

# MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

For the Nine Months Ended
September 30, 2014

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

INTRODUCTION	3
FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS	3
OVERVIEW	
RECENT EVENTS	4
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	
SELECTED QUARTERLY INFORMATION	6
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET	
SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY RESULTS (unaudited)	
REVIEW OF FINANCIAL RESULTS	8
CAPITAL STRUCTURE	<u>9</u>
LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES	<u>9</u>
SOURCES OF FUNDS	<u>9</u>
INDEBTEDNESS AND CONTRACTUAL LIABILITIES	10
OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS	10
RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS	10
CHANGES TO CORPORATE MANAGEMENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS	10
CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES	
FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS - HEDGING TRANSACTIONS	
INTERNAL CONTROLS	12
QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ON MARKET RISK	
KEY FACTORS AFFECTING OUR FUTURE RESULTS OF OPERATIONS	14

## **INTRODUCTION**

The following discussion of the financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with the Unaudited Quarterly Financial Information of Manabi S.A. for the nine month period ended September 30, 2014 and the related notes included thereto, which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). All dollar figures are in U.S. dollars. The effective date of this MD&A is November 06, 2014.

#### **FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Certain statements in this MD&A constitute "forward-looking statements" or "forward-looking information" within the meaning of applicable securities laws. Such statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements or information. Forward-looking statements should not be read as guarantees of future performance or results, and will not necessarily be accurate indicators of whether or not such results will be achieved. We do not assume any obligation to update or revise the forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this MD&A.

This MD&A also contains references to estimates of mineral resources. The estimation of mineral resources is inherently uncertain and involves subjective judgments about many relevant factors. Mineral resources that are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. The accuracy of any such estimates is a function of the quantity and quality of available data, and of the assumptions made and judgments used in engineering and geological interpretation (including estimated future production from our projects, the anticipated tonnages and grades that will be mined and the estimated level of recovery that will be realized), which may prove to be unreliable and depend, to a certain extent, upon the analysis of drilling results and statistical inferences that may ultimately prove to be inaccurate.

Technical information relating to the mineral exploration project at *Morro do Pilar* (the "Pilar Hill Project") and the mineral exploration project at *Morro Escuro* (the "Dark Hill Project") contained in this Report is derived from, and in some instances is extracted from, the Pilar Hill Technical Report (the "Pilar Hill Report") and the Dark Hill Technical Report (the "Dark Hill Report"), dated as of May 2014 and April 2012, respectively, prepared by SRK Consulting, an international leading consulting to the mining industry.

## **OVERVIEW**

Manabi S.A. (the "Company" or "we", "us", "our" or "our company") is a publicly held company, incorporated on March 10, 2011, with its main office in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We are a pre-operational mining company focused on the exploitation of high grade iron ore in Brazil and integrated logistics for sale of iron ore, either directly or indirectly through our subsidiaries. We currently have no cash generating unit.

As of the date of this MD&A, we hold all of the outstanding equity capital of (i) Morro do Pilar Minerais S.A. ("<u>Pilar Hill</u>" or "<u>MOPI</u>"); (ii) Manabi Logística S.A. ("<u>Manabi Logística</u>"); and (iii) Dutovias do Brasil S.A. ("<u>Dutovias</u>").

## **RECENT EVENTS**

On August 22, 2014, the Company entered into an investment agreement and a transportation agreement with Brazilian company Vale S.A. ("Vale") in the latter's capacity as concessionaire responsible for the operation of the Vitória-Minas Railway ("EFVM"), securing a new logistics option for its mining business.

The investment agreement sets forth the terms and conditions for the development and implementation of a new rail stretch of approximately 80km connecting EFVM Railway to Manabi's North Port area on the coast of Linhares, state of Espírito Santo, debottlenecking of a short stretch of EFVM, rail terminals for cargo loading and unloading, and investment in rolling stock, among other related investments, conditioned to an environmental permitting process and in accordance with the regulations of Brazil's National Land Transportation Agency (Agência Nacional de Transportes Terrestres – ANTT).

The transportation agreement sets forth the terms and conditions for the transportation on EFVM Railway of up to 25 million tons of iron ore per year to Manabi's North Port for a period of 20 years subject to the completion of the investments contemplated in the investment agreement and certain other conditions precedent.

On October 21, 2014, the Company validly approved, as Preferred Share Consent Matters, the following items:

- (i) a revision on the Company's Business Plan which includes an additional logistic solution for the transportation of iron ore from Pilar Hill to the North Port. The new logistics option contemplates the transportation of iron ore through a short slurry pipeline (158 km) from Pilar Hill to a stockyard in Naque, the municipality where the short pipeline reaches EFVM. From Naque to the North Port, the iron ore would be transported by rail pursuant to the Transportation Agreement executed by and between the Company and Vale S.A. Manabi revised Business Plan now includes in addition to the original long slurry pipeline linking the Pilar Hill mine to the North Port directly a logistics option based on the short pipeline mentioned above connected to EFVM which, through an approximately 80 km rail spur will lead to the North Port. The expected start-up date of the project as a whole, pursuant to the revised Business Plan, is within 1H-2018;
- (ii) the execution by the Company of an engagement letter with the following banks: BNP Paribas Securities Corp. and CIBC World Markets plc (the "Engagement Letter") as the Company's financial advisors (the "Advisors") for purposes of effecting one or more strategic equity transactions.

## **OVERALL PERFORMANCE**

# **Pilar Hill Project**

## A. Mine and Plant

The Capex<sup>1</sup> related to the mine and plant development reached US\$82.9 million, with US\$14.1 million being spent in the first 9 months of 2014, mostly on permitting and stakeholders' relations.

The environmental permitting of the mine and plant is in its final stage and the environmental license ("LP") is expected to be issued by year end 2014.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Capex for all projects in this MD&A is presented on a cash basis in US\$ terms, whereas in the Financial Statements the Capex is on accrual basis in Reais (property, plant and equipment, and intangible assets).

## B. Pipeline

The Company shall have the option to transport its iron ore from Pilar Hill through a 511km Long Pipeline or through a 158km Short Pipeline, associated with EFVM and a Rail Spur of 80km.

The Company has secured more than 50% of the rights-of-way for the Short Pipeline (158km). The Short Pipeline corresponds to approximately 30% of the length of the Long Pipeline and is on the same route.

The Capex<sup>1</sup> related to the development of the pipeline reached US\$11.2 million, with US\$6.5 million being spent during the first 9 months of 2014, mostly on right of way negotiation, permitting and engineering.

#### C. North Port

There are two main milestones for the North Port project regarding its implementation process: (i) the regulatory authorization by the Presidency's Port Secretariat (Secretaria de Portos da Presidência da República – SEP); and (ii) the permitting process including the environmental (LP) and construction (LI) licenses to be granted by the federal environmental agency (IBAMA).

We have already received the authorization from SEP for the construction and operation of North Port.

Regarding the environmental permitting of the pipeline and the North Port, we have been in continuous dialogue with IBAMA which is in charge of the analysis of the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA-RIMA") since 2013. After providing the Federal Agency with extensive supplementary studies and information we believe that IBAMA will be in a position to issue our environmental permit for the North Port and the pipeline by the beginning of 2015.

The Capex<sup>1</sup> related to North Port reached US\$22.9 million, with US\$3.9 million being spent during the first 9 months of 2014, mostly on engineering (securing a basic engineering level for North Port project), permitting and stakeholders' relations.

## D. Railway

As stated in section Recent Events, Manabi entered into an investment agreement and a transportation agreement with Brazilian company Vale (concessionaire of EFVM) securing a new logistics option for its mining business.

This railway spur should create a logistics corridor for inbound and outbound cargoes significantly leveraging the value of North Port as a new alternative for the export and import of bulk commodities.

The basic engineering for the rail spur is being concluded. The disbursement related to the rail spur has reached US\$6.7 million, with US\$4.2 million during the first 9 months of 2014, mostly on engineering. Capitalization of these expenditures started after the agreements were signed.

## **Dark Hill Project**

Manabi has been prioritizing its Pilar Hill Project, so that the activities at Dark Hill have been limited and therefore the related investments during the first 9 months of 2014 were of only US\$0.3 million, out of a total Capex deployed of US\$5.2 million since the inception of the project.

# **SELECTED FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The following financial data is derived from our nine months financial information ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, prepared in accordance with the accounting practices adopted in Brazil for individual (Parent Company) financial information and IFRS as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) for consolidated financial information.

	Ma	nabi	Consolidated		
(in thousands of reais, except if otherwise specified)	09/30/2014	09/30/2013	09/30/2014	09/30/2013	
Total Revenue	-	-	-	-	
Operating loss before financial results	(55,214)	(43,479)	(55,215)	(43,469)	
Operating loss before financial results per common share (basic and diluted) (in <i>reais</i> )	(53.09)	(41.81)	-	-	
Operating loss before financial results per preferred share (basic and diluted) (in <i>reais</i> )	(53.09)	(41.81)	-	-	
Net financial income	38,971	34,111	38,972	34,101	
Loss for the period	(16,243)	(9,368)	(16,243)	(9,368)	
Loss per common share (basic and diluted)(in <i>reais</i> )	(15.62)	(9.01)	-	-	
Loss per preferred share (basic and diluted) (in <i>reais</i> )	(15.62)	(9.01)	-	-	

Total loss for the period increased to R\$16.2 million as compared to a loss of R\$9.4 million during the same period of 2013. This variation is basically related to studies on railway project, financial advisory services focused on the structuring of Manabi's Project Finance in the domestic and international markets, partially offset by higher financial income.

## **CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**

(in thousands of Reais)	09/30/2014	12/31/2013
Current Assets		
Cash	18	44
Marketable securities	478,596	546,901
Other current assets	7,055	9,424
Non-current Assets	865,716	804,039
Total Assets	1,351,385	1,360,408
Current Liabilities		
Trade accounts payable	4,661	6,120
Employee-related accruals	3,969	2,069
Other current liabilities	990	1,923
Equity		
Capital Stock	1,381,666	1,381,666

Capital Reserve	1	1
Share-based payment reserve	24,848	17,136
Accumulated losses	(64,750)	(48,507)
Total Liabilities and Equity	1,351,385	1,360,408

Marketable securities are composed of (i) government bonds with yields indexed to the Selic (LFT) and (ii) Certificate of Deposit of Caixa Econômica Federal- CEF (CD from Brazil's Federal Saving and Loans institution) with yield indexed to the variation of the CDI (Interbank Deposit Certificate). These securities are held through the Company's exclusive investment fund and have generated an average return of 100.2% of the CDI in the nine month period ended on September 30, 2014. The government bonds and CEF CD are highly liquid assets (can be sold at any time for use in the operations of the Company and its subsidiaries) and carry Brazil sovereign risk.

<u>Other current assets</u> refer primarily to withholding tax on financial income to be recovered.

**Non-current assets** are primarily composed by land, construction in progress of the port and pipeline projects and Intangible assets related to the Pilar Hill, Dark Hill and Rail spur projects.

<u>Trade accounts payables</u> refer mainly to consultant services, environmental studies and development of engineering, with an average settlement period of 30 days that are not subject to charges.

<u>Capital stock</u> is represented by 1,040,000 shares, of which 250,000 are registered common shares, 550,000 are preferred class "A" shares and 240,000 are preferred class "B" shares, of no par value.

# **SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY RESULTS**

The following table highlights the consolidated quarterly results for the last seven quarters.

	2014			2013			
	Mar 31	Jun 30	Sep 30	Mar 31	Jun 30	Sep 30	Dec 31
Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loss for the period (in thousands of reais)	(6,073)	(7,215)	(2,955)	(3,538)	(2,181)	(3,649)	(4,452)
Loss per common share (basic and diluted) (in reais)*	(5.84)	(6,94)	(2,84)	(3.40)	(2.10)	(3.51)	(4.28)
Loss per preferred share (basic and diluted)(in reais)*	(5.84)	(6,94)	(2,84)	(3.40)	(2.10)	(3.51)	(4.28)

<sup>\*</sup> These figures relate to the parent company

## **REVIEW OF FINANCIAL RESULTS**

The following discussion of our results of operations should be read together with Unaudited Quarterly Financial Information for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013. The table below sets forth our consolidated results of operations for the periods above mentioned.

#### Consolidated

	3 months ended Sep 30, 2014	3 months ended Sep 30, 2013	9 months ende Sep 30, 2014	9 months ended Sep 30, 2013	
(in thousands of <i>reais</i> , except if otherwise specified)	3cp 30, 2014	эср эо, 2013	3cp 30, 2014	3cp 30, 2013	
Operating expenses					
Personnel	(9,210)	(9,058)	(28,185)	(24,466)	
Services rendered	(4,583)	(4,308)	(19,390)	(11,984)	
General and administrative	(1,994)	(2,219)	(6,610)	(5,897)	
Depreciation and amortization	(271)	(230)	(796)	(513)	
Taxes	(7)	(250)	(234)	(609)	
Operating loss before financial results	(16,065)	(16,065)	(55,215)	(43,469)	
Financial income and expenses	-				
Financial income	13,143	12,499	39,106	34,281	
Financial expenses	(33)	(83)	(134)	(180)	
	13,110	12,416	38,972	34,101	
Loss before income tax and social contribution	(2,955)	(3,649)	(16,243)	(9,368)	
Income tax and social contribution	-	-	-	-	
Loss for the period	(2,955)	(3,649)	(16,243)	(9,368)	
Loss per common share (1) (basic and diluted)	(2.84)	(3.51)	(15.62)	(9.01)	
Loss per preferred share (2) (basic and diluted)	(2.84)	(3.51)	(15.62)	(9.01)	

<sup>(1)</sup> Total common shares (figures related to the parent company): 250,000

**Operating expenses.** We are currently in pre-operational phase and therefore have not generated operating revenue. We incurred operating expenses of R\$55.2 million during 9M14, an increase of R\$11.7 million compared to 9M13. This variation derives mainly from the increase in services related to the railway project and to financial advisory focused on the structuring of Manabi's Project Finance in the domestic and international markets.

**Net financial income.** Income for the period reached R\$39.0 million against R\$34.1 million from 9M13. This variation is due mainly to the increase in the average target SELIC (Brazilian basic interest rate) to 10.8% in 9M14 vs. 7.8% in 9M13.

Income tax and social contribution. Management opted not to record deferred taxes assets at this stage of the project. Tax loss carry forward generated in Brazil do not expire and are offset with future taxable profit, limited to 30% of the taxable profit in each year. As of September 30, 2014, the Company's tax loss carry forward and negative social contribution basis amounted to R\$ 72.2 million.

<sup>(2)</sup> Total preferred shares (figures related to the parent company): 790,000

**Loss for the period.** As a result of the foregoing, our loss for the nine month period ended September 30, 2014 was of R\$16.2 million, compared to a loss of R\$9.4 million for the 9M13.

## **Cash Flows**

The table below presents cash flows for the nine month period ended September 30, 2014 and 2013.

	Manabi		Consolidated	
(in thousands of <i>reais</i> )	09/30/2014	09/30/2013	09/30/2014	09/30/2013
Net cash used in operating activities	(42,369)	(36,868)	(43,541)	(37,736)
Net cash from (used in) investing activities	42,341	(32,447)	43,515	(31,579)
Net cash used in financing activities	-	(2,147)	-	(2,147)
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(28)	(71,462)	(26)	(71,462)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	44	71,487	44	71,487
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	16	25	18	25

**Net cash used in operating activities.** The increase during 9M14 compared to 9M13, as mentioned above is basically associated to services rendered related to the railway project and to the financial advisory focused on Manabi's Project Finance. Financial income from Marketable securities is not reflected in the statement of cash flows as this income does not pertain to cash equivalents.

**Net cash from (used in) investing activities.** Variation between the periods is due primarily to lower non-current assets expenditures of R\$32.2 million and higher redemption of marketable securities of R\$41.6 million being this latter used to meet the cash needs.

**Net cash used in financing activities.** The amount of R\$2.1 million relates to the remaining equity issuance costs from the second private placement incurred during 2012 and paid in the beginning of 2013.

## **CAPITAL STRUCTURE**

As of September 30, 2014, the subscribed and paid-in capital is represented by 1,040,000 shares, of which 250,000 are registered common shares, 550,000 are preferred class "A" shares and 240,000 are preferred class "B" shares, of no par value.

# **LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

As of September 30, 2014, we have not incurred any financial obligations and no long-term liabilities. All of our liabilities at that date are related to contractual obligations to service providers totaling an aggregate amount of R\$4.6 million, primarily for consultant services, environmental studies and development of conceptual engineering, with an average settlement period of 30 days that are not subject to charges.

# **SOURCES OF FUNDS**

Through the date of this MD&A, Manabi's cash balance and marketable securities are from equity raises.

In order to implement our business plan, we will depend upon further equity and debt raise from shareholders, third parties and banks. Pursuant to our business plan, we anticipate that we will incur capital expenditures reaching approximately US\$4.5 billion.

In order to strengthen the execution of its funding strategy, the Company engaged BNP Paribas Securities Corp. and CIBC World Markets plc to assist management in implementing one or more strategic equity transactions.

## INDEBTEDNESS AND CONTRACTUAL LIABILITIES

As of September 30, 2014, liabilities are primarily represented by balances with trade accounts payable.

The following table sets forth our contractual liabilities as of September 30, 2014 and 2013:

	As of September 30, 2014					
	< 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	> 5 years	Total	
Type of liability			(in R\$)			
Secured by real property	0	0	0	0	0	
Floating	0	0	0	0	0	
Unsecured	4,661,000	0	0	0	4,661,000	
Total	4,661,000	0	0	0	4,661,000	
	As of September 30, 2013					
	< 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	> 5 years	Total	
Type of liability			(in R\$)			
Secured by real property	0	0	0	0	0	
Floating	0	0	0	0	0	
Unsecured	6,120,000	0	0	0	6,120,000	
Total	6,120,000	0	0	0	6,120,000	

In addition, as of September 30, 2014 and 2013, our liability ratio (defined as our current and non-current liabilities divided by our net equity) was 0.72% and 0.75%, respectively.

## **OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS**

We had no off-balance sheet arrangements for the periods.

## RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

We had no related party transactions for the periods, other than the (i) compensation of board members and officers; and (ii) the granting of stock options to officers and employees under our stock option plan.

## **CHANGES TO CORPORATE MANAGEMENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Mrs. Hanh Disch-Lê resigned from her position as a member of our Board of Directors and Mr. Luciano Tadeu Silva Ramos was appointed by our shareholders as Mrs. Disch-Lê´s replacement. Also, Mr. Ramos has joined the Technical Committee of Manabi.

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Mr. Marcos Ludwig resigned from his position as the Chief Legal Officer as announced and acknowledged in the last Board of Directors meeting of August 28. At the request of the company, Mr. Ludwig agreed to remain involved as a consultant for a six-month transition period during which he will continue to assist the company with a focus on strategic legal matters.

## CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Certain judgments, estimates and assumptions are inherent in the measurement and recognition of certain assets and liabilities in our financial statements. These estimates take into account past and present experiences, assumptions concerning future events and other objective and subjective factors.

Significant items subject to estimation that we considered, or that will affect us once production has begun, include: (i) the determination of the useful lives of property, plant and equipment; (ii) estimates of reserves used to calculate depreciation by the unit production method; (iii) the recoverable amount of each cash-generating unit; (iv) the impairment of property, plant and equipment; (v) deferred income tax and social contribution; and (vi) provisions for contingencies, among others.

The settlement of transactions involving these estimates could result in values different from those presented in our financial statements given the inherent imprecision in determining the estimates. We revise our estimates and assumptions at least annually.

In addition, we have identified the following critical accounting policies: (i) consolidation of the financial statements; (ii) financial instruments; (iii) cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities and; (iv) investments in subsidiaries and; (v) intangible assets.

#### **Consolidation of the Financial Statements**

The consolidated financial statements include the financial information of wholly-owned subsidiaries MOPI, Manabi Logística and Dutovias.

The process of consolidating the balance sheet and income statement accounts of the subsidiaries corresponds to the sum of the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses accounts, according to their nature, with the following eliminations: (a) elimination of asset and/or liability balances between the consolidated companies; (b) elimination of investments against the related equity of the subsidiary; and (c) elimination of revenues and expenses from transactions between the consolidated companies.

# **Financial Instruments**

Our financial assets are currently represented by cash balances, bank accounts balances and marketable securities, classified at fair value through profit or loss. A financial asset is classified at fair value through profit or loss when it is held for trading and is designated as such upon initial recognition. After initial recognition, transaction costs are recognized in profit or loss as incurred. Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are presented in the balance sheet at fair value and the corresponding gain or losses recognized in the income statement.

Classification depends on the purpose for which the financial assets were acquired and is determined upon initial recognition. Financial assets are written off when the right to receive cash flows from the investments have expired or have been transferred, and the Company has transferred substantially all ownership risks and rights related to those assets.

Currently, the Company's only relevant financial liability refers to trade and accounts payable. Financial liabilities are recognized initially on the negotiation date on which the Company becomes a party to the provisions of the contract. The Company writes off a financial liability when it is paid or when its contractual obligations are canceled. Financial liabilities are initially recognized at fair value, plus any applicable transaction costs. After initial recognition, such financial liabilities are measured at amortized cost, adjusted based on monetary variations and foreign exchange rates, including interest incurred up to the balance sheet date, based on contractual terms. Gains and losses are recognized in the income statement upon write off of the liabilities, as well as during the process of interest accrual and monetary indexation.

## **Cash and Cash Equivalents and Marketable Securities**

Cash and cash equivalents are held to meet short-term cash commitments and not for investment or other purposes. We consider investments that are immediately redeemable at a known amount and that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value to be cash and cash equivalents. Therefore, an investment usually qualifies as cash equivalents only when it has short-term maturity, e.g., three months or less, from the date of acquisition.

Marketable securities are short-term investments held for the purpose of being actively traded. Such investments are measured at fair value through profit or loss, and gains or losses from changes in fair value are recognized in the income statement (refer to comments on the Financial Statements).

## **Investments in Subsidiaries**

Investments in subsidiaries are recorded by the equity method in the parent company's financial statements and are eliminated for purposes of preparation of the financial statements. Based on the equity method, investments in subsidiaries are recorded at cost in the parent company's balance sheet, plus any changes after acquisition of the shareholding interest. A subsidiary is an entity in which the Company holds, directly or through other subsidiaries, interests that permanently entitle it to approve resolutions in the Company's shareholders' meetings and to elect the majority of management members.

## **Intangible Assets**

Intangible assets comprise mainly mining rights and expenses with exploration and assessment of mineral resources, and are recorded at the cost of acquisition. Amortization is calculated taking into account the estimated period in which the corresponding benefits of the intangible assets are earned and will begin to be calculated when the related asset starts operating. Intangible assets are recognized only if it is probable that they will generate economic benefits for the Company and that their respective value can be measured reliably. Management's initial estimate is that mining reserves will be depleted in approximately 20 years from the beginning of the operations.

# **FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS - HEDGING TRANSACTIONS**

We have not operated with derivatives since the inception of the Company. Nonetheless, we may enter into hedging transactions. Our instruments will be managed through operating strategies and internal controls, seeking liquidity and asset security in accordance with our treasury and hedging policy, which includes the management of risks for financial instruments. We will not enter into derivative transactions for speculative purposes. Rather, we will enter into these transactions to reduce the risks associated with currency or interest rate mismatches, or any other source of exposure we identify. Our Board of Directors approved a hedging policy intended to guide management's adequate use of financial hedging instruments to mitigate our risk exposure and any imminent expenses that our management seeks to hedge. Individual hedging strategies will be formulated utilizing the guidelines established and approved by our Board of Directors and monitored by our Audit and Finance Committee.

## **INTERNAL CONTROLS**

We believe that the accounting systems and internal controls that we have adopted are adequate for our current activities and the volume of our transactions, and that all of the transactions conducted in the periods covered by our financial statements were duly registered in our accounting books.

Our Audit and Finance Committee currently in operation advises and makes recommendations to our Board of Directors with relation to (i) analysis of our annual and quarterly reports and our financial statements, and (ii) assessments of corporate and financial risks and related policies and our internal financial control systems. Our Board of Directors resolved that the independent auditors that we

engaged should report directly to the Audit and Finance Committee and not to our Board of Executive Officers.

## **QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ON MARKET RISK**

With regard to operating results, we did not generate operating revenues through September 30, 2014. Our principal operating costs include personnel, services rendered, and management and administrative costs, and we anticipate that the impact of inflation could increase our operational expenditures once the lease for our headquarters in Rio de Janeiro is indexed to the IPCA and the leases for our subsidiary in Belo Horizonte are indexed to the IGP-M. The impact of changes in the price of our principal raw materials and products and in exchange and interest rates should not materially increase our operating costs based upon the obligations we have incurred through this date.

## **Brazilian and World Economic Environment**

The performance of the Brazilian economy and global economic conditions may significantly affect our operating results.

We anticipate that our costs, including labor, will be subject to inflation adjustments and that the inflation rates provided for in our agreements will be revised annually to reflect increases or decreases in certain Brazilian inflation indices.

The availability of financing in local credit markets could have a significant impact on our business, financial condition and results of operation given that we intend to secure part of our financing locally to implement our business plan. In the past few years, the Central Bank has developed policies designed to, among other effects, increase access to credit and control the increase in inflation, which has historically been volatile in Brazil.

Interest Rate in Brazil is reported by the Central Bank of Brazil (*Banco Central do Brasil*) and decisions on it are taken by the Central Bank of Brazil's Monetary Policy Committee (COPOM). The official interest rate is the Special System of Clearance and Custody rate (SELIC) which is the overnight lending rate.

The table below sets forth certain Brazilian economic indicators considering the last 12 months, as of the end of the periods indicated, unless stated otherwise:

	09/30/14 <sup>(6)</sup>	<b>12/31/2013</b> <sup>(6)</sup>	<b>12/31/12</b> <sup>(6)</sup>	<b>12/31/11</b> <sup>(6)</sup>
Economic indicator	_			
GDP growth <sup>(1)</sup>	(0.6)% <sup>(7)</sup>	2.5%	1.0%	2.7%
Inflation (IGP-M) <sup>(2)</sup>	3.5%	5.5%	7.8%	5.1%
Inflation (IPCA) <sup>(1)</sup>	6.8%	5.9%	5.8%	6.5%
Interbank rate – CDI (average) (3)	7.8% <sup>(8)</sup>	8.1%	8.4%	11.6%
Long-term interest rates (average) (4)	5.0%	5.0%	5.8%	6.0%
Exchange rate at the end of the period per US\$1.00	R\$2.45	R\$2.34	R\$2.04	R\$1.88
Average exchange rate per US\$1.00	R\$2.29 <sup>(8)</sup>	R\$2.16	R\$1.95	R\$1.67
Appreciation of the <i>real</i> against the U.S. dollar (5)	(4.6)%	(14.6)%	(8.9)%	(12.6)%

- (1) Source: Brazilian Central Bank.
- (2) IGP-M refers to the General Market Price Index measured by FGV, São Paulo.
- (3) CDI refers to the average overnight interbank loan rates in Brazil.
- (4) The Brazilian long-term interest rate (*taxa de juros de longo prazo*), or TJLP, is the rate applicable to long-term loans by BNDES. The rate is valid for a 3 month period. *Source*: Brazilian Central Bank.
- (5) Comparing the PTAX exchange rate (the rate calculated by the Brazilian Central Bank) at the end of the period's last day with the prior period's last day. PTAX is the exchange rate calculated at the end of each day by the Central Bank of Brazil. It is the average rate of all business conducted in U.S. dollars on the determined date in the interbank exchange market.
- (6) 12 month period ended on each date, unless otherwise stated.
- (7) GDP for the second quarter of 2014.
- (8) 9 month period ended on September 30, 2014.

## **KEY FACTORS AFFECTING OUR FUTURE RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The development and implementation of an integrated iron ore production and distribution project is capital intensive. In this context, management believes that the funds held in cash are sufficient for the short term activities. Currently, the Company has no cash generating activities or sufficient funds to implement the whole of its investment plan, depending on the shareholders' funds or third parties to implement the business plan. The Company continues to evaluate alternatives to raise additional funds through equity transactions and project financing that will enable this implementation.

## **Demand**

The demand for iron ore fluctuates according to global demand for steel, which in turn is strongly influenced by global economic activity. A decrease in global economic activity may reduce demand for our pellet feed.

Industrialization in Asia, as well as in other regions of the world such as India and the Middle East, has driven a strong increase in global demand for commodities, particularly iron ore. In 2013, China imported approximately 820Mt of iron ore, representing approximately 65% of total transoceanic market in iron ore. CRU Group estimates that China will increase its imports given its growing industrialization, a reduction in Chinese reserves and the low quality of Chinese iron ore. According to the CRU Group, and in light of the above, there will be a substantial increase in transoceanic global demand for iron ore, which could reach up to 2.4 billion tons in 2027. This analysis is predicated upon the assumption that the high-cost Chinese production will exit the market. However, this production has been slow to exit the market despite substantially reduced iron ore prices experienced to-date in 2014. To the extent that demand for iron ore does not increase to the levels predicted, or to the extent demand decreases, or supply increases beyond the levels currently predicted, our operating results and demand for our products may be adversely affected.

# **Production Capacity**

According to our studies, our Pilar Hill project will produce approximately 25.5 Mt of premium pellet feed per year for approximately 20 years. Any change in production capacity may influence our revenues and there can be no guarantee that we will achieve our anticipated production.

#### **Prices**

We expect that we will export most of our pellet feed pursuant to long-term contracts and that these contracts will provide for annual price adjustments. Cyclical changes in global demand for steel products affect sales volumes of iron ore globally. Different factors, including the iron present in specific mineral deposits, the various processing and concentration processes required for the production of the desired final product, the size of the particles, the moisture content and the type and concentration of contaminating agents in the ore affect the price of the iron ore. We expect to negotiate prices annually using as our reference the results of the negotiations of important producers in the iron ore industry. Given the early stages of development of our projects, Manabi has yet to enter into any sales contracts or MOU's.

## **Currency volatility**

We estimate that most of our revenues will be denominated in U.S. dollars, while most of our costs will be denominated in Brazilian *reais*. As a result, a relatively strong *real* against the U.S. dollar will negatively affect our reported operating results and vice versa. On the other hand, we expect that a substantial part of our debt will be denominated in U.S. dollars. Consequently, a decrease in the value of the *real* against the U.S. dollar will likely result in foreign exchange rate losses.

#### Inflation rates in Brazil

Based on the IPCA index, the inflation rate in Brazil was 6.5% in 2011, 5.8% in 2012, 5.9% in 2013 and 6.8% for the 12 month period ended on September 30, 2014. Most of our costs will be incurred in Brazilian *reais*, while most of our revenues will be obtained outside of Brazil in U.S. dollars. An increase in inflation will have a negative impact on operating margins, in spite of the fact that inflation may be compensated for by any devaluation of the *real* against the dollar.

## **Brazilian Taxes**

Once we begin production, we will be subject to various Brazilian taxes. A description of the two main taxes is set forth below:

- State value-added tax and Tax on revenues. Our gross revenues will comprise the total revenue from pellet feed sales, less discounts, returns and allowances, in addition to State value-added tax amounts payable. Our net operating revenues will comprise revenues less State value-added tax payable to Brazilian states. We will also pay other taxes on our revenues related to mandatory contribution to social programs (the program for social integration contribution PIS and a contribution for the financing of social security COFINS). Currently, exports are not subject to State value-added tax and social programs above, and we intend to export most of our pellet feed.
- Income tax and Social Contribution. We will pay income tax and social contribution on taxable profit. The current rate for social contribution on net income is 9%, while the current rate for income tax is approximately 25%, totaling 34%.

Changes in Brazilian tax legislation and regulation, which may be frequent, may have a material impact on our results of operations.

As of right now, there is proposed legislation ("New Mining Code") still subject to discussion and approval in Congress and afterwards to final sanction by the President of Brazil. Amongst other proposals, this New Mining Code may change the existing mining royalties (financial compensation for the exploration of mineral resources) to a maximum rate of 4% on the gross sales of the mining product. As of right now, the mining royalties are 2% on the net income, i.e., deducted by transactional taxes levied upon mineral sales (State value-added state tax and social programs) as well as freight and insurance expenses. Due to delays in Congress analysis in 2014 since it is an election year, analysis of the

bill by Congress is now expected for 2015. If passed, we will update our feasibility study accordingly. Nonetheless, our financial model already considers the proposed 4% mining royalties.