

## **GEB expands across Central America: Two strategic transmission energy sites opened in Guatemala**

- *With these new sites, GEB, through its subsidiaries Trecca and Eeebis, guarantees the provision of a reliable service in this Central American country, where GEB currently leads the electric sector with a market share of 20.8%.*
- *The Group has invested over 500 million dollars in this country, including the development of the Expansion Plan for the Energy Transportation System (PET – Plan de Expansión del Sistema de Energía), which was declared as a project of national interest and is now considered among the most important infrastructure works in Latin America.*
- *The Group strengthens its presence in Latin America. In Colombia, it's the main natural gas carrier with a market share of 70%, while developing 47% of the new electric energy transmission projects. In Peru, the Group is ranked first among gas distribution companies, with a market share of 71%, and in Brazil the Group is continuously growing alongside large partners working together in electric energy development projects.*

**Guatemala, August 04, 2017.** Grupo Energía de Bogotá (GEB) continues to work on strengthening the Group presence in the region. This is the case of Guatemala, where just today the Group inaugurated two ambitious projects that guarantee the provision of a reliable and quality energy service aimed to improve the lives of the population of Guatemala and achieve a better economic growth.

With the presence of Jimmy Morales, President of Guatemala, and some representatives of the government and the energy sector, as well as labor-union leaders, the authorities commissioned the sites framed within the Expansion Plan of the Energy Transportation System (PET), which has been declared as a project of national interest, being also one of the most important projects of the sector in Latin America. Likewise, four substations were inaugurated as a part of the constructions for the South Pacific Ring (APS – Anillo Pacifico Sur), which are expected to distribute energy to the main industrial sites located south of the country, especially to sugar cane mills.

Both energy expansion plans are directed by Transportadora de Energía de Centroamérica S.A. (Trecca) and EEBIS, GEB companies, that in concert with the government of Guatemala are to improve this service in more than 300 communities of the country.

It was so acknowledged by President Morales, who stated that the PET was designed and conceived to reach the most important areas of the country, especially those municipalities located in the countryside, hit by low urbanization rates and the highest rates of poverty, which are intended to be the main beneficiaries. *“The completed PET will mainly benefit families, stores and business activities in the countryside, through the creation of 800,000*

*jobs at national level within the first 12 years upon completion of the project, increasing the purchasing power of every economically active citizen in almost 100 dollars per year”, he said.*

On the other hand, Astrid Alvarez, President of Grupo de Energía de Bogotá, said that this is a landmark for Guatemala and her people because both projects might allow to transport energy in a safe and productive fashion throughout the country. *“At the moment, we have invested over 509 million dollars. As a group, whose capital is mostly public, we have excellent relations with the governments of each one of the countries where we operate, including Guatemala. This partnership will allow us to execute the PET”, she pointed out.*

With these new achievements, Trecca and EEBIS continue to work in strengthening the Interconnected National System, which is a major step for Guatemala’s development and progress, as it contributes to reducing power cuts, while improving service quality. Furthermore, they increase the capacity of transmission of the Interconnected National System.

In this way, GEB continues to grow not only in Central America, being the main electric energy carrier, with a stake of 20.8 per cent of the market, but also in other countries of South America. In Peru, the Group currently leads the distribution of natural gas with a market share of 71%. In Colombia, GEB is the main natural gas carrier with a market share of 70%, and also develops 47% of the new electric energy transmission projects. In Brazil, the Group is associated with Furnas, Brazil’s largest state-owned energy company.

### **Scope of the sites**

Among the sites commissioned today, it is worth noting the energization of the transmission line Covadonga-Uspantán targeted to drive economic development in the Ixil region, which faces the most important challenges regarding poverty and employment. It comprises 43 kilometers, 99 transmission towers and the expansion of two 230kV substations. These sites are part of the PET, which encompasses the construction of 866 kilometers of new transmission lines, 11 new substations and the expansion of 12 more substations. The project was awarded to GEB in 2009.

Out of the Project South Pacific Ring, four new substations were put in service: La Unión, Madre Tierra, Santa Ana and Pantaleón, including the expansion of one substation and two reconfigurations, and the installation of 92 kilometers of 230kV transmission lines. These sites will contribute to the growth of the industrial sector south of the country, which creates as much as 77,000 direct jobs and 385,000 indirect jobs.

A study conducted by Central American Business Intelligence (CABI) states that the PET will increase the country's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in 8.6 percent points during the first 12 years upon completion, having households, stores, business sector and national and municipal institutions as main beneficiaries. Also, this project will bring benefits for the environment, with a reduction of 21% of CO2 emissions due to a decreased use of firewood.

### **About Grupo Energía Bogotá**

Grupo Energía de Bogotá (GEB), led by Empresa Energía de Bogotá, is a joint stock company listed in the Colombian Stock Market, whose main purpose is the generation, transmission, distribution and marketing of energy, gas and liquid fuels in all of their forms.

Today, Grupo Energía de Bogotá is the region's main Multi-Latin company of electric energy and natural gas with presence in Colombia, Peru, Guatemala and Brazil. Acting as a "strategic connector", focused on three Business Groups:

- Urban Energy Solutions, seeking to develop and operate the infrastructure needed to meet the demand of electric energy and natural gas of big cities;
- Interconnection for Market Development, business unit in charge of connecting energy generation sources with consumer's megacenters and big users; and
- Low-Emission Generation, seeking new opportunities in renewable energies in countries undergoing a transition from the energy matrix to this sustainable generation low-emission source.

### **About TRECSA**

- TRECSA is a Guatemalan company that provides energy transmission services in Guatemala and Central America. TRECSA is a subsidiary of Grupo Energía de Bogotá, one of Latin America's most important Groups, with 100 years of experience in the electric sector, and 22 in the sector of natural gas. The Expansion Plan for the Energy Transportation System (PET), also known as the new road of energy in Guatemala, comprises the construction and energization of over 850 kilometers of transmission lines, the construction of 11 new substations and the expansion of another 12, reaching 17 departments, 82 municipalities and more than 340 communities of Guatemala. The PET has been declared as a nationwide project, of national urgency and of public need, as it will allow for a more economical, reliable and accessible service throughout the country in order to benefit households, stores and industries. For further information, visit [www.trecca.com.gt](http://www.trecca.com.gt)