

A research center in partnership with Petrobras

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Vallourec is partnering with Petrobras to establish a new research center in Brazil.

Vallourec Research Rio de Janeiro will be located near CENPES, the Petrobras research facility, and will provide the Group with an opportunity to work hand in hand with one of its biggest customers in Brazil, gaining a better understanding of its needs and expectations. Vallourec is already collaborating extensively with Petrobras at its R&D center in Belo Horizonte to develop tubular solutions for use in offshore oil field exploration. With a primary focus on the pre-salt layer, Vallourec Research Rio will address all of Vallourec's activities in that area, including drill pipe, umbilicals and accessory equipment. The fields being explored by Petrobras, located deep offshore under a salt layer that in some areas is several thousand meters thick, are notable for their extreme pressure, temperature and corrosion levels. Scheduled to open in early 2013, the new center will enjoy synergies with the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in areas such as the environment, robotics and energy consumption.

