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Ecopetrol S.A. (NYSE:EC) Shares Acquired by Toroso Investments LLC

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Toroso Investments LLC boosted its stake in shares of Ecopetrol S.A. (NYSE:EC - Get Rating) by 85.1% in the third quarter, according to its most recent filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The firm owned 74,175 shares of the oil and gas company's stock after purchasing an additional 34,096 shares during the quarter. Toroso Investments LLC's holdings in Ecopetrol were worth \$663,000 at the end of the most recent reporting period.

A number of other hedge funds and other institutional investors have also added to or reduced their stakes in the stock. Penserra Capital Management LLC bought a new stake in Ecopetrol during the 1st quarter valued at \$47,000. Apollon Wealth Management LLC bought a new stake in Ecopetrol during the 3rd quarter valued at \$89,000. UBS Group AG raised its stake in Ecopetrol by 11.1% during the 1st quarter. UBS Group AG now owns 10,610 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$197,000 after acquiring an additional 1,058 shares in the last quarter. Jane Street Group LLC bought a new stake in Ecopetrol during the 2nd quarter valued at \$116,000. Finally, Credit Suisse AG raised its stake in Ecopetrol by 10.8% during the 2nd quarter. Credit Suisse AG now owns 11,308 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$123,000 after acquiring an additional 1,105 shares in the last quarter. Institutional investors and hedge funds own 1.30% of the company's stock.

Analysts Set New Price Targets

EC has been the topic of several recent analyst reports. HSBC downgraded Ecopetrol from a "buy" rating to a "hold" rating and cut their target price for the company from \$12.50 to \$12.00 in a research note on Friday, February 10th. UBS Group downgraded Ecopetrol from a "buy" rating to a "neutral" rating and set a \$13.00 price objective on the stock, in a research note on Thursday, February 9th. The Goldman Sachs Group dropped their price objective on Ecopetrol from \$12.40 to \$11.00 and set a "neutral" rating on the stock in a research note on Wednesday, March 15th. Finally,

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StockNaws com initiated coverage on Foonatral in a research note on Thursday. They

issued a "hold" rating on the stock. Four analysts have rated the stock with a hold rating, According to MarketBeat.com, Ecopetrol currently has an average rating of "Hold" and an average target price of \$12.00.

Ecopetrol Stock Down 1.9 %

EC opened at \$9.89 on Monday. The stock's fifty day moving average is \$11.07 and its 200-day moving average is \$10.28. The company has a market capitalization of \$20.33 billion, a PE ratio of 2.60 and a beta of 1.41. The company has a debt-to-equity ratio of 0.78, a quick ratio of 1.15 and a current ratio of 1.36. Ecopetrol S.A. has a one year low of \$8.59 and a one year high of \$19.81.

Ecopetrol Dividend Announcement

The business also recently announced a – dividend, which will be paid on Friday, December 29th. Stockholders of record on Wednesday, December 20th will be given a dividend of \$0.1479 per share. This represents a dividend yield of 20.4%. The exdividend date is Tuesday, December 19th. Ecopetrol's dividend payout ratio (DPR) is presently 38.32%.

About Ecopetrol (Get Rating)

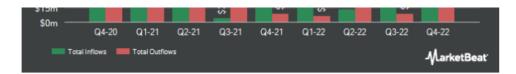
Ecopetrol SA engages in the exploration, development, and production of crude oil and natural gas. It operates through the following segments: Exploration and Production, Transportation and Logistics, and Refining and Petrochemicals. The Exploration and Production segment deals with oil and gas exploration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

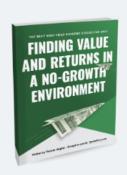
While Ecopetrol currently has a "Hold" rating among analysts, top-rated analysts believe these five stocks are better buys.

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