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Critical Review: Ecopetrol (EC) versus GeoMet (GMET)

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Ecopetrol (NYSE:EC) and GeoMet (OTCMKTS:GMET) are both oils/energy companies, but which is the superior investment? We will contrast the two companies based on the strength of their dividends, risk, valuation, profitability, earnings, analyst recommendations and institutional ownership.

Earnings and Valuation

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This table compares Ecopetrol and GeoMet's top-line revenue, earnings per share and valuation.

	Gross Revenue	Price/Sales Ratio	Net Income	Earnings Per Share	Price/Earnings Ratio
Ecopetrol	\$18.77 billion	2.32	\$10.77 billion	\$1.09	19.45
GeoMet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



Ecopetrol has higher revenue and earnings than GeoMet.

Insider and Institutional Ownership

3.1% of Ecopetrol shares are owned by institutional investors. 0.9% of GeoMet shares are owned by company insiders. Strong institutional ownership is an indication that endowments, hedge funds and large money managers believe a stock is poised for long-term growth.

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Profitability

This table compares Ecopetrol and GeoMet's net margins, return on equity and return on assets.

	Net Margins	Return on Equity	Return on Assets
Ecopetrol	19.13%	13.27%	5.52%
GeoMet	N/A	N/A	N/A

Analyst Recommendations

This is a breakdown of current ratings and price targets for Ecopetrol and GeoMet, as provided by MarketBeat.com.

	Sell Ratings	Hold Ratings	Buy Ratings	Strong Buy Ratings	Rating Score
Ecopetrol	0	5	0	0	2.00
GeoMet	0	0	0	0	N/A

Ecopetrol presently has a consensus price target of \$21.00, suggesting a potential downside of 0.94%.

Risk & Volatility

Ecopetrol has a beta of 1.51, indicating that its share price is 51% more volatile than the S&P 500. Comparatively, GeoMet has a beta of 5.12, indicating that its share price is 412% more volatile than the S&P 500.

Dividends

Ecopetrol pays an annual dividend of \$0.61 per share and has a dividend yield of 2.9%. GeoMet does not pay a dividend. Ecopetrol pays out 56.0% of its earnings in the form of a dividend.

Summary

Ecopetrol beats GeoMet on 6 of the 9 factors compared between the two stocks.

About Ecopetrol



Ecopetrol S.A. 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. It also transports and distributes hydrocarbons, derivatives, and products. The company has 8,500 kilometers of transportation pipeline systems. In addition, it commercializes crude oils and by-products, including fuel oil, virgin naphtha, cracked naphtha, aviation gasoline, and others; produces and markets polypropylene resin, compounds, and masterbatches; provides financing services; and offers refined and petrochemical products, as well as industrial service sales to customers. The company was formerly known as Empresa Colombiana de Petróleos and changed its name to Ecopetrol S.A. in June 2003. Ecopetrol S.A. was founded in 1948 and is based in Bogotá, Colombia.

About GeoMet



GeoMet, Inc. does not have significant operations. Previously it was engaged in the exploration, development, and production of natural gas from coal seams. The company was formerly known as GeoMet Resources, Inc. and changed its name to GeoMet, Inc. in April 2005. GeoMet, Inc. was founded in 1985 and is headquartered in Houston, Texas.

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