advogados*. Previously, Mr. Motta Veiga was president of *Petrobrás Petróleo Brasileiro S.A.*, Chief Executive Officer of Anglo American Corporation do Brasil Ltda., Rayner Coffee International (London) and *Jornal do Brasil S.A.* and director of Banco da Bahia de Investimentos and other companies of BBM Group. Mr. Motta Veiga has also been a member of the National Monetary Counsel and president of the Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission (*CVM - Comissão de Valores Mobiliários*). Mr. Motta Veiga holds a degree in Law from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and a post graduate degree in Public Management from *Institut International d'Administration Public* in Paris, France.

*Verônica Valente Dantas*, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since April 2001. Ms. Dantas is a partner and managing director of Opportunity Asset Management Ltda. Prior to joining the Opportunity Group, Ms. Dantas was managing director of *Icatu Empreendimentos e Participações Ltda.*, an investment company in Brazil. Ms. Dantas holds a degree in Business Administration from the Federal University of Bahia.

*Arthur Joaquim de Carvalho*, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since April 2001. In August 1998, he was also elected to the board of directors of *Tele Norte Celular Participações S.A.* and *Telemig Celular*

*Participações S.A.* Mr. Carvalho currently serves as a Principal of CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners Ltda., a Cayman Island privately-owned investment company. Mr. Carvalho has served as a Senior Investment Officer for private equity at the Opportunity Group. Prior to joining the Opportunity Group, he served as a Managing Director of *Manuel Joaquim de Carvalho Ltda.*, an export-oriented agribusiness company. Mr. Carvalho holds a degree in Business Administration from the Federal University of Bahia.

*Fabio de Oliveira Moser*, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since April 2004. Mr. Moser is currently manager of the Equity Management Division Telecommunications, Energy and Petrochemical of

PREVI. Mr. Moser held several management positions at Banco de Brasil S.A. from 1982 to 1999. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors and as Administrative and Market Relations Officer of *Fiago Participações S.A.*, and as a member of the board of directors of Kepler Weber S.A. Mr. Moser holds a Business Administration degree from Faculdade Cândido Mendes, an MBA in Finance from Instituto Brasileiro de Mercado de Capitais IBMEC, and a Masters degree in Business Administration from IBMEC.

*Lênin Florentino de Faria*, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since April 2003. Mr. Faria is currently manager in the Corporate Governance Management Department of *PREVI*. He was also manager in the Equity Management Division of *PREVI* from September 2001 to December 2002. He held the position of division manager in the Administrative Unit Control from September 2000 to September 2001, and he also held the position of Division Manager of Compliance in the Internal Control Unit from February to August 2000 in *PREVI*. Since 1980, he has held other positions in several departments of *PREVI*. Mr. Faria holds a Business Administration degree from CEUB Brasília, Brazil and an MBA in Corporate Governance from IBMEC. He has also obtained a professional qualification in Labor Economy from UNICAMP.

*Carlos Bernardo Torres Rodenburg*, has served as a member of our Board of Directors since April 2003. Mr. Rodenburg is currently a Director of CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners Adm. Recursos Ltda. Previously, he held the position of Director at Opportunity Asset Management Ltda. He was also a Director of *Banco Icatu* and a Director of *Atlantica Corretora*. Mr. Rodenburg holds a Business Administration Degree from UNIFACS.

### **Senior Management**

Our senior management consists of a Chief Executive Officer, a Financial Executive Officer and a Human Resources Executive Officer, and a Technical Executive Officer, each elected by the board of directors for a term of three years. The board of directors is also responsible for attributing to one officer the responsibility of investor relations, which may be exercised in conjunction with executive functions. An executive officer may be removed from office at any time by our board of directors.

The following are our current executive officers and their respective positions.

<b>Name (Age)</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date elected</b>
Humberto José Rocha Braz (39)	Chief Executive Officer	August 29, 2003
Paulo Pedrão Rio Branco (53)	Financial Executive Officer	August 28, 2003
	Investor Relations Officer	
Carlos Geraldo Campos Magalhães (51)	Human Resources Executive Officer	August 28, 2003
Francisco Aurélio Sampaio Santiago (51)	Technical Executive Officer	August 28, 2003

*Humberto José Rocha Braz*, has served as our Chief Executive Officer since August 2003. Mr. Braz also served as our Institutional Relations Director from 2002 until 2003. From 1979 to 2002, Mr. Braz held various management positions, including Commercial Director, at the Andrade Gutierrez construction company. Mr. Braz holds a degree in Social Communication from Faculdade de Filosofia, Ciências e Letras de Belo Horizonte and an MBA in Business

Management from Fundação Instituto de Administração FIA.

*Paulo Pedrão Rio Branco*, has served as our Chief Financial Officer and Investor Relations Officer since April 2000. Mr. Rio Branco joined Coelba (*Companhia de Eletricidade do Estado da Bahia*) in 1975, working as General Coordinator of the Presidency. In 1987, he worked as Coordinator of Energy of the Bahia State Secretariat of Mines and Energy. In April 1988, he joined CHESF (*Companhia Hidrelétrica do São Francisco*) as advisor to the President. In June 1989, Mr. Rio Branco became Special Coordinator of Bahia State Secretariat, becoming Secretariat of Mines and Energy of the State of Bahia in January 1990. In May 1990, Mr. Rio Branco became the Chief Financial Officer of CHESF. In 1995, he became Manager of the New Business Department at Coelba. Prior to joining Brasil Telecom Participações S.A., he worked as Development Director at *Iberdrola Energia do Brasil Ltda.* Mr. Rio Branco holds a degree in Business Administration and Economics from *Universidade Católica de Salvador* and a postgraduate degree in corporate finance from *Fundação Getúlio Vargas*.

- 94 -

---



*Carlos Geraldo Campos Magalhães*, has served as our Human Resources Executive Officer since December 13, 2001. Prior to coming to the company, Mr. Magalhães has served as a financial director for OAS Group, sub-secretary of finance of the State of Bahia, General Supervisor of *LIGHT Serviços de Eletricidade S.A.*, and Finance Director and President of *Companhia de Eletricidade do Estado da Bahia COELBA*. Mr. Magalhães holds a degree in business from the Business Administration School of the State of Bahia and a degree in engineering from the *Universidade Federal da Bahia*.

*Francisco Aurélio Sampaio Santiago*, has served as our Technical Executive Officer since August 2003. Mr. Santiago has also served as Brasil Telecom S.A.'s Network Executive Officer since October 2002. He occupied the posts of Assistant Director for the Fulfillment of Targets and Assistant Network Director from December 2000 to September 2002, and has been responsible for the Area of Operations since June 2001. He also served as Network Director of the Central Region (Brasília, Goiás and Tocantins) from May 1999 to December 1999 and of the Southern Region (Paraná, Santa Catarina and MTMR in Rio Grande do Sul) from December 1999 to December 2000. He has been in this industry for 23 years, having served as Engineering Director, Director of Human Resources and Director of the Mobile Department of Telebrasília. Mr. Santiago has a degree in electrical engineering from the *Universidade de Brasilia (UnB)*, and attended a postgraduate course in telecommunications at the École National Supérieure de Telecommunication (ENST) in Paris, France in 1984 and a course on Tele-computing at UnB in 1987.

### ***Compensation***

For the year ended December 31, 2004, the aggregate amount of total compensation that Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. paid to all of our directors and executive officers was approximately R\$5.5 million. This value excludes the amount of bonus paid to our directors and executive officers.

For the year ended December 31, 2004, the aggregate amount for pension, retirement or similar benefits for Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.'s directors and executive officers was approximately R\$223,000. We have not entered into any employment or service agreement with any of our directors or executive officers. As a result, the only benefits accruing to any of our directors or executive officers upon their termination are medical benefits and those provided under applicable Brazilian laws.

### ***Stock Option Plan***

At Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.'s Extraordinary General Shareholders Meeting held on April 28, 2000, shareholders approved the general plan to grant stock purchase options to our officers and our employees (the "Plan"). The Plan authorizes a maximum limit of 10.0% of the shares of each class of company stock. To date, the general terms of the Plan have not been submitted to Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.'s board of directors.

At Brasil Telecom S.A.'s Extraordinary General Shareholders Meeting held on April 28, 2000, shareholders also approved a general plan to grant stock purchase options to its officers and its employees and the employees of its subsidiaries (the "Brasil Telecom S.A. Plan"). The Brasil Telecom S.A. Plan authorizes a maximum limit of 10.0% of the shares of each class of company stock. Shares received from the exercise of options guarantee the beneficiaries the same rights granted to Brasil Telecom S.A.'s other shareholders. The general terms of this plan have been submitted to Brasil Telecom S.A.'s board of directors and the administration of this plan was entrusted to a management committee appointed by Brasil Telecom S.A.'s board of directors, which decided to grant only preferred stock options.

The Brasil Telecom S.A. Plan is divided into two separate programs:

Program (A)



This program is granted as an extension of the performance of Brasil Telecom S.A.'s objectives established by its board of directors for a five-year period. At December 31, 2004, no stock had been granted.

#### Program (B)

The strike price of the option is established by the management committee having as reference the arithmetic average of the market price of the shares for the last 20 trading sessions prior to the date of granting the option. The price will be monetarily restated by the IGP-M between the date of signing the contracts and the payment date.

The first grant of stock options under Program B occurred on December 17, 2002 with 622,364 options issued. The second grant of options occurred on December 19, 2003 with 308,033 options. 22,928 of the options granted on December 17, 2002 lapsed during 2003. The third grant of options occurred on December 21, 2004 with 507,650 options. No options lapsed during 2004.

The right to exercise the options applies to: (a) 33.0% on the 24<sup>th</sup> month after the date the option was granted; (b) 33.0% in the 36<sup>th</sup> month after the date the option was granted; and (c) 34.0% in the 48<sup>th</sup> month after the date the option was granted. The periods of acquisition can be anticipated in view of the occurrence of events or special conditions set forth in the option contract. Options that are not exercised after seven years from the date of execution of the options agreements will expire without compensation.

The information related with the general plan to grant stock options is summarized below:

	<b>2004</b>	
	<b>Preferred Shares Options (thousand)</b>	<b>Average exercise price (R\$)</b>
Balance as of 12/31/2003	907,469	11.73
Granted	507,650	15.28
Expired	-	-
Balance as of 12/31/2004	1,415,119	13.00

#### **Board Practices**

We are administered by a board of directors (*Conselho de Administração*) and our senior management (*Diretoria*), and overseen by a fiscal council (*Conselho Fiscal*).

#### ***Board of Directors***

The board of directors, whose functions resemble those of a U.S. board of directors, must be comprised of at least three individual shareholders resident in Brazil or non-resident, provided that the latter is represented in Brazil by an attorney-in fact. The board of directors is mandated to direct the company's business; elect, remove and establish the duties and responsibilities of the company's executive officers; inspect the activities of the executive officers and the company records and documents, including those with third parties; call general shareholders meetings as deemed appropriate or required; comment on reports of the officers and their accountants; provide prior commentary on

company acts or contracts, as provided for in the by-laws; approve share issues or dividends; decide on the disposal of assets, encumbrances, guarantees and obligations assumed on behalf of third parties, unless the by-laws provide otherwise, and select and dismiss independent auditors. Financial statements, including annual balance sheet, accumulated profit and loss statement, income statement and source and application of funds statement must be prepared under the direction of the board of directors, audited and approved by shareholders. We do not have a separate audit or remuneration committee.

In addition to the duties prescribed by law, our by-laws provides that our board of directors is also responsible for, among others:

- (i) approving our annual budget, including the objectives and business strategy for the period of that budget;
- (ii) authorizing the acquisition of our issued shares whether for the purpose of cancellation or otherwise;
- (iii) approving our participation in or any sale of our participation in the capital of other companies;
- (iv) authorizing the acquisition of fixed assets whose individual value is above 1.0% of our net equity;
- (v) within the limit of our authorized capital, approving the grant of any option to purchase stock to our administrators, employees and to individuals that render services to us;
- (vi) authorizing the giving of real or personal guarantees by us in favor of third parties;
- (vii) authorizing certain benefits given to our employees or to the community in furtherance of our corporate responsibilities;
- (viii) approving loans, financing, leasing and issues of commercial papers whose individual value is above 1.0% of our net equity;
- (ix) authorizing investments in new businesses or the creation of any subsidiary;
- (x) approving the complementary social security policy of the company and the collective bargaining agreements;
- (xi) approving the internal rules of the board of directors;
- (xii) approving any proposal of the senior management relating to our organizational structure, including the competence and duties of our senior management;
- (xiii) electing and dismissing, at any moment, our senior management, including the Chief Executive Officer and assigning duties to them, in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws; and
- (xiv) dividing the global remuneration amount, set by the annual general shareholders meeting, between our Directors and Executive Officers and assigning their individual remuneration.

Currently, our board of directors consists of six directors; all of which are elected by holders of our Common Shares. Our directors are replaced during any absence, impediment or vacancy, by their respective alternate. In the case of a vacancy in the position of an effective director, the remaining directors will appoint among them an alternate, who will take on the role until the time of the first meeting. Anyone who occupies positions in companies with which we compete, in particular, on advisory committees, board of directors or fiscal councils; or anyone who has interests which conflict with ours shall not be elected to the board of directors.

The board of directors will meet ordinarily once every two months and holds special meetings whenever called by the Chairman or by two members of the board of directors. Voting takes place by majority of those present.

In order to comply with the rules established for companies qualified under Level 1 of BOVESPA Special Corporate Governance, when a director or executive officer is elected, his investiture is conditioned upon the execution and delivery of a statement of consent (*Termo de Anuência dos Administradores*), by means of which he personally undertakes to comply with the Differentiated Corporate Governance Practice Rules established by BOVESPA for Level 1 companies. Our directors and executive officers must also report to BOVESPA the volume

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F  
and characteristics of any securities directly or indirectly held by them, including derivatives.

- 97 -

---

***Fiscal Council***

Brazilian Corporation Law requires us to provide in our by-laws for the existence of a board of auditors which we refer to as our fiscal council, but does not require us to have one on a permanent basis. We have adopted by-laws which require us to have a permanent fiscal council that consists of at least three and not more than five members and an equal number of alternates. Currently our fiscal council is composed of four members and their respective alternates three of which are elected by holders of our common shares and one which is elected by holders of our preferred shares. The members of our fiscal council are elected at the annual general shareholders meeting and are not part of our board of directors. The fiscal council operates independently from our senior management and from our external auditors and has the following legal authorities:

- (i) to supervise the acts of our senior management and ensure that they comply with their legal and statutory duties;
- (ii) to give an opinion on the annual report of the management, including the supplementary information deemed necessary or useful for deliberation at a general meeting;
- (iii) to give an opinion on any proposals of the senior management and board of directors to be submitted to a general meeting, regarding an alteration in the capital, the issue of debentures or subscription bonuses, investment plans or capital budgets, dividend distribution, transformation, merger, consolidation or division;
- (iv) to report any error, fraud or criminal acts it may discover to the senior management and board of directors, and, if these fail to take the necessary steps to protect our interests, to a general meeting of shareholders suggesting an appropriate course of action;
- (v) to call the annual general meeting should the senior management and board of directors delay doing so for more than one month, and an extraordinary general meeting whenever serious or urgent matters occur, including in the agenda of the meeting such matters as it may deem necessary;
- (vi) to examine, at least every three months, the trial balance sheet and other financial statements periodically prepared by us;
- (vii) to examine the accounts and financial statements for the fiscal year and to provide an opinion on them;
- (viii) to exercise such responsibilities during a liquidation, taking into account the special provisions which regulate liquidations.

In order to comply with the rules established for companies qualified under the Level 1 of BOVESPA Special Corporate Governance, when one of the members of our fiscal council is elected, his investiture is conditioned upon the execution and delivery of a statement of consent (*Termo de Anuência dos Membros do Conselho Fiscal*), by means of which he personally undertakes to comply with the differentiated corporate governance practice rules established by BOVESPA for Level 1 companies. Our fiscal council members must also report to BOVESPA the volume and characteristics of our securities directly or indirectly held by them, including derivatives.

The following are the current members of our fiscal council. For the year ended December 31, 2004, the aggregate amount of total compensation that we paid to all of the members of our fiscal council was approximately R\$408,000:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date Elected</b>
Luiz Otavio Nunes West	April 29, 2005

Gilberto Braga

April 29, 2005

Luiz Fernando Cavalcanti Trocoli

April 29, 2005

Jorge Michel Lepeltier\*

April 29, 2005

\*Elected by the preferred shareholders.



**Corporate Governance Practices**

The significant differences between our corporate governance practices and the New York Stock Exchange standards can be found on our website, [www.brasiltelecom.com.br/ir/](http://www.brasiltelecom.com.br/ir/). The information found at this website is not incorporated by reference into this document.

**Employees**

In 2004, we increased the number of our employees by approximately 27.0%, from 5,265 employees at December 31, 2003 to 6,686 employees at December 31, 2004. This increase was due to the acquisitions and consolidation of MetroRed, Vant, and iG. At the end of the year ended on December 31, 2004, our wireless operation had 881 employees in the commercial, business development and sales planning departments, compared to 71 on December 31, 2003. All of our employees are employed on a full-time basis.

Approximately 27.3% of our employees work in the area of operations, 33.5% of our employees work in the area of marketing and other commercial activities, 10.8% of our employees work in the area of finance, 9.9% of our employees work in the area of information technology, 8.6% of our employees work in the area of support services, 3.8% of our employees work in the area of human resources and 6.1% of our employees work in the area of senior management.

Approximately 25.2% of our employees are affiliated employees of the unions, legal representatives of the category, that are affiliated to the following federations: FENATTEL - *Federação Nacional dos Trabalhadores em Telecomunicações* (National Federation of Telecommunications Workers), or FITTEL - *Federação Interestadual dos Trabalhadores em Telecomunicações* (Interstate Federation of Telecommunications Workers). The base date of the category is December, time in which the salary losses for the period are negotiated, with basis on the accrued INPC index from December to November of the immediately preceding year.

The economic clauses are negotiated annually, while the social clauses are negotiated every 2 years.

The following table sets forth the breakdown of our employees by geographic region:

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
	(%)	(%)	(%)
<b><u>Offices</u></b>			
Distrito Federal	32.9	36.0	36.7
Rio Grande do Sul	17.9	14.2	13.2
Paraná	20.1	19.0	16.1
Santa Catarina	10.4	9.9	9.5
Goiás/Tocantins	7.9	7.1	7.7
Mato Grosso do Sul	4.3	3.9	4.2
Mato Grosso	3.9	4.1	4.1
Rondônia	2.1	2.2	2.2
Acre	0.5	0.5	0.7
São Paulo <sup>(1)</sup>	0.0	0.6	3.5
Rio de Janeiro <sup>(1)</sup>	0.0	2.1	1.8
U.S., Venezuela and Bermudas Islands <sup>(1)</sup>	0.0	0.4	0.3

<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

- (1) In 2003, there were employees in three new locations, due mainly to the operation of the São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro offices, acquisition of iBest and Grupo BrT Cabos Submarinos.
- (2) The increase in headcount in 2004 reflects the acquisitions of MetroRed, Vant, and iG.

- 99 -

---

**Performance Bonus Plan**

We renewed the collective labor agreement with several labor unions in the context of which we would pay a bonus to the employees who reached their operational targets, according to the terms and conditions set forth in the norms of the bonus plan for performance.

For the year ended December 31, 2004, we paid, in 2005, approximately R\$47.8 million in performance bonuses to our officers, executives and employees.

For the year ended December 31, 2003, we paid, in 2004, approximately R\$30.6 million in performance bonuses to our officers, executives and employees.

**Share Ownership**

According to the Brazilian Corporation Law, all members of the board of directors of a Brazilian publicly held company must also be shareholders of that company. As a result, all members of our board of directors own at least one of our shares.

None of our directors, members of our fiscal council or senior managers own beneficially as much as 1% of any class of our capital stock.

**ITEM 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions****Major Shareholders**

References to "Preferred Shares and "Common Shares" in this Annual Report are to our preferred shares and common shares, respectively. References to "American Depositary Shares" or "ADSs" are references to American Depositary Shares each representing 3,000 Preferred Shares, and references to "American Depositary Receipts" or "ADRs" are references to the American Depositary Receipts, the certificates that evidence the ADSs.

Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.'s capital stock is comprised of Preferred Shares and Common Shares, all without par value. At December 31, 2004, there were 226,007,752,980 Preferred Shares outstanding and 132,550,888,203 Common Shares outstanding. Of the two classes of the capital stock outstanding, only the Common Shares have full voting rights. Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.'s Preferred Shares have voting rights under the following limited circumstances:

- in any decision by the General Shareholders' Meeting related to any management service agreement, including any technical assistance agreement, to be entered into by our company with any foreign entity affiliated to any of Techold, TII or Timepart; and
- in any decision by General Shareholders' Meeting, related to any matter, if our company shall have omitted to pay preferred dividends for three or more consecutive years.

The following table sets forth information concerning the ownership of our Preferred Shares and Common Shares (i) by Solpart and (ii) by Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.'s directors and senior management as a group, at December 31, 2004. At December 31, 2004, Caixa de Previdência dos Funcionários do Banco do Brasil owned 5.14% of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.'s common stock. We are not aware of any other shareholder of record owning

more than 5.0% of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.'s Common Shares.

<b>Name of Owner</b>	<b>Number of Preferred Shares Owned</b>	<b>% of Outstanding Preferred Shares</b>	<b>Number of Common Shares Owned</b>	<b>% of Outstanding Common Shares</b>
Solpart Participações S.A and certain indirect shareholders	13,290,591,578	5.88	83,004,508,550	62.62
All directors and executives officers	2,092,159	0.00	47,704	0.00

- 100 -

---

Name of Owner	Number of Preferred Shares Owned	% of Outstanding Preferred Shares	Number of Common Shares Owned	% of Outstanding Common Shares
---------------	---	--	--	---

as a group

At December 31, 2004 Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.'s Preferred Shares were held by approximately 1,516,686 registered holders, of whom approximately 1,516,509 registered holders were located in Brazil. At December 31, 2004, Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.'s Common Shares were held by approximately 1,782,137 registered holders, of whom approximately 1,781,995 registered holders were located in Brazil.

At December 31, 2004, Solpart owned approximately 51.0% of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.'s common stock. Accordingly, Solpart has the ability to control the election of the board of directors of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. At May 31, 2005, to the best of our knowledge, Techold, TII and Timepart owned approximately 61.98%, 38.00% and 0.02%, respectively, of the voting capital and capital stock of Solpart.

The following is a brief description of our controlling shareholders:

- We are ultimately indirectly controlled by Opportunity Zain S.A. ( Zain ).
- Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil, L.P. ( CVC LP ), Investidores Institucionais FIA, PRIV FIA and Opportunity Fund hold 42.10%, 45.45%, 2.39% and 9.75% respectively of the voting capital of Opportunity Zain S.A., which in turn is the controlling shareholder of Invitel S.A. There is currently litigation pending regarding voting rights to the interests of IIFIA.
- Invitel S.A. is the holding company of Techold Participações S.A., which together with Timepart hold 47.5% and 20.9% respectively of the capital stock of Solpart.
- Timepart is a company owned by Telecom Holding S.A., Privtel Investimentos S.A. and Teleunion S.A.
- *Telecom Holding S.A.* is, to the best of our knowledge, controlled by Woog Family LP. On January 5, 2005 an application was made to Anatel requesting approval for the transfer of all the shares of Telecom Holding S.A. owned by Woog Family LP to Invitel Investments S.A. and Teleunion S.A. Until this moment, Anatel has not yet given its approval.
- *Privtel Investimentos S.A.* is owned by Eduardo Cintra Santos, who serves on Brasil Telecom S.A.'s board of directors.
- *Teleunion S.A.* is owned by the estate of Luiz Raymundo Tourinho Dantas.
- Solpart is the controlling shareholder of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.

For a description of Solpart's Shareholders Agreement, see " Major Shareholders Shareholders' agreement."

The following chart sets forth our controlling shareholders as of May 31, 2005.



### *Voting Control of the Company*

Solpart, Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.'s controlling entity has a shareholders' agreement. On July 19, 1998, Timepart, Techold, TII, Solpart and others, entered into an Amendment and Restated Shareholders Agreement of Solpart, to set forth their respective rights and obligations with respect to their interest in Solpart and in its then controlled companies and provides, among other things, for the following:

- the rules for the nomination of the majority of our directors and executive officers;
- a right of first offer, rights of first refusal and tag-along rights for TII; and
- rights of first refusal for Techold with respect to the sale of TII's shares in Solpart.

Under the Solpart Shareholders' Agreement, upon the fulfillment of certain conditions, Techold and TII may be entitled to nominate and elect members of our Board of Directors and of our Senior Management. In April 2005, an agreement was entered into restoring these rights. However, as a result of various lawsuits preliminary injunctions have been issued enjoining enforcement of this agreement. In addition, under the Solpart Shareholders' Agreement, the parties thereto have agreed, among other things, that the:

- modification of our business plan, dividend policy and Bylaws;
- sale of any of our material assets;
- issuance by our company of additional securities;

- increase or reduction of our capital;
- incurrence by our company of additional indebtedness; and
- merger of our company with another company,

- 102 -

---



require (i) the prior approval of an absolute majority of the voting capital of Solpart and (ii) the affirmative vote of TII in the matters defined therein as Supermajority Matters. See Item 3 "Key Information Risk factors Risks relating to our company Certain beneficial shareholders control a large percentage of our voting shares, and their interests may conflict with the interests of our other shareholders, including minority shareholders. Disputes among our controlling shareholders and entities that manage our controlling shareholders have had and could in the future have a material adverse effect on our management and operations."

On September 16, 2003, Solpart Participações S.A., Opportunity Logica II FIA, OPP I FIA, Opportunity I FIA, Opportunity Fund and CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners LP entered into a shareholders agreement called "Acordo de Voto da Brasil Telecom Participações S.A." (hereinafter referred to as the "Voting Agreement"). The Voting Agreement establishes that the above-mentioned shareholders shall vote as a block, in order to reinforce the exercise of the control of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. by its current controlling shareholders.

On October 30, 1998, Opportunity Zain S.A., Opportunity Fund, CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners FIA, now denominated Investidores Institucionais Fundo de Investimentos em Ações ("Investidores Institucionais FIA"), PRIV FIA, Tele FIA, Fundação Petrobras de Seguridade Social, Fundação Sistel de Seguridade Social, Caixa de Previdência dos Funcionários do Banco do Brasil and Fundação Embratel de Seguridade Social entered into the Shareholders' Agreement of Invitel (hereinafter referred to as the "Invitel Shareholders' Agreement"). The Invitel Shareholders' Agreement provides for rules regarding (i) the appointment of Officers and Directors on the level of Invitel, Techold, Solpart and Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.; (ii) the exercise of voting rights by the Parties and the board members appointed by Invitel; and (iii) the right of first refusal on the transfer of shares issued by Invitel.

At the date of the filing of this annual report, control over Solpart and the right of our Board of Directors to take certain actions without a shareholders meeting is the subject of a number of judicial proceedings.

#### RECENT DISCLOSURES BY OUR SHAREHOLDERS

We have been informed that Opportunity Prime Investment Services Ltd has agreed to sell, directly or indirectly, 9,857,000,000 (nine billion, eight hundred and fifty-seven million) nominative common shares issued by Brasil Telecom Participações to Telecom Italia S.p.A. in a period of 24 (twenty four) months starting from April 28, 2005. The aforementioned transaction is subject to a number of conditions before its completion and these arrangements are as of the date of this annual report being contested in judicial proceedings.

On April 29, 2005 we published the following material fact: Techold Participações S.A. ( Techold ), alongside Timepart Participações Ltda. ( Timepart ) and Telecom Itália International N.V. ( Telecom Italia ), as shareholders of Solpart Participações S.A. ( Solpart ), company which controls, directly, BTP, and, indirectly, BrT and 14 Brasil Telecom Celular S.A. ( BTC ) (BTC, in conjunction with BTP and BrT, hereafter denominated Brasil Telecom Group ), entered into an Agreement on April 28, 2005, seeking the reestablishment of Telecom Italia s original position in the controlling group of Brasil Telecom Group, condition which was temporarily suspended until pertinent regulatory issues were resolved, through the restoration of political rights and the repurchase of the shareholding interest sold to Techold and Timepart in August of 2002. On April 29, 2005, a copy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the Shareholders Agreement Consolidated on August 27, 2002 was filed at the headquarters of BrT and BTP.

The aforementioned notice informs that Techold and Telecom Italia converted the totality of their preferred shares issued by Solpart into voting shares on April 28, 2005, pursuant to the by-laws of Solpart. Telecom Italia will nominate members of the Board of Directors of Solpart, BTP and BT, in accordance with the abovementioned shareholders agreement. This agreement was reached considering that the Merger Agreement and the Merger s Protocol entered into with TIM Brasil Serviços e Participações S.A. ( TIM Brasil ) allow for the removal of legal issues that obstructed the restoration of Telecom Italia s right of returning to the controlling group of Brasil Telecom Group.

Techold, Timepart, Solpart, BTP, and BrT entered into an Agreement ending lawsuits and disputes between the companies, including reciprocal settlements, with respect to the return of Telecom Italia to the controlling group of Brasil Telecom Group.

We take note that the foregoing agreements are the subject of judicial proceedings and injunctions.

The following disclosure was recently made by certain of our indirect shareholders (the inclusion of this disclosure is for information purposes and under no circumstance should be viewed as reflecting the judgment or opinion of the Company that these agreements are proper or improper): In compliance with CVM/SEP/GEA-2 Written Notice 225/05, dated May 27, 2005, and the terms of CVM Instruction 358, dated January 3, 2002, International Equity Investments, Inc. ( IEII ), as the sole shareholder and limited partner of Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil, L.P. (the CVC LP ), Investidores Institucionais FIA, Previ, Funcef and Petros, in view of the publication of press releases announcing the existence of contractual adjustments entered into by the aforementioned entities, clarifies and informs the market as follows:

- In March 2005, IEII and the CVC LP, represented by its current manager, Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil LLC, entered into certain agreements with Investidores Institucionais FIA and Previ, Funcef and Petros, including the Shareholders Agreement of Opportunity Zain S.A. ( Zain or the Company ), as announced in the material fact published on 03.11.05 (collectively, the Agreements ).
- The Agreements establish that the CVC LP and Investidores Institucionais FIA, with combined shareholdings of around 90% of the voting and total capital of Zain, will conjunctly perform the corporate control of such Company and Invitel S.A. ( Invitel ), a company controlled by Zain with about 68% of its voting and total capital, and in which the Pension Funds and other non-publicly held pension entities hold nearly the totality of the remaining voting and total capital. The Agreements also establish that the parties are to attempt to disinvest, under identical terms, conjunctly and in an organized manner, their shareholdings in Zain and Invitel, companies which control, among other companies, Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. ( BTP ), Brasil Telecom S.A. ( BT ) and 14 Brasil Telecom Celular S.A. ( BTC ).
- In the context of the execution of the Agreements, the Pension Funds signed the Put Option on Shares Issued by Opportunity Zain S.A. Agreement, granting the CVC LP a put option on its Zain shares, which may be exercised in a limited period of time, but not before November 2007. If and when the CVC LP exercises its put option, a right conditioned to the occurrence of future and uncertain events, some of which are out of the control of the CVC LP, Investidores Institucionais FIA and Previ, Funcef and Petros, the exercise price is to be set to R\$1,045,941,692.43, adjusted by the variation of the IGP-DI Index + 5% p.a.. The fulfillment of the conditions to the exercise of such put option granted by the Pension Funds does not depend or is tied to the occurrence of any operation or business involving, directly or indirectly, property or other assets owned by Zain, Invitel or any of their controlled companies, among which, BTP, BT and BTC.

### **Related Party Transactions**

None of the members of our board of directors or senior management, or any close member of their respective families, has or has had, since the period beginning January 1, 2002, any direct interest in any transaction effected with our company which is or was unusual in its nature or conditions, or significant to our business.

As of December 31, 2004, no outstanding loans or guarantees have been made to the members of our board of directors, senior management, or any close member of their respective families.

### ***Transactions with Solpart Participações S.A.***

#### *Dividends and interest on Shareholders' Equity*

R\$48,472,000 (R\$39,015,000 in 2003) of the dividends and interest on shareholders' equity credited in 2004 were allocated to the parent company. See note 28 to our consolidated audited Financial Statements.

**ITEM 8. Financial Information****Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information**

See Item 18 "Financial Statements."

**Legal Proceedings*****Breakup of Telebrás***

The legality of the breakup of Telebrás and privatization of Telebrás was challenged in numerous legal proceedings, the great majority of which have now been dismissed. A few, however, are still pending. We believe that the ultimate resolution of those proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition.

We are a party to certain legal proceedings arising in the normal course of business, including civil, administrative, tax, social security and labor proceedings. We have provided for or deposited in court amounts to cover our estimated losses due to adverse legal judgments. We believe that such actions, if decided adversely to our company, are not likely to have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition.

Telebrás, our legal predecessor, is a defendant in a number of legal proceedings and is subject to certain other claims and contingencies. Under the terms of the breakup of Telebrás, liability for any claims arising out of acts committed by Telebrás prior to the effective date of the breakup of Telebrás remains with Telebrás, except for labor and tax claims (for which Telebrás and the 12 new holding companies into which it was broken-up are jointly and severally liable by operation of law) and any liability for which specific accounting provisions have been assigned to us. Our management believes that the chances of any such claims materializing and having a material adverse financial effect on our company are remote.

***Administrative Claim Before Anatel***

Embratel has filed an administrative claim against our company before Anatel challenging the legality of an association entered into by our company and other regional fixed-line companies for the rendering of 800 national services. Embratel alleged that such an association violated applicable telecommunications legislation. Anatel decided for the dismissal of the administrative claim, since the association was not awarded to render the 800 national services in this specific case.

***Antitrust Proceedings***

Embratel and other companies filed administrative complaints before Anatel, the Secretariat of Economic Law of the Ministry of Justice and CADE charging us with carrying out cartel-like practices with Telemar and Telefônica. We were only allowed to start operating outside of our concession area after January 19, 2004, following Anatel's certification that we anticipated our 2003 universalization targets. While we believe these antitrust complaints are groundless and baseless an adverse decision by CADE could result in the imposition of a penalty against us from 10%-30% of our total annual revenue.

***Labor Legal Proceedings***

At December 31, 2004, contingent liabilities for labor legal proceedings in which the risk of loss was considered "probable" amounted to approximately R\$414.2million. At December 31, 2004, contingent liabilities for labor legal

proceedings in which the risk of loss was considered "possible" amounted to approximately R\$649.3 million. As of December 31, 2004, we were involved in approximately 22,310 labor legal proceedings, 8,028 of which were brought against CRT. The estimated total amount involved in these proceedings is approximately R\$1,228.8 million.

- 105 -

---

In 2004, despite the fact we had an increase in the total number of labor legal proceedings, there was a decrease in labor contingent liabilities in which the risk of loss was considered "probable" in the amount of R\$9.8 million. This decrease was mainly due to the efforts we made to reach an agreement in several labor legal proceedings, specially those related to labor class actions brought against the Rio Grande do Sul branch (former CRT) and to monetary adjustments related to our re-evaluation of labor contingent liabilities.

Our labor legal proceedings are based mainly on claims arising from:

- performance bonus plan;
- employee promotions;
- dangerous work conditions;
- overtime;
- subsidiary liability;
- productivity;
- recognition of employment relationship;
- reinstatement; and
- voluntary severance plans.

As the successor of Telepar, we were the defendant in a civil public action brought by the Attorney General for Labor Matters of Curitiba (*Ministério Público do Trabalho - Curitiba*) based on our dismissal of a large number of employees aged 40 years or over (with an average of more than 20 years' of seniority) under our restructuring program. During 2001, a preliminary judgment was entered in this matter ordering the reinstatement of the dismissed employees and dismissing all claims for indemnification. We have appealed this judgment and the judicial order was revoked. The civil public action was dismissed and the Attorney General for Labor Matters of Curitiba filed an appeal with the *Tribunal Regional do Trabalho* ("Regional Labor Court"). The appeal court ordered the rehiring of the dismissed employees. Both parties filed a review appeal to the *Tribunal Superior do Trabalho* ("Superior Labor Court") and are still awaiting a decision of this matter. Considering that the rehiring of such employees, as opposed to their reinstatement, will have effects only as of effective rehiring, we do not expect any costs related to this action.

Brasil Telecom, S.A. is the defendant in a labor claim filed by 1,478 employees, in 1984, requesting the payment of salary differences due to the failure in complying with the "Company Internal Rules," which established different criteria depending on an employee's seniority. In 1988, a judgment was entered in this matter ordering the payment of such differences. Since the judgment, the parties have been discussing the values involved in the action. In order to settle the values involved, a specific appeal was filed to the Regional Labor Court which ordered the exclusion of the employees who were hired after October 1976. The Regional Labor Court ruled that only 818 employees are entitled to the claim, excluding 660 other claimants. The court's appointed expert found that our exposure was equal to R\$144 million, and the company is challenging this calculation through an *agravo de petição* ("specific interlocutory appeal in the execution phase"). Subsequently, the parties agreed to settle the matter individually, and as of December 2004 we had settled with 615 employees for approximately \$53 million (including taxes and contributions). We estimate that we may still incur approximately R\$24 million in liability, as not all employees are interested in amicable settlements.

In 1984, 1,480 employees filed a labor claim requesting the payment of differences due to the profit sharing bonus. The Labor Judge dismissed the labor claim in 1985. An appeal filed to the Regional Labor Court modified the decision, ordering the payment of the profit sharing. Telesc (predecessor of Brasil Telecom S.A.; currently a branch in the State of Santa Catarina) filed a review appeal (*recurso de revista*) to the Superior Labor Court and also



to the *Supremo Tribunal Federal* ("Supreme Court"), but the decision was confirmed. In 1990, an agreement was settled with the employees in order to pay the profit sharing. In 1995, a Governmental Resolution N. 10 was issued and as a result, Telesc did not pay the profit sharing as agreed but instead began to pay as established in the Resolution. In 1997, SINTTEL and part of the employees requested the reopening of the labor claim to execute the differences of the profit sharing payments. The Labor Judge did not accept the request. However, the Regional Labor Court admitted the employees' request. In 1998, Telesc filed a review appeal, which was not accepted by the Superior Labor Court. In 2003, Telesc filed a *recurso extraordinário* ("extraordinary appeal") to the Supreme Court, which was not accepted. Telesc filed an *agravo de instrumento* ("interlocutory appeal") before the Supreme Court in April 2003, which was not accepted. The labor claim was returned to the lower Labor Judge for the executory phase. We estimate that we would incur a cost of approximately R\$20.6 million, based on our evaluation that 703 employees are eligible for indemnification with respect to the years of 1996 through 1998. However, on January 2005, the lower Labor Judge confirmed the court's expert opinion of 1,098 employees to be indemnified in the total amount of approximately R\$64 million with respect to the years of 1996 to 2003 (including a penalty of R\$12 million). We filed an appeal against such court decision and are currently in negotiations to settle the entire case.

In 1991, SINTTEL filed a labor claim against Teleron, seeking the payment of a hazard conditions bonus for 123 employees. The Labor Judge pronounced a decision granting SINTTEL requests. The decision was maintained by the *Tribunal Regional do Trabalho* ("Regional Labor Court") and by the *Tribunal Superior do Trabalho* ("Superior Labor Court") and became unappealable on 1995. Brasil Telecom, S.A. filed a Rescissory Action, pursuing the annulment of the sentenced action, based on technical problems during the expert examination. The decision was rendered and was considered with grounds by the Regional Labor Court, in 1997. Due to this decision, SINTTEL filed a Review Appeal for the Superior Labor Court, which was accepted on April 2004. Brasil Telecom, S.A. filed an Extraordinary Appeal to the Supreme Court, which was dismissed. Brasil Telecom, S.A. filed an *agravo de instrumento* ("interlocutory appeal") before the Supreme Court, which was not accepted. Brasil Telecom, S.A. filed an *agravo regimental* ("special appeal according to specific court regulations"), which is pending decision.

The writ of execution stayed, due the first decision in the Rescissory action, was resumed. The calculation of the award provided by the court was on the amount of R\$23 million, and the Company filed a motion to stay the execution, which was partially accepted. Brasil Telecom, S.A. filed an Ordinary Appeal to the Regional Labor Court, which is pending judgment. Brasil Telecom, S.A. made a *depósito judicial* ("deposit in court") of an amount equivalent to R\$23 million. On May 23, 2005, the Company settled the entire case for R\$22.8 million (including taxes and contributions). As of the date of filing of this annual report, the parties are waiting for the Judge's final approval of the settlement, which is pending decision.

### ***Legal Tax Proceedings***

#### *Application of ICMS on Cellular Activation and Other Fees*

In June 1998, the governments of certain Brazilian States approved an Agreement (Convênio 69/98) to interpret existing Brazilian tax law to broaden the application of the state value added tax, ICMS, effective July 1, 1998, to certain services, including cellular activation and installation services, to which the ICMS had not previously been applied.

The administrative tax authorities in the Federal District and in the States of Santa Catarina, Tocantins, Acre and Rio Grande do Sul have assessed our company on this issue regarding the period of five years preceding June 30, 1998. However, our company obtained favorable judicial decisions confirming that ICMS cannot be applied retroactively to services rendered during the period prior to the Convênio 69/98 (June 30, 1998).

We believe that any such attempt by the governments of these States to extend the scope of the ICMS to apply it retroactively to services that are supplementary to basic telecommunications services is illegal and unconstitutional because:

- (a) Their interpretation would subject certain services which are not telecommunications services to taxation; and

(b) Taxes may not be applied retroactively.

Additionally, the statute of limitation for the ICMS tax is of five years, which means that the State governments can only charge taxes within a five-year-period starting from the tax-triggering event. Because of that, the tax authorities could not charge the company for the services rendered during the five years preceding June 30, 1998, since the term of the statute of limitation has expired.

Recently, the STJ decided in the Special Appeal 402.047 -MG and Special Appeal 330.130 -DF that no ICMS should be levied on the cellular installation and activation services established in Convênio 69/98. However, we have knowledge of other judicial decision unfavorable to the taxpayer. Even though, the STJ has not granted a final and uniform decision on this issue, we estimate a probable possibility of a favorable decision to the taxpayer, which means a low likelihood of disbursement in our proceedings. With regard to the payments of ICMS tax on such cellular activation and installation services as of July 1, 1998, we have filed judicial claims (declaratory actions) in the States of our region to avoid such collections. As of December 2004, we deposited in court approximately R\$202.9 million in order to guarantee the judicial discussion without the application of interest and fees. In case the legality of *Convênio 69/98* is confirmed by Superior Courts, the deposited amount will be converted into revenue to the state treasury department without new disbursements by the company. However, if Superior Courts consolidate the opinion that the terms of *Convênio 69/98* are illegal, the deposited amount may be returned to us.

#### *Services Tax Applying on Complementary Telecommunications services*

Several municipal governments assessed our company in order to collect the Services Tax ("ISS") on the complementary telecommunications services. These assessments constitute a relevant contingency for our company. The company understands that these complementary telecommunications services, which are considered accessory services in the telecommunications services, are subject to ICMS instead of the ISS. Consequently, our company is not paying the ISS on these services. Our company's legal counsel estimates as reasonable the likelihood of disbursement considering the absence of judicial precedent in superior judicial courts. As of December 2004, the amount of this tax contingency that corresponds to a possible contingency is approximately R\$268.6 million. This amount is not provisioned in our company's balance sheet.

#### *State Value-Added Tax Credits*

Several States Treasury Department assessed our company in order to discuss the use of the ICMS tax credits. Our company presented administrative and judicial defenses against the assessments. In some administrative proceedings, the decision at the first administrative level was unfavorable to the company. According to the State tax authorities, the procedure adopted by our company for registering the ICMS credits is not in accordance with the law. On the other hand, our company's legal counsel understands that the likelihood of disbursement is low in the judicial level since ICMS tax credits are guaranteed by the Brazilian Constitution. As of December 2004, the amount involved in the discussion that corresponds to a possible contingency is approximately R\$455.1 million. This amount is not provisioned in our company's balance sheet.

#### *State Value-Added Tax Applying on International Telecommunications services*

Several States Treasury Departments assessed our company in order to collect the ICMS tax on international telephone calls. The tax authorities understand that international telephone calls are services rendered in Brazil and subject to ICMS tax since the request and the payment for the services are executed in Brazil. Our company presented administrative defenses against the assessments. As of December 2004, the amount involved in the administrative proceedings that corresponds to a possible contingency is approximately R\$186.5 million. This amount is not provisioned in the company's balance sheet. Our company's legal counsel understands the ICMS tax is not applicable

to the international telephone call services and estimates the likelihood of disbursement as low.

### *Social Security Contribution Applying on Several Issues*

The National Welfare Agency filed administrative and judicial proceedings against our company in order to collect the Social Welfare Contribution ("INSS"), which is levied on payments of salaries, on several types of payments made to our company's employees. Our company presented defenses against all these proceedings. As of December 2004, the amount involved in those proceedings that corresponds to a possible contingency is approximately R\$459.1 million not provisioned in the company's balance sheet. Our company's legal counsel understands that the possibility of success is reasonable in the judicial level, which means that the likelihood of disbursement is low.

### *State Value-Added Tax Applying on Sale of Pre-paid Telephone Cards*

The State Treasury Department of the States of Mato Grosso and Tocantins assessed our company to collect the ICMS on sale of pre-paid telephone cards used in public telephones. Our company presented administrative defenses against all these assessments. As of December 2004, the amount involved in the administrative proceedings that correspond to a possible contingency is approximately R\$29.3 million. This amount is not provisioned in the company's balance sheet. Our company's legal counsel understands the possibility of success is reasonable in the judicial level, which means that the likelihood of disbursement is low.

### *Costs of the Social Contribution on Gross Revenue Transferred to the Users of the Telecommunications services*

The civil class action was filed by a federal prosecutor and ANDEC ("*Associação Nacional de Defesa dos Consumidores de Cartão de Crédito*") in order to suspend the transfer of the cost of the PIS/COFINS to the users of the telecommunications services. Our company presented defenses against the proceedings. As of December 2004, the amount involved in these judicial proceedings that correspond to a possible contingency is approximately R\$278.5 million. This amount is not provisioned in the company's balance sheet. Our company's legal counsel understands the possibility of success is reasonable in the judicial level, which means that the likelihood of disbursement is low.

### *REFIS*

The REFIS (the "REFIS") is a program created by the Federal government in order to provide the opportunity to legal entities to pay their debts related to taxes managed by the Federal Revenue Service and the National Welfare Agency ("INSS").

On November 16, 2000, the company filed the request to include in the REFIS program its debts related to the taxes managed by the INSS. As of December 2004, the REFIS account indicated an amount of R\$186.6 million. However, this amount does not consider the tax credits used by the company to offset debts included in the REFIS. Therefore, when the Federal Revenue Service ratifies the offsetting of the tax credits against the debts, the remaining amount will be approximately R\$2.9 million. In the calculation of the total amount included in the REFIS, (allowed by law) the company used both (i) a 40% of reduction of the penalty fee applied issued in the assessments and (ii) its own and third parties net operating losses, to offset with the tax debts included in the REFIS.

### *PAES*

The PAES is a program created by the Federal government in order to provide the opportunity to taxpayers to pay their debts (related to taxes managed by the INSS) in 120 installments. In 2004, the company filed the request to pay in installments R\$42.5 million of federal tax debts, and as of December 2004, there are 104 outstanding installments.

### *Civil Legal Proceedings*

At December 31, 2004, we had provisions of approximately R\$215.3 million of contingent liabilities for civil lawsuits classified as "probable" risks. The increase in "probable" contingent liabilities was primarily due to an increase of R\$51.0 million in the civil lawsuits proposed against our company and related to consumer rights'

- 109 -

---

claims, monetary adjustments and revaluation of the legal proceedings, offset by payments amounting to R\$44.7 million. At December 31, 2004, contingent liabilities for civil lawsuits classified as "possible" risks amounted to approximately R\$1,006.3 million. The increase in "possible" contingent liabilities was primarily due to an increase of R\$231.0 million in the lawsuits arising from consumer rights' claims, monetary adjustments, revaluation of the legal proceedings and the capitalization process, where a higher number of shares and amount of dividends is requested.

Most of the civil suits filed against us would not, if determined in a manner adverse to our company, have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition. The most significant civil suits against us are the following:

#### *CRT*

As a result of the merger of CRT into TBS, which was immediately followed by the merger of TBS into Brasil Telecom S.A. on December 28, 2000, we replaced CRT and TBS in all litigation in which they were parties.

Brasil Telecom S.A. replaced CRT in various lawsuits related to the CRT privatization process. The greater part of these lawsuits claims a declaration annulling invitation to bid 04/98 and all acts resulting therefrom. The preliminary motions in these lawsuits were dismissed, allowing the privatization process and consequent sale of the CRT to proceed, and subsequently CRT was merged into Brasil Telecom S.A. Currently, Brasil Telecom S.A. is awaiting a decision on the merits in only a few suits; in other lawsuits, the merits have already been considered and final decisions in favor of Brasil Telecom, S.A. have been issued. Brasil Telecom, S.A. classifies the risk of loss of these lawsuits as remote.

As CRT's successor, Brasil Telecom S.A. is defendant in various lawsuits brought by telephone subscribers in various districts of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, in which the plaintiffs claim the right to shares by virtue of financial participation agreements entered into with Brasil Telecom, S.A. pursuant to Ministry of Communications Order 1.361/76, or damages in an amount equivalent to the shares. The plaintiffs allege that the shares that were subscribed in their names were delivered without taking into consideration monetary correction of the amount they had paid to acquire the telephone lines. The Appeal Court of Rio Grande do Sul has taken the position that the procedure adopted by CRT in issuing shares under the community telephone programs pursuant to Ministry of Communications Order 1.361/76 was incorrect and that the 12-month subscription period in a period of high inflation was abusive. The Appeal Court did not, however, address the argument raised by Brasil Telecom, S.A., to the effect that the matters at issue are financial and corporate in nature, in which case the Consumer Defense Code would not apply and, as a consequence, a large number of the claims would be prescribed. Accordingly, Brasil Telecom, S.A. has been found liable to subscribe shares in favor of the plaintiffs in the lawsuits relating to Order 1.361/76, although we believe that it is possible that the decisions will be overturned in the higher courts. These lawsuits are at different stages: some are still at first instance, some are on appeal in the Appeal Court and some are at the second appellate instance in the Superior Court of Justice.

As the successor of CRT, Brasil Telecom S.A. is the defendant in a Civil Public Action brought by the Federal Attorney General (*Ministério Público*) for Rio Grande do Sul against CRT claiming indemnification of amounts paid by customers as a result of allegedly abusive commercial practices in connection with 0900/900 telephone services. An adverse judgment has been issued against us in this action. Although the court did not award any damages in this action, it enjoined us from offering 0900/900 telephone services and from disconnecting service to customers for the non-payment of any 0900/900 services incurred prior to the date of the judgment. Both parties filed appeals against the decision at first instance, and Brasil Telecom, S.A.'s was partially successful, with the result that the amount of the daily fine for non-compliance with the judgment was reduced, while the appeal by the Attorney General was dismissed. Special and extraordinary appeals have been filed, and decision on those appeals is still pending. Customers seeking to recover damages in this matter will have to bring their own separate actions. Our ultimate

liability will depend on how many of Brasil Telecom, S.A.'s customers initiate and succeed in any such proceedings.

*Splice do Brasil Telecomunicações e Eletrodomésticos Ltda.* has filed a lawsuit against Brasil Telecom, S.A. to collect amounts owed under equipment supply agreements. The court's decision was favorable to the plaintiff and the lawsuit is currently in the execution phase. Brasil Telecom, S.A. offered one of its

- 110 -

---



telecommunications plant in the State of Paraná in exchange as security for execution of judgment and at the same time filed a motion to stay execution, which was denied at first instance. Brasil Telecom, S.A. appealed and the decision denying its motion to stay execution was overturned. Brasil Telecom, S.A.'s motion to stay execution is now proceeding, and in view of the divergence between Brasil Telecom, S.A.'s calculations of the amount owed and Splice do Brasil's, an accounting expert was appointed by the court to determine the amount under execution. The expert has already presented its appraisal report, which sets the amount of the claim at R\$34.1 million, as of December 31, 2004. The ratification of the appraisal by the court is still pending. We have already provisioned for this probable contingency in our balance sheet.

Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. is the defendant in a lawsuit brought by Tele Centro Oeste Celular Participações S.A. ("TCO") in May 1999. TCO claims that certain debts owed to TCO by third parties were wrongly allocated to Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. in connection with the breakup of Telebrás. TCO sought a declaration that these debts, which are owed by *Telebrasília Celular S.A.* and *Telegoiás Celular S.A.* and which amount to approximately R\$142.5 million, are owed to TCO and not to Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. In October 1999, we filed suit against *Telebrasília Celular S.A.* and *Telegoiás Celular S.A.* to collect unpaid and overdue amounts under these debts. In early 2002, the court ruled that (i) the debts are owed to Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and not to TCO, (ii) *Telebrasília Celular S.A.* and *Telegoiás Celular S.A.* must repay the debts to Brasil Telecom Participações S.A., and (iii) the debts will be adjusted according to the exchange rate only up until the date that the breakup of Telebrás took place, and thereafter shall only be adjusted according to the rate of inflation (IGP-DI). Each of the parties appealed this ruling on different grounds. The judgment on appeal decided (i) to overturn the decision at first instance in the lawsuit brought by TCO against Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and dismiss the action without judgment on the merits because of TCO's lack of standing to bring action and (ii) to overturn in part the decision at first instance in the suits brought by Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. against *Telebrasília Celular S.A.* and *Telegoiás Celular S.A.* determining that the debts will be adjusted according to the exchange rate, as established in the agreements.

#### *Community Telephone Program CTP*

As Telems', Telegoias', and Telemat's successor, Brasil Telecom, S.A. is defendant in various lawsuits dealing the implementation of the Community Telephone Program (CTP) in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul, Goiás, Tocantins, and Mato Grosso. The CTP was a type of financing for installing or extending telephone lines. In the greater part of the lawsuits, the claims are for shares in the telephone service operator, as well as damages and dividends, as return on the investment that customers made for the installation of telephone lines under the CTP.

Half of all the lawsuits brought in connection with the CTP are based on agreements with subscribers that provided for payment in shares of the former Telems, Telegoias and Telemat while the other half are based on agreements that do not provide for such payment. The risk of loss in the lawsuits filed against Telems is classified as possible and with respect to the lawsuits based on agreements that provide for payment in shares, an amount of approximately R\$8 million has been registered as funds that may be capitalized in order to issue shares to plaintiffs if the company is unsuccessful. The risk of loss in the lawsuits filed against Telegoiás and Telemat is classified as probable an amount of R\$17 million has been provisioned both for lawsuits based on agreements with subscribers that provided for payment in shares and for lawsuits based on agreements that do not provide for such payment.

Under the terms of the split-up of Telebrás which occurred on February 28, 1999, Telebrás remains exclusively liable for obligations of any kind (including, without limitation, labor, pension, civil, tax, environmental and commercial obligations) related to acts or events occurring on or prior to the date of approval of the split-up, with the exception of contingent liabilities for which provision was expressly made in the documents attached to the valuation report.

Brasil Telecom, S.A. argued that it is not a proper party to the lawsuits, and its argument was accepted by the Fourth Civil Panel of the Appeal Court of Mato Grosso do Sul under a Motion for Clarification in the course of an appeal. Thus, we believe that we have good chances of reversing unfavorable decisions in the higher courts, upon confirmation of Telebrás' obligation to assume payment of any unfavorable judgment, in the our stead.

***Disputes among entities that hold stakes in Brasil Telecom***

We have instituted lawsuits to recover damages suffered as a result of actions taken by TII and the board members nominated by TII to our board of directors. As part of the negotiations relating to the Merger Agreement we agreed to terminate these lawsuits. At the date of this annual report, certain of our indirect shareholders have brought lawsuits with regard to this termination of claims.

We also understand that there are legal proceedings pending relating to efforts by TII to resume a controlling position in our company. See Item 3 "Key Information Risk Factors Certain beneficial shareholders control a large percentage of our voting shares and their interests may conflict with the interests of our other shareholders, including minority shareholders." Disputes among our controlling shareholders and entities that manage our controlling shareholders have had and could in the future have a material adverse effect on our management and operations. On March 9, 2005, International Equity Investments Inc, as the sole shareholder of CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners LP (since renamed Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil, L.P.)- that holds a stake in Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and Opportunity Zain S.A., a company which integrates the controlling corporate structure of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and Brasil Telecom S.A. - (informing about the ousting of CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners, Ltd (since renamed Opportunity Equity Partners, Ltd.)("CVC Ltd") from the management of CVC LP, having designated as a substitute, a new company named Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil LLC ("CVC International Brazil"). It was also informed that CVC International Brazil entered into "shareholders agreements with Investidores Institucionais FIA, Previ, Funcef and Petros" which, according to the notice, have full force and effect conditioned to certain conditions, among which the implementation of the designation of CVC International Brazil as the new manager of CVC LP.

On March 17, 2005, Brasil Telecom became aware that the United States District Court Southern District of New York granted a preliminary injunction determining that CVC Ltd file before the competent authorities of the Cayman Islands its substitution as general partner of CVC LP.

On March 18, 2005, Brasil Telecom took notice that CVC Ltd filed a formal statement before the competent authorities of Cayman Islands in which it informs its substitution as general partner of CVC LP, in light of appointment of CVC International Brazil as the new manager of CVC LP.

On April 12, 2005, Anatel issued a decision approving (i) the replacement of CVC Ltd by CVC International Brazil as manager of CVC LP; (ii) Angra Partners Consultoria Empresarial e Participações Ltda. as the new manager of CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners, FIA, now denominated Investidores Institucionais Fundo de Investimentos em Ações ("Investidores Institucionais FIA"), one of the indirect controlling shareholders of Brasil Telecom S.A. and (iii) the changes resulting from the Opportunity Zain S.A. and Futeretel S.A. Shareholders' Agreements. This decision was published in the Federal Gazette (Diário Oficial) on April 14, 2005. On May 3, 2005, after reviewing our appeal, Anatel maintained its decision.

Banco Opportunity S.A. was ousted from the administration of Investidores Institucionais FIA, on October 6, 2003. Investidores Institucionais FIA's 's current administrator is Mellon Brascan Distribuidora de Títulos e Valores Mobiliários and its manager is Angra Partners Consultoria Empresarial e Participações Ltda. In consequence of this event, Fundação 14 de Previdência Privada, successor to Fundação Sistel de Seguridade Social, brought an ordinary action before the 5th Federal Court of Rio de Janeiro against several defendants, and CVM, seeking a declaration that the resolutions adopted at the Investidores Institucionais FIA's Unitholders Meeting held on October 6, 2003 were invalid, principally the resolution that ousted Banco Opportunity S.A. from administration of Investidores Institucionais FIA and, consequently, also ousted CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners Administradora de Recursos Ltda. as the Investidores Institucionais FIA ncia Privada, successor of Fundação Sistel de Seguridade Social, brought a motion for precautionary relief before the 5th Federal Court of Rio de Janeiro as an incidental proceeding to the

ordinary action against the same defendants, seeking to prevent any transactions involving the assets of Investidores Institucionais FIA, including agreements for the sale, encumbrance and/or acquisition of interests by the fund. On April 13, 2005, a preliminary order was issued suspending the effects of any acts for the alienation or encumbrance of Investidores Institucionais FIA assets, or the acquisition of interests by the Fund until a subsequent decision, which will be issued after the defendants have submitted their arguments.

- 112 -

---

***Actions in Respect of Litigation Trust***

An Irrevocable Trust Agreement and Declaration ("Trust"), was established in September 2003 for the benefit of Brasil Telecom to protect the rights described in some of the lawsuits mentioned herein and in others which may yet be filed regarding the same general matters, to protect the rights claimed by the Company, considering the particularities that surround those lawsuits and rights. By means of the execution of the Trust, Mr. Roberto Mangabeira Unger (Trustee) was given the authority to lead the conduct of such proceedings, in court or out of court, in the manner that best suits the interests of Brasil Telecom, sole beneficiary of the Trust. The irrevocability of the Trust is meant to assure the powers and the autonomy necessary to enable the Trustee to guide the conduct of such lawsuits as he deems fit to be in the best interest of Brasil Telecom.

Currently, there is an administrative proceeding at CVM (Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission) that deals with the Trust settled by Brasil Telecom, in which there is a request to determine whether the execution of such Trust was an act of abusive control. Brasil Telecom and Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. have been providing all information requested in such proceeding. In September 2004, the Superintendência de Relações com Empresas SEP (one of CVM's division) decided in favor of Brasil Telecom S.A. and Brasil Telecom Participações S.A, recognizing the effectiveness of the Trust in Brazil. This decision, however, is pending an appeal presented by the complainants before CVM's board of directors. In the year 2003, in the midst of a growing conflict involving the stakeholders of the companies that, directly or indirectly, are part of the shareholding structure of BrT worsened by the increasingly opened attempt to takeover its control, the consummation of which could have hindered the normal development of the abovementioned legal proceedings, with new and irreparable damages to the Company, its management, being aware of its legal duty to act diligently, decided to seek a legitimate way to isolate those disputes and protect the important underlying rights thereby pursued.

The Trust is directed exclusively to the Company's interests. Its main objective is to isolate such disputes, including the legal proceedings against some of its main investors, from the conduct of the Company's business, as well as legitimately prevent potential harm to rights over which rests inexorable shareholders conflict.

### ***Basic Monthly Subscription Fees***

We are defendant in a considerable number of lawsuits, both individual and collective, which contest our right to charge users of our fixed-line service a basic monthly subscription fee for continuous access to the service. These lawsuits have been stayed by a preliminary decision in the conflict of jurisdiction proceeding brought by Anatel before the Superior Court of Justice, in which we submitted a brief. As a result, all preliminary and final decisions in the basic monthly subscription fee lawsuits were suspended and at present do not produce any effects. We consider our risk of losing these lawsuits to be remote.

### **Dividend Policy**

Pursuant to our by-laws, we are required to distribute as dividends in respect of each fiscal year ending on December 31, to the extent amounts are available for distribution, an aggregate amount equal to at least 25% of Adjusted Net Income (as defined below) on such date (the "Mandatory Dividend"). The annual dividend distributed to holders of Preferred Shares (the "Preferred Dividend") has priority in the allocation of Adjusted Net Income. Remaining amounts to be distributed are allocated first to the payment of a dividend to holders of Common Shares in an amount equal to the Preferred Dividend, and subsequently distributed equally among holders of Preferred Shares and Common Shares. Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, a company is permitted to suspend the Mandatory Dividend in respect of common shares and preferred shares not entitled to a fixed or minimum dividend if its board of directors and fiscal council report to the shareholders' meeting that the distribution would be incompatible with the financial circumstances of such company and the shareholders ratify this conclusion at the shareholders' meeting. In this case, (i) the board of directors must forward to the CVM within five days of the shareholders' meeting an explanation justifying the information transmitted at the meeting and (ii) the profits which were not distributed for such reason are to be recorded as a special reserve and, if not absorbed by losses in subsequent fiscal years, are to be paid as dividends as soon as the financial situation of such company permits. Our Preferred Shares are entitled to a minimum dividend and thus the Mandatory Dividend may be suspended only with respect to the Common Shares. See " Priority and Amount of Preferred Dividends."

Under our by-laws, we may pay dividends out of retained earnings or accumulated profits in any given fiscal year. For the purposes of the Brazilian Corporation Law, accumulated profits are defined as net income after income and social contribution taxes for such fiscal year, net of any accumulated losses from prior fiscal years and any amounts allocated to founders' shares, income bonds, employees' and management's participation in a company's profits. Retained earnings are defined as the amount of our net income in prior years that was not paid out as dividends in the year in which it was earned, but rather was retained in accordance with a proposal of the board of directors duly approved by a shareholders meeting.

At each annual shareholders' meeting, our board of directors is required to recommend how net profits for the preceding fiscal year are to be allocated. Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, we are required to maintain a statutory reserve, to which we must allocate 5.0% of net profits for each fiscal year until the amount of such reserve equals 20.0% of our paid-up share capital (the "Statutory Reserve"). This reserve can only be used to increase capital or offset accumulated losses. Net losses, if any, may be charged against the statutory reserve.

The Brazilian Corporation Law also provides for two additional discretionary allocations of net profits that are subject to approval by shareholders at the annual shareholders' meeting. First, a percentage of net profits may be allocated to the contingency reserve for anticipated losses that are deemed probable in future years (the "Contingency Reserve"). Any amount so allocated in a prior year must be either (i) reversed in the fiscal year in which the loss was anticipated if such loss does not in fact occur or (ii) reversed in the event that the anticipated loss occurs. Second, if the amount of Unrealized Revenue (as defined below) exceeds the sum of (i) the statutory reserve (*Reserva Legal*), (ii) the Contingency Reserve and (iii) retained earnings, such excess may be allocated to the reserve (the "Unrealized Revenue Reserve"). Such allocations may not hinder the payment of minimum dividends on our Preferred Shares. "Unrealized Revenue" is defined under the Brazilian Corporation Law as the sum of (i) the share of equity earnings of affiliated companies which is not paid as cash dividends and (ii) profits from installment sales to be received after the end of the next succeeding fiscal year.

For the purposes of the Brazilian Corporation Law, and in accordance with our by-laws, "Adjusted Net Income" is an amount equal to our net profit adjusted to reflect allocations to and reversion from (i) the *Reserva Legal*; (ii) the Contingency Reserve and (iii) the Unrealized Revenue Reserve.

The amounts available for distribution are determined on the basis of our financial statements prepared in accordance with the Brazilian Corporation Law, which differ from financial statements, such as our Financial Statements included herein, which are prepared using the constant currency method according to Brazilian GAAP.

#### ***Priority and Amount of Preferred Dividends***

Our by-laws provide for a minimum non-cumulative dividend of Preferred Dividend equal to the greater of (i) 6.0% per year of the value of our total share capital divided by the total number of shares or (ii) 3.0% per year of the book value of our shareholders' equity divided by our total number of shares. As a result of such provision, holders of Preferred Shares are entitled to receive, in any year, distributions of cash dividends prior to the holders of Common Shares receiving any distribution of cash dividends in such year. In addition, distributions of cash dividends in any year are made:

- first, to the holders of Preferred Shares, up to the amount of the Preferred Dividend of our Preferred Shares for such year;
- then, to the holders of Common Shares, until the amount distributed in respect of each Common Share is equal to the amount distributed in respect of each Preferred Share; and
- thereafter, to the Common Shares and Preferred Shares on a pro rata basis.

If the Mandatory Dividend in any year is less than or equal to the Preferred Dividend payable to the holders of Preferred Shares in such year, the holders of Common Shares will not be entitled to receive any cash dividends distributed by our company in such year, unless the holders of Common Shares approve dividends in excess of the Mandatory Dividend. In such circumstances, however, holders of Preferred Shares will be entitled to the amount available for payment of dividends up to an aggregate amount equal to the Preferred Dividend plus, in the event the Preferred Dividend is higher than the amount available for payment of dividends for such year, any retained earnings from previous years may be used to make up for such shortfall. If the Preferred Dividend is not paid for a period of three years, holders of Preferred Shares shall be entitled to full voting rights until such time as the minimum dividend is paid in full for any year.

#### ***Payment of Dividends***

We are required by Brazilian law (Law 6,404, article 132) and our by-laws to hold an annual shareholders' meeting within four months after the end of each fiscal year at which, among other things, an annual dividend may be declared by decision of the shareholders on the recommendation of our executive officers and our board of directors. The payment of annual dividends is based on our financial statements prepared for each fiscal year ended December 31 in accordance with Brazilian Corporation Law. Under Brazilian Corporation Law, dividends are required to be paid within 60 days following the date the dividend distribution is declared to shareholders of record,

- 115 -

---



unless a shareholders' meeting resolution sets forth another date of payment, which must occur prior to the end of the fiscal year in which such dividend distribution was declared. A shareholder has a three-year period from the dividend payment date to claim dividends in respect of its shares, after which our company has no liability for such payment. Because our shares are issued in book-entry form, dividends with respect to any share are automatically credited to the account holding such share and no action is required on the part of the shareholder. We are not required to adjust the amount of paid-in capital for inflation. Annual dividends may be paid to shareholders of newly issued shares on a pro rata basis according to the date when the subscription price for such newly issued shares was paid to us.

Shareholders who are not residents of Brazil must register with the Brazilian Central Bank in order for dividends, sales proceeds or other amounts with respect to their shares to be eligible to be remitted outside of Brazil. The Preferred Shares underlying the ADSs are held in Brazil by *Banco Itaú S.A.*, as agent for the Depositary, which has registered with the Brazilian Central Bank as the registered owner of our shares.

Payments of cash dividends and distributions, if any, will be made in Brazilian currency to Banco Itaú S.A., as custodian for our Preferred Shares represented by the ADSs, on behalf of the Depositary. Banco Itaú S.A. will then convert such proceeds into U.S. dollars and will cause such U.S. dollars to be delivered to the Depositary for distribution to holders of ADSs. In the event that the custodian is unable to immediately convert the Brazilian currency received as dividends into U.S. dollars, the amount of U.S. dollars payable to holders of ADSs may be adversely affected by devaluations of the Brazilian currency that occur before such dividends are converted and remitted. Dividends in respect of our Preferred Shares paid to resident and non-resident shareholders, including holders of ADSs, are not currently subject to Brazilian withholding tax. See Item 10 "Additional Information Taxation Brazilian Tax Considerations."

## ITEM 9. The Offer and Listing

### Offer and Listing Details

Our Preferred Shares commenced trading separately on the Brazilian stock exchanges on September 21, 1998. The following table sets forth the reported high and low closing sale prices for our Preferred Shares on the São Paulo Stock Exchange and the approximate average daily trading volume for the annual periods indicated.

	Nominal <i>reais</i> per 1,000 Preferred Shares		Average Daily
	High	Low	Trading Volume
Year-end 2000	33.24	15.90	812.8
Year-end 2001	24.84	10.30	861.1
Year-end 2002	19.57	12.73	736.4
Year-end 2003	23.85	15.40	587.5
Year-end 2004	26.30	16.06	585.5

(millions of shares)

Source: São Paulo Stock Exchange

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

The following table sets forth the reported high and low closing sale prices for our Preferred Shares on the São Paulo Stock Exchange and the approximate average daily trading volume for the quarterly periods indicated.

	Nominal <i>reais</i> per 1,000 Preferred Shares		Average Daily
	High	Low	Trading Volume
			(millions of shares)
First quarter 2003	19.60	15.40	633.1
Second quarter 2003	23.05	19.10	584.2
Third quarter 2003	23.85	18.40	554.0
Fourth quarter 2003	23.35	20.58	581.3
First quarter 2004	26.30	19.82	741.4
Second quarter 2004	21.04	16.06	564.0

Table of Contents

	<b>Nominal reais per 1,000 Preferred Shares</b>		<b>Average Daily</b>
	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Trading Volume</b>
Third quarter 2004	20.40	16.10	493.3
Fourth quarter 2004	20.50	17.25	546.0
First quarter 2005	20.30	16.38	626.5

---

Source: São Paulo Stock Exchange

The following table sets forth the reported high and low closing sale prices for our Preferred Shares on the São Paulo Stock Exchange and the approximate average daily trading volume for the monthly periods indicated.

	<b>Nominal reais per 1,000 Preferred Shares</b>		<b>Average Daily</b>
	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Trading Volume</b>
			(thousands of shares)
December 2004	20.50	19.10	507.5
January 2005	20.30	16.38	524.8
February 2005	18.38	16.45	684.6
March 2005	19.95	16.95	671.4
April 2005	17.40	15.60	552.3
May 2005	17.00	15.15	489.9

---

Source: São Paulo Stock Exchange

Our ADSs, each representing 5,000 Preferred Shares, commenced trading on the New York Stock Exchange on November 16, 1998. The following table sets forth the reported high and low closing sale prices for our ADSs on the New York Stock Exchange and the approximate average daily trading volume for the annual periods indicated.

	<b>Nominal U.S. dollars per ADS</b>		<b>Average Daily</b>
	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Trading Volume</b>
			(number of shares)
Year-end 2002	44.90	21.70	175,225
Year-end 2003	41.05	22.67	188,546
Year-end 2004	45.53	25.70	234,719

---

Source: New York Stock Exchange

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

The following table sets forth the reported high and low closing sale prices for our ADSs on the New York Stock Exchange and the approximate average daily trading volume for the quarterly periods indicated.

	Nominal U.S. dollars per ADS		Average Daily
	High	Low	Trading Volume
			(number of shares)
First quarter 2003	30.72	22.67	182,897
Second quarter 2003	39.80	29.22	191,717
Third quarter 2003	41.05	29.85	206,177
Fourth quarter 2003	41.05	34.88	173,178
First quarter 2004	45.53	34.13	306,448
Second quarter 2004	36.61	25.70	224,535
Third quarter 2004	33.96	26.66	222,130
Fourth quarter 2004	38.22	30.00	187,684
First quarter 2005	37.30	30.70	339,764

---

Source: New York Stock Exchange

- 117 -

---

The following table sets forth the reported high and low closing sale prices for our ADSs on the New York Stock Exchange and the approximate average daily trading volume for the monthly periods indicated.

	Nominal U.S. dollars per ADS		Average Daily
	High	Low	Trading Volume
			(number of shares)
December 2004	38.22	34.50	160,455
January 2005	37.30	30.70	391,830
February 2005	35.45	31.79	310,463
March 2005	36.59	31.50	317,736
April 2005	33.91	30.69	301,567
May 2005	34.47	30.76	199,514

---

Source: New York Stock Exchange

There are no restrictions on ownership of our Preferred Shares or Common Shares by individuals or legal entities domiciled outside Brazil.

The right to convert dividend payments and proceeds from the sale of shares into foreign currency and to remit such amounts outside Brazil is subject to restrictions under foreign investment regulations which generally require, among other things, that the relevant investments have been registered with the Brazilian Central Bank. *Banco Itaú S.A.*, as custodian for our Preferred Shares represented by the ADSs, has registered with the Brazilian Central Bank on behalf of the Depositary the Preferred Shares that it will hold. This enables holders of ADSs to convert dividends, distributions or the proceeds from any sale of such Preferred Shares, as the case may be, into U.S. dollars and to remit such U.S. dollars abroad. However, holders of ADSs could be adversely affected by delays in, or a refusal to grant any, required government approval for conversions of Brazilian currency payments and remittances abroad of the Preferred Shares underlying our ADSs.

In Brazil, there are a number of mechanisms available to foreign investors interested in trading directly on the Brazilian stock exchanges or on organized over-the-counter markets.

Under the regulations issued by the National Monetary Council, on January 26, 2000 ("Resolution 2,689"), foreign investors seeking to trade directly on a Brazilian stock exchange or on an organized over-the-counter market, must meet the following requirements:

- Investments must be registered with a custody, clearing or depositary system authorized by CVM or the Brazilian Central Bank;
- Trades of securities are restricted to transactions performed on the stock exchanges or organized over-the-counter markets authorized by the CVM;
- A holder of ADSs must establish a representative in Brazil;

- A holder of ADSs must complete a form annexed to the Resolution 2,689; and
- A holder of ADSs must register with the CVM and register the inflow of funds with the Brazilian Central Bank.

If these requirements are met, foreign investors will be eligible to trade directly on the Brazilian stock exchanges or on organized over-the-counter markets. These rules extend favorable tax treatment to all foreign investors investing pursuant to these rules. See Item 10 "Additional Information Taxation." These regulations contain certain restrictions on the offshore transfer of the title of the securities, except in the case of corporate reorganizations effected abroad by a foreign investor.

A certificate of foreign capital registration has been issued in the name of the Depositary with respect to the ADSs and is maintained by *Banco Itaú S.A.*, as custodian for our Preferred Shares represented by the ADSs, on behalf of the Depositary. Pursuant to such certificate of foreign capital registration, we expect that Depositary will be able to convert dividends and other distributions with respect to the Preferred Shares represented by ADSs into foreign currency and remit the proceeds outside of Brazil.

In the event that a holder of ADSs exchanges such ADSs for Preferred Shares, such holder will be entitled to continue to rely on the Depositary's certificate of foreign capital registration for five business days after such exchange, following which such holder must seek to obtain its own certificate of foreign capital registration with the Brazilian Central Bank. Thereafter, any holder of Preferred Shares may not be able to convert into foreign currency and remit outside Brazil the proceeds from the disposition of, or distributions with respect to, such Preferred Shares, unless such holder qualifies under Resolution 2,689 or obtains its own certificate of foreign capital registration. A holder that obtains a certificate of foreign capital registration will be subject to less favorable Brazilian tax treatment than a holder of ADSs. See Item 10 "Additional Information Taxation Brazilian Tax Considerations."

Under current Brazilian legislation, the Federal Government may impose temporary restrictions on remittances of foreign capital abroad in the event of a serious imbalance or an anticipated serious imbalance of Brazil's balance of payments. For approximately six months in 1989 and early 1990, the Federal Government froze all dividend and capital repatriations held by the Brazilian Central Bank that were owed to foreign equity investors in order to conserve Brazil's foreign currency reserves. These amounts were subsequently released in accordance with Federal Government directives. There can be no assurance that the Federal Government will not impose similar restrictions on foreign repatriations in the future.

## Markets

Our Preferred Shares are traded on the *Bolsa de Valores de São Paulo* (the São Paulo Stock Exchange) under the symbol "BRTP4." At December 31, 2004, we had approximately 1,790,212 shareholders.

Our Preferred Shares are also listed on the New York Stock Exchange in the form of ADSs under the symbol "BRP," with each ADS representing 5,000 Preferred Shares, issued by the Depositary pursuant to the deposit agreement, dated November 16, 1998, among our company, the Depositary and the registered holders and beneficial owners from time to time of ADSs. Preferred Shares represented by ADSs are held in custody in Brazil by *Banco Itaú S.A.*, as custodian for our Preferred Shares represented by the ADSs.

Our Common Shares are also traded on the São Paulo Stock Exchange under the symbol "BRTP3."

## Trading on the São Paulo Stock Exchange

The São Paulo Stock Exchange is a non-profit entity owned by its member brokerage firms. Trading on the São Paulo Stock Exchange is limited to member brokerage firms and a limited number of authorized non-members. The São Paulo Stock Exchange has open outcry trading sessions and an automated system on which trading can be conducted during the trading day. In 1999, the São Paulo Stock Exchange began operating an "after-market" which allows for limited after-hours trading to take place. There are no specialists or market makers for our shares on the São Paulo Stock Exchange. Trading in securities listed on the São Paulo Stock Exchange may be effected off the exchanges in certain circumstances, although such trading is very limited.

Settlement of transactions is effected three business days after the trade date without adjustment of the purchase price for inflation. Payment for shares or delivery of shares are made through the facilities of separate clearinghouses for each exchange, which maintain accounts for member brokerage firms. The clearinghouse for the São Paulo Stock

Exchange is *Companhia Brasileira de Liquidação e Custódia S.A.* CBLC.

In order to better control volatility, the São Paulo Stock Exchange has adopted a "circuit breaker" system pursuant to which trading sessions may be suspended for a period of 30 minutes or one hour whenever the indices of this stock exchange fall below the limit of 10.0% in relation to the index registered in the previous trading session.

- 119 -

---



At December 31, 2004, the aggregate market capitalization of all of the companies listed on the São Paulo Stock Exchange was approximately R\$904.9 billion. Although all the outstanding shares of an exchange-listed company may trade on the São Paulo Stock Exchange, in most cases less than half of the listed shares are actually available for trading by the public, the remainder being held by small groups of controlling persons that rarely trade their shares. For this reason, data showing the total market capitalization of São Paulo Stock Exchange tends to overstate the liquidity of the Brazilian equity securities market.

The Brazilian equity market is relatively small and illiquid as compared to major world markets. In 2004, the daily trading volume on the São Paulo Stock Exchange averaged approximately R\$1,221.3 million. In 2004, the ten most actively traded issues represented approximately 49.5% of the total trading in the cash market (standard lot) on the São Paulo Stock Exchange.

Trading on the São Paulo Stock Exchange by nonresidents of Brazil is subject to certain limitations under Brazilian foreign investment legislation, which generally require, among other things, that the relevant investments have been registered with the Brazilian Central Bank, according to Resolution 2,689. See " Offer and Listing Details."

### ***The Special Corporate Governance Levels of the São Paulo Stock Exchange***

On December 11, 2000, the São Paulo Stock Exchange or, BOVESPA, launched three new listing segments designed for the trading of shares issued by publicly held companies: the Special Corporate Governance Level 1, the Special Corporate Governance Level 2 and the "Novo Mercado" of BOVESPA.

Such new listing segments were designed for the trading of shares issued by companies that voluntarily undertake to abide by more stringent corporate governance practices and disclosure requirements than those currently requested by the Brazilian legislation.

The inclusion of a company in any of the new segments implies the adherence of such company to a series of corporate governance rules known generally as "good corporate governance practices." These rules, which are consolidated in the listing regulations of the exchange, are meant to enhance the quality of information provided by Brazilian corporations and increase shareholder's rights, depending on the considered level.

On March 27, 2002, our board of directors approved our adherence to the Special Corporate Governance Level 1 of BOVESPA. Our shares joined the Special Corporate Governance Level 1 of BOVESPA on May 9, 2002.

In order to join the Special Corporate Governance Level 1, we agreed to undertake the following corporate governance practices:

- 1) the maintenance of a free-float of at least 25.0% of our capital stock;
- 2) holding of public offerings for share placements through mechanisms that favor capital dispersion to a broader spectrum of shareholders;
- 3) disclosing improved quarterly information, including consolidated figures and special audit revisions on a quarterly basis;
- 4) complying with the enhanced disclosure rules of the exchange for transactions involving assets, including transactions with our controlling shareholders and our management;
- 5) disclosing shareholder agreements and stock option programs; and

6) the publication of an annual calendar of corporate events.

- 120 -

---

### ***Regulation of Brazilian Securities Markets***

The Brazilian securities markets are regulated by the CVM, which has authority over stock exchanges and the securities markets generally, and by the Brazilian Central Bank, which has, among other powers, licensing authority over brokerage firms and regulates foreign investment and foreign exchange transactions. The Brazilian securities market is governed by Law 6,385 as amended (the "Brazilian Securities Law") and the Brazilian Corporation Law.

Under the Brazilian Corporation Law, a company is either publicly held, a *companhia aberta*, such as our company (whose shares are publicly traded on the São Paulo Stock Exchange) or privately held, a *companhia fechada*. All publicly held companies are registered with the CVM and are subject to reporting requirements. A company that is registered with the CVM may have its securities traded either on the Brazilian stock exchanges or on the Brazilian over-the-counter market. The shares of a public company may also be traded privately, subject to certain limitations. To be listed on the Brazilian stock exchanges, a company must apply for registration with the CVM and the stock exchange where the head office of the company is located. Once this stock exchange has admitted a company to listing and the CVM has accepted its registration as a publicly held company, its securities may be traded on the São Paulo Stock Exchange.

Trading in securities on the São Paulo Stock Exchange may be suspended at the request of a company in anticipation of a material announcement. Trading may also be suspended on the initiative of the São Paulo Stock Exchange or the CVM, among other reasons, based on or due to a belief that the company has provided inadequate information regarding a material event or has provided inadequate responses to inquiries by the CVM or the relevant stock exchange.

The Brazilian Securities Law provides for, among other things, disclosure requirements, restrictions on insider trading and price manipulation, and protection of minority shareholders. However, the Brazilian securities markets are not as highly regulated and supervised as the U.S. securities markets or markets in certain other jurisdictions.

## **ITEM 10. Additional Information**

### **Memorandum and Articles of Association**

The summary of the material provisions concerning our Preferred Shares and Common Shares, our by-laws, and Brazilian Corporation Law contained in Item 10 "Additional Information Memorandum and Articles of Association" under Amendment 1 to our Registration Statement on Form 20-F (File 1-15256), filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on October 31, 2001, as amended (the "Registration Statement") is incorporated herein by reference. Such description contained in the Registration Statement is qualified to the extent applicable by this section, as well as by reference to our by-laws, which have been filed (together with an English translation) as an exhibit to this Annual Report, and to Brazilian Corporation Law. A copy of our by-laws (together with an English translation) is available for inspection at the principal office of the Depositary.

Our Capital Stock is comprised of Preferred Shares and Common Shares, all without par value. At December 31 2004, there were 226,007,752,980 Preferred Shares outstanding and 132,550,888,203 Common Shares outstanding.

### **Material Contracts**

The following summaries are not intended to be complete and reference is made to the agreements themselves, which are included as exhibits to this Form 20-F or other filings with the SEC as indicated below.

### ***Our Concessions for Local Fixed-Line Switched Telecommunications services***

As successor in interest to each of Telesc, Telegoiás, Telebrasília, Telemat, Telems, Teleron, Teleacre, CTMR and CRT, Brasil Telecom S.A. has assumed their public regime concessions to provide fixed-line local

switched telecommunications services, for calls originating in the following geographic areas: Paraná, Santa Catarina, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Tocantins, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Rondônia, Acre and Rio Grande do Sul.

Switched fixed-line local telecommunications services are services that, through the transmission of voice and other signals, allow for communications between fixed predetermined points within a local calling area.

The term of our respective concessions, which were originally granted free of charge, ends on December 31, 2005. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we have the right to a one-time extension of twenty years for each concession provided that we meet certain conditions set forth in each such concession. On June 20, 2003, Anatel approved a new General Plan on Quality and the concession contract model under which all fixed-line telecommunications carriers will operate from January 1, 2006 onwards. On June 28, 2003 Decree 4769 was entered approving the General Plan on Universal Service. See "Obligations of Telecommunications Companies New Telecommunications Regulations." Every second year during the 20-year extension period, companies will be required to pay biannual fees equal to 2.0% of their annual net revenues from the provision of telecommunications services (excluding taxes and social contributions) during the immediately preceding year.

On January 20, 2004 we were granted an open-end Authorization to provide fixed-line local telecommunications services in Regions I and III.

#### ***Our Concessions for Intraregional Fixed-Line Switched National Long-distance Telecommunications services***

As successor in interest to each of Telesc, Telegoiás, Telebrasília, Telemat, Telems, Teleron, Teleacre, CTMR and CRT, we have assumed their public regime concessions to provide fixed-line switched telecommunications services for calls originating in the following geographic areas: Paraná, Santa Catarina, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Tocantins, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Rondônia, Acre and Rio Grande do Sul.

The terms of our respective concessions, which were originally granted free of charge, end on December 31, 2005. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we have the right to a one-time extension of twenty years for each concession, provided that we meet certain conditions set forth by each such concession. On June 20, 2003, Anatel approved a new General Plan on Quality and the concession contract model under which all fixed-line telecommunications carriers will operate from January 1, 2006 onwards. On June 28, 2003 Decree 4769 was entered approving the General Plan on Universal Service. See "Obligations of Telecommunications Companies New Telecommunications Regulations." Every second year during the 20-year extension period, companies will be required to pay biannual fees equal to 2.0% of their annual net revenues from the provision of telecommunications services (excluding taxes and social contributions) during the immediately preceding year.

#### ***Our Authorizations for Interregional Fixed-Line Switched National Long-distance Telecommunications services and International Fixed-Line Switched Long-distance Telecommunications services.***

On January 20, 2004 we were granted open-end Authorizations to (i) originate long-distance calls in Regions I and III and terminate such calls anywhere within the Brazilian territory, and (ii) originate long-distance international calls anywhere in Brazil.

#### ***Our Authorizations for Wireless Telecommunications Services (PCS)***

On December 18, 2002 we were granted three authorizations to render wireless services: (i) one authorization for the States of Santa Catarina e Paraná; (ii) one authorization for the State of Rio Grande do Sul; and (iii) one authorization for the States of Acre, Goiás, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso, Rondônia, Tocantins and Distrito Federal.

***BNDES Loan Agreements***

Brasil Telecom, S.A. has entered into loan agreements with the BNDES. BNDES is Brasil Telecom, S.A.'s principal creditor. At December 31, 2004, Brasil Telecom, S.A. had outstanding loans to BNDES in the aggregate

- 122 -

---

principal amount of approximately R\$2,288.1 million. The interest payable by our company on such *Real*-denominated debt is based either on the TJLP rate + spread (varying from 3.85% to 6.5% per annum, depending on the contract) or on the average annual currency basket rate published by BNDES (*Cesta de Moeda*) + spread (varying from 3.85% to 6.5% per annum, depending on the contract). The TJLP rate in Brazil as of December 31, 2004 was 9.75% per annum. The currency basket devalued 7.4% against Brazilian *Real* throughout 2004.

The proceeds from the BNDES loans have been used to finance the expansion and modernization of Brasil Telecom, S.A.'s network since June 1998, in order to meet the telecommunications service requirements established under our concession agreements.

On August 13, 2004, Brasil Telecom, S.A. entered into a new loan agreement with BNDES, in a total amount of R\$1.27 billion, guaranteed by Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. The loan bears interest (a) at the variable TJLP rate plus 5.5% per annum for 80% of the amount and (b) at the variable *Cesta de Moedas* (a currency basket rate published by BNDES, representing basically the appreciation of the U.S. dollar versus the Brazilian real) plus 5.5% per annum for 20% of the amount. The loan has two different maturing dates (i) February 15, 2011 for the TJLP portion and (ii) April 15, 2011 for the *Cesta de Moedas* portion. The proceeds have been used to finance Brasil Telecom, S.A.'s investment in wireline network plant and in operational improvements to meet the targets established in the General Plan on Universal Service (Plano Geral de Metas de Universalização - PGMU) and in the General Plan on Quality (Plano Geral de Metas de Qualidade - PGMQ), in the period of July 2003 to December 2005. On August 26, 2004, we received from BNDES the first tranche of this facility, in the amount of R\$400.0 million, from which R\$320.0 million bear interest of TJLP + 5.5% per annum and R\$80.0 million bear interest of *Cesta de Moedas* + 5.5% per annum. On October 26, 2004, we received a second tranche from BNDES, in the amount of R\$342.5 million, from which R\$282.7 million bear interest of TJLP + 5.5% per annum and R\$59.7 million bear interest of *Cesta de Moedas* + 5.5% per annum.

### ***Indenture***

Brasil Telecom, S.A. issued U.S.\$200.0 million 9.375% Notes due 2014 (the "2014 Notes") under an indenture dated February 17, 2004, among Brasil Telecom, S.A., The Bank of New York, as indenture trustee, registrar, New York paying agent and transfer agent, and The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., as principal paying agent. Pursuant to the indenture, the notes are payable in full in a single payment upon maturity unless redeemed earlier or extended pursuant to the terms of the indenture. The notes bear interest at a fixed rate of 9.375% per annum from the date of issuance until all required amounts due in respect thereof have been paid. Interest on the notes is paid semiannually in arrears on February 17 and August 17 of each year, commencing on August 17, 2004, to the noteholders registered as such as of the close of business on a record date being the tenth business day preceding such payment date. Interest for the first interest period accrued from February 17, 2004. Interest on the notes is computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

The indenture describes covenants with which we must comply, including:

- observations of certain interest coverage and leverage ratios when incurring additional indebtedness;
- restrictions with respect to certain mergers, consolidations or similar transactions;
- restrictions with respect to creation of certain liens on our assets; and
- restrictions with respect to certain sale and lease-back transactions.

These covenants are subject to a number of important qualifications and exceptions as described in the indenture.

The indenture will contain certain events of default, consisting of, among others, the following:

- failure to pay principal when due;

- 123 -

---



- failure to pay interest and other amounts (i) within 30 calendar days of the due date therefor in the case of payments made in respect of any interest payment dates occurring prior to the expected maturity date, and (ii) when due, in the case of any interest payment date occurring on or after the expected maturity date; and
- breach by us of any covenant or agreement in the indenture or any of the other relevant transaction documents.

### ***Registration of Notes***

On October 28, 2004, a Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to Brasil Telecom, S.A.'s issuance of US\$200,000,000 9.375% Notes due 2014 was declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The exchange offer expired on December 14, 2004. All unregistered notes were exchanged for new registered notes.

### ***Company Support Agreement***

In connection with Brasil Telecom, S.A.'s issuance of U.S.\$200.0 million of the 2014 Notes it entered into a company support agreement with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation ("OPIC") dated February 17, 2004. Under the company support agreement Brasil Telecom, S.A. agrees to, among other things, make certain representations and warranties and covenants with respect to our compliance with environmental, workers' rights, foreign corrupt practices and other matters. A breach by Brasil Telecom, S.A. of any of its representations and warranties or covenants in the company support agreement which results in an Event of Termination (as defined therein) would entitle OPIC to terminate the insurance policy relating to the 2014 Notes or to withhold any amount otherwise payable by OPIC under such insurance policy. If the insurance policy is terminated or otherwise ceases to be in full force and effect, or OPIC withholds any amount otherwise payable by OPIC under the insurance policy, in each case for any reason attributable to acts or omissions of Brasil Telecom, an event of default under the indenture for the 2014 Notes will occur.

### ***Insurance Trust Agreement***

In connection with our issuance of the 2014 Notes, Brasil Telecom, S.A. entered into an insurance trust agreement dated February 17, 2004, between The Bank of New York, as insurance trustee and us. The insurance trust agreement establishes a grantor trust (the "Insurance Trust") under New York law for the benefit of the noteholders. Pursuant to an insurance trust agreement the Insurance Trustee will hold the insurance as credit enhancement and support for the notes to the extent of the coverage set forth in the insurance policy.

### ***JBIC-Guaranteed Loan***

On March 24, 2004 Brasil Telecom, S.A. entered into a Japanese Yen 21.6 billion loan facility arranged by SMBC, guaranteed by JBIC and granted by a syndicate of five commercial banks (including SMBC). The loan is not secured and bears interest at a rate equal to LIBOR Yen plus 1.92% per annum. Interest payments are due on September 24 and March 24 of each year. Brasil Telecom, S.A. borrowed the entire amount available under this facility on April 28, 2004 in the form of a single term loan, which was exchanged into approximately R\$576.0 million and which it used to partially bear its 2003 capital expenditures.

Overdue amounts bear interest at a rate equal to LIBOR Yen plus 1.92% per annum. The interest payments and arrangement fee and agency fee on this loan are subject to withholding in Brazil at a rate of 12.5%, and Brasil Telecom, S.A. is required to gross-up such interest payments to ensure the lenders receive the amounts they would have received in the absence of this withholding. The principal amount of this loan is repayable in Japanese Yen in ten

equal installments due on the interest payment dates referred to above. Brasil Telecom, S.A. may prepay all or a portion of this loan on any payment date subject to certain conditions.

JBIC, pursuant to its untied guarantee program, has guaranteed the repayment of 97.5% of the principal amount of and interest due on this loan. For this guarantee JBIC receives a fee in the amount of 1.25 per annum of

- 124 -

---

97.5% of the aggregate principal amount of the loan outstanding from time to time. In order to induce JBIC to guarantee the Japanese Yen 21.6 billion-loan facility, on March 18, 2004 Brasil Telecom, S.A. entered into a loan facility in Yen in an aggregate amount of approximately R\$3.0 million with JBIC and the participating financial institutions. The proceeds from such loan were used for the acquisition of Japanese goods.

The loan agreements impose certain restrictions on Brasil Telecom, S.A., including limitations on liens (subject to customary exceptions), limitations on assets sales and limitations on mergers and similar transactions. Under the loan agreements we are also subject to financial covenants including an interest coverage ratio, debt coverage ratio and leverage ratio. If Brasil Telecom, S.A. fails to comply with these financial covenants, in addition to the other remedies available to the lenders, it may be required to provide to the lenders and JBIC collateral security for the loan, including a guarantee from a bank or parent company. The loan agreements include customary events of default, subject to certain grace periods and customary exceptions.

### **Debentures "Escritura Pública de Emissão"**

On July 5, 2004, Brasil Telecom, S.A. issued R\$500.0 million of public non-convertible debentures program guaranteed by Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. The debentures will mature on July 5, 2009. Interest on the debentures is equivalent to the CDI rate + 1.0% per annum and is payable on a semi-annual basis, on January 5 and July 5 of each year, until the maturity of the debentures. Under the *Escritura Publica de Emissão* Brasil Telecom, S.A. is also subject to financial covenants, including an interest coverage ratio, debt coverage ratio and leverage ratio. Failure to comply with these financial covenants may trigger an event of default. Moreover, the *Escritura Pública de Emissão* includes other customary events of default, subject to certain grace periods and customary exceptions.

### **Exchange Controls**

There are no restrictions on ownership of the ADSs or the Preferred Shares by individuals or legal entities domiciled outside Brazil.

The right to convert dividend payments and proceeds from the sale of shares into foreign currency and to remit such amounts outside Brazil may be subject to restrictions under foreign investment legislation which generally requires, among other things, that the relevant investments be registered with the Brazilian Central Bank. If any restrictions are imposed on the remittance of foreign capital abroad, they could hinder or prevent *Banco Itaú S.A.*, as custodian for our Preferred Shares represented by the ADSs, or registered holders who have exchanged ADSs for Preferred Shares, from converting dividends, distributions or the proceeds from any sale of such Preferred Shares, as the case may be, into U.S. dollars and remitting the U.S. dollars abroad.

Foreign investors may register their investment under Law 4,131/62 or Resolution 2,689. Registration under Resolution 2,689 affords favorable tax treatment to foreign investors who are not resident in a tax haven, as defined by Brazilian tax laws. See " Taxation Brazilian Tax Considerations."

Under Resolution 2,689, foreign investors may invest in almost all financial assets and engage in almost all transactions available in the Brazilian financial and capital markets, provided that certain requirements are fulfilled. In accordance with Resolution 2,689, the definition of foreign investor includes individuals, legal entities, mutual funds and other collective investment entities, domiciled or headquartered abroad.

Under Resolution 2,689, a foreign investor must:

- appoint at least one representative in Brazil, with powers to perform actions relating to its investment;

- appoint an authorized custodian in Brazil for its investments;
- register as a foreign investor with the CVM; and
- register its foreign investment with Brazilian Central Bank.

- 125 -

---

Under Resolution 2,689, securities and other financial assets held by a foreign investor must be registered or maintained in deposit accounts or under the custody of an entity duly licensed by the Brazilian Central Bank or the CVM. In addition, any transfer of securities held under Resolution 2,689 must be carried out in the stock exchanges or through organized over-the-counter markets licensed by the CVM, except for transfers resulting from a corporate reorganization, or occurring upon the death of an investor by operation of law or will or as a consequence of the de-listing of the relevant shares from a Brazilian stock exchange and the cancellation of the registration of the relevant company from the CVM.

Holders of ADSs who have not registered their investment with the Brazilian Central Bank could be adversely affected by delays in, or refusals to grant, any required government approval for conversions of payments made in *reais* and remittances abroad of these converted amounts.

Resolution 1,927 of the National Monetary Council, which restated and amended Annex V to Resolution 1,289, provides for the issuance of depositary receipts in foreign markets in respect of shares of Brazilian issuers. We have obtained approval for the American Depositary Shares under Annex V to Resolution 1,289, in order to (i) allow the proceeds from the sale by holders of ADSs outside Brazil to be free of Brazilian foreign investment controls, and (ii) allow holders of ADSs who are not resident in a tax haven to be entitled to favorable tax treatment in Brazil. See "Taxation Brazilian Tax Considerations."

A certificate of foreign capital registration has been issued in the name of the Depositary with respect to the ADSs and is maintained by *Banco Itaú S.A.*, as custodian for our Preferred Shares represented by the ADSs, on behalf of the Depositary. Pursuant to such certificate of foreign capital registration, we expect that the Depositary will be able to convert dividends and other distributions with respect to the Preferred Shares represented by ADSs into foreign currency and remit the proceeds outside of Brazil. See Item 9 "Offer and listing Offer and listing details" and Item 9 "Offer and Listing Markets Trading on the São Paulo Stock Exchange."

In the event that a holder of ADSs exchanges the ADSs for Preferred Shares, such holder will be entitled to continue to rely on the Depositary's certificate of foreign capital registration for only five business days after such exchange, following which such holder must seek to obtain its own certificate of foreign capital registration with the Brazilian Central Bank. Thereafter, any holder of Preferred Shares may not be able to convert into foreign currency and remit outside Brazil the proceeds from the disposition of, or distributions with respect to, such Preferred Shares, unless such holder qualifies under Resolution 2,689 or obtains its own certificate of foreign capital registration. A holder of Preferred Shares that obtains a certificate of foreign capital registration will be subject to less favorable Brazilian tax treatment than a holder of ADSs. See "Taxation Brazilian Tax Considerations."

## **Taxation**

The following summary contains a description of the principal Brazilian and U.S. federal income tax considerations of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of Preferred Shares or ADSs, but it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all the tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to purchase Preferred Shares or ADSs. The summary is based upon the tax laws of Brazil and regulations thereunder and on the tax laws of the U.S. and regulations thereunder as in effect on the date hereof, all of which authorities are subject to change or differing interpretations, possibly with retroactive effect. Each holder should consult their own tax advisors as to the tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of Preferred Shares or ADSs.

Although there is at present no income tax treaty in force between Brazil and the U.S., the tax authorities of the two countries have had discussions that may culminate in such a treaty. No assurance can be given, however, as to whether or when a treaty will enter into force or how it will affect the U.S. holders of Preferred Shares or ADSs. Prospective holders of Preferred Shares or ADSs should consult their own tax advisors as to the tax consequences of the

acquisition, ownership and disposition of Preferred Shares or ADSs in their particular circumstances.

***Brazilian Tax Considerations***

The following discussion summarizes the principal Brazilian tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of Preferred Shares or ADSs by a holder not deemed to be domiciled in Brazil for

- 126 -

---

Brazilian tax purposes (a "non-Brazilian holder"). This discussion does not address all the Brazilian tax considerations that may be applicable to any particular non-Brazilian holder, and each non-Brazilian holder should consult his or her own tax advisor about the Brazilian tax consequences of investing in Preferred Shares or ADSs.

Individuals domiciled in Brazil and Brazilian companies are taxed in Brazil on the basis of their worldwide income which includes earnings of Brazilian companies' foreign subsidiaries, branches and affiliates. The earnings of branches of foreign companies and non-Brazilian residents ("nonresidents") in general are taxed in Brazil only on income derived from Brazilian sources.

#### *Taxation of Dividends*

Dividends paid by our company in cash or in kind from profits of periods beginning on or after January 1, 1996 (i) to the Depositary in respect of Preferred Shares underlying ADSs or (ii) to a non-Brazilian holder in respect of Preferred Shares will not be subject to Brazilian withholding tax. Dividends paid from profits generated before January 1, 1996 may be subject to Brazilian withholding tax at varying rates, except that stock dividends are not subject to Brazilian tax unless we subsequently redeem the stock, or the non-Brazilian holder sells the stock in Brazil, within five years after the correspondent capital increase.

The only Brazilian tax treaty now in effect that would (if certain conditions are met) reduce the rate of the withholding tax on dividends paid from profits generated before January 1, 1996 is the treaty with Japan, which would reduce the rate to 12.5% under the circumstances set forth in the treaty.

#### *Taxation of Gains*

Brazilian law distinguishes between, on the one hand, direct foreign investments in Brazilian companies and, on the other hand, foreign investments in securities issued by Brazilian companies through the Brazilian capital markets. Under Resolution 2,689, which became effective on March 31, 2000, superseding previous regulations (Annex IV) which restrict such foreign investment portfolios to institutional investors, foreign investors may invest directly in Brazilian financial markets, as long as they meet certain requirements. See " Exchange Controls" above.

Until recently, gains realized outside Brazil by a non-Brazilian holder on the disposition of ADSs to another non-Brazilian holder were not subject to Brazilian tax. However, Law 10,833, published on December 29, 2003, established that the disposition of assets located in Brazil by Nonresidents, whether to other nonresidents or Brazilian residents and whether made within or outside Brazil, is subject to taxation in Brazil at a rate of 15.0%, or 25.0%, if the nonresident is domiciled in a country that does not tax income or that taxes it at a maximum rate of 20.0% .

As a result, the disposition of ADSs, the deposit of Preferred Shares in exchange for ADSs or the withdrawal of Preferred Shares upon cancellation of ADSs may be characterized as assets located in Brazil and could be subject to the income tax according to Law 10,833/03, if there is gain in the transaction, at a 15.0% rate or 25.0% rate, if the beneficiary of the gain is domiciled in a country that does not tax income or that taxes it at a maximum rate of 20.0% .

Gains realized by non-Brazilian holders on dispositions of Preferred Shares in Brazil or in transactions with Brazilian residents, if they observe the requirements of Resolution 2,689, are exempted from withholding income tax, unless the foreign investor is located in a jurisdiction which does not impose income tax or which has an income tax rate lower than 20.0%, in which case it will be subject to the same general taxation rules applicable to Brazilian residents.

Gains on the disposition of Preferred Shares obtained upon cancellation of ADSs are not taxed in Brazil if such disposition is made, and the proceeds are remitted abroad, within five business days after cancellation.

Any gains realized by a non-Brazilian resident upon the redemption of Preferred Shares will be treated as gains from the disposition of such Preferred Shares to a Brazilian resident occurring off of a stock exchange and will



accordingly be subject to tax at a rate of 20.0%, except for gains realized by a non-Brazilian resident located in a jurisdiction which does not impose income taxes or which has an income tax rate lower than 20.0%, in which case such gain will be subject to tax at a rate of 25.0% .

Gain is measured by the difference between the amount in Brazilian currency realized on the sale or exchange and the acquisition cost of the shares sold, measured in Brazilian currency without any correction for inflation; the acquisition cost of shares registered as an investment with the Brazilian Central Bank is calculated on the basis of the foreign currency amount registered with the Brazilian Central Bank.

There can be no assurance that the current preferential treatment for holders of ADSs and non-Brazilian holders of Preferred Shares will be maintained.

Any exercise of preemptive rights relating to our Preferred Shares or ADSs will not be subject to Brazilian taxation. Gains on the sale or assignment of preemptive rights relating to our Preferred Shares will be treated differently for Brazilian tax purposes depending on (i) whether the sale or assignment is made by the Depositary or by you, and (ii) whether the transaction takes place on a Brazilian stock exchange. Gains on sales or assignments made by the Depositary on a Brazilian stock exchange are not taxed in Brazil, but gains on other sales or assignments may be subject to tax at rates up to 20.0% .

#### *Distributions of Interest on Capital*

Brazilian corporations may make payments to shareholders characterized as interest on our capital as an alternative form of making dividend distributions. The rate of interest may not be higher than the TJLP rate as determined by the Brazilian Central Bank from time to time (11.0% per annum for the three month period beginning October 1, 2003). The total amount distributed as interest on capital may not exceed the greater of (i) 50.0% of net income (before taking such distribution and any deductions for income taxes into account) for the year in respect of which the payment is made or (ii) 50.0% of retained earnings for the year prior to the year in respect of which the payment is made. Payments of interest on capital are decided by the shareholders on the basis of recommendations of our board of directors.

We may deduct distributions of interest on capital paid to Brazilian and non-Brazilian holders of Preferred Shares, including payments to the Depositary in respect of Preferred Shares underlying ADSs, for Brazilian corporate income tax purposes. Such payments are subject to Brazilian withholding tax at the rate of 15.0%, except for payments to persons who are exempt from tax in Brazil, which are free of Brazilian tax, and except for payments to persons situated in jurisdictions deemed to be tax havens (i.e., countries that either have no income tax or in which the income tax rate is less than 20.0%), which will be subject to tax at a 25.0% rate.

No assurance can be given that our board of directors will not recommend that future distributions of profits should be made by means of interest on capital instead of by means of dividends.

Amounts paid as interest on capital (net of applicable withholding tax) may be treated as payments in respect of the dividends that we are obligated to distribute to our shareholders in accordance with our By-laws and the Brazilian Corporation Law. Distributions of interest on capital in respect of our Preferred Shares, including distributions to the Depositary in respect of Preferred Shares underlying ADSs, may be converted into U.S. dollars and remitted outside of Brazil, subject to applicable exchange controls.

#### *Other Brazilian Taxes*

There are no Brazilian inheritance, gift or succession taxes applicable to the ownership, transfer or disposition of Preferred Shares or ADSs by a non-Brazilian holder except for gift and inheritance taxes levied by some states in Brazil on gifts made or inheritances bestowed by individuals or entities not resident or domiciled in Brazil or in the relevant State to individuals or entities that are resident or domiciled within such State in Brazil. There are no Brazilian stamp, issue, registration, or similar taxes or duties payable by holders of Preferred Shares or ADSs.

- 128 -

---

A financial transaction tax (the "IOF tax") may be imposed on the conversion of Brazilian currency into foreign currency (e.g., for purposes of paying dividends and interest). The rate of the IOF tax on such conversions is currently 0%, but the Minister of Finance has the legal power to increase the rate to a maximum of 25.0% . Any such increase will be applicable only prospectively.

In addition to the IOF tax, a second, temporary tax that applies to the removal of funds from accounts at banks and other financial institutions (the "CPMF tax") will be imposed on our distributions in respect of ADSs at the time such distributions are converted into U.S. dollars and remitted abroad by *Banco Itaú S.A.*, as custodian for our Preferred Shares represented by the ADSs. Currently, the CPMF tax rate is 0.38% .

#### FUST Universal Telecommunications Service Fund

The Universal Telecommunications Service Fund, introduced by Law 9,998/00, *Oficio Circular 58/04*, and *Despacho 29/03* (Anatel), was created to raise funds to meet the cost of the universalization of the telecommunications services, which are not recoverable through the efficient exploration of the service. According to the law, one of FUST's forms of income is the contribution by both public and private telecommunications providers, of 1.0% of the gross operating revenue from the rendering of telecommunications services. The value will be calculated after certain tax deductions and will exclude interconnection costs. The funds are supposed to be paid to Anatel and will be invested according to the policies laid out by the Ministry of Communication.

#### FUNTEL Fund for the Technological Development of the Telecommunications

Law 10,052/00 established the Fund for the Technological Development of Telecommunications. Pursuant to this regulation, the fund was created to foster technological development, encourage human intellectual capital, encourage employment, promote capital access to small and medium sized business, all in order to enlarge the competitiveness of the Brazilian Telecommunications' Industry. This fund received a contribution of 0.5% of the gross operating income, after tax deduction, earned through the exploration of telecommunications services by both public and private companies. A directive board composed of governmental representatives will manage the fund and determine how the funds will be invested.

#### *Registered Capital*

Amounts invested in Preferred Shares by a non-Brazilian holder who qualifies under the Resolution 2,689 and obtains registration with the CVM, or by the Depositary representing an ADS holder, are eligible for registration with the Brazilian Central Bank. Such registration (the amount so registered is referred to as "Registered Capital") allows the remittance outside Brazil of foreign currency, converted at the Commercial Market Rate, acquired with the proceeds of distributions on, and amounts realized through dispositions of such Preferred Shares. The Registered Capital per Preferred Share purchased in the form of an ADS, or purchased in Brazil and deposited with the Depositary in exchange for an ADS, will be equal to its purchase price (stated in U.S. dollars). The Registered Capital per Preferred Share withdrawn upon cancellation of an ADS will be the U.S. dollar equivalent of (i) the average price of a Preferred Share on the Brazilian stock exchange on which the most Preferred Shares were traded on the day of withdrawal or, (ii) if no Preferred Shares were traded on that day, the average price on the Brazilian stock exchange on which the most Preferred Shares were traded in the fifteen trading sessions immediately preceding such withdrawal. The U.S. dollar equivalent will be determined on the basis of the average Commercial Market rates quoted by the Brazilian Central Bank on such date or dates.

A non-Brazilian holder of Preferred Shares may experience delays in effecting Brazilian Central Bank registration, which may delay remittances abroad. Such a delay may adversely affect the amount in U.S. dollars, received by the non-Brazilian holder.

***U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations***

The statements regarding U.S. federal income tax law set forth below are based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), its legislative history, existing and proposed Treasury regulations thereunder, published rulings and court decisions, as in force on the date of this Annual Report, and changes to such

- 129 -

---

law subsequent to the date of this Annual Report may affect the tax consequences described herein, possibly with retroactive effect. This summary describes the principal tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of Preferred Shares or ADSs, but it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to a decision to own or dispose of Preferred Shares or ADSs. This summary applies only to purchasers of Preferred Shares or ADSs who will hold the Preferred Shares or ADSs as "capital assets" within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code (i.e., generally, property held for investment) and does not apply to special classes of holders such as dealers or brokers in securities or currencies, holders whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar, holders of 10.0% or more of our shares (by vote or by value, and directly or by attribution, taking into account shares held directly through depositary arrangements), tax-exempt organizations, financial institutions, insurance companies, regulated investment companies, holders liable for the alternative minimum tax, securities traders who elect to account for their investment in Preferred Shares or ADSs on a mark-to-market basis, and persons holding Preferred Shares or ADSs in a hedging transaction or as part of a straddle, conversion or constructive ownership transaction.

Each holder should consult such holder's own tax advisor concerning the overall tax consequences to it, including the consequences under tax laws other than U.S. federal income tax laws, of an investment in the Preferred Shares or ADSs.

As used in this summary, references to "ADSs" also refer to "Preferred Shares." As used in this summary, the term "U.S. holder" means a beneficial owner of ADSs that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (i) a citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation or other entity (treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) organized in or under the laws of the United States or its political subdivisions, (iii) a trust subject to the control of a U.S. person (as defined in the Code) and the primary supervision of a U.S. court or (iv) an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source. As used in this summary, the term "non-U.S. holder" means a beneficial owner of ADSs that is not a U.S. holder. In the case of a holder of the common shares that is, or is treated as, a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Therefore, partners of a partnership holding our common shares should consult their tax advisor.

For purposes of the U.S. federal income tax laws, holders of ADSs will be treated as owners of the ADSs represented by such ADSs.

#### *Taxation of Dividends*

Subject to the "Passive Foreign Investment Company" discussion below, a U.S. holder will recognize ordinary dividend income for U.S. federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the amount of any cash and the value of any property that we distribute as a dividend, to the extent that such distribution is paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits ("e&p"), as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes, in accordance with the U.S. holder's regular method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes. To the extent that such a distribution exceeds our e&p, it will be treated as a nontaxable return of capital, to the extent of the U.S. holder's tax basis in the ADS (or Preferred Shares, as the case may be), and thereafter as capital gain. The amount of any distribution will include the amount of Brazilian tax withheld on the amount distributed and the amount of a distribution paid in *reais* will be measured by reference to the exchange rate for converting *reais* into U.S. dollars in effect on the date the distribution is received by *Banco Itaú S.A.*, as custodian for our Preferred Shares represented by the ADSs, or by a U.S. holder, in the case of a holder of Preferred Shares. If the custodian or U.S. holder, in the case of a holder of Preferred Shares, does not convert such *reais* into U.S. dollars on the date it receives them, it is possible that the U.S. holder will recognize foreign currency loss or gain, which would be ordinary loss or gain, when the *reais* are converted into U.S. dollars. Dividends that we have paid will generally not be eligible for the dividends received deduction allowed to corporations under the Code.

Distributions out of e&p with respect to the ADSs generally will be treated as dividend income from sources outside of the U.S. and generally will be treated separately along with other items of "passive" (or, in the case of certain U.S. holders, "financial services") income for purposes of determining the credit for foreign income taxes allowed under the Code. Subject to certain limitations, Brazilian income tax withheld in connection with any distribution with respect to the ADSs may be claimed as a credit against the U.S. federal income tax liability of a U.S. holder if such U.S. holder elects for that year to credit all foreign income taxes. Such Brazilian withholding tax

may be taken as a deduction at the U.S. Holder's election, only if the U.S. Holder does not claim a credit for any Brazilian or other foreign taxes paid or accrued in that year. Foreign tax credits will not be allowed for withholding taxes imposed in respect of certain short-term or hedged positions in securities or in respect of arrangements in which a U.S. holder's expected economic profit, after non-U.S. taxes, is insubstantial. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors concerning the implications of these rules in light of their particular circumstances.

Distributions of additional shares to holders with respect to their ADSs that are made as part of a pro rata distribution to all of our shareholders generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

A non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax or withholding tax on distributions with respect to ADSs that are treated as dividend income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax or withholding tax on distributions with respect to ADSs that are treated as capital gain for U.S. federal income tax purposes unless such holder would be subject to U.S. federal income tax on gain realized on the sale or other disposition of ADSs, as discussed below.

#### *Taxation of Capital Gains*

Subject to the "Passive Foreign Investment Company" discussion below, in general, upon the sale or other taxable disposition of an ADS, a U.S. holder will recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized in consideration for the disposition of the ADS (excluding the amount of any distribution paid to the custodian but not distributed by the custodian prior to the disposition) and the U.S. holder's tax basis in the ADS. Such gain or loss generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax and will be treated as capital gain or loss if the shares were held as a capital asset and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than one year on the date of such sale or disposition. Under U.S. legislation enacted in 2003, long-term capital gains realized upon a sale or other disposition of ADSs after May 5, 2003 and before the end of a taxable year which begins before January 1, 2009 are generally subject to a maximum federal income tax rate of 15%. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to certain limitations. Gain or loss realized by a U.S. holder on a sale or disposition of ADSs generally will be treated as U.S. source gain or loss. Consequently, if Brazilian tax is imposed on such gain, the U.S. holder will not be able to use the corresponding foreign tax credit, unless the holder has other foreign source income of the appropriate type in respect of which the credit may be used.

A non-U.S. holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax or withholding tax on gain realized on the sale or other disposition of an ADS unless (i) such gain is effectively connected with the conduct by the holder of a trade or business in the U.S., (ii) such holder is a former citizen or long-term resident of the United States, a "controlled foreign corporation", a "foreign personal holding company", a corporation which accumulates earnings to avoid U.S. federal income tax, or is of a certain type of foreign charitable organization, each within the meaning of the Code, or (iii) such holder is an individual who is present in the U.S. for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the sale and certain other conditions are met.

#### *Passive Foreign Investment Company*

We believe that we are not a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC") for U.S. federal income tax purposes in the current taxable year and do not expect to become a PFIC in future taxable years. However, because the determination of whether the offered shares constitute shares of a PFIC will be based upon the composition of our income and assets on an annual basis, there is no assurance that we will not be considered a PFIC for any subsequent year. If the offered shares were shares of a PFIC for any fiscal year, a U.S. holder of the offered shares could be subject to adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences with respect to any gains realized on the sale or other disposition of the offered shares and certain distributions received with respect to the offered shares. We do not intend to provide you with information necessary for the "qualified electing fund" election in the case that we are deemed a

PFIC. Holders and prospective purchasers of the ADSs should consult their own tax advisers regarding the PFIC rules and their effect on holding or purchasing the shares.

- 131 -

---



### *U.S. Backup Withholding and Information Reporting*

Distributions made in respect of offered shares, and proceeds from the sale or other disposition of offered shares, payable to a U.S. holder by a U.S. paying agent or other U.S. intermediary will be subject to information reporting requirements. If information-reporting requirements apply, distributions made to the U.S. holder will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") and to the U.S. holder as may be required under applicable Treasury regulations. Backup withholding will also apply to any payments made to a U.S. holder if such U.S. holder fails to provide an accurate taxpayer identification number (social security number, individual taxpayer identification number or employer identification number) or certification of exempt status or is notified by the IRS that it has failed to report all dividends or interest required to be shown on its U.S. federal income tax return. In addition, certain penalties may be imposed by the IRS on a U.S. holder that is required to supply such information but that does not do so.

Information reporting and backup withholding are generally not required with respect to payments made by a U.S. paying agent or other U.S. intermediary to certain exempt U.S. holders (e.g., corporations and tax-exempt organizations) and non-U.S. holders, provided that, in the case of non-U.S. holders, such non-U.S. holders file a timely and properly completed IRS Form W-8 or W-8BEN with the U.S. paying agent or intermediary. Any amount withheld under the backup withholding rulings will be allowed as a refund or credit against a holder's U.S. federal income tax liability provided the required information is furnished to the IRS in a timely manner. Each holder should consult its own tax advisor concerning the effect of the New Regulations on its ownership and disposition of Preferred Shares or ADSs.

### **Independent Auditors**

Our audited consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004 and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2004 prepared in conformity with Brazilian GAAP with reconciliation of shareholders' equity and statements of operations to U.S. GAAP, included in this annual report, have been audited by KPMG Auditores Independentes, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board as stated in their report which is included herein. The offices of KPMG Auditores Independentes are located at Avenida Almirante Barroso 52, 17º andar, Rio de Janeiro, RJ 20031-000, Brazil.

### **Documents on Display**

Statements contained in this Annual Report regarding the contents of any contract or other document are complete in all material respects, however, where the contract or other document is an exhibit to this Annual Report, each of these statements is qualified in all respects by the provisions of the actual contract or other documents.

This Annual Report may be reviewed without charge at the Public Reference Section of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Room 1300, Washington, D.C. 20549.

Copies of all or any portion of this Annual Report can be obtained from the Public Reference Section of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Room 1300, Washington, D.C. 20549, upon payment of fees prescribed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. For further information on the public reference rooms, call the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330.

We are subject to the information requirements of the Exchange Act applicable to a foreign private issuer, and accordingly, we must file or furnish reports, including annual reports on Form 20-F, reports on Form 6-K, and other information, with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. These reports and other information can be inspected at, and subject to the payment of any required fees, copies may be obtained from, the public reference facilities maintained by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as described above. These reports and other

information may also be inspected and copied at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. As a foreign private issuer, however, we will be exempt from the proxy requirements of Section 14 of the Exchange Act and from the short-swing profit recovery rules of Section 16 of the Exchange Act, although the rules of the New York Stock Exchange may require that we solicit proxies from our shareholders under some circumstances.

Our website is located at <http://www.brasiltelecom.com.br>. The information on our website is not part of this Annual Report.

## **ITEM 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

### **Quantitative Information About Market Risk**

We are exposed to market risk from changes in both foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates. We are exposed to foreign exchange rate risk because certain of our costs are denominated in currencies (primarily the U.S. dollar) other than those in which we earn revenues (primarily the *real*). Similarly, we are subject to market risk deriving from changes in interest rates that may affect the cost of our financing.

The principal market for our products and services is Brazil and substantially all of our revenues are denominated in *reais*. We have described under Item 4 "Information on the Company History and Development of the Company" the manner in which the Brazilian government has controlled, and continues to control, the prices we charge.

Due to the increasing volatility of exchange rates, we decided to hedge some of our foreign currency denominated indebtedness. We do not hold or issue derivative or other financial instruments for trading purposes.

#### ***Exchange Rate Risk***

We also face foreign exchange risk because a significant portion of our equipment costs, such as costs relating to switching centers and software used for upgrading network capacity, are primarily denominated in U.S. dollars. Since 2001, approximately 35.0% of our total capital expenditures have been U.S. dollar denominated. Our cost of financing, however, is not materially exposed to exchange rate risk. At December 31, 2004, approximately 32.3%, or R\$1,522.3 million, of our indebtedness was denominated in foreign currency. At December 31, 2004, we hedged approximately 50.4% of our foreign currency indebtedness, against significant variations in exchange rates (U.S. dollars, Japanese Yens and Cesta de Moedas) by using foreign currency swap contracts. The aggregate notional principal amount of the swap contracts is approximately U.S.\$288.9 million, of which approximately U.S.\$ 36.6 million matures within one year and approximately U.S.\$144.9 million matures in one to three years. At December 31, 2004, the fair value of the swap contracts amounted to approximately R\$88.9 million. See Notes 34b and 34c to our audited financial statements for additional information regarding the swap contracts.

In 2004, losses on foreign currency and monetary restatement amounted to approximately R\$6.1 million, due to the appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar. At December 31, 2004, the potential immediate loss in earnings that we could sustain from a hypothetical 10.0% change in foreign currency exchange rates would be approximately R\$70.5 million.

#### ***Interest Rate Risk***

At December 31, 2004, we had approximately R\$4,708.2 million in loans and financing outstanding, of which R\$3,983.3 million bore interest at floating rates and R\$598.7 million bore interest at fixed rates. We invest our excess liquidity (approximately R\$3,226.6 million in 2004) mainly in investment funds created by top Brazilian asset managements exclusively for us. The fund managers are responsible for managing these funds, subject to the certain direction of our senior management. Currently, these funds carry mainly bond and other financial instruments linked to the CDI rate, issued by the Government. The potential loss in earnings to us over one year that would have resulted from a hypothetical, instantaneous and unfavorable change of 100 basis points in the interest rates applicable to our financial liabilities in 2004 would be approximately R\$9.7 million. The above sensitivity analysis is based on the assumption of an unfavorable 100 basis points movement of the interest rates applicable to each homogeneous

category of financial liabilities and sustained over a period of one year. A homogeneous category is defined according to the currency in which financial assets are denominated and assumes the same interest rate movement within each homogeneous category (*e.g., reais*). As a result, our interest rate risk sensitivity model may overstate the impact of interest rate fluctuation for such financial instruments, as consistently unfavorable movements of all interest rates are unlikely.

- 133 -

---

The table below provides summary information regarding our exposure to interest rate and exchange rate risk before hedge adjustments in our total debt portfolio as of December 31, 2004:

	<b>Total Debt Portfolio</b>	
	R\$ million	%
<b>Floating rate debt:</b>		
<i>Real</i> denominated	3,319.3	72.5
Foreign currency denominated	664.0	14.5
<b>Fixed rate debt:</b>		
<i>Real</i> denominated	16.0	0.3
Foreign currency denominated	582.7	12.7
Total (before hedge adjustments)	4,582.0	100.0
<b>Hedge adjustments</b>		
Hedge adjustments	126.2	N.A.
<b>Total</b>	4,708.2	

As of December 31, 2004, approximately 11.2% of our total debt portfolio before hedge adjustments was tied to the CDI rate. As of December 31, 2004, the CDI rate accumulated for the year was 16.71% per annum.

The table below provides information about our debt obligations as of December 31, 2004, which are sensitive to changes in interest rates and exchange rates. This table presents, by expected maturity dates and currency, the principal cash flows and related average interest rates of these obligations. Variable interest rates are based on the applicable reference rate (LIBOR, CDI, IGP-M or TJLP) as of December 31, 2004:

<b>Debt Obligation</b>	<b>Total Short-Term Debt 2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>After 2010</b>	<b>Fair Value Long Term Debt</b>
Debt in Japanese Yen:								
Fixed rate debt	612.4	564.3	564.3	564.3	282.2	0.0	0.0	1,975.1
Average interest rate	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	
Variable rate debt	3,457.3	55,947.0	111,894.0	111,894.0	111,894.0	111,894.0	55,947.0	559,469.8

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Average interest rate	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	
Debt in U.S. Dollars:								
Fixed rate debt	21,201.4	195.4	195.4	195.4	195.4	195.4	557,975.0	570,030.1
Average interest rate	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%	
Variable rate debt	33,152.7	18,615.5	12,560.8	12,228.0	11,835.8	9,653.4	2,992.5	67,886.1
Average interest rate	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	
Debt in Brazilian reais:								
Fixed rate debt	5,171.3	5,000.0	5,000.0	416.7	0.0	0.0	419.2	10,835.8
Average interest rate	13.7%	13.7%	13.7%	13.7%	13.7%	13.7%	13.7%	
Variable rate debt <sup>(1)</sup>	769,193.2	863,689.7	625,329.5	237,601.2	647,359.3	147,359.7	28,814.1	2,413,054.5
Average interest rate	14.7%	14.7%	14.7%	14.7%	14.7%	14.7%	14.7%	
Total debt obligations <sup>(1)</sup>	832,788.3	944,011.8	755,543.9	362,899.5	771,566.6	269,102.5	646,147.7	3,623,251.4

Hedge Adjustments	23,849.6	25,944.6	25,687.1	15,148.9	14,605.1	14,082.3	6,850.7	65,558.4
Total	856,638.0	969,956.4	781,231.0	378,048.4	786,171.7	283,184.8	652,998.5	3,688,809.8

***Hedging Policy***

We constantly evaluate and consider alternatives with respect to hedging foreign exchange risk in connection with our foreign currency indebtedness and have currently entered into hedging contracts with respect to short-term payments of our foreign currency debt.

## PART II

### ITEM 14. Material Modifications to the Rights of Security Holders and Use of Proceeds

We were required to pay a non-cumulative preferred dividend on our Preferred Shares in an amount equal to 6.0% of the share capital attributable to our Preferred Shares under Brazilian Corporation Law. Law 10,303 dated October 31, 2001, which amended the Brazilian Corporation Law requirement that we pay a non-cumulative preferred dividend on our Preferred Shares of at least 3.0% per year of the book value of Shareholders' equity divided by our total number of shares. On December 19, 2002 we amended our Bylaws to comply with these new requirements. Preferred Shareholders are now entitled to receive a minimum non-cumulative dividend of Preferred Dividend equal to the greatest of (i) 6.0% per year of the value of our total share capital divided by our total number of shares or (ii) 3.0% per year of the book value of our shareholders' equity divided by the total number of our shares.

### ITEM 15. Controls and Procedures

*Disclosure controls and procedures.* Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Exchange Act) as of December 31, 2004. Based on such evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, as of December 31, 2004, our disclosure controls and procedures are effective in recording, processing, summarizing and reporting, on a timely basis, information required to be discussed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act.

*Changes in internal controls.* There have been no significant changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the year ended December 31, 2004 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect our internal control over financial reporting. However, although foreign private issuers are not yet subject to disclosure requirements regarding internal control over financial reporting, we have already started the process of reviewing our framework of internal controls, in order to attain appropriate certification from independent auditors in 2005.

### ITEM 16A. Audit Committee Financial Expert

Because we have not established an audit committee, our entire board of directors is deemed our audit committee under section 3(a)(58) of the Exchange Act. Our board of directors has not yet determined whether any of the members of the board of directors is an audit committee financial expert as such term is defined for the purposes of this Item 16A. We do not have such an audit committee financial expert because we are not required to do so under Brazilian law. We are not required to comply with these requirements until July 31, 2005.

### ITEM 16B. Code of Ethics

We have adopted a code of ethics that applies to all officers and employees. A copy of the code of ethics may be obtained free of charge by contacting our investor relations department at (+55) 61 415-1256. No waivers, either explicit or implicit, of provisions of the code of ethics were granted in 2004.



**ITEM 16C. Principal Accountant Fees and Services**

KPMG Auditores Independentes served as our independent registered public accounting firm for the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004 appearing in this annual report on Form 20-F.

- 136 -

---

The following table presents the aggregate fees for professional services and other services rendered by KPMG Auditores Independentes to us in 2002, 2003 and 2004 in thousands of reais.

	2004	2003	2002
Audit Fees	R\$1,721	R\$1,593	R\$793
Audit-related Fees	393		10
Tax Fees	10	47	40
All Other Fees	-		
Total	R\$2,124	R\$1,640	R\$843

Audit Fees are fees agreed upon with KPMG Auditores Independentes for the fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004 (including related expenses) for the audit of our annual consolidated financial statements and for the reviews of our quarterly financial statements submitted on Form 6-K, including the reviews of our annual report on Form 20-F.

Audit-related Fees consist of fees billed by KPMG Auditores Independentes for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the company's financial statements or that are traditionally performed by the external auditor, and include consultations concerning financial accounting and reporting standards, issuance of confort letters, internal control reviews, and review of security controls and operational effectiveness of systems.

Tax Fees include fees billed for tax compliance services, including the review of the original, as well as seminars and training regarding changes in, Brazilian tax legislation.

#### *Audit committee pre-approval policies and procedures*

Our board of directors requires management to obtain the board's approval before engaging independent outside auditors to provide any audit or permitted non-audit services to us, or our subsidiaries. Pursuant to this policy, our board of directors pre-approves all audit and non-audit services provided by KPMG Auditores Independentes, our principal auditor. Pursuant to the board's pre-approval process, each year, KPMG prepares a detailed list of services that it proposes to perform during the coming year. These proposed services are presented to the board of directors, which considers and approves the services. Management is not permitted to engage our outside auditors for any audit or non-audit service that is not on the list of services approved by the board of directors without first returning the board of directors for approval of such additional services.

#### **ITEM 16E. Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers**

No Brasil Telecom Participações S.A securities were purchased by either Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. or affiliates.

**PART III****ITEM 17. Financial Statements**

We have responded to Item 18 in lieu of responding to this Item.

**ITEM 18. Financial Statements**

Reference is made to pages F-1 through F-91 for our Financial Statements.

**ITEM 19. Exhibits**

The following is a list of all exhibits filed as a part of this Annual Report on Form 20-F:

**Exhibit**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>
1.1	Amended and Restated Charter of the Registrant. <sup>(1)</sup>
1.2	Amended and Restated Charter of the Registrant (English translation). <sup>(1)</sup>
2.1	Form of Deposit Agreement to be executed among the Registrant, Citibank N.A., as Depositary, and the Holders and Beneficial Owners of American Depositary Shares evidenced by American Depositary Receipts issued thereunder. <sup>(2)</sup>
2.2	Indenture dated February 17, 2004, among Brasil Telecom S.A., The Bank of New York, as indenture trustee, registrar, New York paying agent and transfer agent, and The Bank of Tokyo- Mitsubishi Ltd., as principal paying agent. <sup>(3)</sup>
3.1	Amendment to the Amended and Restated Shareholders' Agreement. <sup>(4)</sup>
<u>3.2</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the Shareholders Agreement consolidated on August 27, 2002, entered into on April 28, 2005</u>
4.1	Standard Concession Agreement for Local, Switched, Fixed-Line Telephone Service. <sup>(2)</sup>
4.2	Standard Concession Agreement for Local, Switched, Fixed-Line Telephone Service and Schedule of Omitted Concession contracts (English translation). <sup>(2)(5)</sup>
4.3	Standard Concession Agreement for Domestic Long-Distance, Switched, Fixed-Line Telephone Service. <sup>(2)</sup>
4.4	Standard Concession Agreement for Domestic Long-Distance, Switched, Fixed-Line Telephone Service and Schedule of Omitted Concession Agreements (English translation). <sup>(2)(5)</sup>
4.5	Registration Rights Agreement dated February 17, 2004 between Brasil Telecom S.A. and Citigroup Global Markets Inc. as initial purchaser.. <sup>(3)</sup>
4.6	Company Support Agreement dated February 17, 2004 between Brasil Telecom S.A. and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation . <sup>(3)</sup>
4.7	Insurance Trust Agreement dated February 17, 2004, between Brasil Telecom S.A. and The Bank of New York, as insurance trustee . <sup>(3)</sup>
4.8	Loan Agreement dated March 24, 2004 among Brasil Telecom S.A. and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, and the lenders named therein . <sup>(3)</sup>
4.9	Indemnity Agreement dated March 24, 2004 among Brasil Telecom S.A., Japan Bank for International Corporation and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation . <sup>(3)</sup>
<u>4.10</u>	<u>Merger Agreement among TIM International N.V. and Brasil Telecom S.A., dated as of April 28, 2005</u>
<u>8.1</u>	<u>List of subsidiaries of the Registrant, their jurisdiction of incorporation and names under which they do business.</u>
<u>12.1</u>	

Certification of Humberto José Rocha Braz, Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

12.2 Certification of Paulo Pedrão Rio Branco, Financial Executive Officer, pursuant to Section 302 of

**Exhibit**

**Number Exhibit**

the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the

13. Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

- 
- (1) Filed as an Exhibit to the Company's Annual Report on Form 20-F, filed on July 15, 2002.
  - (2) Filed as an Exhibit to Amendment 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 20-F filed on October 31, 2001.
  - (3) Filed as an Exhibit to the Company's Annual Report on Form 20-F filed on June 23, 2004.
  - (4) Filed with the Company's report on Form 6-K, filed on October 9, 2002.
  - (5) Pursuant to Rule 12b-31 under the Exchange Act, Company is not filing a copy of each concession agreement for each region because such are substantially identical except as enumerated in a schedule.

**INDEX OF DEFINED TERMS**

Adjusted Net Income	113	Mandatory Dividend	112
ADRs	99	MetroRED	23
ADSs	99, 128	MTH	23
American Depositary Shares	99	non-Brazilian holder	124
Anatel	27	non-U.S. holder	128
Anatel Decree	54	PCS	23
ATM	32	PFIC	129
BOVESPA	96	PIS	47
Brazilian Securities Law	118	Preferred Dividend	112
BrTSi	22	<i>Real</i> Plan	7
BrTurbo	31	Registered Capital	127
Center	89	Registrant	1
Code	127	Registration Statement	119
COFINS	47	Resolution 2,689	116
Commercial Market	7	SFAS	6
Common Shares	99	Sistel Plan	90
Contingency Reserve	112	SLDD	32
CPMF tax	127	Statutory Reserve	112
CTMR	19	STJ	41
CVM	1	TBS	22
Dedicated IP	32	TCSPrev	91
DialNet	32	Teleacre	19
DLD basket	41, 60	Telebrás	19
e&p	128	Telebrasília	19
Embratel	21	Telecommunications Regulations	19
FCRT	91	Telegoiás	19
FENATTEL	98	Telemar	21
FISTEL	81	Telemat	19
FITTEL	98	Telems	19
Floating Market	7	Telepar	19
FUNTTTEL	78	Teleron	19
FUST	78	Telesc	19
GDP	37	TJLP	66
General Telecommunications Law	19	TU-M	64
Global Crossing	52	TU-RIU	64
iBest	24	TU-RL	64
IBGE	37, 66	U.S. GAAP	1
ICMS	46	Unrealized Revenue	113
IGP-M	4	Unrealized Revenue Reserve	113
INPI	54	Vant	25

IOF tax	126	VC-1	75
IPCA index	41	VC-2	76
IRS	129	VC-3	76
Light IP	139	Vetor	32
List of Obligations	54	VU-M	44, 64
local basket	40, 60		

## TECHNICAL GLOSSARY

The following explanations are not intended as technical definitions, but to assist the general reader to understand certain terms as used in this Annual Report.

*ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line):* A technology that allows conventional telephone services, as well as the delivery of high-speed data transmission to virtual private networks or to public internet networks over existing copper lines.

*ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode):* A broadband switching technology that permits the use of one network for different kinds of information, such as voice, data and video.

*Band A Service Provider:* A former Telebrás operating subsidiary that has been granted a concession to provide cellular telecommunications services in a particular area within a radio spectrum frequency range referred to by Anatel as "Band A."

*Band B Service Provider:* A cellular service provider that has been granted a concession to provide cellular telecommunications services in a particular area within a radio spectrum frequency range referred to by Anatel as "Band B."

*Base station:* A radio transmitter/receiver that maintains communications with the cellular telephones within a given cell. Each base station in turn is interconnected with other base stations and with the public switched telephone network.

*Broadband services:* Services characterized by a transmission speed of 2 Mbit/second or more. According to international standards, these services are divided into two categories: (i) Interactive Services, including video-telephone/video-conferencing (both point-to-point and multipoint), video-monitoring, interconnection of local networks, file transfer, high-speed fax, e-mail for moving images or mixed documents, broadband videotext, video on demand, retrieval of sound programs or fixed and moving images, and (ii) Broadcast Services, such as sound programs, television programs (including high-definition TV and pay TV) and selective document acquisition.

*Cell:* The geographic area covered by a single base station in a cellular telecommunications system.

*Cellular service:* A mobile telecommunications service provided by means of a network of interconnected low-powered base stations, each of which covers one small geographic cell within the total cellular telecommunications system service area.

*Dedicated IP:* A service for Internet hosting that does not use the virtual shared hosting system. The virtual shared hosting system is a system in which an IP number is assigned to multiple domain names. Dedicated IP hosting accounts allow users to have their own log files, true CGI-bins, telnet accounts, and many other unique configuration files. The service provides a foundation for other IP applications, such as e-mail, web hosting, eCommerce, and home banking and enables business productivity through the use of web access, file transfer, multimedia presentation, video-conferencing, collaborative applications and new readers.

*DialNet:* A service that offers remote access through a switched telephone network to Internet providers or corporations.

*Digital:* A mode of representing a physical variable, such as speech, using digits 0 and 1. The digits are transmitted in binary form as a series of pulses. Digital networks allow for higher capacity and higher flexibility through the use



of computer-related technology for the transmission and manipulation of telephone calls. Digital systems offer lower noise interference and can incorporate encryption as a protection from external interference.

*Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer:* a network device, usually at a telephone company central office, that receives signals from multiple customer Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) connections and puts the signals on a high-speed backbone line using multiplexing techniques. Depending on the product, DSLAM multiplexers

connect DSL lines with some combination of asynchronous transfer mode (ATM), frame relay, or Internet Protocol networks. DSLAM enables a phone company to offer business or homes users the fastest phone line technology (DSL) with the fastest backbone network technology (ATM).

*Frame Relay:* A data transmission service using protocols based on direct use of transmission lines.

*Internet:* A collection of interconnected networks spanning the entire world, including university, corporate, government and research networks from around the globe. These networks all use the IP communications protocol.

*IP WAN:* A service that allows for the interconnection of corporate networks located in several distant locations for applications that do not need band guarantee. This service also provides for the formation of data communications networks without protocol conversion.

*IP (Internet Protocol):* The language of the Internet; a set of rules that specify how information is divided into packets and addressed for delivery between computer systems.

*IT (Information Technology):* The equipment, processes, procedures and systems used to provide and support information systems (computerized and manual) within an organization and those reaching out to customers and suppliers.

*Kbps:* Kilobytes per second.

*Light IP:* A service for Internet hosting that uses the virtual shared hosting system. The virtual shared hosting system is a system in which an IP number is assigned to multiple domain names.

*Log files:* Files that track access activity for a host resource. For instance, a log file might contain information relative to those who access a web site.

*Mbps:* Megabytes per second.

*Network:* An interconnected collection of elements. In a telephone network, these consist of switches connected to each other and to customer equipment. The transmission equipment may be based on fiber-optic or metallic cable or point-to-point radio connections.

*Network usage charge:* Amount per minute charged by network operators for the use of their network by other network operators. Also known as an "interconnection charge" or "access charge."

*Optical fiber:* A transmission medium which permits extremely high capacities of data transmission. It consists of a thin strand of glass that provides a pathway along which waves of light can travel for telecommunications purposes.

*Packet-switched data communications services:* Data services that are based on parceling or breaking data stream into packets and switching the individual packets. Information that is transmitted is segmented into cells of a standardized length, which are then transmitted independently of one another, allowing maximization of available capacity and usage of a single transmission path for multiple communications. The cells are then reassembled upon reaching their destination.

*Packet switching:* A method of data transmission in which small blocks of data are transmitted rapidly over a channel dedicated to the connection only for the duration of the packet's transmission.

*Penetration:* The measurement of the take-up of services. Penetration is calculated by dividing the number of subscribers at any given time by the population to whom the service is available and multiplying the quotient by 100.

*Private leased circuits:* Voice, data or image transmission mediums leased to users for their exclusive use.

*Satellite services:* Used for links with countries that cannot be reached by cable, or as an alternative to cable, and to form closed user networks.

*SDH (Synchronous Digital Hierarchy):* A hierarchical set of digital transport structures, standardized for the transport of suitably adapted payloads over physical transmission networks.

*SLDD:* A digital dedicated line service with speed options varying between 1.2Kbps and 2Mbps, that allows data transfer with practically null delay and transparency to protocols. SLDD makes it possible to form point to point or multi-point networks by means of dedicated circuits.

*STFC:* The public switched telephone network that delivers basic telephone service and, in certain circumstances, more advanced services.

*Switch:* Used to set up and route telephone calls either to the number called or to the next switch along the path. They may also record information for billing and control purposes. Also known as an "exchange."

*Telnet:* A program that allows the user to connect to other computers on the Internet. The process by which a person using one computer can sign on to a computer in another city, state or country.

*Universal service:* The obligation to supply basic service to all users throughout the national territory at reasonable prices.

*Value Added Services:* Services that provide additional functionality to the basic transmission services offered by a telecommunications network.

*VC-1:* Rate for local calls made from fixed-line to cellular.

*VC-2:* Rate for calls made from fixed-line to cellular, outside the cellular subscriber's registration area but inside the region where the respective cellular provider provides service.

*VC-3:* Rate for calls made from fixed-line to cellular, outside the cellular subscriber's registration area and outside the region where the respective cellular provider provides service.

**SIGNATURES**

The registrant hereby certifies that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form 20-F and that it has duly caused and authorized the undersigned to sign this Annual Report on its behalf.

BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.

By: /s/ Humberto José Rocha Braz  
Name: Humberto José Rocha Braz  
Title: Chief Executive Officer

By: /s/ Paulo Pedrão Rio Branco  
Name: Paulo Pedrão Rio Branco  
Title: Financial Executive Officer

Dated: June 14, 2005



**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

<b>Exhibit</b>		<b>Sequential</b>
<b><u>Number</u></b>	<b><u>Exhibit</u></b>	<b><u>Numbering</u></b>
1.1	Amended and Restated Charter of the Registrant <sup>(1)</sup>	-
1.2	Amended and Restated Charter of the Registrant (English translation) <sup>(1)</sup>	-
2.1	Form of Deposit Agreement to be executed among the Registrant, Citibank N.A., as Depositary, and the Holders and Beneficial Owners of American Depositary Shares evidenced by American Depositary Receipts issued thereunder <sup>(2)</sup>	-
2.2	Indenture dated February 17, 2004, among Brasil Telecom, The Bank of New York, as indenture trustee, registrar, New York paying agent and transfer agent, and The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., as principal paying agent	
3.1	Amendment to the Amended and Restated Shareholders' Agreement <sup>(3)</sup>	-
<u>3.2</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the Shareholders' Agreement consolidated on August 27, 2002, entered into on April 28, 2005</u>	-
4.1	Standard Concession Agreement for Local, Switched, Fixed-Line Telephone Service <sup>(2)</sup>	-
4.2	Standard Concession Agreement for Local, Switched, Fixed-Line Telephone Service and Schedule of Omitted Concession Agreement (English translation) <sup>(2)(4)</sup>	-
4.3	Standard Concession Agreement for Domestic Long-Distance, Switched, Fixed-Line Telephone Service <sup>(2)</sup>	-
4.4	Standard Concession Agreement for Domestic Long-Distance, Switched, Fixed-Line Telephone Service and Schedule of Omitted Concession Agreements (English translation) <sup>(2)(4)</sup>	-
4.5	Registration Rights Agreement dated February 17, 2004 between Brasil Telecom S.A. and Citigroup Global Markets Inc. as initial purchaser	-
4.6	Company Support Agreement dated February 17, 2004 between Brasil Telecom S.A. and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation	-
4.7	Insurance Trust Agreement dated February 17, 2004, between Brasil Telecom S.A. and The Bank of New York, as insurance trustee	-

4.8	Loan Agreement dated March 24, 2004 among Brasil Telecom S.A. and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation and the lenders named therein	-
4.9	Indemnity Agreement dated March 24, 2004 among Brasil Telecom S.A., Japan Bank for International Corporation and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation.	-
<u>4.10</u>	<u>Merger Agreement among TIM International N.V. and Brasil Telecom S.A., dated as of April 28, 2005</u>	-
<u>8.1</u>	<u>List of subsidiaries of the Registrant, their jurisdiction of incorporation and names under which they do business</u>	-



<b>Exhibit</b>		<b>Sequential</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Numbering</b>
<u>12.1</u>	<u>Certification of Humberto José Rocha Braz, Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</u>	-
<u>12.2</u>	<u>Certification of Paulo Pedrão Rio Branco, Financial Executive Officer, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</u>	-
<u>13.</u>	<u>Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</u>	-

- 
- (1) Filed as an Exhibit to the Company's Annual Report on Form 20-F, filed on July 15, 2002.
  - (2) Filed as an Exhibit to Amendment 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 20-F, filed on October 31, 2001.
  - (3) Filed with the Company's Report on Form 6-K, filed on October 9, 2002.
  - (4) Pursuant to Rule 12b-31 under the Exchange Act the Registrant is not filing a copy of each concession Agreement for each region because such agreements are substantially identical in all material respects except as enumerated in the schedule attached to each standard concession Agreement.

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.

**CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003 AND FOR EACH OF THE YEARS  
IN THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004**

F - 1

---

BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.

**CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**As of December 31, 2004 and 2003 and for each of the  
years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2004**

**CONTENTS**

<u>Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firms</u>	<u>F-3</u>
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets</u>	<u>F-4</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations</u>	<u>F-5</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity</u>	<u>F-6</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</u>	<u>F-7</u>
<u>Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	<u>F-8 through F- 91</u>

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Board of Directors and Shareholders  
BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.  
Brasília, DF

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A. as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the related consolidated statements of operations, cash flows and changes in shareholders' equity for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2004. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A. as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2004, in conformity with Brazilian generally accepted accounting principles (Brazilian GAAP), including recognition of the effects of changes in the purchasing power of the Brazilian currency through December 31, 2000, as discussed in Note 2.a and 2.b.

Accounting principles generally accepted in Brazil vary in certain significant respects from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Information relating to the nature and effect of such differences is presented in Note 33 to the consolidated financial statements.

/s/ KPMG Auditores Independentes

June 3, 2005  
Brasília, DF

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

**As of December 31, 2003 and 2004**  
**(In thousands of Brazilian reais)**

		<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Current assets:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	Note 11	1,956,655	3,226,593
Trade accounts receivable, net	Note 12	1,859,713	2,111,579
Inventories, net	Note 13	8,042	174,033
Deferred and recoverable taxes	Note 14	701,027	841,466
Other assets	Note 15	155,669	388,406
Total current assets		4,681,106	6,742,077
<b>Non-current assets:</b>			
Inventories, net	Note 13	19,053	-
Deferred and recoverable taxes	Note 14	867,674	957,085
Other assets	Note 15	736,862	690,305
Total non-current assets		1,623,589	1,647,390
<b>Permanent assets:</b>			
Investments	Note 16	220,471	75,759
Property, plant and equipment, net	Note 17	9,579,821	9,359,958
Intangibles	Note 18	531,556	896,713
Total permanent assets		10,331,848	10,332,430
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>16,636,543</b>	<b>18,721,897</b>
<b>Current liabilities:</b>			
Payroll and related accruals	Note 19	61,907	73,662
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	Note 20	978,458	1,884,155
Taxes other than income taxes	Note 21	443,348	767,112
Dividends and employees' profit sharing	Note 22	374,120	500,026
Income taxes	Note 9	74,401	54,454
Loans and financing	Note 23	1,696,958	856,638
Provisions for contingencies	Note 24	48,509	327,643
Provision for pensions	Note 25	28,022	29,497
Other liabilities		83,280	120,259
Total current liabilities		3,789,003	4,613,446

**Non-Current liabilities:**

Income taxes	Note 9	173,922	68,135
Taxes other than income taxes	Note 21	583,194	604,942
Loans and financing	Note 23	2,093,044	3,851,591
Provisions for contingencies	Note 24	650,469	414,582
Provision for pensions	Note 25	478,068	471,949
Other liabilities		298,367	380,488
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>4,277,064</b>	<b>5,791,687</b>
<b>Minority Interest</b>		<b>2,309,045</b>	<b>2,188,274</b>
<b>Shareholders equity:</b>			
Share capital		2,740,012	2,763,820
Capital reserves		835,811	812,003
Income reserves		910,072	891,579
Retained earnings		1,775,536	1,661,088
<b>Total shareholders equity</b>	Note 26	<b>6,261,431</b>	<b>6,128,490</b>
<b>Total liabilities and shareholders equity</b>		<b>16,636,543</b>	<b>18,721,897</b>

See the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS****Years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004****(In thousands of Brazilian reais, except earnings (losses) per lot of one thousand shares)**

		<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Net operating revenue	Note 4	7,071,368	7,915,194	9,064,855
Cost of services	Note 5	5,143,358	5,455,019	6,161,388
Gross profit		1,928,010	2,460,175	2,903,467
Operating expenses:				
Selling expenses		763,346	821,627	1,087,028
General and administrative expenses		687,462	865,052	1,017,421
Other net operating expenses/(income)	Note 6	(121,181)	211,308	69,142
Operating income before net financial expenses		598,383	562,188	729,876
Net financial expenses	Note 7	330,460	610,159	399,841
Operating income/(loss)		267,923	(47,971)	330,035
Net non-operating expenses	Note 8	78,312	550,022	111,771
Employees profit share		42,619	3,510	58,057
Income/(loss) before taxes and minority interests		146,992	(601,503)	160,207
Income and social contribution taxes benefit/(expenses)	Note 9	(916)	261,390	5,818
Income/(loss) before minority interests		146,076	(340,113)	166,025
Minority interests		2,397	171,466	(37,907)
Net income/(loss)		148,473	(168,647)	128,118
Shares outstanding at the balance sheet date (thousands)		351,527,027	355,221,076	358,558,641
Income/(loss) per lot of one thousand shares outstanding at the balance sheet date		0.42	(0.47)	0.36

See the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

F - 5

---



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY****Years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004****(In thousands of Brazilian reais)**

	<b>Income Reserves</b>						
	<b>Share Capital</b>	<b>Capital Reserves</b>	<b>Legal Reserve</b>	<b>Unrealized Profit Reserve</b>	<b>Treasury Shares</b>	<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balances at January 1, 2002	2,428,221	885,293	205,417	1,656,687	-	1,557,749	6,733,367
Capital increase							
Fiscal benefits on amortization of goodwill	24,970	(24,970)	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidation adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	4,173	4,173
Increase in income tax, due to change in tax rate	-	4,221	-	-	-	-	4,221
Net income	-	-	-	-	-	148,473	148,473
Realization of unrealized profit	-	-	-	(353,659)	-	353,659	-
Acquisition of treasury stock	-	-	-	-	(9,175)	-	(9,175)
Transfer to/from reserves	-	-	22,172	-	-	(22,172)	-
Dividends	-	-	-	-	-	(217,627)	(217,627)
Balances at December 31, 2002	2,453,191	864,544	227,589	1,303,028	(9,175)	1,824,255	6,663,432
Capital increase							
Fiscal benefits on amortization of goodwill	286,821	(28,733)	-	-	-	(258,088)	-
Consolidation adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	2,525	2,525
Net loss	-	-	-	-	-	(168,647)	(168,647)
Realization of unrealized profit	-	-	-	(627,753)	-	627,753	-
Acquisition of treasury stock	-	-	-	-	(11,671)	-	(11,671)
Transfer to/from reserves	-	-	7,208	-	-	(7,208)	-
Dividends	-	-	-	-	-	(224,208)	(224,208)

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Balances at December 31, 2003	2,740,012	835,811	234,797	675,275	(20,846)	1,796,382	6,261,431
Capital increase							
Fiscal benefits on amortization of goodwill	23,808	(23,808)	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidation adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	19,539	19,539
Forfeiture Dividends	-	-	-	-	-	6,163	6,163
Net income	-	-	-	-	-	128,118	128,118
Realization of unrealized profit	-	-	-	(31,907)	-	31,907	-
Transfer to/from reserves	-	-	13,414	-	-	(13,414)	-
Dividends	-	-	-	-	-	(286,761)	(286,761)
Balances at December 31, 2004	2,763,820	812,003	248,211	643,368	(20,846)	1,681,934	6,128,490

See the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****Years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004****(In thousands of Brazilian reais)**

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Operating Activities</b>			
Net income/(loss)	148,473	(168,647)	128,118
Adjustments to reconcile net income/(loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization:	2,834,604	2,842,609	2,833,546
Minority share of net income/(loss)	(2,397)	(171,466)	37,907
Foreign exchange losses	60,209	52,921	13,222
Gain/(loss) on permanent asset disposals	(5,502)	470,710	74,986
Other provisions	(3,502)	16,019	58,937
Increase in provisions for contingencies	10,746	309,683	5,449
Increase/(decrease) in provision for pensions	11,096	4,250	(4,645)
Increase in allowance for doubtful accounts	10,203	29,223	58,683
Decrease in income tax, due to change in rate	4,221	-	-
Increase in trade accounts receivable, gross	(322,117)	(336,773)	(269,836)
(Increase)/decrease in other current assets	27,175	58,454	(379,479)
Increase/(decrease) in other non-current assets	(217,272)	(97,868)	66,578
Increase/(decrease) in payroll and related accruals	(48,150)	16,035	3,503
Increase/(decrease) in accounts payable and accrued expenses	(296,708)	(73,772)	842,234
Increase in taxes other than income taxes	79,629	86,192	316,351
Increase/(decrease) in other current liabilities	(19,594)	(19,638)	42,440
Increase/(decrease) in accrued interest	18,698	(14,643)	77,194
Decrease in deferred income taxes	(14,313)	(298,072)	(348,840)
Increase/(decrease) in other non-current liabilities	191,899	2,102	(58,659)
Net cash provided by operating activities	2,467,396	2,707,319	3,497,689
<b>Investing activities:</b>			
Additions to investments	(38,559)	(55,557)	(12,301)
Cash paid for the acquisition of new companies, net of cash and cash equivalents acquired of R\$55,790 (R\$33,463 in 2003)	-	(144,516)	(61,389)
Additions to property, plant & equipment	(1,646,630)	(1,332,400)	(2,305,729)
Additions to intangible assets	(191,495)	(123,541)	(374,649)
Proceeds from asset disposals	24,416	19,147	7,405

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Net cash used in investing activities	(1,852,268)	(1,636,867)	(2,746,663)
<b>Financing activities:</b>			
Loans repaid	(428,741)	(564,650)	(1,619,147)
New loans obtained	1,249,898	84,565	2,427,008
Expansion plan and other contributions paid back	(1,297)	(185)	-
Subscription bonus	8,020	13,332	6,678
Acquisition of treasury shares	(31,027)	(44,689)	(37,550)
Dividends paid	(281,348)	(198,333)	(258,077)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	515,505	(709,960)	518,912
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	1,130,633	360,492	1,269,938
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	465,530	1,596,163	1,956,655
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the period	1,596,163	1,956,655	3,226,593

See the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**1. a) Operations and background**

BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A. (the Company or the Holding Company) is a publicly held corporation, established in accordance with Article No. 189 of Law 9,472/97 of the General Telecommunications Law, as part of the TELEBRÁS (Government owned company) privatization process. The Company is a subsidiary of SOLPART Participações S/A, which holds 51.00% of the Company's voting capital and 18.99% of the total capital.

The object of the Company is to control the companies, which provide the public fixed telephony services in Region II, referred to in the General Concession Plan ( PGO ) approved by Decree no. 2,534 of April 2, 1998. Such control is carried out through Brasil Telecom S.A., which is the incumbent responsible for the Switched Fixed Telephone Service (STFC) in Region II of the PGO. Additionally, the Company may have interests in other companies.

**b) Direct subsidiaries**

Brasil Telecom S.A. ( BrT ) is a telecommunication operator holding a concession to operate STFC in Region II of the PGO, covering the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Paraná, Goiás, Tocantins, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso, Rondônia, Acre, and the Federal District under the terms of concessions granted by the Federal Government. These concessions will expire on December 31, 2005 and may be renewed for a further term of 20 years (management of BrT understands that it is likely that these concessions will be renewed). The new concession contracts contain terms reflecting the new General Plan on Quality and the new General Plan on Universal Service, which refer to: (i) new universalization targets; (ii) changes in local rate measurement criteria from pulse to minute measurement; and (iii) changes in rate adjustment formulas, including the creation of a telecommunications industry index and a reduction in chargeable rates for local interconnection rates. The concessions may also be revoked prior to expiration. During the 20-year extension period (as from January 1, 2006), companies will be required to pay, every two years as from 2007, fees equal to 2.0% of the net revenues from the provision of telecommunication services (excluding taxes and social contributions) of the immediately preceding year. In June 2003, BrT presented to Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (ANATEL), the regulatory authority for the Brazilian telecommunications industry, its unequivocal intention to extend its current concessions. BrT and ANATEL are expected to formally enter into new concession contracts by the end of 2005.

The Company's business, including the services it may provide and the rates charged, is regulated by ANATEL, pursuant to Law 9,472 of July 16, 1997 and the related regulations, decrees, orders and plans.

With the fulfillment of the obligations for universal services stated in the General Plan of Universal Service Goals ( PGMU ), forecasted for December 31, 2003, and in accordance with the acts published in the Diário Oficial da União (Official Daily Government Newspaper) on January 19, 2004, the restriction of providing other telecommunications services ceased to exist, allowing the Company, its parent companies, its subsidiaries and associated companies to obtain new telecommunication authorizations. On the same date, ANATEL issued authorizations for the Company to exploit STFC in the following service categories: (i) local and domestic long distance calls in Regions I and III and Sectors 20, 22 and 25 of Region II of the General Concession Plan ( PGO ); and (ii) international long distance calls in Regions I, II and III of PGO. As a result of these authorizations, the Company began to exploit the domestic and international long distance services in the new regions, starting on January 22, 2004. In the case of the local service to

be provided in regions I and III, as regulated, the Company had a period of 12 months to begin its operations as from the date of the aforementioned authorization. BrT did not provide this service during 2004 and started to offer it as from January 19, 2005.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

The Company also controls Nova Tarrafa Participações Ltda. ( NTP ) and Nova Tarrafa Inc. ( NTI ). The latter was previously a minority investment and a subsidiary after a spin-off which took place in 2003. NTP and NTI hold interests in Internet Group (Cayman) Limited, an internet access provider, whose controlling interest was acquired in November 24, 2004 by Brasil Telecom Subsea Cable Systems (Bermuda) Ltda., an indirect subsidiary of the Company. NTP and NTI hold an interest in iG Cayman representing 9.25% and 0.16% of total shares, respectively, as of December 31, 2004.

**c) Indirect subsidiaries**

- 14 Brasil Telecom Celular S.A. ( BrT Celular ): is a wholly owned subsidiary formed in December 2002 to operate the Personal Communication Service (PCS), holding a license to serve the same coverage area where the Company operates STFC, over the following 15 years. BrT Celular was a pre-operational entity until the last quarter of 2004, when it effectively started its operational activities.
- BrT Serviços de Internet S.A. ( BrTI ): is a wholly owned subsidiary formed in October 2001, engaged in the provision of internet services and related activities. It started its activities in 2002. During the second quarter of 2003, BrTI invested, as shareholder or quotaholder, and started to have control of the following companies:

(i) Group BrT Cabos Submarinos (formerly known as GlobeNet Group)

This group of companies provides data transmission services through a system of submarine fiber optics cables, with points of connection in the United States, Bermuda Islands, Venezuela and Brazil, allowing the traffic of data through packages of integrated services, offered to local and international corporate customers. It is comprised by the following companies:

- Brasil Telecom Cabos Submarinos do Brasil (Holding) Ltda. ( BrT CSH ): company acquired on June 11, 2003, as part of the purchasing program of the GlobeNet Group.
- Brasil Telecom Cabos Submarinos do Brasil Ltda. ( BrT CS Ltda. ): company acquired on June 11, 2003, in which BrTI has direct control and the full control jointly with BrT CSH, being also part of the purchasing program of the GlobeNet Group.
- Brasil Telecom Subsea Cable Systems (Bermuda) Ltd. ( BrT SCS Bermuda ): company incorporated under the laws of the Bermudas, for which the transfer of resources by BrTI for payment of subscribed capital occurred on May 30, 2003. It is also part of the purchasing program of the GlobeNet Group. BrT SCS Bermuda holds the total shares of Brazil Telecom of America Inc. and of Brasil Telecom de Venezuela S.A.

No-significant goodwill was generated as a result of this acquisition.

In November 2004 BrT made some capital increases in BrT SCS Bermuda, becoming its parent company, with 74.16% of its ordinary and total share capital.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

iG Group

BrT SCS Bermuda acquired on November 24, 2004 the controlling interest of Internet Group (Cayman) Limited ( iG Cayman ), with an interest of 63.2% of total shares as of December 31, 2004, a company incorporated under the laws of Cayman Islands. iG Cayman is a holding company which owns the controlling interest of Internet Group do Brasil Ltda. ( iG Brazil ) and Central de Serviços Internet Ltda., both incorporated in Brazil.

The iG Group started its activities in January 2000 and its operations are based mainly on providing dial up access to the internet. Additionally, the Group also provides internet services to mobile phones, broad band access, hosting and other services related to e-commerce.

(ii) iBest Group

iBest Group concentrates its operations on providing dialed access to the Internet, sales of banners and value added services, such as accelerated access to the web.

Since February 2002, BrTI has held a minority interest in iBest Holding Corporation ( IHC ), a company incorporated in the Cayman Islands. Due to a succession of various corporate acts occurring during June 2003 in IHC and in its subsidiaries, BrTI began to exercise control over the iBest Group, which is formed by the main following companies: (i) iBest Holding Corporation; (ii) iBest S.A.; (iii) Febraio S.A.; and (iv) Freelance S.A. The acquisition of iBest generated goodwill, which is mentioned in Note 18.

In May 2004, through a corporate reorganization process Freelance fully incorporated Febraio SA., iBest S.A. and its subsidiary Mail BR Comunicação Ltda. As a result, Freelance S.A. became the owner of iBest s trademark and the main company of this Group.

- MTH Ventures do Brasil Ltda ( MTH ): On May 13, 2004, the Company acquired 80.1% of the voting capital of MTH, in addition to the 19.9% held previously. MTH, in turn, held 100% of the capital of MetroRED Telecomunicações Ltda. ( MetroRED ). MetroRED is a service provider for a private telecommunications network through optical fiber digital networks, and operates in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte and has a long distance network connecting these major metropolitan commercial centers. It also has an Internet Solution Center in São Paulo, which offers co-location, hosting and other value added services.
- VANT Telecomunicações S.A. ( VANT ): On May 13, 2004, the Company acquired the remaining 80.1% of the capital of VANT (in addition to the 19.9% held previously), which is a service provider for corporate network services, founded in October 1999. Initially focused on a TCP/IP network, VANT started in Brazil with a network 100% based on this technology. VANT operates throughout Brazil, and is present in the main Brazilian state capitals, offering a portfolio of voice and data products.



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

- Other service providers entities: The Company acquired at the end of 2004 the entities Santa Bárbara dos Pampas S.A., Santa Bárbara dos Pinhais S.A., Santa Bárbara do Cerrado S.A. and Santa Bárbara do Pantanal S.A. These entities, which were non-operational at the balance sheet date, have the purpose of providing general services, such as asset and real estate management.

**2. Presentation of the consolidated financial statements****a. Indexation of the consolidated financial statements**

Partially as a result of past high levels of inflation in Brazil, two methods of inflation accounting evolved: the Brazilian GAAP and the Brazilian Corporation Law methods. Financial statements prepared under Corporation Law are required for virtually all Brazilian entities, and are the basis for determination of taxable income and dividends payable, while the financial statements prepared under Brazilian GAAP used to be required for information purposes by the Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM) until 1996, after which their disclosure became optional.

The most important difference between these methods, which has an effect on the financial statements of subsequent periods, is the date of cessation of the recognition of inflationary adjustments in the carrying values of permanent assets. This was December 31, 2000 under Brazilian GAAP and December 31, 1995 under Brazilian Corporation Law.

The consolidated financial statements of the Company were prepared on a fully indexed basis to recognize the effects of changes in the purchasing power of the Brazilian currency until December 31, 2000, under the methodology known as Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in Brazil (Brazilian GAAP).

**b. Previously published financial information**

The presentation of the consolidated financial statements under Brazilian GAAP is consistent with the presentation of the published financial statements under Brazilian Corporation Law of the Companies, from which the accompanying financial information was extracted, except for certain adjustments mainly related to effects of indexation applied on shareholders' equity and net income, detailed in the tables below, and certain reclassifications within the balance sheets and the statements of operations.

The tables below present a reconciliation of net income (loss) for the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004 and shareholders' equity at those dates in accordance with Brazilian Corporation Law to net income and shareholders' equity reported herein:

<b>Net income/(loss):</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Net income in accordance with Brazilian Corporation Law	442,981	145,139	252,222
Effect of the indexation of non-monetary assets through December 31, 2000 (mainly an increased depreciation charge)	(668,370)	(736,930)	(315,369)
Effect on deferred taxation of the above adjustments	220,769	260,032	126,754

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Minority interest in the above adjustments	153,093	163,112	64,511
Net income / (loss) as reported herein	148,473	(168,647)	128,118

F - 11

---

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

<b>Shareholders equity</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Shareholders equity in accordance with Brazilian Corporation Law	6,225,547	6,137,327	6,128,490
Effect of the indexation of non-monetary assets through December 31, 2000	1,052,293	315,366	-
Effect on deferred taxation on the above adjustment	(386,786)	(126,754)	-
Minority interest in the above adjustments	(227,622)	(64,508)	-
Shareholders equity as reported herein	6,663,432	6,261,431	6,128,490

All assets subject to the indexation described above were totally depreciated until December 31, 2004.

**c. Principles of consolidation**

These consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Holding Company and of the Companies mentioned in Note 1 to these financial statements. All material intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated.

Certain prior year amounts were reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

**d. US GAAP consideration**

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been translated and adapted from those originally issued in Brazil, based on the Brazilian Corporation Law and reconciled to Brazilian GAAP, as mentioned above. Certain reclassifications and changes in terminology have been made and these notes have been expanded, in order to conform more closely to reporting practices prevailing pursuant to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ( U.S. GAAP ).

Brazilian GAAP differs in certain significant respects from U.S. GAAP. For more information about the differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP and a reconciliation of our net income and shareholders equity from Brazilian GAAP to U.S. GAAP, please see Note 33.

**e. Consolidated statements of cash flows**

These consolidated financial statements include the consolidated statements of cash flows which better reflect the source and use of funds in order to provide more significant information, instead of the statements of sources and uses of funds, which are usually disclosed in accordance with Brazilian GAAP.

**f. Segment reporting**

The Company, is presenting, the Report by Business Segment (34.c). A segment is a distinguishable component of the Company that is engaged in providing products or services, which are subject to risks and rewards that are

different from those of other segments.

F - 12

---

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**3. Summary of principal accounting practices**

**a. Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash equivalents are considered to be all highly liquid temporary cash investments with original maturity dates of three months or less. They are recorded at original cost plus income earned to the balance sheet date and do not exceed market value.

Temporary cash investments consist of highly liquid investment funds held by financial institutions and are recorded as trading securities, with unrealized gains and losses included in the statement of operations. The recorded amounts refer to the fair values at each balance sheet date.

**b. Trade accounts receivable**

Accounts receivable from telephone subscribers are calculated at the tariff rate on the date the service was rendered. Customer accounts receivable also include services provided to customers to the balance sheet date but not yet billed and the related taxes, accounted for on the accrual basis. Receivables from the sale of mobile phones and accessories are recorded at the original amount of sales, when these goods are delivered and accepted by the customers. Interest on overdue accounts receivable from customers is recorded when received, not affecting trade accounts receivable.

**c. Allowance for doubtful accounts**

An allowance for doubtful accounts is recorded for accounts receivable for which recoverability is considered doubtful. The criteria adopted for making the provision for doubtful accounts takes into account the calculation of the actual percentage losses incurred on each range of maturity for accounts receivable. The historic percentages are applied to the current ranges of accounts receivable, also including accounts not yet due and the unbilled portion, thus comprising the amount that could become a future loss, which is recorded as a provision. Customers accounts receivable over 180 days due, are written-off from the balance sheet.

**d. Foreign currency transactions**

Transactions in foreign currency are recorded at the exchange rate at the time of the related transactions. Foreign currency denominated assets and liabilities are translated using the exchange rate at the balance sheet date. Exchange rate variations are recognized in the statements of operations as they occur.

**e. Inventories**

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or net realizable value. Cost of inventories is determined on a weighted average cost basis. Inventories are separated into network expansion, maintenance inventories and mobile phones and accessories for resale. Inventories for use in network expansion are classified as Construction-in-progress under Property, plant and equipment. Maintenance inventories are classified as other current assets. Obsolete items are provided for through an allowance for losses. In the case of mobile phones and accessories, this provision is calculated based on the difference of average cost in relation to the sales market value (when the latter is lower).



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**f. Investments**

Consist principally of investments with less than a 20% ownership stake, including fiscal incentive investments, recorded at indexed cost through December 31, 2000, less a reserve for losses when considered necessary.

**g. Property, plant and equipment**

Property, plant and equipment are stated at indexed cost through December 31, 2000, less accumulated depreciation. Financial charges related to loans specifically used to finance assets and construction in progress are capitalized. Improvements to existing property are capitalized while maintenance and repair costs are charged to expense as incurred. Materials allocated to specific projects are added to construction-in-progress.

Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the underlying assets and in accordance with tax rules. The principal depreciation rates are shown in Note 17.c.

The Company's management reviews property, plant and equipment for possible impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset or group of assets may not be recoverable on the basis of undiscounted future cash flows. These reviews have not indicated the need to recognize any impairment losses during the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2004. Write-down of property, plant and equipment assets is recorded when and if necessary

**h. Intangibles**

Goodwill represents the excess of acquisition costs over book value of net assets of businesses acquired. Goodwill and intangible assets with estimable useful lives are amortized over their respective estimated useful lives to their estimated residual values, and reviewed for impairment when events or circumstances indicates that the carrying amount may not be recoverable.

**i. Vacation pay accrual**

Employees' cumulative vacation pay is accrued as earned.

**j. Income and social contribution taxes**

Income and social contribution taxes are accounted for under the asset and liability method. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to (a) differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases and (b) tax loss carry forwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date in relation to all temporary differences, except for the future benefit arising out of the goodwill amortization, where the effect of a change in rates is recognized in capital reserves within shareholders' equity (note 26.c).

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**k. Loans and financing**

Loans and financing include accrued interest and monetary or exchange variations to the balance sheet date. Equal restatement is applied to the guarantee contracts to hedge the debt.

**l. Provisions for contingencies**

Reserves for contingencies are recognized for the estimated amounts of probable losses based on legal advice and management's opinion of the outstanding matters at the balance sheet date. The basis and nature of the provisions are described in Note 24.

**m. Revenue recognition**

Revenues are generally recognized on accrual basis. Revenues from customer calls are based on time used, according to Brazilian law, and are recognized when services are provided (fixed and mobile telephony). Services provided and not billed at the end of each month are estimated and recorded on accrual basis. Considering their high turnover and short average life, revenues from phone cards for public telephones are recorded as the cards are sold. Revenues from sales of mobile phones and accessories are recorded when the goods are delivered and accepted by the subscriber. Revenues from pre-paid mobile services are recognized based on the use of the respective credits. Revenues from activation and installation fees are recognized upon the activation of customer services. A revenue is not accounted for if there is an uncertainty in its realization.

**n. Interest income and expenses**

Interest income represents interest earned and gains and losses on temporary cash investments and interest earned on overdue accounts receivable from services. Interest expense represents interest incurred and charges on loans and financing and exchange gains and losses on foreign currency loans and financing.

**o. Research and development**

Research and development costs are charged to expense as incurred. Total research and development costs were R\$3,761, R\$2,566, and R\$430 for the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively.

**p. Pensions and other post-retirement benefits**

Private pension plans and other retirement benefits sponsored by the Company for their employees are managed by SISTEL and Fundação BrTPrev. Contributions are determined on an actuarial basis, when applicable, and accounted for on an accrual basis. As of December 31, 2001, to comply with CVM Instruction 371/00, Brasil Telecom S.A. recorded the actuarial deficit on the balance sheet date against shareholders' equity, excluding the corresponding tax effects. As from the beginning of 2002, adjustments to the actuarial deficit provision are being recognized as a period expense.

**q. Employees' profit sharing**



The Company has made a provision for granting employees the right to a share of its profits. The amount, determined to be paid in the year following the recorded provision, is in accordance with the agreement with the union, the Company's bylaws and the labor agreement.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**r. Advertising costs**

Advertising costs are expensed as incurred and amounted to R\$117,558, R\$85,712, and R\$133,576 during the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively.

**s. Income/(loss) per share**

Income/(loss) per thousand shares have been calculated based on the number of outstanding shares at the balance sheet date, net of treasury stock.

**t. Derivatives**

The Company has entered into derivative transactions to manage partially its exposure in foreign currency exchange rates, basically through currency swap contracts. Gains and losses from swap contracts are recognized monthly on an accrual basis by comparing contractual exchange rates to month end exchange rates, regardless of the contracted settlement terms.

Management of the Company does not operate with derivatives for trading purposes.

**u. Use of estimates**

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements requires management of the Company to make a number of estimates and assumptions relating to the reported amount of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include the carrying amount and recoverability of property, plant and equipment, and intangibles (including the estimates of the level of future revenues and expenses by the reporting units where the goodwill has been allocated subject to impairment analysis under SFAS 142); valuation allowances for receivables, inventories, deferred income tax assets and also provisions for contingencies. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**4. Net operating revenue**

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Local services:			
Monthly charges	2,656,631	2,858,002	3,110,050
Measured service charges	3,106,544	3,490,010	3,655,450
Public telephones	341,766	394,525	478,805
Other	149,643	147,434	126,260
Total	6,254,584	6,899,971	7,370,565
Long distance services:			
Intraregional	1,748,190	1,923,094	2,393,997

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Interregional and International	594	562	248,909
Total	1,748,784	1,923,656	2,642,906
Mobile telephone services:	-	-	
Telephony	-	-	18,219
Sales of goods	-	-	69,685
			87,904
Data transmission	504,979	766,196	1,068,779
Network services	1,021,308	1,050,821	970,422
Other	310,025	446,737	622,866
Gross operating revenues	9,839,680	11,077,381	12,763,442
Value added and other taxes on revenues	(2,670,871)	(3,042,487)	(3,579,541)
Discounts	(97,441)	(119,700)	(119,045)
Net operating revenue	7,071,368	7,915,194	9,064,855

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

There are no customers who individually account for more than 5% of gross operating revenues.

**5. Cost of services and sales of good**

The costs incurred in the generation of services rendered and goods sold are as follows:

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Depreciation and amortization	2,614,511	2,517,877	2,517,476
Personnel	144,581	129,404	120,172
Mobile handsets and accessories	-	-	113,642
Materials	78,760	84,263	66,613
Services	2,057,839	2,370,454	2,959,656
Other	247,667	353,021	383,829
	5,143,358	5,455,019	6,161,388

**6. Other net operating expenses (income)**

Following are presented the remaining income and expenses attributed to operational activities:

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Taxes other than income taxes	23,190	32,461	126,154
Provision for retirement incentive plan and layoffs (a)	3,295	-	-
Provision for actuarial liabilities of pension fund	-	8,434	31,132
Technical and administrative services	(35,564)	(40,805)	(58,476)
Provisions for contingencies, net of reversal (note 24)	29,159	359,947	255,346
Fines and expenses recovered (b)	(95,706)	(114,583)	(182,763)
Settlement of dispute with Embratel (c)	-	-	(124,501)
Write-off of collection in process of classification	(24,255)	(17,936)	-
Write-off of advances and other credits	6,727	3,293	1,653
Infra-structure rentals	(36,146)	(44,033)	(48,384)
Donations and sponsoring	26,707	21,198	10,991
Forfeiture dividends	(9,562)	(18,139)	-
Reversal of other provisions	(10,780)	2,970	(23,226)
Amortization of Goodwill on acquisition of investment	-	(2,509)	63,473
Other	1,754	15,991	17,743

(121,181) 211,308 69,142

(a) The retirement incentive plan and layoff expenses relate to the following termination plans:

<b>Plans</b>	<b>Period covered</b>	<b>Incurred</b>	
		<b>Number of employees</b>	<b>Termination costs</b>
<i>Apoio Daqui</i>	Oct 99- Mar. 02	6,151	234,450

The plan included termination benefits as part of the Company's overall restructuring plan. The costs at each year-end were provided considering the projected employees for each branch, department and job position.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

(b) Fines and expenses recovered primarily represent penalties collected on past due accounts receivable and recovery of sales taxes of prior periods. The amount of penalties collected on past due accounts receivable amounted to R\$67,889, R\$70,738, and R\$65,544 in 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively.

(c) The Company concluded negotiations with Empresa Brasileira de Telecomunicações S.A. - Embratel, related to commercial disputes, resulting in an agreement that established the payment, by Embratel, of approximately R\$153,000 (approximately R\$28 million were already recognized by BrT). Roughly 47% was paid up to Brasil Telecom in December 2004. The remaining amount will be paid until May 2005, in installments corrected by CDI - Domestic Interbank Rate.

**7. Net financial expenses**

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Financial income:			
Interest income	(228,571)	(341,162)	(516,408)
Gain on foreign currency denominated assets	(85,181)	(54,622)	(100,464)
Financial expenses:			
Interest expense	541,895	841,108	796,821
Losses on foreign currency financing	102,317	164,835	219,892
	330,460	610,159	399,841

**8. Net non-operating expenses (income)**

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Losses (gain) on disposal of fixed assets	(5,502)	74,417	(31,057)
Write-off on permanent assets CRT	-	386,977	-
Losses on investments		4,253	57,832
Amortization of goodwill on merger of CRT	96,133	96,133	66,578
Gain (losses) on disposal of other permanent asset	(3,642)	2,737	-
Other	(8,677)	(5,989)	18,419
	78,312	550,022	111,772

The write-off of permanent assets in 2003 results from the identification of certain plant and equipment that will no longer be used in operations due to its obsolescence and/or replacement with more technologically advanced telecommunications equipment based upon the Company's current capital expenditure and modernization program. The specific plant and equipment written off was identified in an obsolescence study performed by the Company with the support of a specialized third party firm.

BrT holds a 100% interest in the capital of VANT Telecomunicações S.A., whose negotiation for acquisition of the total shares was proposed at the end of the 2001 fiscal year, when a 19.9% interest in the capital of this company was acquired. On the same occasion the amount equivalent to the remaining capital was deposited in a collateral account as a guarantee for the option to the purchase agreement. The acquisition of the remaining interest was only finalized in May 2004 and the investment amounted to R\$51,594. At the time of the purchase, VANT presented a negative equity amounting to R\$14,208. The Company recorded a provision in the amount of the negative equity of the subsidiary in the non-operating result, as well as the R\$51,594 referring to the amount invested.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**9. Income and social contribution taxes benefit (expenses)**

Brazilian income taxes comprise federal income and social contribution taxes. In 2002, 2003 and 2004, the rate for income tax was 25% and 9% for social contribution tax producing a combined statutory rate of 34%.

Deferred taxes are provided on temporary differences, which include the effects of indexation adjustments that will not give rise to deductions when the related assets are subsequently depreciated, amortized or disposed of.

Income and social contribution taxes are booked on an accrual basis, with the temporary differences being deferred. The provisions for income and social contribution taxes recognized in the statements of operations, all of which are Brazilian taxes, are as follows:

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Social contribution tax	(9,963)	(2,573)	(15,804)
Income tax	(57,326)	(23,949)	(67,703)
Deferred taxes	66,373	287,912	89,325
Total	(916)	261,390	5,818

The following is a reconciliation of the amount calculated by applying the combined statutory tax rates to the reported income before taxes and the reported income tax expense:

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Pre-tax Brazilian income/(loss)	146,992	(590,156)	190,165
Pre-tax foreign income/(loss)	-	(11,347)	(29,958)
Income/(loss) before taxes as reported in the accompanying consolidated financial statements	146,992	(601,503)	160,207
Combined statutory rate	34%	34%	34%
Tax benefit/(expense) at the combined statutory rate	(49,978)	204,511	(54,470)
Permanent additions:			
Goodwill amortization on CRT merger and others	(32,685)	(32,685)	(32,077)
Exchange variation on equity investments	-	-	(9,904)



Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Losses on investments	-	-	(17,542)
Other non-deductible expenses	(9,174)	(11,977)	(19,673)
Permanent exclusions:			
Non-taxable income	5,319	3,857	10,186
Other items:			
Interest on shareholders' equity	91,998	103,351	133,826
Unrecognized tax loss	-	(6,125)	(10,186)
Recognition of deferred Income Tax on Accumulated			
Tax Losses	-	-	13,736
Effect of rate changes	(8,719)	-	-
Other, net	2,323	458	(8,078)
Income and social contribution tax benefit as reported in the accompanying consolidated financial statements	(916)	261,390	5,818

In 2002, 2003 and 2004, part of dividends proposed by the Company for payment at the end of the year was characterized as interest on shareholders' equity. As a result, under Brazilian tax law, this part of the dividend was treated as a deduction for income tax purposes.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

The composition of deferred tax assets and liabilities, based on temporary differences, is as follows:

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Deferred tax assets:</b>		
Future benefit from		
Goodwill pushed down from Bluetel	71,758	-
Goodwill on acquisition of CRT	123,378	59,006
Provisions for contingencies	236,833	236,276
Unrealized revenue	5,697	3,899
Allowance for doubtful accounts	62,224	82,209
Provision for actuarial deficiency- FBRTPREV	172,071	170,492
Tax losses carry forwards	1,390	71,648
Other	101,163	104,794
Total (see Note 14)	774,514	728,324
<b>Deferred tax liabilities:</b>		
Additional indexation expense from pre-1990	13,597	11,239
Effect of full indexation	126,754	-
Other	39,079	35,568
Total	179,430	46,807

Deferred tax liabilities on the effects of full indexation relate to the difference between the tax basis of permanent assets, which were not indexed for inflation subsequent to December 31, 1995, and the reporting basis, which includes indexation through December 31, 2000.

Other deferred tax liabilities refer to unrealized revenue from interest accruing on loans to certain mobile telephone operators resulting from the Telebrás spin-off in 1998, which are being contested by the creditors (Note 15).

The composition of tax liabilities is as follows:

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Federal income tax payable	68,893	75,782

Deferred tax liabilities	179,430	46,807
Total	248,323	122,589
Current	74,401	54,454
Non-current	173,922	68,135

The Company has not provided a valuation allowance against the net deferred tax asset as of December 31, 2004 arising out of temporary differences based upon management's belief that it is more likely than not that such deferred tax asset will be realized in the future through reversal of the differences and the generation of taxable income by the Company. The taxable income, basis for the registration of the deferred tax assets is calculated under Brazilian Corporation Law.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

The periods during which the deferred tax assets are expected to be realized are given below. The realization periods are based on a technical study using forecast future taxable income, generated in financial years when the temporary differences will become deductible expenses for tax purposes. This asset is maintained according to the requirements of CVM Instruction 371/02, based on a technical study, which has been approved by the executive and Board of Directors and examined by the fiscal council.

2005	285,000
2006	67,350
2007	101,358
2008	70,451
2009	54,209
20010 a 2012	55,566
2013 a 2014	18,426
After 2014	75,964
<b>Total</b>	<b>728,324</b>
Current	285,000
Non-current	443,324

The recoverable amount foreseen after the year 2014 relates to a provision to cover the actuarial deficit of the FBRTPREV pension plan (see Note 25), the liability for which is being paid over 17 years, the maximum period established by the Supplementary Pensions Department (SPC). Despite the time limit stipulated by the SPC, based on estimated future taxable income, the Company would be able to recover the deferred tax balance entirely by the year 2007 if it decided to prepay the FBRTPREV liability that year. Tax credits in the amount of R\$161,388 were not recorded due to the lack of fulfillment of the minimum requirements regarding historical and forecasted taxable income for the direct/indirect subsidiaries VANT, MetroRED, BrT CSH, BrT CS Ltda, and iG Brazil. In Brazil, tax losses can be carried forward indefinitely against profits of future periods, however the offset is limited to 30% of current year taxable income.

**10. Cash flow information**

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Income and social contribution tax paid	38,666	102,923	109,275
Interest paid	347,558	560,055	441,144

**11. Cash and cash equivalents****December 31,**

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Cash and bank accounts	151,021	71,890
Temporary cash investments	1,805,634	3,154,703
	1,956,655	3,226,593

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

Temporary cash investments represent amounts invested in exclusive financial investment funds, which comprise portfolios managed by financial institutions and refer to federal bonds with an average yield equivalent to interbank deposit rates (DI CETIP - CDI), contracts in the Futures and Commodities Exchange - BM&F, linked to foreign exchange variation and interest of around 4% per year and in an investment fund in foreign currency, bearing interest from 1% to 4.25% per annum.

The liabilities of these exclusive funds are limited to management and administrative fees such as custody, audit, and other. There are no significant financial liabilities as well as the Company has not used any asset as collateral to cover liabilities that may arise from these exclusive funds. The funds creditors do not have rights over the general credits of the Company.

**12. Trade accounts receivable, net**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Unbilled amounts	707,130	911,655
Billed amounts	1,335,606	1,363,406
Sale of goods		79,699
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,042,736</b>	<b>2,354,760</b>
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(183,023)	(243,181)
Service	(183,023)	(241,022)
Sale of goods	-	(2,159)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,859,713</b>	<b>2,111,579</b>

The changes in the allowance for doubtful accounts were as follows:

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Beginning balance	143,565	153,768	183,023
Transfer from new acquisitions	-	32	-
Provision charged to selling expense	262,505	297,826	425,741
Write-offs	(252,302)	(268,603)	(365,583)
Ending balance	153,768	183,023	243,181

**13. Inventories**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Maintenance inventories	37,704	15,679
Mobile phones and accessories	-	209,024
Provision for losses - realization value	-	(43,814)
Provision for losses - obsolete items	(10,609)	(6,856)
	27,095	174,033
Current	8,042	174,033
Non-current	19,053	-

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**14. Deferred and recoverable taxes**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Recoverable social contribution tax	32,264	33,412
Recoverable income tax	322,056	403,954
Deferred tax assets (Note 9)	774,514	728,324
Sales and other taxes	439,865	632,861
	1,568,699	1,798,551
Current	701,027	841,466
Non-current	867,674	957,085

Most of the sales and other taxes is related to the ICMS (value added tax) recoverable which arose from credits recorded on the acquisition of fixed assets, whose compensation with ICMS payable is recorded in 48 equal installments.

**15. Other assets**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Loans and financing	135,003	129,017
Accounts receivable from telecommunication companies	103,338	100,331
Prepayments	44,567	97,691
Accounts receivable from assets disposals and others	5,527	336
Recoverable advances	33,235	66,736
Court deposits	457,980	621,000
Escrow agreements	69,251	34,181
Assets available for sale	9,269	276
Tax incentives	18,315	14,473
Advance for future paid-in capital	6,965	-
Other	9,081	14,670
	892,531	1,078,711
Current	155,669	388,406
Non-current	736,862	690,305



The Loans and financing asset include the amount of R\$118,273 (R\$125,044 at December 31, 2003), related to the assets transferred to BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A. in the TELEBRÁS spin-off process, referring to liabilities of Telebrasília Celular S.A. and Telegoiás Celular S.A. through a transfer of funds for financing their expansions. These amounts are subject to exchange variation plus interest between 11.55% per year and the semiannual Libor rate plus 1% or 1.5% per year. These loans are being challenged in the courts by the holding company of the aforementioned mobile cellular operators, and therefore are not being received. According to the opinion of the Company's legal counselors, there are no expectations of loss in relation to these receivables. The Company is providing for deferred tax on the financial income generated from such loans. The corresponding deferred tax is recognized as a long-term liability.

The majority of the court deposits relates to the labor and tax cases, with the most significant individual item being the ICMS (State VAT) as mentioned in Note 21.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**16. Investments**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Fiscal incentive and other investments	220,471	75,759
	220,471	75,759

Investments stated at cost (less reserves when applicable) are represented by interests obtained by converting into shares or capital quotas of tax incentives in regional FINOR/FINAM funds, Law for Incentives for Information Technology Companies and the Audiovisual Law. In 2003, the investments in MTH and Vant (whose controlling interest were acquired in May 2004), amounting to R\$61,463 and R\$36,018, respectively, were measured at cost, as they represent less than 20% ownership.

**17. Property, plant and equipment, net****a. Composition:**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Construction-in-progress	493,997	651,526
Automatic switching equipment	6,498,899	6,577,868
Transmission and other equipment	15,142,594	15,928,310
Buildings	5,515,603	5,600,932
Other assets	2,516,843	3,540,335
Total cost	30,167,943	32,298,970
Accumulated depreciation	(20,588,114)	(22,939,012)
Property, plant and equipment, net	9,579,821	9,359,958

Transmission and other equipment includes: transmission equipment, aerial, underground and building cables, teleprinters, private automatic exchanges, generating equipment and furniture.

Other assets include: underground cables, computer equipment, vehicles, land and other assets. Within Other assets the book value of land is R\$113,472 at December 31, 2003 and R\$110,254 at December 31, 2004.

According to the STFC concession contracts, the Company assets that are indispensable for providing the service and qualified as reversible assets at the time of expiration of the concession will automatically revert to ANATEL, and the Company will be entitled to the right of compensation stipulated in the legislation and the corresponding contracts.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

Changes in property, plant and equipment for the year ended December 31, 2003 and 2004 are:

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Beginning balance	11,265,991	9,579,829
Merged Property, Plant and Equipment	134,650	237,808
Additions	1,399,113	2,640,005
Disposals	(470,454)	(245,568)
Depreciation	(2,749,479)	(2,852,116)
Ending balance	9,579,821	9,359,958

**b. Capitalized interest**

As required in the telecommunication industry at that time, the Company capitalized interest attributable to construction-in-progress, up to December 31, 1998, at the rate of 12% per annum of the balance of construction-in-progress. Starting in 1999, the Company capitalizes interest on loans specifically related to financing of construction in progress, and interest on internal financing is no longer capitalized. The amounts of R\$127,979, R\$61,330, and R\$9,043, were capitalized in 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively. Capitalized interest is depreciated over the same period as the associated assets.

**c. Depreciation rates**

The annual depreciation rates applied to property, plant and equipment are as follows:

	%
Automatic switching equipment	20.00
Transmission and other equipment	20.00
Buildings	4.00
Other assets (excluding land) average rate	12.91

In 2004, considering the current technological stage of the telecommunications equipment, the Company, based on technical report issued by National Institute of Technology - INPI, on January 12, 2004, decided to change the depreciation rates of some equipment, covering underground systems (from 4% to 10%), metallic cables (from 10% to 20%) and network management equipment (from 10% to 20%). This change generated a reduction in consolidated net income and minority interest, in the amount of R\$191,721 (R\$0.53 per thousand shares).

**d. Rentals**

The Company rents equipment and premises through a number of operating agreements that expire at different dates. Total annual rent expense under these agreements which are operating and capital leases, was as follows:

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Rent expense	195,285	232,631	267,441

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

Rental commitments relating to these contracts where the future minimum rental payments under leases with remaining terms in excess of one year that are non-cancelable without payment of a penalty are:

Year ending December 31, 2004

2005	9,507
2006	9,516
2007	9,577
2008	8,048
2009	4,922
2010	1,793
2011 and after	4,439
Total	47,802

**18. Intangibles**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Goodwill on merger of CRT (a)	180,266	113,681
Goodwill on acquisition of iBest (b)	117,216	74,076
Mobile personal services licenses (c)	228,398	303,176
Other licenses (d)	-	11,713
Goodwill on acquisition of GlobeNet (note 1b.i)	5,676	6,584
Goodwill on acquisition of MetroRed (e)	-	95,651
Goodwill on acquisition of iG (f)	-	267,086
Others	-	24,746
	531,556	896,713

(a) On December 28, 2000, a corporate reorganization resulted in the merger of CRT into the Company with effect from December 1, 2000. The restructuring process included a downstream merger performed in accordance with the requirements of Instructions 319/99 and 320/99 of the CVM with the objective of achieving the deductibility for income tax purposes of amortization of the goodwill. As a consequence, a special goodwill reserve was recorded at the CRT level in shareholders' equity with the related tax benefit of the future goodwill amortization recorded as a deferred tax asset in the amount of R\$321,856 (the remaining balance of this tax benefit is shown in the consolidated balance sheet as part of deferred and recoverable taxes as of December 31, 2003 and 2004 in the amounts of R\$123,378 and R\$59,006 respectively - see Note 9). As a result of this corporate reorganization, in Brasil Telecom's

books, goodwill was recomputed reducing its original amount to R\$480,691, net of the tax benefit, including the unamortized balance of goodwill recognized in previous acquisitions. The remaining unamortized balance of goodwill is presented in this account.

(b) In June 2003, as a result of several statutory acts in iBest Holding Corporation - IHC and in its subsidiaries, BrTI acquired the control of the iBest Group. The acquisition of iBest generated goodwill of R\$117,216, which will be amortized over the upcoming years proportionally to the profits generated by iBest Group.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

(c) Relates to three Personal Communication Service (PCS) license contracts signed with ANATEL in 2002 by the indirect subsidiary Brasil Telecom Celular S.A. The cost of these licenses, which guarantee the operation of SMP over the next 15 years in the same operating area where the Company has its fixed telephone concession, amounted to R\$191,495, of which 10% was paid upon signing the contract. The balance of R\$172,345 corresponding to the remaining 90%, was recognized as a liability of the subsidiary and is payable in six equal and successive annual installments falling due between 2005 and 2010. During the second quarter of 2004 new authorizations were contracted for certain frequency bands in the total amount of R\$28,624. The rights to explore them are similar to those applicable to the previous authorizations, and the maturities of the installments of these new authorizations are foreseen for 2007 to 2012. The outstanding balance is subject to price-level restatement based on the variation of the IGP-DI index plus interest of 1% per month. On December 31, 2003, the restated liability was R\$294,404 (R\$211,847 in 2003) and is presented under the caption other liabilities, in non-current liabilities.

(d) Other licenses belong to Vant and refer to the authorization to use specific radio-frequency waves in order to explore data transmission. The remaining balance is adjusted by the variation of IGP-DI, plus 1% per month, and will be paid in six equal annual installments as from April 2006.

(e) On May 13, 2004, the Company acquired 80.1% of the voting capital of MTH, in addition to the 19.9% held previously. MTH, in turn, held 100% of the capital of MetroRED. This acquisition generated goodwill of R\$110,366, which will be amortized over the upcoming years proportionally to the profits generated by MetroRED.

(f) BrT SCS Bermuda acquired on November 24, 2004 the controlling interest of iG Cayman, with an interest of 63.2% of total shares as of December 31, 2004, a company incorporated under the laws of Cayman Islands. iG Cayman is a holding company which owns the controlling interest of iG Brazil and Central de Serviços Internet Ltda., both incorporated in Brazil. The acquisition of iG Group generated goodwill of R\$271,613, which will be amortized over the upcoming years proportionally to the profits generated by iG Group.

**19. Payroll and related accruals**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Salaries and wages	298	4,553
Accrued social security charges	56,776	63,486
Accrued benefits	4,833	5,623
	<b>61,907</b>	<b>73,662</b>

**20. Accounts payable and accrued expenses****December 31,**



	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Suppliers	936,205	1,787,744
Third-Party Consignments	42,253	96,411
	978,458	1,884,155

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**21. Taxes other than income taxes**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
ICMS (Value-added tax)	859,080	1,192,921
Other indirect taxes on operating revenues	167,462	179,133
	1,026,542	1,372,054
Current	443,348	767,112
Non-current	583,194	604,942

The non-current portion refers to ICMS (State VAT), related to income from other services not directly related to telecommunications as from 1998, which the Company is challenging in court and for which escrow deposits are being made. It also includes the deferred ICMS arising on account of an incentive scheme offered by the government of the State of Paraná, which grants four years postponement without interest charges.

In 2003 the Company paid PIS and COFINS taxes in installments, previously settled through offsetting tax credits, the ratification of which was refused by the Federal Revenue department, at the administrative level. The payment in installments was included in the Program for Tax Recovery (REFIS) and Special Payment in Installments (PAES). From the amount divided into installments through REFIS remains a balance of R\$2,871 (R\$13,489 in 2003) with the period for amortization established at 3 monthly payments. With respect to PAES, the remaining balance amounts to R\$42,596 (R\$43,529 in 2003), payable in 102 monthly installments. The balances payable for both programs are charged interest at the long-term interest rate (TJLP).

With respect to the tax credits that were refused, the Company has lodged appeals at the judicial level for restitution or future compensation.

**22. Dividends and employees profit sharing**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Dividends payable to:		
Controlling shareholder	38,660	48,472
Minority shareholders (a)	284,034	387,755
Employees profit sharing	51,426	63,799
	374,120	500,026

(a) Includes R\$60,307 in 2003 and R\$58,402 in 2004 of unclaimed dividends from prior years, which will be reversed to retained earnings if not claimed within three years.

F - 28

---

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**23. Loans and financing**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Financial institutions (a)	1,886,605	3,205,114
Debentures (b)	1,445,310	881,717
Loans from suppliers and others (c)	5,076	30,016
Hedge (g)	54,704	126,169
Accrued interest	398,307	465,213
	3,790,002	4,708,229
Current	1,696,958	856,638
Non-current	2,093,044	3,851,591

**a. Financial institutions**

Financing from financial institutions denominated in local currency, as of December 31, 2004, bore fixed interest of 2.4% to 14% per annum and variable interest based on one of the following reference rates: TJLP (Brazilian long-term interest rates, which was 9.75% per annum at December 31, 2004) plus 3.85% to 6.5% per annum, UMBNDES (National Bank for Economic and Social Development currency, which was -7.4% per annum at December 31, 2004) plus 3.85% to 6.5% per annum, 100% of CDI (Interbank Deposit rate, which was 17.46% per annum at December 31, 2004), CDI + 1% and IGP-M (General Market Price Index, which was 12.41% per annum at December 31, 2004) plus 12% per annum. In 2004 this resulted in an average rate of 14.7% per annum.

Financing denominated in foreign currency bears fixed interest rate of 0% to 9.38% per annum resulting in an average rate of 8.1% per annum, a variable interest rate of LIBOR plus 0.5% to 4.00% per annum, and YEN LIBOR plus 1.92% to 3.35%, resulting in an average rate of 2.31% per annum. The LIBOR and YEN LIBOR rates, for semi-annual payments was 2.83% and 0.0625% per annum on December 31, 2004 respectively.

**b. Debentures*****Company:***

In 2000, the Company issued debentures convertible into preferred shares, for the purpose of financing part of the investment program of the Subsidiary. Total funding was R\$817,600, and subscription bonuses were fully paid-up, in the amount of R\$285,702. The restated balance of the debentures, amounting to R\$472,863, will be amortized in two installments, maturing in years 2005 and 2006. Debentures yield interest of 4% per annum, above the Brazilian long-term interest rate (TJLP) of 11% and 9.75% per annum as of December 31, 2003 and 2004, respectively, payable semiannually. The portion of interest attributable to a TJLP rate in excess of 6% per annum will be added to the debenture balance.

***Subsidiary BrT:***

First public issue: 50,000 non-convertible debentures of R\$10, totaling R\$500,000, issued on May 1, 2002. The term is for two years maturing on May 1, 2004. Interest of 109% of the CDI is payable half-yearly on November 1 and May 1 from the date of issue to the maturity of the debentures.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

Second Public Issue: 40,000 non-convertible debentures of R\$10, totaling R\$400,000, issued on December 1, 2002. The term is for two years maturing on December 1, 2004. Interest of 109% of the CDI is payable half-yearly on June 1 and December 1 from the date of issue to the maturity of the debentures.

Third Public Issue: 50,000 non-convertible debentures without renegotiation clause, with a unit face value of R\$10, totaling R\$500,000, issued on July 5, 2004. The maturity period is five years, coming due on July 5, 2009. Yield corresponds to an interest rate of 100% of the CDI plus 1% p.a., payable half-yearly.

As of December 31, 2004, no debentures issued by the Company had been repurchased.

**c. Loans from suppliers and others**

The main part accounted for as loans from suppliers and others, amounting R\$26,411, is related to a debt due by Vant to the former parent company. This liability will due on December 31, 2015, bearing US dollar exchange variation. Loans from suppliers of telecommunication equipment denominated in U.S. dollars that bear interest at either a fixed rate of 1.75% per annum or a variable rate of LIBOR plus 2.95% per annum.

**d. Repayment schedule**

Non-current debt is scheduled to be paid as follows:

	<b>2004</b>
2006	969,956
2007	781,231
2008	378,048
2009	786,172
2010	283,185
2011 and after	652,999
	<b>3,851,591</b>

**e. Interest Rate and Currency analysis**

	<b>Exchange rate at December 31, 2003 and 2004</b>	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>(Units of one Brazilian real)</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Floating Rate Debt:			
Brazilian reais		3,568,213	3,319,346
U.S. dollars	2.8892 and 2.6544, respectively	144,393	101,056

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Yens	0.025935	-	562,927
		3,712,606	3,983,329
<b>Fixed Rate Debt:</b>			
Brazilian reais		20,439	16,007
U.S. dollars	2.8892 and 2.6544, respectively	2,253	580,153
Yens	0.025935	-	2,571
		22,692	598,731
<b>Hedge adjustments</b>		54,704	126,168
		3,790,002	4,708,229

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**f. Covenants and guarantees**

Some of the loans and financing contracts signed by the Company with its creditors contain covenants that stipulate the advance payment of them in cases where minimum values for certain indicators are not achieved, such as indebtedness, liquidity, cash generation and others. The indicators required in these clauses, which are common in loan and financing transactions, were fully achieved by the Company.

In order to adjust valuation parameters to the new reality of the telecom segment and of the Company, a renegotiation with the BNDES agents (private banks) took place during December 2004. These agents approved the new covenants on December 20, 2004, with retrospective application to the whole year-ended on December 31, 2004, and submitted their acceptance to the BNDES, which accepted (with retroactive application) these new terms and conditions on February 1, 2005. The Company is, on 31 December 2004, in compliance with these revised covenants. If the Company had not obtained the referred approval from BNDES, it would not be in compliance with the covenant related to the level of its EBTIDA (Earnings Before Taxes, Interest, Depreciation and Amortization) margin, as defined in such loans and financing contracts.

The loans and financing are guaranteed by the credits derived from the provision of telephone services.

**g. Swap contracts**

As of December 31, 2004 the Company had R\$681,209 (R\$201,350 as of December 31, 2003) of debt denominated in U.S. dollars and R\$565,498 of debt denominated in Yens, before hedge adjustments.

The Company entered into several swaps transactions in order to limit losses from fluctuations of the Brazilian real. The market risk on these swap contracts results from changes in the Brazilian deposit certificate rates (CDI) versus changes in the exchange rate. The main terms of these swap transactions are as follows:

- (a) The interbank deposit certificate rate is that quoted by CETIP (Central de Custódia e de Liquidação).
- (b) The change in the exchange rate is that quoted by the Brazilian Central Bank, plus an annual fixed interest rate of from 1.9% to 26% per annum.

The details of the notional values and maturity periods are as follows:

	<b>December 31, 2004</b>	
	<b>U. S. dollars/UMBNEDES</b>	<b>Yen</b>
Number of contracts	30	91
Original values (\$ thousand)	39,259	21,572,765
Maturity periods (\$ thousand):		
Up to 1 year	23,564	413,763



1 to 3 years

15,695

21,159,002

F - 31

---

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

The Company accounts for the swap transactions by calculating the unrealized gain or loss at each balance sheet date based on what would have been the result of settlement of the outstanding contracts at that date. The gain or loss for a period is recorded in financial income or expense of such period.

The swap operations resulted in a gain of R\$28,874, and losses of R\$83,188 and R\$92,735 during the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively, which were recorded in financial expense and financial income, in that order.

**24. Provisions for contingencies**

The Company and its subsidiaries periodically perform an assessment for contingencies risks, and also review lawsuits taking into consideration the legal, economic, taxes and accounting aspects. The assessment of these risks aims at classifying them according to the chances of an unfavorable outcome between the alternatives of probable, possible or remote, taking into account, according to the circumstances, the opinion of its legal counselors.

Provisions are recognized for those contingencies where the risks are classified as probable. Contingencies classified as possible or remote are discussed in this Note. In certain situations, due to legal requirements or precautionary measures, judicial deposits are made to guarantee the continuity of the cases in litigation. These lawsuits are in progress in various courts, including administrative, lower, and higher courts.

**Labor Claims**

The provision for labor claims includes an estimate by the Company's management, supported by the opinion of its legal counselors, of the probable losses related to lawsuits filed by former employees of the Company and of service providers.

**Tax Suits**

The provision for tax contingencies refers mainly to matters related to tax collections due to differences in interpretation of the tax legislation by the Company's legal counsel and the tax authorities.

**Civil Suits**

The provision for civil contingencies refers to cases related to contractual adjustments arising from Federal Government economic plans and other cases related to community telephony plans.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**Classification by Risk Level**Contingencies with Probable Risk

Contingencies classified as having a probable risk of loss, for which provisions are recorded under liabilities, have the following balances:

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Labor	424,097	414,221
Tax	65,970	112,702
Civil	208,911	215,302
<b>Total</b>	<b>698,978</b>	<b>742,225</b>
Current	48,509	327,643
Non-current	650,469	414,582

Changes in the provision for the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004, were as follows:

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Beginning balances	378,478	389,224	698,978
Contingencies paid during the year	(18,413)	(50,192)	(212,100)
Additional provisions	55,475	387,209	358,370
Reversal of provisions	(26,316)	(27,263)	(103,023)
<b>Ending balances</b>	<b>389,224</b>	<b>698,978</b>	<b>742,225</b>

*Labor*

There was a decrease in labor contingences in 2004 of R\$9,876. This decrease is caused by the recognition of monetary restatements and effects of the reassessment of contingent risks that determine the additional recognition of a provision in the amount of R\$170,052, by new additions amounting to R\$26,925 and by payments which amounted

to R\$207,070. The provision was also increased by the amount of R\$217 due to labor contingencies of VANT and MetroRED at the date these companies started to be consolidated.

The main objects that affect the provisions for labor claims are the following:

- (i) Additional Remuneration for Hazardous Activities - related to the claim for payment of additional remuneration for hazardous activities, based on Law 7,369/85, regulated by Decree 93,412/86, due to the supposed risk of contact by the employee with the electric power system;
- (ii) Salary Differences and Consequences - related, mainly, to requests for salary increases due to supposedly unfulfilled union negotiations. They are related to the repercussion of the salary increase supposedly due on the others sums calculated based on the employees' salaries;

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

- (iii) Career plan - related to the request for application of the career and salaries plan for employees of the Santa Catarina Branch (formerly Telesc), with promotions for seniority and merit, supposedly not granted by the former Telesc; and
- (iv) Joint Responsibility - related to the request to ascribe responsibility to the Company, made by outsourced personnel, due to supposed nonobservance of their labor rights by their real employers;
- (v) Overtime supposedly not paid;
- (vi) Re-integration - impossibility to terminate labor contract without a fair justification; and
- (vii) Potential payment of dividends over profit sharing attributed to Santa Catarina branch.

*Tax*

During 2004 there was an increase of R\$46,733 represented, mainly, by R\$24,936 of new additions and R\$37,581 as a result of the acquisition in May 2004 of MetroRED and Vant, offset by a decrease of R\$14,600 due to reassessment of risks and the effect of monetary restatement and payments amounting to R\$1,186.

The main lawsuits provided for are as follows:

- (i) Social security - Related to the non-collection of social security education allowance;
- (ii) Federal Revenue Department - Incorrect compensation of tax losses; and
- (iii) CPMF - Non-collection of the contribution on financial activities.

*Civil*

The increase in 2004 in the amount of R\$6,391 is represented, mainly, by reassessments of the contingency risks and recognition of monetary restatement amounting to R\$20,098 as well as new additions amounting to R\$30,943 and payments totaling R\$44,650..

The lawsuits provided are the following:

- (i) Review of contractual conditions - Lawsuit where a company which supplies equipment filed legal action against the Company, asking for a review of contractual conditions due to economic stabilization plans;

- (ii) Contracts of Financial Participation - The position related to the incorrect procedure previously adopted by the former CRT in processes related to the application of a rule enacted by the Ministry of the Communications has been agreed to in the Court of Appeals of Rio Grande do Sul. Such cases are in various phases: First instance, Court of Appeals and Higher Court of Appeals; and

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

- (iii) Other lawsuits - related to various ongoing lawsuits such as indemnification for pain and suffering and material damages to consumers, indemnification for contractual rescission, indemnification for accidents, as well as lawsuits that are in Special Civil Courts whose claims, separately, do not exceed forty minimum salaries.

Contingencies with Possible Risk

The position of contingencies with levels of risk considered to be possible, and therefore not recorded in the accounts, is the following:

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Labor	625,266	649,328
Tax	863,967	1,251,709
Civil	740,640	1,006,334
Total	<b>2,229,873</b>	<b>2,907,371</b>

*Labor*

The main objects that comprise the possible losses of a labor nature are related to additional remuneration for hazardous activities, promotions and joint responsibility, the evaluation of which processes by the legal assessors resulted in a level of risk of loss evaluated only as possible. As well as the cited objects, also contribute to the aforementioned amount the petition for remunerative consideration for hours of works supposedly exceeding the normal working hours agreed upon between the parties.

*Tax*

The increase occurring in 2004 of R\$387,742 refers, mainly, new additions amounting to R\$167,348 related to ICMS on the international calls and activation services and others, and additions related to the non-payment of ISS and to an alternative interpretation of the of PIS taxation. Additionally, a significant amount of additions arose as a result of the reassessment of risks (R\$47,402) and from monetary restatement (R\$148,627).

The main lawsuits considered as possible loss are presented as follows:

- (i) ICMS (State VAT) - On international calls;
- (ii) ICMS (State VAT) - Differential of rate in interstate acquisitions;

- (iii) ICMS (State VAT) - Exploitation of credits related to the acquisition of fixed assets for use and consumption;
- (iv) ISS (Service Tax) - Not collected and/or under-collected;
- (v) INSS (Social Security) - alternative interpretation of the basis of calculation;
- (vi) PIS and COFINS - transfer to final consumer;



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

- (vii) Federal Taxes - filings for supposed lack of collection; and
- (viii) Withholding tax (IRRF) - Operations related to hedge for covering debts.

*Civil*

The increase for consolidated occurring in 2004 was R\$265,694 and is represented, mainly, by an increase of R\$231,042 related to shares originating in a capitalization process where a larger number of shares in the capital is demanded in relation to that which was issued, as well as corresponding dividends claimed. Other variations refer mainly to monetary restatement and reassessment of risks.

The main lawsuits are presented as follows:

- (i) Repayments resulting from Community Telephony Program lawsuits (PCT) - the plaintiffs intend to pay the compensations related to the contracts resulting from the Community Telephony Program. Such proceedings are encountered in various phases: First instance, Court of Appeals and Higher Court of Appeals;
- (ii) Lawsuits of a consumer nature;
- (iii) Contractual - Lawsuits related to the claim for a percentage resulting from the Real Plan, to be applied in a contract for rendering services, review of conversion of installments in URV and later in reais, related to the supply of equipment and rendering of services; and
- (iv) Attendance for customers points - Public civil lawsuits arising from the closing of customer attendance points.

Contingencies with Remote Risk

In addition to the claims mentioned above, there are also contingencies considered to be of remote risk in the amount of R\$1,490,365 (R\$1,294,159 in 2003).

Management does not believe that the ultimate outcome of any litigation described above will have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position, or results of operations after consideration of the provisions described above.

**Letters of Guarantee**

The Company has contracts for letters of guarantees signed with financial institutions, as a complementary guarantee for lawsuits in provisory execution, in the amount of R\$311,976 (R\$124,947 on December 2003). Most of these contracts, representing 10%, have a stated period for termination during 2004 and the remainder is for an indeterminate period of time. The remuneration for these contracts varies between 0.65% p.a. and 4.00% p.a., representing a weighted average rate of 0.98% p.a.

The judicial deposits related to the contested contingencies and tributes (suspended liability) are presented in Note 15.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**25. Provision for pensions and other benefits**

**a. Pension and other post employment benefit plans**

Brasil Telecom sponsors various private pension plans designed to provide retirement benefits and medical assistance to employees and their dependents. These plans are managed by Fundação de Seguridade Social (SISTEL), which managed plans for pension and other post retirement benefits for most companies of the former Telebrás System, and Fundação BrTPrev, former Fundação dos Empregados da Companhia Riograndense de Telecomunicações (FCRT), which administered the benefit plans of CRT, acquired in 2000.

The Company bylaws stipulate approval of the supplementary pension policy and the joint liability attributed to the defined benefit plans is subject to the acts signed with the foundations, with the agreement of the Supplementary Pensions National Department - PREVIC (*Superintendência Nacional de Previdência Complementar*), formerly National Secretary of Private Pension - SPC (*Secretaria de Previdência Complementar*), when applicable to the specific plans.

The status of each plan is reviewed annually by independent actuaries at the balance sheet date. In the case of defined benefit plans, immediate recognition is given to actuarial gains and losses and as from 2001 the Company has established a liability in the balance sheet for the deficits of those plans showing deficits, following the requirements of CVM Instruction Nr. 371/00. In the case of plans that show surpluses, no assets are recognized due to the legal impossibility of distributing the surpluses.

Details of the pension plans are as follows:

**a.1 SISTEL**

In 2000, the Fundação SISTEL was segmented in several plans with financial autonomy, managed, controlled and accounted for independently, in accordance with the specific legislation. Subsequently, these plans, which were defined benefit plans, were converted to defined contribution plans following the human resources policy of each respective sponsor (the new concessionaires). As a further step of the privatization process (once the sponsors became competitors among themselves), the Company requested the incorporation of its own and legally separated pension plan - Fundação 14 de Previdência Privada - to the Supplementary Pensions National Department - PREVIC (Superintendência Nacional de Previdência Complementar), formerly National Secretary of Private Pension - SPC (Secretaria de Previdência Complementar). This request was approved in October 7, 2004. Afterwards, on November 03, 2004, a request to transfer the TCSPREV plan from SISTEL to this new entity has been submitted but has not been approved yet.

**a.1.1 Description of the plans**

PBS-A - Defined benefit pension plan and PAMA - Retirees health care plan and PCE - Special Coverage Plan (Defined Contribution)

The Company, together with other companies, sponsors a defined benefit private pension plan and a post-retirement benefit health care plan managed by Fundação SISTEL de Seguridade Social (SISTEL), the PBS-A and PAMA plans for participants that had the status of beneficiaries on January 31, 2000.



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

The PAMA plan was subsequently expanded to cover all the beneficiaries of the PBS-TCS Group, incorporated into TCSPREV (see below) on December 31, 2001, except for those in the PBT-BrT plan. According to legal and actuarial opinions, the sponsor's liability for contributions to the PAMA plan is exclusively limited to 1.5% of the payroll of active participants. An optional migration from the PAMA to the PCE took place during 2004. The participants who opted for this migration now contribute to the PCE.

*TCSPREV - Defined contribution plans*

This defined contribution plan and settled benefits plan was introduced on February 28, 2000. On December 31, 2001, all the pension plans sponsored by the Company and managed by SISTEL were transformed into defined contribution plans with settled benefits and were merged into TCSPREV. The reorganization was subsequently approved by the SPC. The plans that were merged into TCSPREV were the PBS-TCS, PBT-BrT, the BrT Management Agreement plan and the Supplementary Plan for the Paraná branch employees. TCSPREV currently serves around 55.4% of active employees.

*PAMEC-BrT - Health-care plan*

This health care plan covers retirees in the PBT-BrT pension plan, which was incorporated into the TCSPREV plan on December 31, 2001.

***a.1.2 Contributions***

*PBS-A - Defined benefit pension plan, PAMA - Retirees health care plan and PCE - Special Coverage Plan (Defined Contribution)*

Contributions to the PBS-A plan are only required in case of an actuarial deficit. As of December 31, 2004, the PBS-A plan was in surplus.

The PAMA plan is maintained with contributions of 1.5% of the payroll of active participants linked to the PBS plans, segregated and sponsored by the several SISTEL sponsors. In the case of Brasil Telecom, PBS-TCS was incorporated into the TCSPREV plan on December 31, 2001, and became an internal group of the plan. The participants who opted for the migration from the PAMA to the PCE now contribute to the latter.

*TCSPREV - Defined contribution plan*

Contributions to this plan were maintained on the same basis as the original plans incorporated in 2001 for each group of participants, and were established based on actuarial studies prepared by independent actuaries according to regulations in force in Brazil, using the capitalization system to determine costs. In the case of the PBS-TCS defined benefit plan group, the Company's contribution was 12% of the payroll of the participants, whilst the employees contribution varied according to the age, service time and salary. In the remaining TCSPREV defined contribution plan groups, the contributions are made equally by the employee and the Company and are credited into individual accounts of each participant. The basic contribution percentages vary between 3% and 8% of the participant's salary, according to age. In addition, participants have the option to contribute voluntarily and sporadically to the plan above the basic contribution, but without equal payments from the Company. The Company is responsible for the administrative cost of the plan and disbursement of the benefits. In 2004 contributions by the Company to the

TCSPREV group represented on average 6.75% of the payroll of the plan participants whilst the average employee contribution of plan participants was 6.08% (2003, 7.31% and 6.58% respectively).

F - 38

---

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

*PAMEC-BrT - Health-care plan*

Contributions for this plan were fully paid in July 1998. New contributions will be limited to the future necessity to cover expenses, if that occurs.

**a.2 FBrTPrev**

***a.2.1 Description of the plans***

*BrTPREV plan*

The BrTPREV plan was introduced on October 21, 2002 as a defined contribution and settled benefits plan to provide supplementary pension benefits to employees of the former CRT. In March 2003 this plan was also opened to the new employees of the Company and its subsidiaries who wished to participate in the sponsored complementary social security plans. BrTPREV currently covers approximately 39.5% of employees.

*Brasil Telecom Founder and Alternative plans*

The Brasil Telecom Founder and Alternative plans are defined contribution and settled benefit plans, now closed to the entry of new participants. Currently, these plans attend 0.9% of the employee staff.

***a.2.2 Contributions***

*BrTPREV plan*

The contributions to this plan are established based on actuarial studies prepared by independent actuaries according to the regulations in force in Brazil, using the capitalization system to determine the costs. Contributions are made equally by the employee and the Company and are credited into individual accounts of each participant. The basic contribution percentages vary between 3% and 8% of the participant's salary, according to age. In addition, participants have the option to contribute voluntarily and sporadically to the plan above the basic contribution, but without equal payments from the Company. The Company is responsible for the administrative cost of the plan and the disbursement of the benefits. In 2004 contributions by the Company represented on average 5.86% of the payroll of the plan participants, whilst the average employee contribution was 5.11% (6.79% and 5.87% respectively).

*Brasil Telecom Founder and Alternative plans*

The regular Company contributions in 2004 to the Founder plan were an average of 2.48% of the participants payroll. Employees contributed at variable rates according to age, service time and salary, at an average rate in 2004 of 2.39% (2003 - 5.18%). In the Alternative Brazil Telecom plan, the participants also pay an entrance fee, depending on age when joining the plan.

The technical deficit corresponding to the current value of the Company's supplementary contribution, due to the actuarial deficiency of the plans managed by FBrTPrev, must be amortized within the maximum established period of 20 years as from January 2000, in accordance with the requirements of the Pensions regulator. Of the maximum period established, 17 years still remain for complete settlement.





**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**a.3 Status of the SISTEL and FbrtPrev plans**

The status of the SISTEL and FBrTPrev plans at December 31, 2003 and 2004 is presented below, in accordance with CVM Resolution 371/2000:

	FBRTPREV - BrTPREV		SISTEL - TCSPREV	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
<b>CONCILIATION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>				
Actuarial liabilities with benefits granted	891,269	973,323	145,934	171,212
Actuarial liabilities with benefits to be granted	99,483	83,379	273,001	147,861
(-) Payments of defined contributions	-	-	(137,132)	-
<b>(=) Total present value of actuarial liabilities</b>	<b>990,752</b>	<b>1,056,702</b>	<b>281,803</b>	<b>319,073</b>
Fair value of plan assets	(486,348)	(555,256)	(573,834)	(475,911)
(-) Payments of defined contributions	-	-	137,132	-
<b>Fair value of plan assets</b>	<b>(486,348)</b>	<b>(555,256)</b>	<b>(436,702)</b>	<b>(475,911)</b>
<b>(=) Net Actuarial Liability/(Asset)</b>	<b>504,404</b>	<b>501,446</b>	<b>(154,899)</b>	<b>(156,838)</b>
<b>CHANGES IN NET ACTUARIAL LIABILITY/(ASSETS)</b>				
<b>Present value of actuarial liability - beginning of period</b>	<b>922,150</b>	<b>990,752</b>	<b>503,729</b>	<b>281,803</b>
Cost of interest	163,035	160,304	84,790	31,013
Current service cost	6,502	377	33,827	3,700
Net benefits paid	(125,634)	(92,657)	(38,629)	(13,171)
Actuarial (gain) or loss on actuarial liability	24,699	(2,074)	(164,782)	15,728
Value of the liability at the end of the year in respect of defined contributions received	-	-	(137,132)	-
<b>Present value of actuarial liability - end of period</b>	<b>990,752</b>	<b>1,056,702</b>	<b>281,803</b>	<b>319,073</b>
<b>Fair value of plan assets at the beginning of the period</b>	<b>420,310</b>	<b>486,348</b>	<b>503,729</b>	<b>436,702</b>
Expected income from plan assets	98,832	62,798	80,457	50,932
Regular contributions received by the plan	2,380	291	28,277	1,448
Sponsor	149	18	13,935	889
Participants	2,231	273	14,342	559
Amortization contributions received from the sponsor	90,460	98,476	-	-
Payment of benefits	(125,634)	(92,657)	(38,629)	(13,171)
Value of the Obligations at the end of the exercise (payment of defined contributions)	-	-	(137,132)	-
<b>Fair value of plan assets at the end of the period</b>	<b>486,348</b>	<b>555,256</b>	<b>436,702</b>	<b>475,911</b>
<b>(=) Value of the Net Actuarial Liabilities/(Assets) <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>504,404</b>	<b>501,446</b>	<b>(154,899)</b>	<b>(156,838)</b>

(1) The Company does not recognize an asset when the plan is in surplus.

**EXPENSE RECOGNIZED IN THE STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Current service cost	6,353	359	33,827	3,700
Contributions from participants	(2,231)	(273)	(14,342)	(559)
Cost of interest	163,035	160,304	-	-
Income from plan assets	(98,832)	(62,798)	-	-
Actuarial losses recognized	24,699	(2,074)	-	-
<b>Total expense recognized</b>	<b>93,024</b>	<b>95,518</b>	<b>19,485</b>	<b>3,141</b>

**PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS USED**

Discount rate for actuarial liability (6% + inflation)	16.18%	15.54%	11.30%	11.30%
Total income expected from plan assets	16.18%	15.54%	11.83%	18.10%
Estimated index for salary increase	2%	2%	2%	2%
Mortality table	UP84	UP84	UP84 + 1	
Disability table	Álvaro Vindas		Mercer Disability	
Mortality rate of disabled	IAPB-57		IAPB-57	
Turnover	N/A		0.15/(working time +1); zero after 50 years	
Retirement age	60 years		60 years	
Inflation rate	9.60%	9.00%	5.00%	5.00%

N/A: Not Applicable

F - 40

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

Supplementary information - 2004

The plan assets are the position on November 30, 2004. With reference to BrTPREV the assets were projected to December 31, 2004.

The data used is from September 30, 2004 and October 31, 2004 for TCSPREV and BrTPREV, respectively. Such data was projected to December 31, 2004, for both the plans.

	<b>SISTEL - PBS-A</b>		<b>SISTEL - PAMEC</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>				
Actuarial liabilities with granted benefits	514,254	529,690	2,651	852
Actuarial liabilities with benefits to grant	-	-	27	34
<b>(=) Present value of actuarial liabilities</b>	<b>514,254</b>	<b>529,690</b>	<b>2,678</b>	<b>886</b>
<b>Fair value of plan assets</b>	<b>(614,450)</b>	<b>(688,827)</b>	<b>(992)</b>	<b>(1,009)</b>
<b>(=) Net actuarial liability/(asset)</b>	<b>(100,196)</b>	<b>(159,137)</b>	<b>1,686</b>	<b>(123)</b>
<b>CHANGES IN NET ACTUARIAL LIABILITY/(ASSET)</b>				
<b>Present value of actuarial liability beginning of period</b>	<b>430,459</b>	<b>514,254</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>2,678</b>
Cost of interest	46,683	55,706	147	302
Current service cost	-	-	1	1
Net benefits paid	(40,283)	(44,940)	(5)	(43)
Actuarial (gain) or loss on actuarial liability	77,395	4,670	1,691	(2,052)
<b>Present value of actuarial liability end of period</b>	<b>514,254</b>	<b>529,690</b>	<b>2,678</b>	<b>886</b>
<b>Fair value of plan assets at the beginning of the period</b>	<b>542,744</b>	<b>614,450</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>992</b>
Income from plan assets	111,989	119,317	153	60
Payment of benefits	(40,283)	(44,940)	(5)	(43)
<b>Fair value of plan assets at the end of the period</b>	<b>614,450</b>	<b>688,827</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>1,009</b>
<b>(=) Value of the Net Actuarial Liabilities/(Assets) <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>(100,196)</b>	<b>(159,137)</b>	<b>1,686</b>	<b>(123)</b>

(1) The Company does not recognize an asset when the plan is in surplus.

<b>EXPENSE RECOGNIZED IN THE STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS</b>				
Constitution of the actuarial liabilities	-	-	1,686	(1,686)
<b>Total expense recognized</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,686</b>	<b>(1,686)</b>

<b>PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS USED</b>				
Discount rate for actuarial liability	11.30%	11.30%	11.30%	11.30%
Total income expected from plan assets	11.30%	12.20%	11.30%	16.51%
Estimated index for increase in benefits	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Mortality table	UP84 + 1	UP84 + 1	UP84 + 1	UP84 + 1

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Disability table	N/A		Mercer Disability	
Mortality rate of disabled	UP84 + 1		UP84 +	
Starting age for benefits	N/A	N/A	100% on retirement	100% on retirement
Inflation rate	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%

N/A: Not Applicable

Supplementary information - 2004

- a) The assets of the plans are the position for November 30, 2004.  
b) The data used is for September 30, 2004, projected to December 31, 2004.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**b. Stock option plans**

On April 28, 2000 the shareholders of Brasil Telecom S.A. approved a stock option plan for officers and employees. A maximum of 10% of each kind of Company stock may be used for the plan. Shares derived from exercising options guarantee the beneficiaries the same rights granted to other Company shareholders. Administration of this plan was entrusted to a management committee appointed by the Board of Directors, which decided to grant options using only preferred stock. The plan is divided into two separate programs:

**b.1 Program A:**

This program is granted as an extension of management's performance objectives for the Company established by the Board of Directors for a five-year period. Up to December 31, 2004, no stock had been granted under this program.

**b.2 Program B:**

The price of exercising is established by the management committee based on the market price of 1,000 shares at the date of the grant of option and will be monetarily restated by the IGP-M between the date of signing the contracts and the payment date.

The first grant of stock options under Program B occurred on December 17, 2002 with 622,364 options issued. The second grant of options occurred on December 19, 2003 with 308,033 options. 22, 298 options of the first grant lapsed during 2003. The third grant of options occurred on December 21, 2004 with 507,650 options. No options lapsed during 2004.

The right to exercise the option is given within the following periods as follows:

	First Grant		Second Grant		Third Grant	
	From	End of period	From	End of period	From	End of period
33%	01/01/04	12/31/08	12/19/05	12/31/10	12/21/05	12/31/11
33%	01/01/05	12/31/08	12/19/06	12/31/10	12/21/06	12/31/11
34%	01/01/06	12/31/08	12/19/07	12/31/10	12/21/07	12/31/11

Vesting can be anticipated as a result of the occurrence of events or special conditions set forth in the option contract. Options that are not exercised after seven years from the date of execution of the options agreements will expire without compensation.

The information related to the general plan to grant stock options is summarized below:

	2003		2004	
	Preferred stock options (thousand)	Average exercise price R\$	Preferred stock options (thousand)	Average exercise price R\$

## Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Opening balance	622,364	11.34	907,469	11.73
Granted	308,033	12.48	507,650	15,28
Lapsed options	(22,928)	11.34	-	-
Closing balance	907,469	11.73	1,415,119	13,00

None of the options granted had been exercised as of the balance sheet date and the balance of the options represents 0.26% the total outstanding stocks at that date (0.17% in 2003).

F - 42

---

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

Considering the hypothesis that the options will be fully exercised, the opportunity cost of the premiums of the respective options, calculated by the Black-Scholes method, for the Company would be R\$1,254 (R\$829 in 2003).

**c. Other employee benefits**

Other benefits granted to employees include private health and dental care plans, meal allowances, group life insurance, occupational accident insurance, sickness allowance and transportation subsidies.

**26. Shareholders equity****a. Share capital**

Authorized capital stock as of December 31, 2004 was 700 billion shares. The Company's issued and paid up capital stock is comprised of preferred shares and common shares, all without par value, as shown in the table below:

**In thousands of shares**

	<b>Common</b>	<b>Preferred</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>Treasury Shares</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of shares as of December 31, 2001	128,459,879	219,863,511	348,323,390	-	348,323,390
Issuance of shares	3,203,638	-	3,203,638	(692,000)	2,511,638
Number of shares as of December 31, 2002	131,663,517	219,863,511	351,527,028	(692,000)	350,835,028
Issuance of shares	2,368,171	2,806,677	5,174,848	(788,800)	4,386,048
Number of shares as of December 31, 2003	134,031,688	222,670,188	356,701,876	(1,480,800)	355,221,076
Issuance of shares	-	3,337,565	3,337,565	-	3,337,565
Number of shares as of December 31, 2004	134,031,688	226,007,753	360,039,441	(1,480,800)	358,558,641

The capital may be increased only by a decision taken at a shareholders' meeting in connection with the capitalization of profits or reserves previously allocated to capital increases at the shareholders' meeting.

The preferred shares are non-voting except under limited circumstances and are entitled to a minimum preferential non-cumulative dividend of 6% of the capital value per share or, as from 2002, 3% of the net book value per share, whichever is greater. Also the preferred shares have priority over the common shares in the case of liquidation of the Company. Under Brazilian Corporation Law, the number of non-voting shares or shares with limited voting rights, such as the preferred shares, may not exceed two-thirds of the total number of shares.

**b. Treasury Stock**

On December 31, 2004 and 2003, 1,480,800 thousand common shares were held in treasury. These treasury shares are derived from the stock repurchase program.

The Company's Board of Directors approved, as disclosed in the material fact of September 13, 2004, the proposals to repurchase preferred stock issued by the Company, for holding in treasury or cancellation or subsequent sale, under the following terms and conditions: (i) the retained earnings account represented the origin of the funds invested in purchasing the stock; (ii) the authorized quantity for the repurchase of Company stock for holding in treasury was limited to 10% of preferred shares outstanding in the market; and (iii) the period determined for the acquisition was 365 days, in accordance with CVM Instruction 390/03. No shares were repurchased under this program



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

The quantity of treasury shares is 1,480,800 thousand common shares, the weighted average, minimum and maximum costs are R\$14.08, R\$12.40 and R\$17.00 per thousand shares respectively. The total amount paid was R\$20,846.

None of the common shares acquired were sold during the 2004 financial year.

On December 31, 2004, the Company's common stock was quoted on the BOVESPA exchange at R\$26.80 per thousand shares. The common stock held in treasury represented R\$39,685, quoted at the market value on that date.

**c. Capital Reserves**

*Reserve for Share Subscription Premium*

This reserve arose from the difference between the amount paid on subscription and the value of the corresponding capital.

*Special Goodwill Reserve*

The Special Goodwill Reserve represents the net value of the contra entry of the goodwill recorded as deferred charges as provided by CVM Instructions 319/99, 320/99 and 349/01. Each year an amount of the reserve, corresponding to the realized tax benefit may be capitalized, to the benefit of the controlling shareholder, by the issue of new shares. Minority shareholders are ensured the right to preference, in proportion to their respective holdings in type and class of shares, and the consideration for such acquisitions as they choose to make, will be paid to the controlling shareholder in accordance with the terms of CVM Instructions 319/99, 320/99 and 349/01. In 2002, 2003 and 2004 shareholders meetings approved capital increases of R\$24,970, R\$28,733 and R\$23,808, respectively, corresponding to the 2001, 2002 and 2003 realized portion of such tax benefits.

*Other Capital Reserves*

These reserves arose out of the funds invested in income tax incentives.

**d. Income reserves**

*Legal Reserve*

A Brazilian company is required to appropriate 5% of annual net income to a legal reserve until that reserve equals 20% of paid-up share capital or 30% of paid-up share capital plus capital reserves; thereafter, appropriations to this reserve are not compulsory. The legal reserve can only be used to increase capital or to offset accumulated losses.

*Unrealized profit reserve*

This reserve represents income recognized but not yet received relating to net gains on indexation through December 31, 1995 and to adjustments to investments valued on the equity basis. The realization of this reserve will occur when fixed assets are depreciated or disposed of and as dividends or other distributions are received from the subsidiary company's. Realization of this reserve is transferred to retained earnings.



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

In 2004, the Company reversed R\$31,907 (R\$627,753 in 2003), according to its current policy for common and preferred shareholders remuneration.

*Retained Earnings Reserve*

This reserve comprises the remaining balances of net income, adjusted under the terms of article 202 of Law 6.404/76, or by the recognition of prior years adjustments, when applicable.

**e. Dividends and interest on Shareholders Equity**

Pursuant to its by-laws and Brazilian Corporation Law, the Company is required to distribute as dividends in respect of each fiscal year ending December 31, to the extent amounts are available for distribution, an aggregate amount equal to at least 25% of Adjusted Net Income on such date. Under Brazilian Corporation Law, the definition of Adjusted Net Income is as follows: statutory net income reduced by amounts allocated to legal reserve, unrealized profits reserve (if any) and contingency reserve (if any), and increased by the realized portion of the unrealized profits reserve and by any reversals of the reserve for contingencies. The annual dividend distributed to holders of preferred shares (the Preferred Dividend ) has priority in the allocation of adjusted net income as mentioned in Note 26.a above. Remaining amounts to be distributed are allocated first to the payment of a dividend to holders of common shares in an amount equal to the preferred dividend and the remainder is distributed equally among holders of preferred shares and common shares.

Brazilian corporations may make payments to shareholders characterized as interest on shareholders equity (the JSCP ). The rate of interest may not be higher than the Federal Government s long-term interest rate (the TJLP ) as determined by the Central Bank from time to time. The Company elected to characterize dividends for 2003 and 2004 as JSCP. This is a deductible expense for income tax purposes, but is treated as dividends for accounting purposes and is deducted from compulsory dividends, net of withholding income tax.

The calculation of Adjusted Net Income and the determination of the mandatory minimum dividends in accordance with Brazilian Corporation Law and the Company s by-laws are shown in the table below:

	2003	2004
<b>Net income/(loss) of the year</b>	(168,647)	128,118
Adjustments necessary to reach net income on a Brazilian Corporation Law basis	312,813	140,150
Realization of unrealized profit reserve	627,753	31,907
Transfer to legal reserve	(7,208)	(13,414)
Adjusted net income	764,711	286,761
<b>Minimum dividends - 25%</b>	191,178	71,690

*Interest on shareholders equity - JSCP*

The Company credited Interest on Shareholders Equity to its shareholders according to the stock position on the date of each credit made during the financial year. The JSCP Interest on Shareholders Equity was allocated to dividends, net of withholding tax, on the closing date of the financial year, as a proposal for the allocation of income

to be submitted for approval by the general shareholders meeting.

F - 45

---

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

	2003	2004
<b>INTEREST ON SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY (JSCP) CREDITED TO SHAREHOLDERS</b>	<b>220,200</b>	<b>243,500</b>
<b>WITHHOLDING TAX (IRRF)</b>	<b>(33,030)</b>	<b>(36,525)</b>
<b>JSCP, NET</b>	<b>187,170</b>	<b>206,975</b>
<b>ACCRUED DIVIDENDS, IN COMPLEMENT TO INTEREST ON SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY</b>	<b>4,008</b>	<b>43,261</b>
<b>TOTAL REMUNERATION TO SHAREHOLDERS</b>	<b>191,178</b>	<b>250,236</b>
COMMON STOCK	71,338	92,728
PREFERRED STOCK	119,840	157,508

<b>TOTAL REMUNERATION PER THOUSAND SHARES (IN REAIS) <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
COMMON	0.538194	0.699565
PREFERRED	0.538194	0.696914
TOTAL SHARES	0.538194	0.697894

(1) The dividends/Interest on Shareholders Equity calculation, per thousand shares, takes in consideration the outstanding shares at year end. The difference per type of shares presented is due to different outstanding shares breakdowns at the date of the credit of Interest on Shareholders Equity and as of December 31, 2004. Nevertheless, the remuneration per type of shares is the same in each date of credit.

Total remuneration for the shareholders in 2004 and 2003 is based on the distribution of interest on shareholders equity, net of withholding tax, and accrued dividends in complement to interest on shareholders equity, the value of which exceeded the amount of the compulsory dividend, and also exceeded the amount of the priority dividend and dividend on common stock calculated under equal conditions.

**27. Expansion plan contributions**

Expansion plan contributions were the means by which Brazilian telecommunication companies financed the growth of their telecommunications network up to July 1997.

Contributions were made by company s or individuals wishing to be connected to the national telephone network. The Company s expansion plan contribution program was terminated, with no new contracts being signed after June 30, 1997. The remaining balance as of December 31, 2003 and 2004, R\$7,974 presented within other non-current liabilities in the consolidated balance sheet, arose from plans realized before termination, the corresponding net assets of which are already included in the Subsidiary s fixed assets through the Community Expansion Plan. The Subsidiary must await final court decisions arising from lawsuits filed by interested parties before the corresponding shares can be issued.

**28. Transactions with related parties**

Transactions with related parties refer to operations with the parent company, Solpart Participações S.A.



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

Transactions between related parties and the Company are carried out on an arms-length basis. The principal transactions are:

**a. Solpart Participações S.A.**

*Dividends and interest on Shareholders Equity*

R\$48,472 (R\$39,015 in 2003) of the dividends and interest on shareholders equity credited in 2004 were allocated to the parent company.

**29. Commitments**

**a. Capital expenditure**

At December 31, 2004, the Company had capital expenditure commitments in the amount of R\$358,798, which is expected to be invested during 2004. These commitments are in relation to the continuing expansion and modernization of the Company's plant, including transmission equipment, mobile equipment and data transmission equipment.

**b. Services rendered due to acquisition of assets**

BrT SCS Bermuda acquired fixed assets from a third party company. Concurrently with the assets acquired, basically underwater cables, it assumed the obligation of providing data traffic services, initially contracted with the company that sold the assets, which was a beneficiary of the financial resources of the respective advances. The time remaining for the supplying of such assumed services is around nineteen years.

**30. Insurance (not audited)**

The Company has insurance covering operational risks, loss of profit, guarantee on contractual commitments, comprehensive general liability (including officers liability), national and international cargo, vehicle and life. At December 31, 2004, in the opinion of management, all significant and high-risk assets and obligations were insured.

**31. Fair value of financial instruments and risk analysis**

The following methods and assumptions were used to estimate the fair value of each class of financial instrument. The fair value estimates are made at a discrete point in time based on relevant market information and information about the financial instrument. Because no market exists for a significant portion of the Company's financial instruments, fair value estimates are based on judgments regarding future expected loss experience, current economic conditions, risk characteristics of various financial instruments and other factors. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and matters of significant judgment and therefore cannot be determined with precision. Changes in assumptions could significantly affect the estimates.

The selection of assets and liabilities presented in this Note was made based on their materiality. Those instruments, the value of which approximates fair value and risk assessment is not considered significant by the Company, are not mentioned.





**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**a. Fair Value of current assets and liabilities**

The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents, trade accounts receivable, accounts payable and short-term financing approximates fair value due to the short maturity of these instruments.

**b. Foreign currency loans and financing (primarily exchange rate risk)**

The Company and the Subsidiary have loans and financing contracted in foreign currency with risk related to the possibility of fluctuations in exchange rates which may increase the balance of these liabilities. Loans subject to this risk represent 27.2% of total loans and financing (3.9% in 2003). To protect it from foreign currency risk, the Company and the Subsidiary enters into foreign currency swap contracts with financial institutions. Of its debts in foreign currency, 53.2% (30% in 2003) are covered by swap contract agreements. Unrealized positive or negative effects of these operations are recorded in the profit and loss accounts as gain or loss. In 2004, consolidated net losses totaled R\$92,735 (net gains of R\$83,188 in 2003).

The book and market values of the foreign currency loans and financing and the swap contracts as of December 31, 2003 and 2004 was as follows:

	2003		2004	
	Book value	Market value	Book value	Market value
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Loans and financing	146,645	140,413	1,246,706	1,269,846
Swap contracts	9,809	4,920	87,190	74,985
<b>Total</b>	<b>156,454</b>	<b>145,333</b>	<b>1,333,896</b>	<b>1,344,831</b>
Current	43,384	39,572	66,041	55,572
Non-current	113,070	105,761	1,267,855	1,289,259

The method used for calculation of market value (fair value) of loans and financing in foreign currency was the discounted cash flow of the future cash flows of each agreement, at the market rates prevailing on the balance sheet date.

The fair value of the swap contracts was estimated using specific data available for these financial instruments, including using prices currently charged to enter into similar agreements, or discounting projected cash flows at market discount rates that reflect the credit, interest and foreign currency risk associated with these financial instruments.

**c. Local currency loans and financing (primarily interest rate risk)**

The Subsidiary has loans and financing contracted in local currency, subject to interest rates linked to various reference rates (TJLP, UMBNDES, CDI, etc) with the risk of fluctuations in these rates. The Subsidiary has contracted derivative contracts to hedge 38% (79% in 2003) of its liabilities subject to the UMBNDES rate, using exchange rate swap contracts, considering the influence of the dollar on the basket of currencies, which determine the

UMBNDDES interest rate. However the other market rates are continually monitored to evaluate the need to contract derivatives to protect against the risk of volatility of these rates.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

The book and market values of the loans and financing in local currency as of December 31, 2003 and 2004 is as follows:

	2003		2004	
	Book Value	Market Value	Book Value	Market Value
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Loans linked to TJLP (including debentures)	2,417,518	2,417,518	2,485,351	2,334,966
Loans linked to UMBNDES	209,011	209,011	275,565	229,177
CDI	919,947	919,947	541,707	541,748
Loans linked to IGPM	21,739	21,739	16,724	16,724
Other loans	20,438	20,438	16,007	16,007
Swap contracts	44,895	3,239	38,979	13,920
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,633,548</b>	<b>3,591,892</b>	<b>3,374,333</b>	<b>3,152,542</b>
Current	1,653,574	1,611,918	790,597	738,632
Non-current	1,979,974	1,979,974	2,583,736	2,413,910

Some market values are equivalent to book values because the current contractual conditions for these types of financial instruments are similar to those when they were contracted. A hypothetical unfavorable variation of 1% in the aforementioned rates, would result in a negative impact on income of approximately R\$9,691.

The fair value of the swap contracts was estimated using specific data available for these financial instruments, including using prices currently charged to enter into similar agreements, or discounting projected cash flows at market discount rates that reflect the credit, interest associated with these financial instruments.

**d. Credit Risk**

Most services provided by the Company are related to the Concession Contract and a significant portion of these services is subject to the determination of tariffs by the regulatory agency. The credit policy, in the case of public telecommunications services, is subject to legal rules established by the concession authority. The risk exists since the Company may incur losses arising from difficulty in receiving amounts billed to its customers. In 2004, the Company's default was 3.22% of gross revenue (2.68% in 2003). By means of internal controls, the level of accounts receivable is constantly monitored by the Company, thus limiting the risk of past due accounts by cutting off access to the service (outgoing calls) if the bill is overdue for over 30 days. Exceptions are made for telephone services that should be maintained for national security or safety.

In relation to the Mobile Services, the credit risk in sales of handsets and in postpaid services is minimized with the adoption of future clients credit granting analysis. Besides that, in relation to the postpaid services, which represents 33.1% of total clients on December 31, 2004, accounts receivables are monitored in order to limit delinquency by cutting off access to the service (outgoing calls) if the bill is overdue for over 15 days.



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**e. Cash Investment Risks**

The company has temporary cash investments in exclusive financial investment funds (FIFs), in the amount of R\$3,154,731 (R\$1,805,634 at December 31, 2003), whose assets are constituted of floating federal securities, future contracts indexed to the exchange rate of the Futures and Commodities Exchange - BM&F and in an investment fund in foreign currency, with no credit risks in such operations. Income earned to the balance sheet date is recorded in financial income and amounts to R\$312,960 (R\$227,960 in 2003).

**f. Risk of Not Linking Monetary Restatement Indexes of loans and financing to accounts receivable**

Loans and financing rates contracted by the Company are not correlated to amounts of accounts receivable. Consequently, a risk arises from this lack of correlation, since the Telephony tariff adjustments do not necessarily follow increases in local interest rates, which affect the Company's debts. Consequently, a risk arises from this lack of correlation.

**g. Risk of Anticipated Settlement of Loans and Financing**

Some of the loans and financing contracts signed by the Company with its creditors contain covenants that stipulate the advance payment of them in cases where minimum values for certain indicators are not achieved, such as indebtedness, liquidity, cash generation and others. The indicators required in these clauses, which are common in loan and financing transactions, were fully achieved by the Company as mentioned in Note 23.h.

In order to adjust valuation parameters to the new reality of the telecom segment and of the Company, a renegotiation with the BNDES agents (private banks) took place during December 2004. These agents approved the new covenants on December 20, 2004, with retrospective application to the whole year-ended on December 31, 2004, and submitted their acceptance to the BNDES, which accepted (with retroactive application) these new terms and conditions on February 1, 2005. The Company is, on 31 December 2004, in compliance with these revised covenants.

**h. Contingency Risks**

Contingency risks are assessed as probable, possible, or remote according to loss hypotheses. Contingencies considered as probable risk are recorded. Details on this risk are presented in Note 24.

**i. Regulatory Risk**

i. For conducting its business, the Companies are fully dependent upon the fixed-line telecommunications concession as granted by the Federal Government, as mentioned in Note 1.a. On June 20, 2003, ANATEL enacted Resolution 341, which provides for new types of concession contracts, effective from January 1, 2006 until 2025. The form of New Concession Contract provides for changes in the way in which rates are set, for example, the General Price Index - Internal Availability, Índice Geral de Preços - Disponibilidade Interna (IGP-DI), will be changed to a mix of existing prices indexes (under the terms of regulation) to determine the annual inflation-based adjustments to rates. Consequently, the operations and competitive position of the Company may be affected by these changes.



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

- ii. Since BrT received certification of its compliance with the 2003 targets established by ANATEL, it have begun offering national and international fixed-line services as well as mobile services. If Telecom Italia International N.V. ( TII ) were to reacquire an indirect controlling interest in the Company, the Company and TIM Brasil Serviços e Participações S.A. ( TIM ) would be deemed affiliates under Brazilian telecommunications law, and the ability to offer national and international fixed line services as well as mobile services in the same regions as TIM would be at risk of being terminated by ANATEL. On January 16, 2004 ANATEL issued an Act pursuant to which ANATEL consented to an 18 month period during which TII may reacquire an indirect controlling interest in the Company, provided TII does not participate or vote in any matters related to the overlapping services offered by the Company and TIM such as national long distance fixed line services as well as mobile services. If, after the 18-month period (expiring July 18, 2005), the Company and Telecom Italia did not reach an agreement which resolved the overlap, ANATEL reserved the right to impose sanctions on any or all involved parties. Depending on ANATEL's final decision, these sanctions could have a material adverse effect on the business and operations of the Company.

As mentioned in note 32.iv, on April 28,2005, TII and TIM and the Company and BrT Celular entered into a Merger Agreement and a related Protocol. Among other things this transaction allows the Company to settle the overlapping of licenses and authorizations with TIM so as to avoid potential sanctions and penalties to be imposed by ANATEL. The merger is currently subject to various judicial injunctions issued in Brazil and in the United States. At the moment, it is not possible to foresee the outcome of such injunctions. Occurring or not the merger described above, there is a possibility that some or all of the assets related to the mobile segment (see note 34.c) will be impaired, either as a result of the overlapping of operations or sanctions from ANATEL. At the moment, it is not possible to foresee the outcome of such injunctions.

**j. Labor union**

Approximately 25.2% of our employees are affiliated employees of the unions, legal representatives of the category, that are affiliated to the following federations: FENATTEL - Federação Nacional dos Trabalhadores em Telecomunicações (National Federation of Telecommunications Workers), or FITTEL - Federação Interestadual dos Trabalhadores em Telecomunicações (Interstate Federation of Telecommunications Workers).

The base date of the category is December, time in which the salary losses for the period are negotiated, with basis on the accrued INPC index from December to November of the immediately preceding year.

The economic clauses are negotiated annually, while the social clauses are negotiated every 2 years.

Management understands that there is no concentration of available sources of labor, services, concessions or rights, other than those mentioned above, that could, if suddenly eliminated, severely impact the Companies operations.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**32. Subsequent events**

**Material Facts**

As required by CVM, the Company and its subsidiary BrT together released material facts, which dates and texts were as follow:

- (i) March 10, 2005: International Equity Investments Inc., as the sole shareholder of CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners LP (CVC LP), on the night of March 09, 2005, sent a notice informing about the ousting of CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners, Ltd. ( CVC Ltd. ) from the management of CVC LP, having designated as a substitute, a new company incorporated abroad, at an undisclosed date, named Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil LLC ( CVC International Brazil ). It was also informed that CVC International Brazil entered into, at an unknown date and terms, shareholders' agreements with Investidores Institucionais Fundo de Investimento em Ações, Caixa de Previdência dos Funcionários do Banco do Brasil - Previ, Fundação dos Economistas Federais - Funcef and Petros - Fundação Petrobras de Seguridade Social which, according to the notice, have full force and effect conditioned to the occurrence of certain undisclosed conditions, among which the implementation of the designation of CVC International Brazil as the new manager of CVC LP. CVC LP holds direct and indirect investments in Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and Brasil Telecom S.A.
- (ii) March 17, 2005: on March 17, 2005, they became aware that the United States District Court - Southern District of New York granted a preliminary injunction determining that CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners, Ltd. file before the competent authorities of the Cayman Islands its substitution as general partner of CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners, L.P.

CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners, L.P. is a limited partnership, duly incorporated in Cayman Islands, that holds a stake in Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and Opportunity Zain S.A., a company which integrates the controlling corporate structure of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and Brasil Telecom S.A.

- (iii) March 19, 2005: on March 18, 2005, they took notice that CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners, Ltd. filed a formal statement before the competent authorities of Cayman Islands in which it informs its substitution as general partner of CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners, L.P., in light of the appointment of Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil, LLC as the new manager of CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners, L.P.
- (iv) April 28, 2005: announce that TIM International N.V. ( TIMINT ) and TIM Brasil Serviços e Participações S.A. ( TIMB ) (collectively referred to as TIM Group ) on one side and Brasil Telecom S.A. ( BrT ) and 14 Brasil Telecom Celular S.A. ( BTC ) ( collectively referred to Brasil Telecom ) on the other side entered into a Merger Agreement and a Merger Justification Protocol with respect to the merger of BTC into TIMB.



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

This transaction allows Brasil Telecom Group to settle, on a business manner, the overlapping of regulatory licenses and authorizations among Brasil Telecom and TIM Group arising from ANATEL's Act No. 41,780 dated January 16, 2004, published in the Official Gazette dated January 19, 2004, and also preventing ANATEL from imposing severe sanctions and penalties.

BTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BrT and holds authorizations to exploit mobile services in Lots 4, 5 and 6 of Region II under the General Licensing Plan and the relevant radiofrequencies of sub-bands E. BTC's commercial operation began in September 2004. After 8 months of full commercial operation, BTC reached over 1.000.000 clients.

TIMINT is the controlling shareholder of TIMB, which, in turn, is the direct or indirect controlling shareholder of certain companies that hold mobile services and domestic and international long distance authorizations in Regions I, II and III under the General Licensing Plan. TIM Group has approximately 14.6 million clients.

The closing of this transaction will result in other material benefits to the Brasil Telecom Group, such as:

- (1) Maintenance of Brasil Telecom Group's valuable and unique clients base through proposals of national coverage and added value services, with focus in convergence;
- 2) Merger of the mobile operations of both BTC and TIMB;
- (3) BrT's participation in the shareholding structure of TIMB;
- (4) Execution of a national roaming services agreement between BTC and TIMB, as well as the facilitation for the entering into international roaming services agreements for the benefit of BTC with companies/partners of TIM Group outside of Brazil, in order to allow the increase of coverage for the clients and the reduction of investments for the existing network's capacity increase;
- (5) Substantial increase of scale and revenues of the Brasil Telecom Group through TIM Group's use of Brasil Telecom Group's long distance services;
- (6) Elimination of new capital expenses as well as initial losses relating to the mobile operations;
- (7) Increase of Brasil Telecom's Group commercial presence's capillarity in TIM Group's sales/distribution points;
- (8) Equal competition possibilities between Brasil Telecom Group and other players in the rendering of national coverage services within the Brazilian telecommunications market; and
- (9) Final solution of all pending claims among entities of the Brasil Telecom Group and the Telecom Italia Group;

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

The appraisals to determine the intrinsic equity value of each of BTC and TIMB, to define the value of TIMB's capital increase, will be prepared by a top-tier financial institution of international reputation selected by BrT.

Closing of this transaction is subject to usual conditions precedent for transactions of similar nature and legal requirements, including the approval of ANATEL. Brasil Telecom Group will keep its shareholders and the market in general informed about any material fact regarding this transaction.

The Brasil Telecom Group reinforces its positioning in the telecommunications market.

With the merger, the superimposed licenses will be given back to ANATEL. The completion of this instrument is subject to the internal approvals of Brasil Telecom S.A., as well as ANATEL.

Occurring or not the merger described above, there is a possibility that some or all of the assets related to the mobile segment (see note 34.c) will be impaired, either as a result of the overlapping of operations or sanctions from ANATEL. At this moment, it is not possible to foresee possible effects in the Companies' financial statements, resulting from the consummation of this agreement.

(v) April 29, 2005: they took notice that Techold Participações S.A. ( Techold ), alongside Timepart Participações Ltda. ( Timepart ) and Telecom Itália International N.V. ( Telecom Italia ), as shareholders of Solpart Participações S.A. ( Solpart ), company which controls, directly, BTP, and, indirectly, BrT and 14 Brasil Telecom Celular S.A. ( BTC ) (BTC, in conjunction with BTP and BrT, hereafter denominated Brasil Telecom Group ), entered into an Agreement on April 28, 2005, seeking the reestablishment of Telecom Italia's original position in the controlling group of Brasil Telecom Group, condition which was temporarily suspended until pertinent regulatory issues were resolved, through the restoration of political rights and the repurchase of the shareholding interest sold to Techold and Timepart in August of 2002. On April 29, 2005, a copy of the 2nd Amendment to the Shareholders Agreement Consolidated on August 27, 2002 was filed at the headquarters of BrT and BTP.

The aforementioned notice informs that Techold and Telecom Italia converted the totality of their preferred shares issued by Solpart into voting shares on April 28, 2005, pursuant to the bylaws of Solpart. Telecom Italia will nominate members of the Board of Directors of Solpart, BTP and BT, in accordance with the abovementioned shareholders' agreement. This agreement was reached considering that the Merger Agreement and the Merger's Protocol entered into with TIM Brasil Serviços e Participações S.A. ( TIM Brasil ) allow for the removal of legal issues that obstructed the restoration of Telecom Italia's right of returning to the controlling group of Brasil Telecom Group.

Techold, Timepart, Solpart, BTP, and BrT entered into an Agreement ending lawsuits and disputes between the companies, including reciprocal settlements, with respect to the return of Telecom Italia to the controlling group of Brasil Telecom Group.

Brasil Telecom Group is to keep its shareholders and the general public informed about any material facts concerning current developments.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

- (vi) April 29, 2005: announce that, according to the agreement entered into by Techold Participações S.A. ( Techold ), Timepart Participações Ltda. ( Timepart ) and Telecom Italia International N.V. ( Telecom Italia ), Solpart Participações S.A. ( Solpart ), which directly controls the Company, presents the following ownership structure:

	<b>Solpart's Total Capital</b>
Techold Participações S.A.	61.98%
Telecom Italia International N.V.	38.00%
Timepart Participações S.A.	0.02%

- (vii) May 5, 2005: they took notice of a Temporary Restraining Order effective until hearings to take place on May 9, 2005, granted by the Federal Court of the Southern District of New York, NY USA, in the Amended Complaint filed by International Equity Investments Inc., Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil LLC and Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil L.P. against Opportunity Equity Partners Ltd. and Daniel Valente Dantas ( Defendants ), as reproduced below:

*United States District Courts  
Southern District of New York*

*International Equity Investments, Inc. and Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil LLC on behalf of itself and Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil, L. P. (f.k.a. CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners, L.P.),*

*Plaintiffs,  
V.*

*Opportunity Equity Partners, Ltd. (f.k.a. CVC/Opportunity Equity Partners, Ltd.) and Daniel Valente Dantas,*

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

*Defendants.*

---

05 Civ. 2745 (LAK)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CONTEMPT, EXPEDITED DISCOVERY AND A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION WITH A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER**

*Upon consideration of the attached Amended Complaint (the Amended Complaint ) of the International Equity Investments, Inc. and Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil LLC( CVC Brazil ) on behalf of itself and Citigroup Venture Capital International, Brazil, L.P. (the CVC Fund ); the Affidavit of Carmine D. Boccuzzi in Support of Plaintiffs Motion for Contempt, Expedited Discovery and Injunctive Relief sworn to May 3, 2005; the Declaration of ChristopherJohn Brougharn, QC dated May 3, 2005; the Declaration of Paulo Caldeira in Support of Plaintiff s Application for a Temporary Restraining Order and a Preliminary Injunction dated March 10, 2005; and the Memorandum of Law in Support of Plaintiffs Motion for Contempt, Expedited Discovery and A Preliminary Injunction with a Temporary Restraining Order, it is hereby:*

*ORDERED that defendants Opportunity Equity Partners Ltd. ( Opportunity ) and DanielValente Dantas ( Dantas ) SHOW CAUSE before this Court in Courtroom 12D of the United States Courthouse located at 500 Pearl Street, in the borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York, on the 9th day of May 2005, at 2:30 p.m., why an Order should not be made and entered herein (in the form annexed hereto), pursuant to Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.*

- (i) finding defendants Dantas and Opportunity to be in violation of this Court s March 17, 2005 Preliminary Injunction by (i) seeking to consummate, or causing to occur, a transaction that would, inter alia, (a) impair the value of the CVC Fund or its assets or interfere with plaintiffs control over those assets; and (b) interfere with the authority and power of CVC Brazil, the newly-appointed general partner of the CVC Fund, over the assets, investments and management of the CVC Fund; and (ii) documenting any transaction with or benefiting any defendant, directly or indirectly; and*

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

- (ii) *enjoining defendants Dantas and Opportunity, and their direct and indirect subsidiaries and all related and affiliated entities, persons, corporations, officers, agents, servants, employees, privies, assigns, and attorneys or any of the foregoing under either of defendants' direct or indirect control, direction, permission or license or acting in concert with one or both defendants, and all persons who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise (1) from executing, enforcing or performing any obligation under any agreement referenced or discussed in, or related to the agreements referenced or discussed in, the Brasil Telecom Material Fact dated April 28, 2005 and/or the Telecom Italia Press Release dated April 28, 2004, attached as Exhibits K and L to the Bocuzzi Affidavit submitted herewith (the Agreements ), or any other transaction, that impairs the value of any assets directly or indirectly held by the CVC Fund or involves or results in the transfer of any assets of Brasil Telecom Participações, S.A. or Brasil Telecom, S.A.; and (2) from entering into any transaction involving any entity in which the CVC Fund has a direct or indirect interest that is not in the ordinary course of business; and*
- (iii) *ordering expedited discovery, beginning upon issuance of this Order, of defendants concerning all aspects of the Agreements and any related transactions, including but not limited to the negotiations leading up to those transactions and the parties' motives for entering into them.*

*Sufficient reason being alleged, it is hereby:*

*ORDERED that, pending the hearing of this motion, defendants Dantas and Opportunity, and their direct and indirect subsidiaries and all related and affiliated entities, persons, corporations, officers, agents, servants, employees, privies, assigns, and attorneys or any of the foregoing under either of defendants' direct or indirect control, direction, permission or license or acting in concert with one or both defendants, and all persons who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise are restrained (1) from executing, enforcing or performing any obligation under the Agreements, or any other transaction, that impairs the value of any assets directly or indirectly held by the CVC Fund or involves or results in the transfer of any assets of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. or Brasil Telecom S.A.; and (2) from entering into any transaction involving any entity in which the CVC Fund has a direct or indirect interest that is not in the ordinary course of business;" and it is further*

*ORDERED that service by hand of a copy of this Order and the papers upon which it is based on counsel for defendants, Boies, Schiller & Flexner no later than May 4, 2005, shall be deemed good and sufficient; and it is further*

*ORDERED that answering papers, if any, shall be filed and served electronically or by hand upon plaintiffs' attorneys, Howard S. Zelbo, Esq., Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, One Liberty Plaza, New York, New York 10006, on or before May 6th, 2005; and it is further*

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

*ORDERED that reply papers, if any, shall be filed and served electronically or by hand upon defendants' attorneys on or before May 9, 2005, in the morning.*

*SO ORDERED.*

*Dated: New York, New York*

*5/04/2005*

*Thomas Griesa  
United States District Judge*

- (viii) May 10, 2005: announce that, per request of Investidores Institucionais Fundo de Investimentos em Ações, Judge Alexander Macedo of the 8th Business Court of the Capital District of Rio de Janeiro, upon consideration of Judicial Proceeding 2005.001.051.781-7, ordered the following:

*I hereby GRANT THE PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION, AS REQUESTED ON ITEMS (I) AND (II) OF THE INITIAL PETITION, WHICH SHALL HAVE EFFECT UNTIL HEARINGS DESIGNATED HEREAFTER TAKE PLACE TO (i) suspend the validity of all acts, whether corporate or contractual, or of any other nature, that seek or have an effect on, directly or indirectly, the implementation of the merger or sale under any agreement of BTC by TIM BRASIL or by any other legal entity of the Telecom Italia Group; (ii) prohibit the accomplishment of any extraordinary managerial act, including but limited to the disposal or sale of any kind, to any party, of any asset of Brasil Telecom and BTC, so as to maintain undamaged its operations, identity, license, and value, without the prior consent and pronouncement of the controlling shareholders.*

*I hereby impose the penalty of a daily fine, in case of violation of terms set forth herein, on defendants Opportunity Fund and Opportunity Lógica, on defendants that are members of the Telecom Italia Group and on the members of its Board of Directors and Senior Management, in the order of R\$20,000,000.00 (twenty million reais), for the violation of any of the dispositions aforementioned, with no loss to the adoption of other measures for the return of the status quo ante.*

*I hereby designate a special hearing to be held on May 24, 2005, at 3:30 p.m., to be attended by all involved parties or their respective attorneys-in-fact, with powers to transact.*

Brasil Telecom is taking all legal measures to present its reasoning before the court and revoke the preliminary injunction, taking into consideration the major benefits that the transaction would bring to its operations.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

- (ix) May 16, 2005: announce that, per request of Fundação Vale do Rio Doce de Seguridade Social - Valia, Judge Alexander Macedo of the 8th Business Court of Rio de Janeiro, upon consideration of Judicial Proceeding 2005.001.055962-9, ordered the following:

*I hereby GRANT THE INJUNCTION, AS REQUESTED ON ITEMS (I) AND (II) OF THE INITIAL COMPLAINT, that is, to suspend the Board of Directors meetings of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and Brasil Telecom S.A., scheduled for May 12, 2005, prohibiting its opening and consummation, as well as any other Board of Directors meetings of the companies that include on their respective agendas the approval of the merger agreement or contracts deriving from it, including indemnification agreements for executives, before a General Meeting of Shareholders of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. is held, ensuring the political rights of preferred shareholders.*

*I hereby notify defendants that the consummation of any of the aforementioned meetings shall be deemed as noncompliance with judicial order, without prejudice to imposing a fine of R\$50,000,000.00 (fifty million reais), for the violation of any of the instructions aforementioned.*

Brasil Telecom is taking all legal measures to present its reasoning before the court and revoke the preliminary injunction, taking into consideration the major benefits that the transaction would bring to its activities.

- (x) June 03, 2005: they were informed of the following:

*Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil, L.P. ( CVC Fund ) informs that the District Judge of the United States District Court of the Southern District of New York, on the record of the action brought by International Equity Investments, Inc., Citigroup Venture Capital International Brazil, LLC and the CVC Fund ( Plaintiffs ) against Opportunity Equity Partners and Mr. Daniel Valente Dantas ( Defendants ), granted, on June 02, 2005, a preliminary injunction determining that the Defendants, the officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys of each of the Defendants, and those persons in active concert or participation with either of the Defendants who receive actual notice of this order by personal service or otherwise, are enjoined and restrained, pending the determination of the abovementioned action, from:*

*(i) executing, enforcing, consummating, performing any obligation under, or otherwise giving effect to the following Agreements (as defined in the text of the Order): Cellular Acquisition Agreement and accompanying Protocol; the Second Amendment to the Solpart Shareholders Agreement, the Solpart Master Agreement, the settlement agreement between Telecom Italia, on the one hand, and Techold and Timepart, on the other, and the related Private Agreement Instrument and Transaction submitted in the original Portuguese as Exhibits H and I, respectively, of the May 17, 2005 Hibshoosh Declaration; and in English translation as Exhibits D and E, respectively, of the June 1, 2005 Hibshoosh Declaration;*

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

- (ii) *entering into any transaction or any agreement that is not in the ordinary course of business (including any amendment to the SolpartShareholders Agreement or any other shareholders agreement) involving any entity in which the CVC Fund has a direct or indirect interest,*
  
- (iii) *taking any action in furtherance of the foregoing.*

As required by CVM, the Company released material fact, which date and text was as follow:

- (i) May 16, 2005: it was informed by Opportunity Prime Investment Services Ltd. that, as a result of agreed adjustments, the latter is committed to sell, directly or indirectly, 9,857,000,000 (nine billion, eight hundred and fifty-seven million) BTP ominative common shares to Telecom Italia S.p.A. in a period not to exceed 24 (twenty four) months starting from April 28, 2005.

The aforementioned transaction is subject to a number of conditions to closing. The disputes among shareholders of Solpart including with respect to the ownership structure of Solpart, and management of entities which hold a stake in Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and Opportunity Zain S.A., a company which integrates the controlling corporate structure of Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. and Brasil Telecom S.A may result in changes to our board and/or senior management. These disputes do not change these financial statements.

**Credit of Interest on Shareholders Equity - JSCP**

Management of the Company decided on April 20, 2005, by delegation of the Board of Directors in a meeting held on March 29, 2005, to pay Interest on Shareholders Equity in the amount of R\$240,100 (R\$204,085 net of withholding tax - IRRF). The date determined for the recording in the accounting of the interest is April 20, 2005. The Interest on Shareholders Equity can be imputed to the dividends for 2005 and they will be subject to the shareholders general meeting to be held in 2006, which will decide the date of payment.

**33. Summary of the differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP**

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Brazilian generally accepted accounting principles ( Brazilian GAAP ), which differ in certain significant respects from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ( U.S. GAAP ).

The following is a summary of the significant policies and adjustments to net income (loss) and shareholders equity required when reconciling such amounts recorded in the consolidated financial statements to the corresponding amounts in accordance with U.S. GAAP, considering the significant differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP:



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**a. Different criteria for capitalizing and amortizing capitalized interest**

Until December 31, 1993, capitalized interest was not added to the individual assets in property, plant and equipment; instead, it was capitalized separately and amortized over a time period different from the estimated useful lives of the related assets. Under U.S. GAAP, capitalized interest is added to the individual assets and is amortized over their estimated useful lives.

Also, under Brazilian GAAP, as applied to companies in the telecommunications industry, interest attributable to construction-in-progress was calculated, up to December 31, 1998, at the rate of 12% per annum of the balance of construction-in-progress and that part which related to interest on third party loans was credited to interest expense based on actual interest costs with the balance relating to self-funding being credited to capital reserves. Starting 1999, Brazilian GAAP required capitalization of interest on loans specifically related to financing of construction in progress, and interest on self-financing is no longer allowed.

Under U.S. GAAP, in accordance with the provisions of Statements of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) 34, Capitalization of Interest Cost, interest incurred on borrowings is capitalized to the extent that borrowings do not exceed the balances of construction-in-progress. The credit is a reduction of interest expense. Under U.S. GAAP, the amount of interest capitalized excludes the monetary gain associated with the borrowings and the foreign exchange gains and losses on foreign currency borrowings.

The effects of these different criteria for capitalizing and amortizing capitalized interest are as follows:

	<b>Year ended December 31</b>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Capitalized interest difference</b>			
U.S. GAAP capitalized interest:			
Interest which would have been capitalized and credited to income under U.S. GAAP (Interest accrued on loans , except in years when total loans exceeded total construction-in-progress, when capitalized interest was reduced proportionately)	262,767	103,267	77,249
Accumulated capitalized interest on disposals	(19,678)	(158,413)	(34,625)
	243,089	(55,146)	42,624
Less Brazilian GAAP capitalized interest:			
Interest capitalized and credited to income under Brazilian GAAP (Up to the limit of interest incurred on loans obtained for financing capital investments)	(127,979)	(61,330)	(9,043)

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Accumulated capitalized interest on disposals	39,330	274,152	57,073
Total capitalized interest under Brazilian GAAP	(88,649)	212,822	48,030
U.S. GAAP difference	154,440	157,676	90,654
<b>Amortization of capitalized interest difference</b>			
Amortization under Brazilian GAAP	223,498	225,950	212,671
Less: Amortization under U.S. GAAP	(120,634)	(133,679)	(132,302)
Difference in accumulated amortization on disposals	(24,314)	(146,134)	(32,985)
U.S. GAAP difference	78,550	(53,863)	47,384

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**b. Dividends and interest on shareholders' equity**

Although under Brazilian Corporation Law proposed dividends require approval at a shareholders' meeting, under Brazilian Corporation Law they are accrued for in the consolidated financial statements in anticipation of their approval by the shareholders' meeting. Distributions characterized as interest on shareholders' equity as well as minimum compulsory dividends are accrued for under both Brazilian and US GAAP. Any excess of proposed dividends over either the minimum compulsory dividend or distributions characterized as interest on shareholders' equity would not be accrued for under US GAAP, if such proposed dividends is subject to approval at the annual Shareholders' Meeting. There was no such excess in 2002, 2003.

**c. Pensions and other post-retirement benefits**

Refer to Note 34.a for a discussion of differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP as they relate to pensions and other post-retirement benefits.

For purposes of the U.S. GAAP reconciliation, the provisions of SFAS 87, Employers' Accounting for Pensions ( SFAS 87 ) and SFAS 106, Employers' Accounting for Post-retirement Benefits Other than Pensions ( SFAS 106 ) have been applied. The provisions of SFAS 87 were applied with effect from January 1, 1992 because it was not feasible to apply them from the effective date specified in the standard. As a result, R\$292,131 of the transition liability was transferred directly to shareholders' equity at the implementation date.

Under Brazilian GAAP, the Company adopted CVM Deliberation 371 during the year ended December 31, 2001 and recorded an adjustment to opening shareholders' equity amounting to R\$328,381, net of R\$162,362, which was recorded as deferred income tax on provision for pension. This adjustment was reversed for U.S. GAAP purposes, since all effects of pensions and other post-retirement benefits have already been recognized after applying SFAS 87 and SFAS 106.

**d. Items recorded directly in shareholders' equity accounts**

Under Brazilian GAAP, some items are recorded directly in shareholders' equity, which under U.S. GAAP would be recorded in the statements of operations, such as fiscal incentives in regional funds converted into shares or capital quotas of telecommunication companies, detailed in item (I) and tax incentives that are granted to the Company and became effective immediately.

**e. Earnings (losses) per share**

Under Brazilian GAAP, net income (loss) per share is calculated on the number of shares outstanding at the balance sheet date. In these consolidated financial statements, information is disclosed per lot of one thousand shares, because generally this is the minimum number of shares that can be traded on the Brazilian stock exchanges. Each American Depositary Share ( ADS ) is equivalent to five thousand shares.

As determined by SFAS 128, Earnings Per Share , since the preferred and common stockholders have different dividend, voting and liquidation rights, basic and diluted earnings per share have been calculated using the two-class method. The two-class method is an earnings allocation formula that determines earnings per share for preferred and common stock according to the dividends to be paid as required by the Company's by-laws.



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

Basic earnings per common share is computed by dividing net income available to common shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Net income available to preferred shareholders is the sum of the preferred stock dividends (a minimum of 6% of preferred capital or, as from 2002, 3% per annum calculated on the amount resulting from dividing the net book shareholders' equity by the total number of Company shares, whichever is greater, as defined in the Company's by-laws) and the preferred shareholders' portion of undistributed net income. Undistributed net income is computed by deducting total dividends (the sum of preferred and common stock dividends) from adjusted net income. Undistributed net income is shared equally by the preferred and common shareholders on a pro rata basis. Total dividends are calculated as described in note 26.e. Diluted earnings per share is computed by reducing net income for an increase in net earnings allocated to minority shareholders and dividing such net income available to common and preferred shareholders by the monthly weighted-average number of common and preferred shares outstanding during the period.

The weighted-average (thousand) shares outstanding for diluted earnings per share is not greater than such shares used in the basic earnings per share calculation since the diluted share issue is that of the Holding Company's subsidiaries, as indicated below. The weighted-average number of common and preferred shares used in computing basic earnings per share for 2004 was 132,550,888,000 (132,287,660,000 in 2003 and 130,343,608,000 in 2002) and 225,451,492,000 in 2004 (222,202,409,000 in 2003 and 219,863,511,000 in 2002), respectively. The Company's subsidiaries have received certain contributions from customers or customers have independently paid suppliers of telecommunication equipment and services for the installation of fixed line services. These amounts are reflected as funds for capitalization within other non-current liabilities in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. Once the installation is essentially complete and the contributions have been received, the funds will be converted into equity (see Note 27 to the consolidated financial statements). The shares are treated as outstanding and included in the basic EPS calculation only when such funds are converted to equity and the shares issued. The shares are treated as outstanding for diluted EPS purposes when expansion plan contributions are received or when Community Expansion Plan agreements have been approved. The 1,415,119 (907,469 in 2003) thousand preferred stock options granted under the stock option program for officers and employees mentioned in Note 25.b were not considered in the calculation of the diluted earnings per share, as the program only contemplates stock options for the Subsidiary Brasil Telecom S.A.

If the Company is able to pay dividends in excess of the minimum requirement for preferred shareholders and the remainder of the net income is sufficient to provide equal dividends to both common and preferred shareholders, then the basic and the diluted earnings per share will be the same for both common and preferred shareholders.

The Company's preferred shares are nonvoting except under certain limited circumstances and are entitled to a preferential, non-cumulative dividend and to priority over the common shares in the event of liquidation of the Company. In 2002, 2003 and 2004, the amount of dividends paid to the preferred shareholders exceeded the minimum guaranteed dividends, and was equal to the amount per share paid to the common shareholders.

**f. Disclosure requirements**

U.S. GAAP disclosure requirements differ from those required by Brazilian GAAP. However, in these consolidated financial statements, the level of disclosure has been expanded to comply with U.S. GAAP.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**g. Income taxes**

The Company fully accrues for deferred income taxes on temporary differences between tax and reporting records. The existing policies for accounting for deferred taxes are substantially in accordance with SFAS 109, Accounting for Income Taxes ( SFAS 109 ).

Under SFAS 109, the provisional measures, which are temporary measures used by the Government to determine changes in tax rates, are not considered to be enacted law. In 2001, the enacted social contribution rate was 8% and an additional of rate of 1%, which was only enacted in 2002 (when the rate was increased to 9%), was considered for Brazilian GAAP purposes. Therefore, the reconciliation of the differences between Brazilian GAAP and U. S. GAAP include the effect of this change in 2002.

Under US GAAP, if a valuation allowance is recognized for a deferred tax asset at the acquisition date, recognized benefits for those tax deductions after this date should be applied first to reduce to zero any goodwill related to that acquisition, second to reduce to zero other non-current intangible assets related to that acquisition, and third to reduce income tax expense. As described in note 9, the Company owns tax credits in the amount of R\$161,388 which were not recognized as of December 31, 2004 (that means, for US GAAP purposes, a valuation allowance has been recorded in the same amount), due to the lack of fulfillment of the minimum requirements regarding historical and forecasted taxable income for direct/indirect subsidiaries. These credits will be subject to the requirements described above when utilized.

**h. Interest expense, interest income and accrued interest**

Brazilian GAAP requires interest expense and income, as well as other financial charges, to be shown as part of operating income (expense) and accrued interest as a part of loans and financing within liability balance. Under U.S. GAAP, interest expense and income, as well as other financial charges, would be shown after operating income (expense) within statements of operations and accrued interest would be included in accounts payable within the balance sheet.

**i. Employees profit sharing**

Brazilian GAAP requires employees profit sharing to be shown as an appropriation of net income for the year. Under U.S. GAAP, employee profit sharing is included as an expense in arriving at operating income (expense).

**j. Permanent assets**

Brazilian GAAP has a class of assets called permanent assets. This is the collective name for all assets on which indexation adjustments were calculated in the corporate and fiscal law accounts of Brazilian companies. Under U.S. GAAP, the assets in this classification would be non-current assets and property, plant and equipment. Gains and losses on the disposal of permanent assets are presented in Note 8. Such gains and losses are classified as non-operating expense for Brazilian GAAP. Under U.S. GAAP, such gains and losses would affect operating income (expense).

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**k. Price-level adjustments and U.S. GAAP presentation in respect of accounting periods through December 31, 2000**

The effects of price-level adjustments have not been eliminated in the reconciliation to U.S. GAAP, because the application of inflation restatement as measured by the IGP-M, applied until December 31, 2000 under Brazilian GAAP, represents a comprehensive measure of the effects of price level changes in the Brazilian economy and, as such, is considered a meaningful presentation for both Brazilian and U.S. accounting purposes.

See the reconciliation of net income (loss) for the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004 and shareholders' equity as at that date in accordance with Brazilian Corporation Law to net loss and shareholders' equity in accordance with Brazilian GAAP reported herein in Note 2.b and a summary explanation of these 2 sets of Brazilian accounting principles in Note 2.a.

**l. Funds for capitalization**

*i. Resources for capital increase and expansion plan contributions*

Under Brazilian GAAP, resources for capital increases and expansion plan contributions received are included in the balance sheet as non-current liability until the subscribers have paid for their telephone connection in full and a general meeting of shareholders approves the capital increases.

Effective January 1, 1996, indexation of the expansion plan contributions was no longer applied and, for contracts signed as from that date, Telebrás (the former controlling shareholder) was allowed the option of using a value per share equal to the market value, when this was higher than book value. For U.S. GAAP purposes, a portion of the resources for capital increase and expansion plan contributions would be allocated to shareholders' equity based on the market value of the shares to be issued to subscribers. The remainder of the resources for capital increase and expansion plan contributions would be classified as a deferred credit and amortized to reduce depreciation expense from the time the related construction-in-progress is completed.

*ii. Donations and subsidies for investments*

Under Brazilian GAAP, those amounts which comprise principally the excess of the value of property, plant and equipment incorporated into the Company's assets over the corresponding credits for expansion plan contributions received are recorded as a credit to other capital reserves. For U.S. GAAP purposes, the credit to capital reserves would be classified as a deferred credit and amortized to reduce depreciation expense.

**m. Valuation of long-lived Assets**

SFAS 144 provides a single accounting model for long-lived assets to be disposed of. SFAS 144 also changes the criteria for classifying an asset as held for sale; and broadens the scope of businesses to be disposed of that qualify for reporting as discontinued operations and changes the timing of recognizing losses on such operations. The Company adopted SFAS 144 on January 1, 2002. The adoption of SFAS 144 did not affect the Company's financial statements.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

In accordance with SFAS 144, long-lived assets, such as property, plant, and equipment, and purchased intangibles subject to amortization, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its estimated future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized by the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the fair value of the asset. Assets to be disposed of would be separately presented in the balance sheet and reported at the lower of the carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell, and are no longer depreciated. The assets and liabilities of a disposed group classified as held for sale would be presented separately in the appropriate asset and liability sections of the balance sheet.

Brazilian GAAP does not require the 2 steps approach to determine potential asset impairment, but requires measurement of recoverability for long-lived assets on a recurring basis or when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset or group of assets may not be recoverable. For all periods presented, no impairment losses were recognized under Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP.

Under Brazilian GAAP, impairment losses would be recorded as non-operating expenses. Under U.S. GAAP, impairment losses are recorded as operating expenses. Additionally, under Brazilian GAAP the gains (losses) on disposal of permanent assets and write-off of permanent assets due to obsolescence (as presented in Note 8) are considered a non-operating item, while under U.S. GAAP they are all considered operating expenses.

**n. Stock options**

Under U.S. GAAP, the Company accounts for stock options in accordance with SFAS 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation, which establishes a fair-value method of accounting for employee stock options or similar equity instruments. For US GAAP, the Black-Scholes option-pricing model was used to estimate the grant date fair value of its options granted. Under Brazilian GAAP, there is no requirement to account for stock options at fair value. The adjustment to reflect the difference in valuation basis between U.S. GAAP and Brazilian GAAP is as follows:

	<b>First Grant</b>	<b>Second Grant</b>	<b>Third Grant</b>
Number of options granted (in thousands)	622,364	308,033	507,650
Fair value of option at date of grant(*)	\$0.00409	\$0.00556	\$0.00276
Fair value of options granted at grant date	\$2,542	\$1,713	\$ 1,400

The fair value of options is recognized over the expected vesting term of the option for US GAAP purposes, which is three years. An amount of R\$1,254 was recognized for U.S. GAAP purposes as stock option compensation expense (R\$829 in 2003). No stock option compensation expense was recognized for Brazilian GAAP purposes.

(\*) The assumptions underlying the calculation of the fair value of the option are detailed in note 34.e.



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**o. Goodwill & other intangible assets and business combination**

*Goodwill & other intangible assets*

Under Brazilian GAAP goodwill represents the difference between historical book value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed and the purchase price, and it is amortized over the estimated period over which the Company expects to benefit from the goodwill. This period is determined based on the reasons attributed by management for the payment of goodwill. Impairment, if any, is measured to the extent that the unamortized balance of goodwill exceeds the expected future profits of the business.

Under US GAAP, goodwill represents the excess of costs over fair value of net assets of businesses acquired. The Company and its subsidiaries adopted the provisions of SFAS 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*, as of January 1, 2002. Goodwill and intangible assets acquired in a purchase business combination and determined to have an indefinite useful life are not amortized, but instead tested for impairment at least annually in accordance with the provisions of SFAS 142. SFAS 142 also requires that intangible assets with estimable useful lives be amortized over their respective estimated useful lives to their estimated residual values, and reviewed for impairment in accordance with SFAS 144, *Accounting for Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets*.

In connection with SFAS 142's transitional goodwill impairment evaluation, the Statement required the Company and its subsidiaries to perform an assessment of whether there was an indication that goodwill is impaired as of the date of adoption. To accomplish this, the Company and its subsidiaries were required to identify its reporting units and determine the carrying value of each reporting unit by assigning the assets and liabilities, including the existing goodwill and intangible assets, to those reporting units as of January 1, 2002. The Company and its subsidiaries were required to determine the fair value of each reporting unit and compare it to the carrying amount of the reporting unit within six months of January 1, 2002. To the extent the carrying amount of a reporting unit exceeded the fair value of the reporting unit, the Company and its subsidiaries would be required to perform the second step of the transitional impairment test, as this would be an indication that the reporting unit goodwill may be impaired.

Under the terms of the operating concessions granted by the Federal Government, the Company is obliged to provide a certain minimum level of services over the entire area covered by its operating licenses. Also, the Company does not possess discrete financial information that could allow a determination of assets and liabilities (and goodwill) allocation in a level below the entire business and neither does it manage different areas of the concession as if they were separate businesses and has thus considered the entire business to be one reporting unit. In viewing all the assets and liabilities of the Company as one reporting unit and performing an initial assessment on this reporting unit as to whether there was an indication that goodwill is impaired (based on a valuation performed by an independent third party), the second step of the transitional impairment test was not required. Consequently, the Company and its subsidiaries were not required to recognize an impairment loss.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

Prior to the adoption of SFAS 142, for US GAAP purposes goodwill was amortized on a straight-line basis over the expected periods to be benefited, and assessed for recoverability by determining whether the amortization of the goodwill balance over its remaining life could be recovered through undiscounted future operating cash flows of the acquired operation. All other intangible assets were amortized on a straight-line basis. The amount of goodwill and other intangible asset impairment, if any, was measured based on projected discounted future operating cash flows using a discount rate reflecting the Company and its subsidiaries' average cost of funds. The amount of goodwill and other intangible asset impairment, if any, was measured based on projected discounted future operating cash flows using a discount rate reflecting the Company's average cost of funds.

Under Brazilian GAAP, goodwill amortization is classified in operating or non-operating expenses, depending on its origin. Under U.S. GAAP, goodwill amortization was classified in operating expenses until December 31, 2001.

*Business combinations*

- i) Purchase of minority interests in the eight operating companies formerly held directly by Brasil Telecom Participações S.A.

On February 28, 2000, Brasil Telecom Participações S.A. reorganized its investments in fixed-line telecommunication companies, by exchanging its shares in its eight smaller operating subsidiaries for newly issued shares of its main operating subsidiary, Telecomunicações do Paraná S.A. - TELEPAR. The minority shareholders of the smaller operating companies also exchanged their shares for newly issued shares of TELEPAR. These companies were then merged into TELEPAR. After the merger, the name of TELEPAR was changed to Brasil Telecom S.A.

At the same date, in connection with the combination of the eight operating companies under common control with Telepar, the Company made an offer to exchange Telepar shares for the shares held by minority shareholders in each of the operating companies. The exchange was made based on the book value of the shares of Telepar compared to the book value of the shares of the operating companies. The Book value of the shares was calculated by dividing stockholders' equity by the number of shares outstanding. In the exchange offer, Telepar acquired almost 100% of the minority shares.

Under U.S. GAAP, the purchase price of these shares must be calculated based on the traded market value of Telepar shares at the time of the exchange. The purchase price is then compared to the fair value of the assets and liabilities of each of the operating companies to determine goodwill. These differences, which were being amortized, on the straight-line basis over five years for U.S. GAAP, but ceased in 2001, are summarized as follows:

Market value of the TELEPAR shares exchanged for minority interests	1,188,388
Fair value of the minority interests exchanged (which approximates book value)	(1,161,690)
Goodwill as of January 31, 2000	26,698
Amortization of goodwill in 2000	(4,895)
Goodwill, net as of December 31, 2000	21,803
Amortization of goodwill in 2001	(5,339)

Goodwill, net as of December 31, 2001

16,464

F - 68

---

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

## ii) Purchase of controlling interest in CRT

On July 31, 2000, the Company acquired a controlling interest in TBS Participações S.A. (TBS), the holding company of Companhia Riograndense de Telecomunicações (CRT). Effective December 1, 2000, the Company acquired the minority interest of CRT through the exchange of its outstanding shares for new shares issued by the Company. The goodwill under U.S. GAAP for this purchase must be adjusted for the difference between the fair value of the net assets purchased and the purchase price.

Under Brazilian GAAP, goodwill for the purchase is calculated at the difference between historical book value of the assets and liabilities assumed and the purchase price. Also, as mentioned in Note 9 and 18.a, goodwill under Brazilian GAAP was accounted for partially as a deferred tax asset which, for U.S. GAAP purposes, should be included as part of intangibles.

The adjustments under U.S. GAAP to reflect the difference in depreciation and amortization resulting from the purchase price allocation differences explained above are as follows:

Net assets purchased under U.S. GAAP	533,026
Adjustment to state fixed assets at fair value	(53,128)
Fair value of net assets purchased from CRT	479,898
Purchase price	1,517,574
Goodwill under U.S. GAAP	1,037,676
Goodwill under Brazilian GAAP	767,993
Difference in goodwill as of July 31, 2000	269,683
Subsidiary's interest	244,363
Company's interest	25,320
Amortization of the difference of goodwill:	
For the five months ended Dec. 31, 2000	(22,474)
For 2001	(53,936)
Effect of depreciation related to the adjustment to state fixed assets at fair value:	
For the five months ended December 31, 2000	2,878
For 2001	6,906
For 2002	4,713
For 2003	3,663
For 2004	4,855

For U.S. GAAP, the difference in goodwill was amortized, until 2001, on the straight-line basis over five years.

The depreciation related to the adjustment to state fixed assets at fair value is being calculated at a rate per annum compatible with the fixed assets realization.

Additionally, the amortization of the recomputed goodwill recognized by the Subsidiary in 2002, 2003 and 2004 under BR GAAP in the amount of R\$96,133, R\$96,133 and R\$66,578, as mentioned in Note 18, has been reversed under US GAAP in connection with the adoption of SFAS 142.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

## iii) Purchase of minority interest in CRT

On December 28, 2000, the Subsidiary exchanged its shares for the remaining outstanding shares of CRT. The exchange ratio was based on the market value of CRT shares and the market value of the Company's shares at December 1, 2000. The purchase was recorded under Brazilian GAAP based on the book value of the CRT shares as of December 1, 2000, so no goodwill arose for Brazilian GAAP purposes.

Under U.S. GAAP, the purchase price of the minority interest in CRT was determined based on the traded market value of The Subsidiary shares as of December 1, 2000. U.S. GAAP also requires that this acquisition of the minority interest in CRT be recorded as of the transaction closing date, December 28, 2000. As discussed in (ii) above, there are also differences between U.S. GAAP and Brazilian GAAP in the allocation of the purchase price to the assets and liabilities acquired which result in a difference in depreciation and amortization expense.

The adjustments to reflect the differences between U.S. GAAP and Brazilian GAAP discussed above are as follows:

Book value of net assets purchased under U.S. GAAP	841,908
Adjustment to fixed assets to reach fair value	(108,174)
Fair value of net assets purchased from CRT	733,734
Market value of The Subsidiary shares issued in exchange	903,146
Goodwill under U.S. GAAP	169,412
Net effect of recording transaction on December 28, 2000 rather than December 1, 2000	(6,129)
Amortization of goodwill for 2001	(33,881)
Reversal of depreciation for 2001	14,063
Reversal of depreciation for 2002	9,585
Reversal of depreciation for 2003	7,467
Reversal of depreciation for 2004	9,887

For U.S. GAAP, the goodwill was amortized, until 2001, on the straight-line basis over five years.

The depreciation related to the adjustment to state fixed assets at fair value is being calculated at a rate per annum compatible with the fixed assets realization.

Under Brazilian GAAP, the Company recognized a gain of R\$185,262 in 2000 due to the change in its percentage ownership interest in the Subsidiary attributable to the issuance of the Subsidiary's shares in exchange for CRT shares. The basis per share in The Subsidiary was lower than the amount received in exchange for the CRT shares; therefore, the increase in basis resulted in a gain. Under U.S. GAAP, the fair value of the CRT shares received in exchange for

The Subsidiary shares was lower than under Brazilian GAAP. Therefore, the gain recognized under Brazilian GAAP has been reversed in the reconciliation to U.S. GAAP net income. For purposes of U.S. GAAP, the Company recognizes gains and losses arising from issuance of subsidiaries stock in shareholders equity.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

iv Step-up of basis of companies under common control

Under U.S. GAAP, Emerging Issues Task Force 90-5, Exchanges of Ownership Interests between Entities under Common Control, when an exchange of shares between companies under common control takes place, the parent company's basis in the subsidiaries should be reflected (or pushed down) as the basis in the financial statements of the surviving entity. The parent company, which originally acquired the nine operating companies in the privatization auction (Solpart) in August 1998, recorded significant goodwill in that purchase. This goodwill, along with the step up in the basis of the fixed assets to fair value at the time of the purchase, results in an increase in the consolidated assets, as well as in shareholders' equity of the Company of R\$982,054 (R\$589,609 of goodwill and R\$392,445 of fixed assets).

Due to the purchase of minority interest of eight operating companies subsequently merged, in 2000, the Company recognized, under U.S. GAAP, the amount of R\$345,801 related to the difference between the unamortized goodwill of R\$740,869 (R\$982,054 less accumulated amortization and depreciation of R\$241,185) and the amount of R\$395,068 recorded as a tax credit under Brazilian GAAP.

The depreciation under U.S. GAAP for these assets, calculated on the straight-line basis, were R\$14,216 in 2002, and a reversal of depreciation of R\$23,495 and R\$21,274 in 2003 and 2004, respectively.

For U.S. GAAP, goodwill was amortized, until 2001, on the straight-line basis over five years. The depreciation related to the adjustment to state fixed assets at fair value is being calculated at a rate per annum compatible with the fixed assets realization.

v) Purchase of controlling interest in iBest

On June 26, 2003, the Company purchased the remaining capital of 50.5% of iBest S/A and became owner of 100% of its capital share. The results of iBest operations have been included in the consolidated financial statements as from such date.



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

The Company obtained third party valuation appraisal for the intangibles, as due to the nature of iBest business (free internet access), the greater part of its value is associated with intangibles. Below is the summary of the estimated fair values of assets acquired and liabilities assumed at the acquisition date:

Net assets purchased under U.S. GAAP	<b>June 26, 2003</b>
Current assets	40,103
Non-current assets	7,323
Investments	61
Property, plant and equipment	2,948
Customer List	11,572
Trademark	67,043
 Total assets acquired	 129,050
 Current liabilities	 10,315
Non-current liabilities	283
Deferred taxes on intangible assets	26,729
 Total liabilities assumed	 37,327
 Total purchase price (including R\$10,000 for minority interests owned previously)	 157,045
 Goodwill under US GAAP	 65,322
 Customer List Amortization:	
2003	9,708
2004	1,604
 Reversal of Deferred Taxes Liabilities:	
2003	3,301
2004	545

The Brazilian GAAP goodwill amounted to R\$117,216 and has been amortized over the years proportionally to the profits generated by iBest Group. The remaining balance as of December 31, 2004 is R\$74,833. Intangible assets consist of the customer list and trademark value. The amortization related to the customer list is being calculated at the estimated churn rate and the future free cash flow generated by the customer list existing at the acquisition date. Trademark and goodwill recognized in a purchase business combination and determined to have an indefinite useful life are not amortized, but instead tested for impairment at least annually in accordance with the provisions of SFAS 142. The amount of goodwill and intangible assets impairment, if any, was measured based on projected discounted future operating cash flows using a discount rate reflecting the Company's average cost of funds. Under Brazilian GAAP, goodwill for the purchase is calculated at the difference between historical book value of the assets and liabilities assumed and the purchase price.



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

## vi) Goodwill Group BrT Cabos Submarinos (GlobeNet)

During the second quarter of 2003, BrTI invested, as shareholder or quotaholder, of the Group BrT Cabos Submarinos (formerly known as GlobeNet). This acquisition generated an insignificant goodwill, which is being amortized under Brazilian GAAP in five years, and has been reversed under US GAAP in connection with the adoption of SFAS 142.

## vii) Purchase of controlling interest in MetroRED

On May 13, 2004, the Company purchased the remaining capital of 80.1% of MetroRED and became owner of 100% of its capital share. The results of MetroRED operations have been included in the consolidated financial statements as from such date.

The Company obtained third party valuation appraisal for the intangibles, as due to the nature of MetroRED business (data communication services), the greater part of its value is associated with intangibles. Below is the summary of the estimated fair values of assets acquired and liabilities assumed at the acquisition date:

Net assets purchased under U.S. GAAP	<b>May 13, 2004</b>
Current assets	22,669
Non-current assets	1,810
Property, plant and equipment - Book Value	203,060
Property, plant and equipment - Difference to Market Value	43,637
Customer List	25,607
Order Backlog List	18,810
Trademark	4,261
<b>Total assets acquired</b>	<b>319,854</b>
Current liabilities	79,385
Non-current liabilities	41,471
Deferred taxes on intangible assets and difference to market value on PP&E	31,387
<b>Total liabilities assumed</b>	<b>152,243</b>
<b>Total purchase price (including R\$61,463 for minority interests owned previously)</b>	<b>226,408</b>
<b>Goodwill under US GAAP</b>	<b>58,797</b>
<b>Difference to Market Value on PP&amp;E Depreciation 2004</b>	<b>3,713</b>
<b>Customer List Amortization: 2004</b>	<b>965</b>

Order Backlog List Amortization:	
2004	9,124
Trademark Amortization:	
2004	3,455
Reversal of Deferred Taxes Liabilities:	
2004	5,868

F - 73

---

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

The Brazilian GAAP goodwill amounted to R\$110,366 and has been amortized over the years proportionally to the profits generated by MetroRED. The remaining balance as of December 31, 2004 is R\$95,651. The difference to market value of property, plant and equipment is based on third party appraisal and is being depreciated at a rate per annum compatible with the fixed assets realization. Intangible assets consist of the customer list, order backlog list and trademark value. The amortization related to the customer list and order backlog list is being calculated at the estimated churn rate and the future free cash flow generated by the customer list and order backlog list existing at the acquisition date. The trademark is being amortized over a period of 12 months, equivalent to the period which its use was contracted. After this period, the Company will not be able to use the trademark MetroRED anymore. Goodwill recognized in a purchase business combination and determined to have an indefinite useful life are not amortized, but instead tested for impairment at least annually in accordance with the provisions of SFAS 142. The amount of goodwill impairment, if any, was measured based on projected discounted future operating cash flows using a discount rate reflecting the Company's average cost of funds. Under Brazilian GAAP, goodwill for the purchase is calculated at the difference between historical book value of the assets and liabilities assumed and the purchase price.

## viii) Purchase of controlling interest in iG Group

On April 02, 2004, the Company purchased an interest of 12.25% in iG Group capital. On November 24, 2004, the Company purchased more 50.75% of iG Group capital and became owner of 63.0% of its capital share. The results of iG Group operations have been included in the consolidated financial statements as from such date.

The Company obtained third party valuation appraisal for the intangibles, as due to the nature of iG Group business (free and paid internet access), the greater part of its value is associated with intangibles. Below is the summary of the estimated fair values of assets acquired and liabilities assumed at each acquisition date:

	<b>April 2, 2004</b>	<b>November 24, 2004</b>
Net assets purchased under U.S. GAAP (proportional to the interest acquired)		
Current assets	8,196	45,290
Non-current assets	40	1,357
Property, plant and equipment	4,098	28,157
Customer List	549	28,122
Trademark	5,824	2,678
<b>Total assets acquired</b>	<b>18,707</b>	<b>105,604</b>
Current liabilities	3,054	20,890
Non-current liabilities	1,682	18,517
Deferred taxes on intangible assets	2,167	10,472
<b>Total liabilities assumed</b>	<b>6,903</b>	<b>49,879</b>
<b>Total purchase price</b>	<b>150,114</b>	<b>143,664</b>

Goodwill under US GAAP	138,310	87,939
Customer List Amortization:		
2004	464	550
Reversal of Deferred Taxes Liabilities:		
2004	158	187

F - 74

---

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

The Brazilian GAAP goodwill amounted to R\$238,274 and has been amortized over the years proportionally to the profits generated by iG Group. The remaining balance as of December 31, 2004 is R\$234,302. Intangible assets consist of the customer list and trademark value. The amortization related to the customer list is being calculated at the estimated churn rate and the future free cash flow generated by the customer list existing at the acquisition dates. Trademark and goodwill recognized in a purchase business combination and determined to have an indefinite useful life are not amortized, but instead tested for impairment at least annually in accordance with the provisions of SFAS 142. The amount of goodwill impairment, if any, was measured based on projected discounted future operating cash flows using a discount rate reflecting the Company's average cost of funds. Under Brazilian GAAP, goodwill for the purchase is calculated at the difference between historical book value of the assets and liabilities assumed and the purchase price.

**p. Revenue recognition**

i) Activation and installation fees

Under Brazilian GAAP, revenues from activation and installation fees are recognized upon activation of customer services. Under U.S. GAAP, revenues and related taxes from activation and installation fees are deferred and amortized over five years, the estimated average customer life. The adoption by the Company of Staff Accounting Bulletin 104 and Emerging Issues Task Force Issue 00-21 - Revenue Arrangements with Multiple Deliverables in 2003 had no impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

ii) Sales of public telephone cards

Under Brazilian GAAP revenues from public telephone phone cards are recognized when the cards are sold. Under U.S. GAAP, revenues generated from sales of public telephone phone cards are recognized as such services are provided. For U.S. GAAP, deferred revenues at each consolidated balance sheet date are determined based upon estimates of sold but unused public phone card credits outstanding as of each consolidated balance sheet date.

**q. Provision for retirement incentive plan**

Under Brazilian GAAP, the Company recorded a provision for a retirement incentive plan during the year ended December 31, 2001 in connection with the intended rationalization of certain business activities of CRT (under the *Apoio Daqui* plan). Under U.S. GAAP, such costs may only be accrued if they are part of a formal restructuring plan approved by management that specifically identifies the significant actions to be taken to complete the plan, the number and job classifications of employees to be terminated, and other strict criteria. As all of the criteria for accrual have not been met, the provision was reversed for U.S. GAAP purposes on December 31, 2001. There was no such provision in the liabilities as of December 31, 2003 and 2004, as the retirement incentive plan was carried out and settled during 2002.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**r. Derivative financial instruments**

Under Brazilian GAAP, swap contracts are recorded on the balance sheet based on the net amount to be received or paid. For U.S. GAAP purposes, the Company adopted SFAS 133, Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, as amended by SFAS 137 and SFAS 138 (collectively, SFAS 133 ) on January 1, 2000. Under SFAS 133, the swap contracts are recorded on the balance sheet at fair value, with changes in fair value recognized in earnings unless specific hedge criteria are met. The Company did not account for any transaction as hedging activity.

**s. Unclaimed dividends and dividends in excess of retained earnings (deficit)**

Under Brazilian GAAP, dividends unclaimed by shareholders after three years were reversed against income in 2002 and 2003. Under US GAAP, such unclaimed dividends are reversed against retained earnings.

Under Brazilian GAAP, dividends in excess of accumulated balance of retained earnings (deficit) are presented in these financial statements under retained earnings, within shareholders' equity. Under Brazilian Corporate Law this situation would not be possible, as dividends cannot be paid if there is negative balance in retained earnings, but any excess distributed would be presented as an advance to shareholders as an asset balance. Under US GAAP, dividends in excess of accumulated balance of retained earnings would be presented as a reduction of paid-in-capital.

**t. Capital lease**

Brazilian GAAP does not require capitalization of assets acquired through capital lease arrangements. Virtually all lease contracts are considered as operating lease, with charges being recorded in statements of operations throughout the period of the lease arrangement. The residual value, often reached at a bargain purchase option, after the period of the lease arrangement is capitalized and depreciated over the estimated useful remaining life.

US GAAP requires capital lease arrangements defined under SFAS 13 to be capitalized as property, plant and equipment and depreciated over the estimated useful life of the asset, according to Statement of Position 98-5 Reporting on the Costs of Start-up activities .

**u. Pre-operating costs**

According to Brazilian GAAP all expenses registered during the pre-operating stage of the subsidiary BrT Celular is deferred until the subsidiary starts its operations, when the deferred expenses are amortized over the future period of which the subsidiary expects to benefit from these expenses.

Under US GAAP, expenses registered during the start-up stage and organizations of a development stage entity are expensed as incurred.

**v. Issue of treasury stock**

Brazilian GAAP requires issue of treasury stock to be added to retained earnings (deficit), while under US GAAP this would be considered an addition to paid-in-capital.





**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**w. Asset retirement obligations**

The Company adopted SFAS 143, *Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations*, effective January 1, 2003. This statement requires the Company to record the fair value of an asset retirement obligation as a liability in the period in which it incurs a legal obligation associated with the retirement of tangible long lived assets that result from the acquisition, construction, development, and/or normal use of the assets. The Company also would record a corresponding asset that is depreciated over the life of the asset. Subsequent to the initial measurement of the asset retirement obligation, the obligation is adjusted at the end of each period to reflect the passage of time and changes in the estimated future cash flows underlying the obligation.

The Company has certain legal obligations related to BrT Celular's infrastructure (tower assets) regarding remediation of leased land on which the Company's network assets are located.

This provision is not required under Brazilian GAAP.

F - 77

---

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**Net income (loss) reconciliation of the differences between Brazilian GAAP and U. S. GAAP  
Years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Net income (loss) as reported under Brazilian GAAP		148,473	(168,647)	128,118
Add/(deduct):	Note 33			
Different criteria for:				
Capitalized interest	(a)	154,440	157,676	90,654
Amortization of capitalized interest	(a)	78,550	(53,863)	47,384
Pensions and other post-retirement benefits:				
SISTEL:				
U.S. GAAP prepaid (accrued) pension (cost) benefit	(c)	27,981	13,247	25,037
FBRTPREV:				
U.S. GAAP prepaid pension cost	(c)	5,736	20,799	54,101
Items posted directly to shareholder's equity:				
Other consolidation adjustments	(d)	4,173	2,527	19,539
Social contribution rate change not enacted	(g)	6,903	-	-
Amortization of deferred credit on contributions plan expansion	(l)	65,077	71,380	63,971
Compensation cost of stock options	(n)	(35)	(829)	(1,254)
Amortization of goodwill until 2001 attributable to purchase of controlling interest in CRT, net of reduction				
in depreciation due to step-down in fair value	(o) (ii)	4,706	3,663	4,855
Reversal of amortization of goodwill recomputed	(o) (ii)	96,133	96,133	66,579
Purchase of minority interest in CRT:				
Amortization of goodwill until 2001, net of reduction in depreciation due to step-down in fair value	(o) (iii)	9,585	7,464	9,887
Amortization until 2001 and depreciation of step-up in basis of companies under common control	(o) (iv)	(14,216)	23,495	21,274
Amortization customer list of iBest	(o) (v)	-	(9,708)	(1,604)
Amortization intangibles of MetroRed	(o) (vii)	-	-	(17,257)
Amortization intangibles of IG	(o) (viii)	-	-	(1,014)
Reversal of amortization of goodwill GlobeNet	(o) (vi)	-	649	(700)
Reversal of amortization of goodwill iBest	(o) (v)	-	-	43,034
Reversal of amortization of goodwill MetroRed	(o) (vii)	-	-	15,512
Reversal of amortization of goodwill IG	(o) (viii)	-	-	4,570

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Deferred revenue, net of related costs - activation and installation fees	(p)	13,332	11,449	7,827
Deferred revenue - public telephone cards	(p)	2,981	(1,835)	(3,147)
Reversal of provision for retirement incentive plan	(q)	(33,000)	-	-
Change in fair value of derivative financial instruments	(r)	3,976	37,045	(9,281)
Reversal of gain attributable to unclaimed dividends	(s)	(9,563)	(18,139)	-
Capital leases	(t)	-	116	(725)
Preoperating costs of mobile operations	(u)	-	(22,256)	(170,602)
Reversal of preoperating costs of mobile operations amortization	(u)	-	-	6,431
Asset retirement obligation	(w)	-	-	(5)
Minority interest in U.S. GAAP adjustments		(137,557)	(90,766)	(52,999)
Deferred tax effect of above adjustments		(147,776)	(87,950)	(78,742)
U.S. GAAP net income (loss)		279,899	(8,347)	271,444

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Net income (loss) per thousand shares in accordance with U.S. GAAP:			
U.S. GAAP net income (loss) - allocated to common shares - basic and diluted	104,176	(3,115)	100,502
U.S. GAAP net income (loss) - allocated to preferred shares - basic and diluted	175,724	(5,232)	170,942
Weighted average shares outstanding (in thousands):			
Common shares - basic	130,343,608	132,287,660	132,550,888
Common shares - diluted	130,343,608	132,287,660	132,550,888
Preferred shares - basic	219,863,511	222,202,409	225,451,492
Preferred shares - diluted	219,863,959	222,203,841	225,453,489
U.S. GAAP net income (loss), per thousand shares:			
Common shares - basic	0.80	(0.02)	0.76
Common shares - diluted	0.80	(0.02)	0.76
Preferred shares - basic	0.80	(0.02)	0.76
Preferred shares - diluted	0.80	(0.02)	0.76

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**Shareholders equity reconciliation of the differences between Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP  
As of December 31, 2003 and 2004**

	Note	2003	2004
Total shareholders equity as reported under Brazilian GAAP		6,261,431	6,128,490
Add/(deduct):	Note 33		
Different criteria for:			
Capitalized interest	(a)	(568,751)	(478,097)
Amortization of capitalized interest	(a)	758,923	806,307
Reversal of accrued dividends	(b)	-	43,261
Pension and other post-retirement benefits			
SISTEL:			
U.S. GAAP gain on plan curtailment and settlement	(c)	176,607	176,607
U.S. GAAP accrued pension cost	(c)	(239,847)	(214,810)
FBRTPREV:			
U.S. GAAP prepaid accrued pension cost	(c)	426,233	480,334
Contributions to plant expansion:			
Amortization of deferred credit	(l)	631,582	695,553
Subscribed capital stock	(l)	(640,688)	(640,688)
Donations and subscriptions for investment	(l)	(182,862)	(182,862)
Goodwill attributable to purchase of minority interests in eight operating companies	(o) (i)	16,464	16,464
Amortization of goodwill attributable to purchase of controlling interest in CRT until 2001, net of reduction in depreciation due to			
step-down in fair value	(o) (ii)	(58,250)	(53,395)
Reversal of amortization of goodwill recomputed	(o) (ii)	192,266	258,845
Purchase of minority interest in CRT:			
Net effect of recording purchase on transaction closing date	(o) (iii)	(6,129)	(6,129)
Amortization of goodwill (until 2001), net of reduction in depreciation due to step-down in fair value	(o) (iii)	(2,767)	7.120
Reversal of Brazilian GAAP gain attributable to issuance of shares			
by subsidiary	(o) (iii)	(185,262)	(185,262)
U.S. GAAP gain attributable to issuance of shares by subsidiary	(o) (iii)	61,238	61,238
Exchange of shares between companies under common control:			
Step-up in basis	(o) (iv)	345,802	345,802
Amortization until 2001 and depreciation of step-up in basis	(o) (iv)	(146,926)	(125,652)

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Amortization customer list of iBest	(o) (v)	(9,708)	(11,312)
Amortization intangibles of MetroRed	(o) (vii)	-	(17,257)
Amortization customer list of IG	(o) (viii)	-	(1,014)
Reversal of amortization of goodwill GlobeNet	(o) (vi)	649	(51)
Reversal of amortization of goodwill iBest	(o) (v)	-	43,034
Reversal of amortization of goodwill MetroRed	(o) (vii)	-	15,512
Reversal of amortization of goodwill IG	(o) (viii)	-	4,570
Deferred revenue, net of related costs - activation and installation fees (including cumulative effect of change in accounting principle in 2000)	(p)	(30,454)	(22,627)
Deferred revenue - public telephone cards	(p)	(10,115)	(13,262)
Change in fair value of derivative financial instruments	(r)	46,545	37,264
Capital leases	(t)	116	(608)
Preoperating costs of mobile operations	(u)	(22,256)	(192,858)
Reversal of preoperating costs of mobile operations amortization	(u)	-	6,431
Asset retirement obligation	(w)	-	(5)
Deferred tax effect of above adjustments		(19,646)	(98,389)
Minority interest in U.S. GAAP adjustments		(211,931)	(266,184)
U.S. GAAP shareholders equity		6,582,264	6,616,371

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**Statements of changes in shareholders equity in accordance with U.S. GAAP  
As of December 31, 2003 and 2004**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance, December 31, 2001		6,879,650
Forfeiture of unclaimed dividends	33 (s)	9,563
Purchase of treasury shares	26 (b)	(9,176)
Declaration of dividends	26 (e)	(351,585)
Net income for the year		279,899
Balance, December 31, 2002		6,808,351
Forfeiture of unclaimed dividends	33 (s)	18,139
Purchase of treasury shares	26 (b)	(11,671)
Declaration of dividends	26 (e)	(224,208)
Net loss for the year		(8,347)
Balance, December 31, 2003		6,582,264
Forfeiture of unclaimed dividends	33 (s)	6,163
Declaration of dividends	26 (e)	(243,500)
Net income for the year		271,444
Balance, December 31, 2004		6,616,371



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

**34. Additional disclosures required by U.S. GAAP****a. Pension and other post-retirement benefits:***i. Plans administered by SISTEL*

The Company, together with other former companies in the Telebrás group, sponsored multi-employer defined benefit pension and other post-retirement benefit plans, through the end of 1999, which are operated and administered by SISTEL. In December 1999, the Company and the other companies that participate in the SISTEL plan reached an agreement to withdraw the active participants to the pension plan and establish a new plan for each of the New Holding Companies. The parties agreed to allocate the plan assets based on the liabilities in accordance with Brazilian GAAP. The allocation of the initial transition obligation and unamortized gains and losses was based on the projected benefit obligation (PBO) of each individual sponsor divided by the total PBO of SISTEL at December 31, 1999. The inactive employees of all of the New Holding Companies that participated in the SISTEL defined benefit pension plan will remain as part of the multiemployer plan in SISTEL. The post-retirement benefit plans will also remain as a multiemployer plan; however, SISTEL no longer subsidizes life insurance premiums for inactive (retired) employees after December 31, 1999.

The Company remains jointly and severally liable for the multiemployer portion of the plan, therefore, no amounts were recorded under those plans.

A summary of the liability as of December 31, 2003 and 2004 for the Company's active employees' defined benefit pension plan was as follows:

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Funded status:		
Accumulated benefit obligation:		
Vested	288,888	449,737
Non-vested	33,181	36,977
Total	322,069	486,714
Projected benefit obligation	418,935	492,612
Allocated assets	573,834	649,450
Projected obligation in excess of assets	(154,899)	(156,839)
Unrecognized gains	106,451	87,688
Unrecognized prior service cost	119,421	113,785
Unrecognized net transition obligation	(7,733)	(6,432)
Accrued pension cost	63,240	38,203

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

A summary of the SISTEL pension plan as of December 31, 2003 and 2004 for the multiemployer portion (inactive employees pension plan) is as follows:

	<b>December 31</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Projected benefit obligation (100% vested)	3,484,245	3,590,683
Fair value of plan assets	(4,163,102)	(4,669,444)
Deficiency (excess) of assets over projected obligation	(678,857)	(1,078,761)

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

In March 2000, the Company offered a new defined contribution plan, and approximately 80% of the active employees migrated to the new plan. The accumulated benefit of each employee who migrated was transferred to an individual account for each employee, with 100% vesting in this amount. The effect of settlement and curtailment of this portion of the defined benefit plan under SFAS 88 Employers Accounting and Settlements and Curtailments of Defined Benefit Pension Plans and for Termination Benefits was a gain of R\$176,607, which was reflected in the reconciliation to U.S. GAAP net income.

The net periodic pension cost for 2003 and 2004 for the SISTEL administered plans was as follows:

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Service cost	30,752	3,700
Interest cost	15,779	31,013
Expected return on assets	(23,808)	(50,808)
Amortization of gains	(7,417)	(7,428)
Expected Participants Contributions	(14,504)	(627)
Net periodic pension cost (income)	802	(24,150)

The changes in the accrued pension cost for the SISTEL administered plans for the year ended December 31, 2003 and 2004 is as follows:

Accrued pension cost as of December 31, 2002	76,487
Net periodic cost for 2003	(11,939)
Company contributions during 2003	(1,203)
Accrued pension cost as of December 31, 2003	63,345
Net periodic cost for 2004	(23,888)
Company contributions during 2004	(888)
Accrued pension cost as of December 31, 2004	38,569

The actuarial assumptions used in 2002, 2003 and 2004 were as follows:

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Discount rate for determining projected benefit obligations	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%
Rate of increase in compensation levels	1.00%	2.00%	2.00%

Expected long-term rate of return on plan assets	9.00%	6.50%	12.50%
--	-------	-------	--------

The rates are real rates and exclude inflation.

The Company maintains jointly with other companies a post-retirement benefit plan (PAMA) for the participants already covered who were in such position on January 31, 2000. Based on legal and actuarial opinions, the Company's liability is exclusively limited to 1.5% of the payroll of the active participants.

F - 83

---

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

The weighted-average asset allocation of the SISTEL administered plans at December 31, 2004 and 2003 were as follows:

TCSPrev:

<b>Asset Category</b>	<b>Asset Allocation</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Equity securities	49.3%	46.3%
Debt securities	47.8%	50.6%
Real estate	1.5%	1.5%
Loans	1.4%	1.6%
Grand Total	100%	100%

PBS-A (multiemployer):

<b>Asset Category</b>	<b>Asset Allocation</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Equity securities	31.11%	26.85%
Debt securities	60.19%	63.93%
Real estate	8.22%	8.73%
Loans	0.48%	0.49%
Grand Total	100%	100%

PAMA:

<b>Asset Category</b>	<b>Asset Allocation</b>	
	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Equity securities	0%	0%
Debt securities	100%	100%
Real estate	0%	0%

Loans	0%	0%
Grand Total	100%	100%

PAMEC:

Asset Category	Asset Allocation	
	2003	2004
Equity securities	0%	0%
Debt securities	100%	100%
Real estate	0%	0%
Loans	0%	0%
Grand Total	100%	100%

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

The Pension Funds' investment strategy is described in the Investment Policy, which is approved annually by the Pension Funds' Board. It states that the investment decisions should consider: (i) capital preservation; (ii) diversification; (iii) risk tolerance; (iv) expected returns versus benefit plans' interest rates; (v) compatibility between investments liquidity and pensions' cash flows and (vi) reasonable costs. It also defines volume ranges for the different types of investment allowed for pension funds, which are: domestic fixed income, domestic equity, loans to pension funds' members and real state. In the fixed income portfolio, only low credit risk securities are allowed. Derivative instruments are only permitted for hedge purposes. Loans are restricted to certain credit limits. Tactical allocation is decided by the Investment Committee, consisted of the Pension Funds' Officers, Investment Manager and one member designated by the Board. Execution is performed by the Finance Department.

The Company expects to contribute R\$13,737 to its SISTEL administered plans in 2005.

The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid:

	<b>TCSPrev</b>	<b>PBS-A</b>	<b>PAMA</b>	<b>PAMEC</b>
2005	15,780	334,637	30,765	37
2006	17,500	345,708	33,706	42
2007	19,062	356,864	36,859	46
2008	21,037	367,904	40,278	50
2009	23,522	378,807	43,925	59
2010-2014	175,507	2,046,352	284,836	391

The funded status of the pension and post retirement plans under Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP differ. Benefit obligations differ because they have been prepared using different actuarial assumptions permitted under Brazilian and U.S. GAAP.

The net assets of the PBS-A plan differ under Brazilian GAAP and U.S. GAAP principally due to the accrual of income tax contingencies of the pension fund for U.S. GAAP purposes in the amount of R\$303,256 (R\$364,644 in 2003), respectively. The contingency arises out of uncertainty as to the income tax status of Brazilian pension funds in general because the tax law is unclear as to whether these funds are exempt from tax on their investment gains. Under Brazilian GAAP, two methods of accounting for the income tax contingency are currently permitted. The tax is either deducted from plan assets for the purposes of determining the funded status of the plan or it is not deducted, but is disclosed in a note as being a contingency. Management of the pension fund has determined that the Brazilian GAAP financial statements of the fund be prepared on the basis that the legal arguments against assessment of the tax on the investment gains are sufficiently strong as to avoid the need for the potential liability to be recognized. However, for U.S. GAAP purposes, management of the Company believes that the assessment of this potential income tax liability is probable. Accordingly, in determining the funded status for U.S. GAAP purposes, the potential income tax liability (calculated in accordance with SFAS 109) has been deducted from the fair value of the plan assets.

*ii. Plan administered by Fundação BrTPrev (FBrtPrev)*

On July 31, 2000, the subsidiary Brasil Telecom S.A. acquired the controlling interest in CRT, and in December 2001, acquired the minority interest. At the acquisition dates, the liability for defined benefit plans of CRT were recorded under U.S. GAAP as part of the fair value.



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

In October 2002, the Company offered employees the option to transfer to a new defined contribution settled benefits plan, BrTPREV. The benefit obligation relating to each employee that opted to migrate was transferred to an individual account at 100% of the obligation under the previous plan in the amount of R\$362,469. The employees that did not opt to migrate to BrTPREV remained in their previous plans.

A summary of the liability as of December 31, 2003 and 2004 (Alternative, Founder and BrTPREV are presented consolidated) for the CRT employees benefit plans was as follows:

Funded status:	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Accumulated benefit obligation:		
Vested	891,269	973,323
Non-vested	83,739	83,071
Total	975,008	1,056,394
Projected benefit obligation	990,752	1,056,702
Allocated assets	486,348	555,256
Projected obligation in excess of assets	504,404	501,446
Unrecognized gains	280,978	246,967
Unrecognized prior service cost	(23,989)	(22,437)
Unrecognized net transition obligation	(343,392)	(324,315)
Accrued pension cost	418,001	401,661

The net periodic pension cost for CRT for the year ended December 31, 2003 and 2004 (Alternative, Founder and BrTPREV are presented consolidated) was as follows:

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Service cost	6,502	377
Interest cost	154,784	160,304
Expected return on assets	(113,926)	(62,798)
Amortization of (gains) losses	22,450	(15,729)
Net periodic pension cost	69,810	82,154

Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

The changes in the accrued pension cost for the plans administered by FBrTPrev for the year ended December 31, 2003 and 2004 (Alternative, Founder and BrTPREV are presented consolidated) were as follows:

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Accrued pension cost at the beginning of the year	438,800	418,001
Net periodic cost for the year	69,810	82,154
Company contributions during the year	(90,609)	(98,494)
Accrued pension cost at the end of the year	418,001	401,661

The actuarial assumptions used in 2003 and 2004 were follows:

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Discount rate for determining projected benefit obligations	6.00%	6.00%
Rate of increase in compensation levels	2.00%	2.00%
Expected long-term rate of return on plan assets	6.00%	6.00%

The above are real rates and exclude inflation.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

The weighted-average asset allocation of the FBrTPrev administered plans at December 31, 2004 and 2003 were as follows:

Asset Category	Asset Allocation	
	2003	2004
Equity securities	8.80%	7.29%
Debt securities	84.79%	87.22%
Real estate	5.52%	4.66%
Loans	0.89%	0.83%
Grand Total	100%	100%

The Pension Funds' investment strategy is described in the Investment Policy, which is approved annually by the Pension Funds' Board. It states that the investment decisions should consider: (i) capital preservation; (ii) diversification; (iii) risk tolerance; (iv) expected returns versus benefit plans' interest rates; (v) compatibility between investments liquidity and pensions' cash flows and (vi) reasonable costs. It also defines volume ranges for the different types of investment allowed for pension funds, which are: domestic fixed income, domestic equity, loans to pension funds' members and real state. In the fixed income portfolio, only low credit risk securities are allowed. Derivative instruments are only permitted for hedge purposes. Loans are restricted to certain credit limits. Tactical allocation is decided by the Investment Committee, consisted of the Pension Funds' Officers, Investment Manager and one member designated by the Board. Execution is performed by the Finance Department.

The Company expects to contribute R\$112,335 to its FBrTPrev administered plans in 2005.

The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid:

2005	96,829
2006	104,724
2007	113,571
2008	122,891
2009	133,171
2010-2014	872,660

**b. Stock options**

On December 17, 2002, the Company granted 622,364 thousand stock options under Stock Option Program B (refer to Note 25.b for the conditions of the program). The per share weighted average fair value of stock options granted during 2002 on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model was R\$4.09 with the following weighted average assumptions: expected dividend yield 5.1%, risk-free interest rate of 23% p.a. (which equals the

SELIC interest rate), and an expected vesting term of 3 years.

On December 19, 2003, the Company granted 308,033 thousand stock options under Stock Option Program B (refer to Note 25.b for the conditions of the program). The per share weighted average fair value of stock options granted during 2004 on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model was R\$5.56 with the following weighted average assumptions: expected dividend yield 3.2%, risk-free interest rate of 8.6% p.a. (which equals the National Treasury Notes interest rate), and an expected vesting term of 3 years.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

On December 21, 2004, the Company granted 507,650 thousand stock options under Stock Option Program B (refer to Note 25.b for the conditions of the program). The per share weighted average fair value of stock options granted during 2004 on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model was R\$2.76 with the following weighted average assumptions: expected dividend yield 3.1%, risk-free interest rate of 8.4% p.a. (which equals the National Treasury Notes interest rate), and an expected vesting term of 2 years.

**c. Segment Reporting**

Segment information is presented in respect of the Company's and its subsidiaries business that was identified based on its management structure and on internal management reporting, according to SFAS 131 Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information, and are described as follows:

- Fixed telephony and data transmission: refers to the services rendered by BrT, MetroRED and Vant using the wire line network.
- Mobile telephony: refers to the services rendered by BrT Celular beginning on the last quarter of 2004.
- Internet: refers to the services rendered by BrTI, iBEST Group and iG Group in connection with the provision of internet services and related activities.

Inter-segment pricing is determined on an arm's length basis.

The information presented is derived from the Brazilian Corporation Law financial statements, which is the primary basis for management decisions and assessments.

Segment results, assets and liabilities include items directly attributable to a segment as well as those that can be allocated on a reasonable basis.

	2004					
	Fixed telephony and data transmission	Mobile telephony	Internet	Holding companies	Eliminations	Consolidated
<b>Gross operating revenue</b>	12,699,485	102,299	310,519	-	(348,861)	12,763,442
<b>Deductions</b>	(3,634,095)	(23,317)	(41,174)	-	-	(3,698,586)
<b>Net operating revenue</b>	9,065,390	78,982	269,345	-	(348,861)	9,064,856
<b>Cost of services rendered and goods sold</b>	(5,689,884)	(147,409)	(199,278)	-	213,851	(5,822,720)
<b>Gross profit</b>	3,375,506	(68,427)	70,067	-	(135,010)	3,242,136
<b>Operating expenses, net</b>	(2,066,205)	(104,876)	(85,776)	(24,082)	140,302	(2,140,637)
Selling expenses	(1,102,190)	(90,137)	(48,054)	-	154,604	(1,085,777)
General and administrative	(932,441)	(14,296)	(18,671)	(16,682)	6,758	(975,332)

## Edgar Filing: BRASIL TELECOM HOLDING CO - Form 20-F

Management Remuneration	(7,214)	-	(784)	(2,389)	-	(10,387)
Other, net	(24,360)	(443)	(18,267)	(5,011)	(21,060)	(69,141)
<b>Operating profit/(loss) before financial income/(expenses) and equity</b>	<b>1,309,301</b>	<b>(173,303)</b>	<b>(15,709)</b>	<b>(24,082)</b>	<b>5,292</b>	<b>1,101,499</b>
Financial expenses/(income), net	(999,512)	(6,510)	6,156	230,979	(24,558)	(793,445)
Income and social contribution taxes/(benefit)	(108,311)	60,713	3,927	(75,466)	(1,799)	(120,936)
<b>Net income/(loss) for the year</b>	<b>292,814</b>	<b>(119,100)</b>	<b>60,042</b>	<b>270,675</b>	<b>(252,207)</b>	<b>252,222</b>
<b>Accounts receivable</b>	<b>2,070,499</b>	<b>91,233</b>	<b>54,414</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(104,567)</b>	<b>2,111,579</b>
<b>Inventories</b>	<b>7,804</b>	<b>166,229</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>174,033</b>
<b>Fixed assets, net</b>	<b>7,679,081</b>	<b>1,149,084</b>	<b>69,061</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>(11,466)</b>	<b>8,887,003</b>
<b>Expenditures for additions to long lived assets</b>	<b>1,187,907</b>	<b>1,175,691</b>	<b>13,672</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,377,402</b>

F - 88

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.****NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

	2003				
	Fixed telephony and data transmission	Internet	Holding companies	Eliminations	Consolidated
<b>Gross operating revenue</b>	<b>11,075,731</b>	<b>190,563</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(188,913)</b>	<b>11,077,381</b>
<b>Deductions</b>	<b>(3,141,509)</b>	<b>(20,678)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,162,187)</b>
<b>Net operating revenue</b>	<b>7,934,222</b>	<b>169,885</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(188,913)</b>	<b>7,915,194</b>
<b>Cost of services rendered and goods sold</b>	<b>(4,765,058)</b>	<b>(141,918)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,895</b>	<b>(4,848,081)</b>
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>3,169,164</b>	<b>27,967</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(130,018)</b>	<b>3,067,113</b>
<b>Operating expenses, net</b>	<b>(1,949,132)</b>	<b>(16,404)</b>	<b>(14,343)</b>	<b>135,297</b>	<b>(1,844,582)</b>
Selling expenses	(947,393)	(9,534)	-	136,990	(819,937)
General and administrative	(780,966)	(8,682)	(18,487)	3,707	(804,428)
Management Remuneration	(6,748)	(346)	(1,816)	-	(8,910)
Other, net	(214,025)	2,158	5,960	(5,400)	(211,307)
<b>Operating profit/(loss) before financial income/(expenses) and equity</b>	<b>1,220,032</b>	<b>11,563</b>	<b>(14,343)</b>	<b>5,279</b>	<b>1,222,531</b>
Financial expenses/(income), net	(1,091,671)	5,881	175,762	(4,107)	(914,135)
Income and social contribution taxes/(benefit)	65,946	(7,929)	(54,860)	(1,799)	1,358
<b>Net income/(loss) for the year</b>	<b>(42,339)</b>	<b>6,352</b>	<b>144,158</b>	<b>36,969</b>	<b>145,139</b>

	2003					
	Fixed telephony and data transmission	Mobile telephony	Internet	Holding companies	Eliminations	Consolidated
<b>Accounts receivable</b>	<b>1,859,325</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,023</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(32,635)</b>	<b>1,859,713</b>
<b>Inventories</b>	<b>8,042</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,042</b>
<b>Fixed assets, net</b>	<b>8,760,392</b>	<b>280,999</b>	<b>4,564</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>(16,758)</b>	<b>9,031,797</b>
<b>Expenditures for additions to long lived assets</b>	<b>1,295,915</b>	<b>109,113</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,407,621</b>

**d. New accounting pronouncements**

In May 2003 FASB Statement 150, Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments with Characteristics of both Liabilities and Equity, was issued. This Statement establishes standards for the classification and measurement of certain financial instruments with characteristics of both liabilities and equity. The Statement also includes required disclosures for financial instruments within its scope. For the Company, the Statement was effective for instruments entered into or modified after May 31, 2003 and otherwise was effective as of January 1, 2004, except for mandatorily redeemable financial instruments. For certain mandatorily redeemable financial instruments, the Statement will be effective for the Company on January 1, 2005. The effective date has been deferred indefinitely for certain types of

mandatorily redeemable financial instruments. The Company currently does not have any financial instruments that are within the scope of this Statement.

In December 2003, FASB Statement 132 (revised), Employers' Disclosures about Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits, was issued. Statement 132 (revised) prescribes employers' disclosures about pension plans and other postretirement benefit plans; it does not change the measurement or recognition of those plans. The Statement retains and revises the disclosure requirements contained in the original Statement 132. It also requires additional disclosures about the assets, obligations, cash flows, and net periodic benefit cost of defined benefit pension plans and other postretirement benefit plans. The new annual disclosure requirements became effective for the Company as of the year ended December 31, 2004. Disclosures required by this standard are included in the notes to these consolidated financial statements.



**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

In December 2003, the FASB issued Interpretation 46 (revised December 2003), Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities, which addresses how business enterprise should evaluate whether it has a controlling financial interest in an entity through means other than voting rights and accordingly should consolidate this entity. FIN 46R replaces FASB Interpretation Nr. 46, Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities, which was issued in January 2003. The Company was required to apply FIN 46R to variable interests in VIEs created after December 31, 2003. For variable interests in VIEs created before January 1, 2004, the Interpretation will be applied beginning on January 1, 2005. For any VIEs that must be consolidated under FIN 46R that were created before January 1, 2004, the assets, liabilities and noncontrolling interests of the VIEs initially would be measured at their carrying amounts with any difference between the net amount added to the balance sheet and any previously recognized interest being recognized as the cumulative effect of an accounting change. If determining the carrying amounts is not practicable, fair value at the date FIN 46R first applies may be used to measure assets, liabilities and noncontrolling interests of the VIE. The adoption of FIN 46R did not have a material effect on the Company's financial statements.

In December 2004, the FASB issued FASB Statement 123 (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment, which addresses the accounting for transactions in which an entity exchanges its equity instruments for goods or services, with a primary focus on transactions in which an entity obtains employee services in share-based payment transactions. This Statement is a revision to Statement 123 and supersedes APB Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, and its related implementation guidance. Management of the Company does not expect any significant impact on the Company's financial statements by applying this pronouncement.

In December 2004, the FASB issued FASB Statement 151, Inventory Costs, which clarifies the accounting for abnormal amounts of idle facility expense, freight, handling costs, and wasted material (spoilage). Under this Statement, such items will be recognized as current-period charges. In addition, the Statement requires that allocation of fixed production overheads to the costs of conversion be based on the normal capacity of the production facilities. This Statement will be effective for the Company for inventory costs incurred on or after January 1, 2006. Management of the Company does not expect any significant impact on the Company's financial statements by applying this pronouncement.

In December 2004, the FASB issued FASB Statement 153, Exchanges of Nonmonetary Assets, which eliminates an exception in APB 29 for nonmonetary exchanges of similar productive assets and replaces it with a general exception for exchanges of nonmonetary assets that do not have commercial substance. This Statement will be effective for the Company for nonmonetary asset exchanges occurring on or after January 1, 2006. Management of the Company does not expect any significant impact on the Company's financial statements by applying this pronouncement.

In March 2005, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation 47, Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations, which clarifies the term conditional asset retirement obligation as used in SFAS 143, Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations, as a legal obligation to perform an asset retirement activity in which the timing and/or method of settlement are conditional on a future event that may or may not be within the control of the Company. FIN 47 is effective no later than the end of fiscal years ending after December 15, 2005. The Company adopted SFAS 143 effective January 1, 2003, and currently does not expect that the adoption of the Interpretation 47 will have a material impact on the Company's results of operation or financial position.

**BRASIL TELECOM PARTICIPAÇÕES S.A.**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands of Brazilian reais)

In May 2005, the FASB issued FASB Statement 154, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, which replaces APB Opinion 20, *Accounting Changes*, and FASB Statement 3, *Reporting Accounting Changes in Interim Financial Statements*, and changes the requirements for the accounting for and reporting of a change in accounting principle. This Statement shall be effective for accounting changes and corrections of errors made in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2005.p

F - 91

---