

Charles Schwab Investment Management Inc. Has \$5.52 Million Stock Position in **Ecopetrol** S.A. (NYSE:EC)

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Charles Schwab Investment Management Inc. grew its position in shares of **Ecopetrol** S.A. ([NYSE:EC](#) - [Free Report](#)) by 63.8% during the fourth quarter, according to its most recent disclosure with the Securities & Exchange Commission. The firm owned 696,412 shares of the oil and gas company's stock after purchasing an additional 271,296 shares during the period. Charles Schwab Investment Management Inc.'s holdings in **Ecopetrol** were worth \$5,516,000 as of its most recent SEC filing.

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Other institutional investors have also made changes to their positions in the

company. Blue Trust Inc. raised its stake in shares of [Ecopetro](#) by 33.5% in the 4th quarter. Blue Trust Inc. now owns 8,480 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$67,000 after purchasing an additional 2,128 shares in the last quarter. SG Americas Securities LLC bought a new position in shares of [Ecopetro](#) during the fourth quarter valued at approximately \$86,000. Sage Investment Counsel LLC bought a new position in [Ecopetro](#) in the 4th quarter worth approximately \$91,000. R Squared Ltd acquired a new position in [Ecopetro](#) during the 4th quarter valued at about \$94,000. Finally, B.O.S.S. Retirement Advisors LLC acquired a new stake in [Ecopetro](#) in the fourth quarter worth approximately \$104,000.

Analyst Ratings Changes

EC has been the topic of a number of research analyst reports.

[StockNews.com](#) lowered [Ecopetro](#) from a "buy" rating to a "hold" rating in a report on Monday, March 17th. JPMorgan Chase & Co. raised [Ecopetro](#) from an "underweight" rating to a "neutral" rating and upped their target price for the company from \$7.50 to \$9.50 in a report on Thursday, February 13th. Finally, Citigroup raised shares of [Ecopetro](#) from a "neutral" rating to a "buy" rating and upped their price objective for the company from \$9.00 to \$14.00 in a research note on Tuesday, February 18th. One analyst has rated the stock with a sell rating, three have given a hold rating and one has assigned a buy rating to the company. According to data from MarketBeat.com, the company presently has an average rating of "Hold" and a consensus target price of \$11.00.

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[Ecopetro](#) Price Performance

[NYSE:EC](#) traded down \$0.18 during mid-day trading on Friday, hitting \$10.22. The company's stock had a trading volume of 2,757,050 shares, compared to its average volume of 2,289,706. The stock has a fifty day moving average of \$9.76 and a 200-day moving average of \$8.79. [Ecopetro](#) S.A. has a fifty-two week low of \$7.21 and a fifty-two week high of \$12.90. The company has a market capitalization of \$21.00 billion, a price-to-earnings ratio of 4.89 and a beta of 1.22. The company has a current ratio of 1.68, a quick ratio of 1.38 and

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a debt-to-equity ratio of 1.00.

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Ecopetrol Increases Dividend

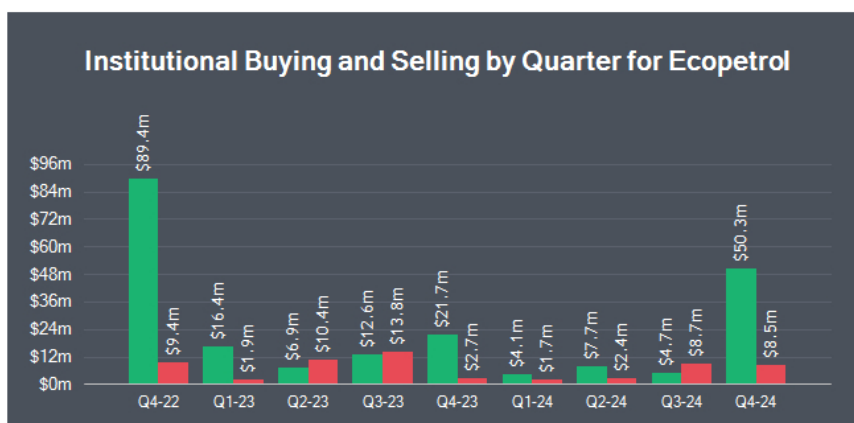
The company also recently disclosed a – dividend, which will be paid on Friday, April 11th. Stockholders of record on Thursday, April 3rd will be issued a dividend of \$0.5202 per share. This is a positive change from Ecopetrol's previous – dividend of \$0.49. The ex-dividend date of this dividend is Thursday, April 3rd. This represents a dividend yield of 30%. Ecopetrol's dividend payout ratio (DPR) is presently 91.87%.

Ecopetrol Profile [\(Free Report\)](#)

Ecopetrol SA operates as an integrated energy company. The company operates through four segments: Exploration and Production; Transport and Logistics; Refining, Petrochemical and Biofuels; and Electric Power Transmission and Toll Roads Concessions. It engages in the exploration and production of oil and gas; transportation of crude oil, motor fuels, fuel oil, and other refined products, including diesel, jet, and biofuels; processing and refining crude oil; distribution of natural gas and LPG; sale of refined and petrochemical products; supplying of electric power transmission services; design, development, construction, operation, and maintenance of road and energy infrastructure projects; and supplying of information technology and telecommunications services.

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Should You Invest \$1,000 in Ecopetrol Right Now?

Before you consider Ecopetrol, you'll want to hear this.

MarketBeat keeps track of Wall Street's top-rated and best performing research analysts and the stocks they recommend to their clients on a daily basis. MarketBeat has identified the **five stocks** that top analysts are quietly whispering to their clients to buy now before the broader market catches on... and Ecopetrol wasn't on the list.

While Ecopetrol currently has a Hold rating among analysts, top-rated analysts believe these five stocks are better buys.

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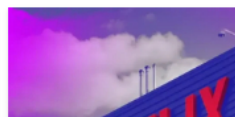
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