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Our history

Our origins

On the threshold of Angola's Independence, a task force was set up in the oil industry both to support the industry and to mobilize Angolans working in the business. The main objective was the strategic preparation of the oil industry for the after the proclamation of independence. Later the task force was replaced by the National Commission for Restructuring of the Oil Industry.

In 1976 the nationalization of **ANGOL Sociedade de Lubrificantes e Combustíveis, Sarl** led to the establishment of two companies: Sonangol U.E.E. and *Direcção Nacional de Petróleos* with the later reporting to the Ministry of Industry. ANGOL had been established in 1953 as a subsidiary of the Portuguese company SACOR, and marketed and distributed fuels, lubricants and liquefied gas in Angola.

Decree 52/76 instituted **Sonangol - Sociedade Nacional de Combustíveis de Angola, U.E.E** - as a state owned company whose mission was the management of hydrocarbon resource exploration in Angola. Despite having the government as the sole shareholder, Sonangol has always been governed as a private company and is under strict performance standards to ensure efficiency and productivity.

After the incorporation of Sonangol, a management committee was established to create the necessary infrastructures for the company to start developing its business activities. The management committee was later converted into a board of directors.

In the aftermath of the independence several oil companies abandoned Angola for one reason or another, leaving behind its infrastructures and former employees. To this end, Sonangol bought the premises of Texaco, Fina and Shell and through an agreement acquired those of Mobil. In this process Sonangol also absorbed former employees of oil companies that once operated in Angola.

The absence of qualified nationals for the local oil industry, forced Sonangol to begin paying special attention to the training and professional development of its employees. The first group of students was sent to Italy with scholarships co-aided by ENI - Italian Oil Company. A second, larger group went to Algeria. The first sponsored students graduated and returned to Angola by the end of 1970s. They became the driving force behind a more modern Sonangol.



Timeline

1976: Establishment of Sonangol U.E.E.

1983: Institution of the first international subsidiary, Sonangol Limited in London, England.

1991: Attribution of the first oil concession in deep waters on Block 16.

1992: Establishment of subsidiary Sonangol P&P as an oil company.

Becoming a Group

Focusing on diversifying its business activities, Sonangol has developed joint-ventures and established companies that promote both the social development of Angola and the expansion of Sonangol. Prioritizing the management of hydrocarbons, environmental protection and industrial safety, Sonangol has created a diversified business that is centered around oil. More than 30 subsidiaries (</English/GroupSonangol/Subsidiaries/Pages/Subsidiaries.aspx>) and joint venture companies are now part of Group Sonangol.

With a mixed economic status, Sonangol has expanded its core business into other activities and today is a self-made multinational company.

With headquarters in Luanda, Sonangol is proud to be the only company with representations in the whole country. Overseas the company has offices in:

Africa:

Cape Verde: Retail refined from crude oil;

Sao Tome: Distribution and retail of refined products of crude oil.

America:

Brazil: Exploration, development and production of crude oil;

USA: Exploration, development and production of crude oil, marketing of crude oil, shipping of crude oil and LNG;

Venezuela: exploration, development and production of crude oil.

Asia:

Singapore: Crude oil marketing;

Hong Kong: crude oil marketing.

Europe:

Portugal: refining, distribution and retail of refined products of crude oil;

UK: crude oil marketing.

Over the past three decades Sonangol has expanded into a group of integrated companies and in the process became Angola's leading distributor of refined products and promoter of social and national human resources development.

Through its acquired experience, hard work and sustained development, Sonangol has gained prestige and built a solid reputation in the oil industry both in Angola and abroad. This is a direct result of great relationships with the oil companies which operate, or which have interests and investments, in Angola.

1999: Sonangol U.E.E. becomes Sonangol E.P.

2003: Sonangol begins operating as an oil company with the concession of offshore Block 03.

2005: Distribuidora begins its internationalization by opening gas stations in Portugal.

2008: Inauguration of our new headquarters.

2009: Licensing of processing units of the Refinery in Lobito.

2011: Signature of sharing production contracts of Pre Salt Blocks in Angola.

2012: Francisco de Lemos José Maria succeeds Manuel Vicente as Sonangol Board President. First oil find in Angola's pre-salt layer. Pre-salt reserves estimated at 30 billion barrels.

2013: Angola makes first LNG delivery.

2015: Angola celebrates 57 years of refining activity through the Luanda Refinery.

Sonangol

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