

Pinheiro and Pinheiro steer Braskem bond issuances

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White & Case LLP and Pinheiro Guimarães - Advogados have assisted Braskem in two bond issuances worth a total of US\$750 million.

The Brazilian petrochemical company's finance arm made a US\$350 million issuance yesterday, following an earlier issuance worth US\$400 million which closed on 7 May.

The arrangers were assisted by Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP and **Pinheiro Neto Advogados**, while Maples and Calder provided advice to Braskem in Grand Cayman.

White & Case began working for Braskem in 2002, shortly after the company's formation, through the work of Don Baker in the firm's São Paulo office, explains partner Mark Bagnall. "We have been Braskem's counsel for its international offerings and SEC reporting since that time, advising Braskem on its IPO in 2004 and on numerous bond transactions before and since," he says.

White & Case has also worked alongside Pinheiro Guimarães in a number of transactions. "The attorneys that I have worked with from their firm have been very professional and responsive," says Bagnall. "In this transaction, in addition to the 'ordinary course' advice and assistance, they were extremely helpful in discussions of recent tax rules in Brazil applicable to bond issuances through offshore financial vehicles and crafting protections from potential exposures faced by our client."

The arrangers were Banco Bradesco's Grand Cayman branch, BB Securities, HSBC, and Santander, which Pinheiro Neto has assisted in other bond issuances recently. According to associate Vitor Araujo Braskem has also been a regular client of Pinheiro Neto for several years. "We maintain a solid long-term relationship with the company (including providing assistance in previous bond issuances). Such familiarity helps the structuring and execution of complex deals in a short amount of time," he says.

The first offering required drawing up disclosures relating to Braskem's recently acquired companies - Quattor and Sunoco Chemicals. The Sunoco deal had only just closed, while there was still work being done to tie up the Quattor buy. Yesterday's offering required the legal teams to maintain "a state of readiness so that Braskem would be able to come to market quickly once the international debt markets re-opened," says Bagnall. The notes are due in 2020 and guaranteed by Braskem.

The Bank of New York Mellon was the trustee, taking counsel from Pryor Cashman LLP.

Counsel to Braskem

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White & Case LLP