Vanguard Personalized Indexing Management LLC Makes New Investment in **Ecopetrol** S.A. (NYSE:EC)



Vanguard Personalized Indexing Management LLC purchased a new stake in shares of **Ecopetrol** S.A. (NYSE:EC - Get Rating) in the 4th quarter, according to its most recent 13F filing with the Securities & Exchange Commission. The firm purchased 19,681 shares of the oil and gas company's stock, valued at approximately \$206,000.

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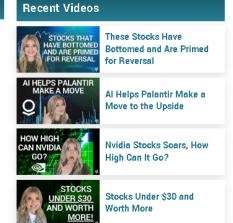
THU., JUNE 1, 2023 | MARKETBEAT

Several other large investors have also recently modified their holdings of EC. Bank of Nova Scotia purchased a new stake in Ecopetrol during the 4th quarter valued at \$314,000. First Trust Advisors LP raised its position in Ecopetrol by 23.1% in the 4th quarter. First Trust Advisors LP now owns 1,028,216 shares of the oil and gas company's stock worth \$10,765,000 after buying an additional 192,785 shares during the last quarter. Dimensional Fund Advisors LP lifted its stake in Ecopetrol by 98.4% during the 4th quarter. Dimensional Fund Advisors LP now owns 78,194 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$818,000 after acquiring an additional 38,777 shares during the period. Citigroup Inc. boosted its holdings in shares of Ecopetrol by 262.8% during the 4th quarter. Citigroup Inc. now owns 25,696 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$269,000 after acquiring an additional 18,613 shares during the last quarter. Finally, Mercer Global Advisors Inc. ADV bought a new stake in shares of Ecopetrol in the fourth quarter worth approximately \$186,000. Hedge funds and other institutional investors own 1.30% of the company's stock.

Ecopetrol Price Performance

NYSE EC opened at \$9.09 on Thursday. The company has a current ratio of 1.14, a quick ratio of 1.00 and a debt-to-equity ratio of 1.00. Ecopetrol S.A. has a 12 month low of \$8.59 and a 12 month high of \$17.60. The stock has a market cap of \$18.68 billion, a price-to-earnings ratio of 2.35 and a beta of 1.43. The company's 50 day moving average is \$10.03 and its two-hundred day moving average is \$10.33.

Ecopetrol (NYSE:EC - Get Rating) last released its earnings results on Wednesday, March 29th. The oil and gas company reported \$0.69 earnings per share for the quarter, beating analysts' consensus estimates of \$0.65 by \$0.04. Ecopetrol had a net margin of 19.92% and a return on equity of 15.81%. The company had revenue of \$8.26 billion for the quarter, compared to analysts' expectations of \$8.31 billion. As a group, research analysts anticipate that Ecopetrol S.A. will post 2.08 earnings per share for the current year.







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Ecopetrol Dividend Announcement

The business also recently announced a – dividend, which will be paid on Friday, December 29th. Investors of record on Wednesday, December 20th will be given a dividend of \$0.1479 per share. The ex-dividend date is Tuesday, December 19th. This represents a dividend yield of 20.4%. Ecopetrol's dividend payout ratio is 53.23%.

Wall Street Analysts Forecast Growth

Several brokerages recently commented on EC. UBS Group lowered Ecopetrol from a "buy" rating to a "neutral" rating and set a \$13.00 price objective for the company. in a report on Thursday, February 9th.

StockNews.com started coverage on shares of Ecopetrol in a report on Thursday, May 18th. They set a "hold" rating for the company. The Goldman Sachs Group dropped their price target on shares of Ecopetrol from \$12.40 to \$11.00 and set a "neutral" rating on the stock in a research note on Wednesday, March 15th. Finally, HSBC lowered Ecopetrol from a "buy" rating to a "hold" rating and reduced their price objective for the stock from \$12.50 to \$12.00 in a research note on Friday, February 10th. Four equities research analysts have rated the stock with a hold rating, According to MarketBeat.com, the company currently has a consensus rating of "Hold" and a consensus price target of \$12.00.

Ecopetrol Company Profile (Get Rating)

Ecopetrol SA engages in the exploration, development, and production of crude oil and natural gas. It operates through the following segments: Exploration and Production, Transportation and Logistics, and Refining and Petrochemicals. The Exploration and Production segment deals with oil and gas exploration and production activities.

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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 <u>five stocks</u> that top analysts are quietly whispering to their clients to buy now before the broader market catches on... and <u>Ecopetrol</u> 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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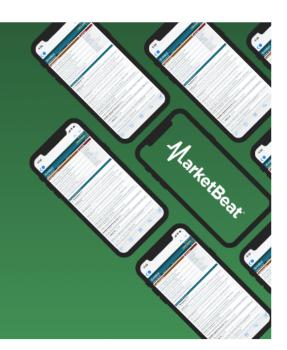
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