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Ecopetrol SA (EC) Receives Average Recommendation of "Hold" from Brokerages

Posted by Gemma Cottrell on Apr 16th, 2019



Ecopetrol SA (NYSE:EC) has been given an average rating of "Hold" by the eight analysts that are presently covering the stock, MarketBeat Ratings reports. Eight analysts have rated the stock with a hold rating. The average twelve-month price target among brokers that have issued a report on the stock in the last year is \$20.50.

EC has been the topic of several recent research reports. **ValuEngine** upgraded Ecopetrol from a "sell" rating to a "hold" rating in a research report on Monday, February 4th. Citigroup set a \$21.00 price target on Ecopetrol and gave the stock a "hold" rating in a research report on Monday, December 17th. Santander upgraded Ecopetrol from an "underperform" rating to a "hold" rating in a research report on Wednesday, March 6th. **Zacks Investment Research** lowered Ecopetrol from a "hold" rating to a "strong sell" rating in a research report on Thursday, January 3rd. Finally, JPMorgan Chase & Co. upgraded Ecopetrol from an "underweight" rating to a "neutral" rating and set a \$20.00 price target on the stock in a research report on Friday, April 5th.

Cet **Ecopetrol** alerts:

Several hedge funds have recently modified their holdings of the company. JPMorgan Chase & Co. boosted its position in shares of Ecopetrol by 1,014.4% during the third quarter. JPMorgan Chase & Co. now owns 180,828 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$4,870,000 after purchasing an additional 164,602 shares in the last quarter. Bank of New York Mellon Corp boosted its position in shares of Ecopetrol by 6.2% during the third quarter. Bank of New York Mellon Corp now owns 265,703 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$7,155,000 after purchasing an additional 15,602 shares in the last quarter. BlackRock Inc. boosted its position in shares of Ecopetrol by 12.7% during the third quarter. BlackRock Inc. now owns 1,325,332 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$35,691,000 after purchasing an additional 149,455 shares in the last quarter. Credit Suisse AG boosted its position in shares of Ecopetrol by 39.3% during the third quarter. Credit Suisse AG now owns 49,314 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$1,327,000 after purchasing an additional 13,915 shares in the last quarter. Finally, AMP Capital Investors Ltd boosted its position in shares of Ecopetrol by 24.0% during the third quarter. AMP Capital Investors Ltd now owns 118,817 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$3,161,000 after purchasing an additional 22,986 shares in the last quarter.



EC traded up \$0.01 on Thursday, hitting \$20.57. 31,938 shares of the company were exchanged, compared to its average volume of 892,343. The company has a debt-to-equity ratio of 0.60, a current ratio of 1.52 and a quick ratio of 1.23. Ecopetrol has a 12 month low of \$15.25 and a 12 month high of \$27.96. The firm has a market cap of \$43.17 billion, a price-to-earnings ratio of 11.79, a PEG ratio of 0.68 and a beta of 1.57.

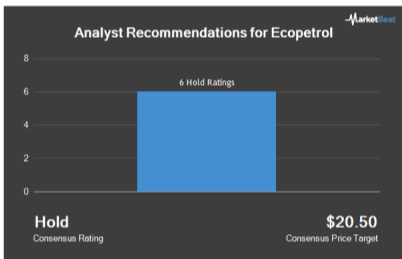
Ecopetrol (NYSE:EC) last posted its quarterly earnings results on Friday, April 5th. The oil and gas company reported \$0.38 earnings per share (EPS) for the quarter. Ecopetrol had a return on equity of 10.61% and a net margin of 16.70%. The business had revenue of \$6.02 billion for the quarter. As a group, sell-side analysts anticipate that Ecopetrol will post 1.77 EPS for the current year.

The firm also recently disclosed a special dividend, which will be paid on Friday, May 3rd. Stockholders of record on Wednesday, April 24th will be given a \$0.3595 dividend. The ex-dividend date of this dividend is Tuesday, April 23rd. This represents a dividend yield of 2.95%. Ecopetrol's dividend payout ratio is currently 35.06%.

Ecopetrol Company Profile

Ecopetrol SA operates as an integrated oil and gas company. It operates through three segments: Exploration and Production; Refining, Petrochemical, and Biofuels; and Transport and Logistics. The company produces crude oil and gas; and engages in the extraction, collection, treatment, storage and pumping or compression of hydrocarbons.

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