

Special Session

Pre- Salt and Oil: Windows of Opportunities and New Paradigms on the Brazilian Energy Industry

The discovery of oil in the Pre-Salt layer generated expectations of strong growth in Brazil's oil production for the next two decades. The planned investments are expressive, but their viability depends on overcoming technological challenges quite relevant. Drilling, deepening that pass through the layer of salt, faces significant risks both environmentally and economically. The operation of sites 300kms from the coast requires adoption of new operational logistics.

A priori, it is recognized that the exploration and production under new geological conditions are technically more risky, though, creates economic and technological opportunities. The guiding question of this section is: Is the Pre-salt a condition for advancing on the same technological trajectory or this is an opportunity to work towards a new technological paradigm?

This question leads us, first, to explore the reasons in the past led to the Oil and Gas Brazilian Industry- OGBI- to move along the current path. On the other hand, it is relevant to investigate the limits to technological advance in this path, as well as identify the technological opportunities opened by recent advances in scientific knowledge base and geopolitical conditions prevailing in the international oil market.

The OGBI has a successful technology history. In it, what stands out is the process of learning and the accumulation of knowledge, explicit and tacit, embodied in a number of specialized firms and in the employed workforce. The new technological paradigm and/or new technological trajectories give rise to a complex industrial transformation, both economic and social. New inputs and new businesses will arise and dislocate established suppliers which mean adjustments in the current economic and social systems. What will be the conduct of these established actors when they face technological changes and/or new paradigms? The time and resources that any transition demands are crucial to the technological choices to be adopted by firms.

The thematic session **Pre- Salt and Oil: Windows of Opportunities and New Paradigms on the Brazilian Energy Industry** aims at discussing these issues. In particular it will address the issue of what will be the role of different actors taking into account that if it is true that technological innovations are born out of both scientific motivations and economic, institutional, social and environmental factors, the corporate sector has a determining role in technology decisions. Another important point to be emphasized refers to the public policies model in the area of oil that should be taken to contemplate the transition to a low carbon economy.

Guiding Questions:

1. What incentives are important for companies to recognize the opportunities of IPGN?
2. What instruments of industrial and economic policy should be used to support the business sector in the exploitation of business opportunities in IPGN?
3. How the prospects of change of trajectory and / or technological paradigm can influence the behavior of established actors?