

Faces of IP



GLOBAL
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
CENTER

Ecopetrol S.A.

*The fourth-largest energy company in
Latin America and a leading energy innovator*

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

Lead Innovator :	Óscar Alfredo Villadiego, Vice President of Services and Technology
Employees:	5,000
Innovative Industry:	Energy

STORY

Ecopetrol S.A., Colombia's state-controlled oil company, performs crude oil and natural gas exploration, production, refining, and transportation. In 2007, the company began selling stock shares to Colombian citizens and foreign investors, with the goal of becoming one of the first mixed stock-holding energy corporations in Latin America.

Vice President of Services and Technology Óscar Alfredo Villadiego leads the company's research and development efforts, which are based at the Instituto Colombiano del Petróleo. Ecopetrol's two-decade relationship with the Institute, which houses 24 laboratories, 29 pilot plants, 144 employees, and 377 independent contractors, has enabled the company to focus on energy technology innovation. This partnership has resulted in 23 patents in Colombia, Europe, the United States, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Brazil.

In 2006 alone, Ecopetrol received six new patents from the Colombia's Superintendencia of Industry and Commerce for advancements in fuel additive stabilizers and valve removal tools. Additionally, Ecopetrol received copyright protection for 11 specialized software programs, which were all developed by Institute researchers and engineers. This innovation investment and the resulting technologies have caused the \$7.8 billion company to increase spending on oil fields, refineries, and other investments by 35% in 2010. Protected by intellectual property, these investments will allow the company to thrive, bringing employment and prosperity to the community and country.

WWW.ECOPETROL.COM